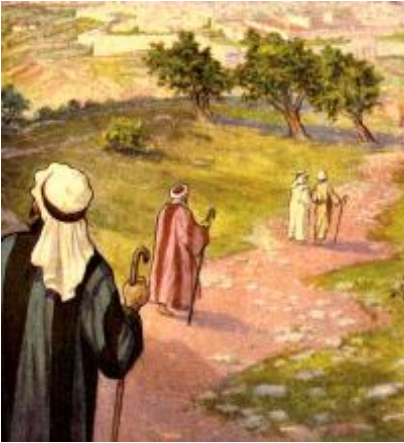




Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

August 24, 2025

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from *Isaiah 66:18-21* and was written after the return from exile, 538 B.C. The aim was to console the returned exiles, who were depressed when they saw the sad state of Jerusalem and the poverty of the country. Isaiah foretold the future glory of Jerusalem to which people of all nations would come. It would be the center from which the knowledge of the true God would be dispersed.

The **Second Reading** is from St. Paul to the *Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13*. In last Sunday's lesson St. Paul encouraged Christians to be ready to face adversity and hardships. He compared them with athletes who endure so much in order to win a contest. Today he reiterates that we must expect hardship — it is part of our training. We cannot win this prize unless we undergo this training. It is God who sends us these trials. He wants us to win the eternal prize because he loves us; he is our Father.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 13:22-30* and concerns those who hear Christ's message but refuse to follow it. While the questioner who asked how many would be saved did not get a direct answer from Christ, nevertheless it was made very clear to him and to all of us that each one's salvation is in his own hands. All those who accept Christ, his teaching and the helps he has made available to them, will enter the kingdom of God. On the other hand, those who are excluded from that eternal kingdom will have only themselves to blame. God invites all men to heaven. He gives all the help necessary to every man, but, because men have a free will which God cannot force, some will abuse that freedom and choose wrongly.

Christ mentions the narrow door through which we must enter into God's kingdom. This means that we must exercise self-restraint and mortification and this we do when we respect and keep his commandments. When we are called to judgment it will be too late to shout "Sir, open for us." We should have sought his mercy and his forgiveness during our earthly life, and he would have granted it.

Neither will it avail us to say that we knew him in life. Acquaintance with Christ is not enough. We should have loved him and become his real friends, which we could only do by being loyal followers of his. "He taught in our streets" will only prove our guilt. We could have learned his doctrine; we could have become his disciples, but we would not. The pagan who never heard of Christ will not be condemned for not following his teaching, but the Christian who did hear his doctrine and refused to carry it out, will deserve condemnation.

As descent from Abraham was not a claim for special consideration on the part of the Jews, neither will any other circumstances of nationality, birth or earthly privilege help us on the day of judgment Each one will stand or fall by his own mode of life during his term on earth. Nothing and nobody else can change the just judgment of God when that moment arrives for each one of us.

The thought of our moment of judgment is a staggering one even for the holiest of us. Things and actions that do not trouble us much now, will appear in a different light then. The prayers we omitted or said carelessly, the Masses we missed on flimsy excuses the little bit of continual injustice to a workman or customer, or the dishonesty practiced by a worker against his employer, the sins of impurity of which we thought rather lightly, the bad language so freely used and the scandal we spread so flippantly, the money wasted on drink or gambling when our children needed nourishment and clothing

— these, and many other such faults of which we excuse ourselves so easily now, will not be a source of joy or consolation for us on that dread day, if we arrive at God's justice-seat still burdened with them.

We are dealing with God's mercy while alive. He will forgive any sin and any number of sins if we truly repent, and resolve to correct these faults. To do this is the only one guarantee that even God himself can give us of a successful judgment Every man who lives in God's grace will die in God's grace and be numbered among the saved. The man who lives habitually in sin, and refuses to amend his life, will die in his sinful state, and thus exclude himself from eternal salvation.

I have a free will. I can choose to pass that final examination or to fail it. The whole of my eternity, the unending life after death, depends on my choice now. If I choose to follow Christ and live according to his laws during the few years I have on this earth, I shall pass and shall be among the saved. If I ignore Christ and his laws now, he will not know me on the day of judgment I shall be among the lost. God forbid that I should choose the latter course.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection
August 17, 2025

Envelopes	\$185.00
Loose	\$71.65
	\$256.65

Notices:

1: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer's Market: The Market will operate 10:00 am to 1 pm every SUNDAY from June 29 to September 7th. Interested vendors should call 902-631-0209. Note: vendors do not need to commit to attending every week. Johnstown Landing is located across from the Johnstown Parish Hall.

2: Thank You: A great big THANK YOU to all who made the Milling Frolic another great time. To all who baked for the bake sale and the lunch, crafted, donated time and energy in the Bingo and Children's game, Bake table and Craft table, all who made sure everyone had a great lunch, and to all who came to park cars, your time and efforts are truly appreciated. To all who came and sang the traditional Gaelic songs and are keeping the Gaelic language alive. To Keith, Kyle and Colin MacDonald who provided excellent music, and Helen MacDonald for showing us the square dance steps. Thank you to Gaelic Affairs Minister Dave Ritcey, Deputy Minister Kyle MacQuarrie and Special Advisor to the Minister, Marcus Wilmott for attending and learning more about the Gaelic language and traditions. And finally, a huge thank you to all the people who came enjoyed and supported this annual event.

Winner of the Quilt: Dan E. Campbell
Winner of the Planters: Rita Campbell

3: Parish Mission: Please mark your calendar for the Parish Mission in St. Peter's Parish Port Hood, from Saturday, October 25 to Tuesday 28, 2025 preached by Archbishop Martin Curry, Archbishop Emeritus of St. John's NL. The mission will begin with the Holy Mass on Saturday at 4.00pm. Details to follow.

4: By Salvatore Cernuzio and Christopher Wells Pope Leo XIV held the first Ordinary Public Consistory of his pontificate ... with Cardinals giving their formal approval for the canonizations of eight Blesseds. During the ceremony, the Holy Father announced that Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis will be canonized together on 7 September. The canonizations of the two young saints— one from the early twentieth century, the other the first twenty-first-century saint— have been greatly anticipated due to the great devotion among the faithful. The late Pope Francis had announced the canonizations of Blesseds Pier Giorgio and Carlo at the General Audience of 20 November 2024, prompting thunderous applause from the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square. The canonization of Acutis, who was beatified in Assisi on 10 October 2020, had originally been scheduled for 27 April, the Second Sunday of Easter, to coincide with the Jubilee of Teenagers, while Frassati's canonization had been set for 3 August, the culmination of the Jubilee for Youth. The postponement of Blessed Carlo's canonization was announced on the day of Pope Francis' death, 21 April, and it was widely assumed that Blessed Pier Giorgio's canonization would similarly be delayed. Doubts about the timing of the canonizations were finally resolved ... by Pope Leo, who has made the choice to enroll among the number of the saints two young men from different eras who led completely different lives, but who are nonetheless united in their love for Christ and their ability to impart that love to those whose lives they touched.

5: 200th Anniversary Celebration - August 28

Our Lady of Grace Monastery

All are welcome We welcome all to visit, learn, and reminisce about our beloved Monastery, in person or in prayer, on the Feast of St. Augustine. This is also part of the Pilgrim's Way for the Jubilee Year.

The Day's Events:

1 pm: Open House and Self-Guided Tours of the Monastery

3 pm: Thanksgiving Mass with Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick and Visiting Clergy

4 pm: Greetings, Tributes, and Testimonials

Mark your calendar for this special day of thanksgiving, reflection, and community celebration!

Please note: the outdoor shrine is closed to visitors due to the provincial ban on activity in our very dry woods.

Did You Know:

Our Lady of Grace Monastery now offers a bimonthly newsletter with photos, news and updates on events at the Monastery. To subscribe, go to the 'Newsletter' box at the bottom of the website:

<https://ourladyofgracemonastery.ca/>