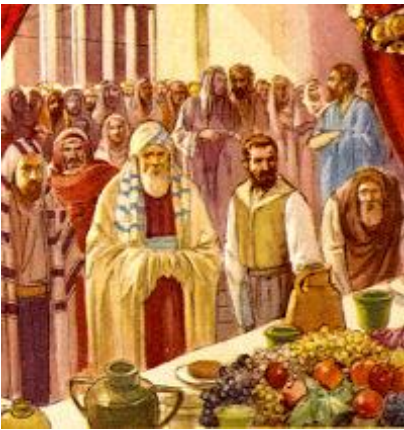




Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

August 31, 2025

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the Book of *Sirach 3:17-18, 20:28-29*. In today's reading we have a few more of the words of wisdom on humility from this saintly man who spent his life meditating on the law of God revealed to the Chosen People.

The **Second Reading** is from St. Paul to the *Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24*, in which he contrasts two scenes. One is the giving of the Old Covenant, and the other is the assembly of those justified by the New Covenant. The reason why the Church has selected these verses is the same reason that St. Paul had when he wrote them. He wanted to impress on the Jewish converts the superiority of the Christian religion over that of the Old Testament, which they had practiced until their conversion.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 14:1, 7-14*, in which Jesus had been invited to dine in the house of a leading Pharisee. The Pharisees were so convinced of their own perfect knowledge and observance of the law, that they thought nobody else could possibly know it or observe it as perfectly as they did. In a very simple parable, Jesus told them where their pride would lead them.

A proud Christian, that is, a proud follower of the humble Christ, is a contradiction in terms. Christ, the Son of God, lowered himself to our level when He took our human nature. He was born in a stable, reared in the obscure village of Nazareth, earned his meager meals as a country carpenter, died on a cross as a malefactor with two thieves as companions and was buried in a God's banquet. Thank God, there are few whose pride leads them to these extremes, but there are far too many who set themselves up as judges over their neighbor and appoint themselves as the models to be imitated by all others.

There is a little demon of pride in each one of us. There is a natural inclination in each one to esteem ourselves a little better in most ways, if not in all, than our neighbor. We must keep this demon in check and not let him grow in us. Any gifts of mind or body that we have are from God—our duty is to use them properly and to thank God for the loan of them. If He gave greater gifts to another, I thank God for it. That other was able to make better use of them than I would. I have enough gifts to go on. I shall not be judged on the use or abuse of gifts which I did not receive.

If I use all the gifts which God gave me, to help my neighbor, the spiritually poor, the lame and blind, to heaven, instead of keeping myself aloof from them as the Pharisees did, then my judgment will be easy. I shall be "repaid in the resurrection of the just."

The proud Christian sets himself up as a critic of God's wisdom. He muses: God forgives sinners too easily. God doesn't know them as well as I do. That conversion cannot be trusted, it will not last, he says. The "sinners" prosper, they are blessed with good health, a happy family, more than their share of the world's goods, and here am I who never failed God, who always did what was right and even more, and I am neglected by God. God doesn't know his real friends!

These are the questionings of a proud soul. Such Christians raise themselves above their neighbors in their own minds. They choose the first places, and from their self-appointed heights they look down on their fellow guests at stranger's grave. Could He have done more to induce us to listen to his counsel when He said: "Learn of me, for I am humble of heart?"

Yet, there are Christians who are proud. Like the Pharisees of old, they thank God that they are not like the rest of men. They shun any contact with sinners. They cover their ears when any scandal is mentioned. Yet they never miss the gossip and are always ready to condemn offhand the unfortunate giver of scandal, without knowing the extenuating circumstances.

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

Collection August 23, 2025

Envelopes	\$320.00
Loose	\$61.00
Donation	\$100.00
	\$481.00

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: On my Thank You for the workers at the Milling Frolic last week, I forgot to mention the people who do the collecting and the ticket sellers, so thank you to the people who stepped up to volunteer for those jobs.

We realized a profit of \$3365.00 for the event.

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: 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/>

5: The Sacrament of Confirmation Our parishes’ celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will join with the class of St. Joseph’s Church, Port Hawkesbury, on Sunday, November 16. Candidates need to be of secondary school age and deemed ready for the sacrament by their parents. Please register the name of the person(s) being confirmed, his or her sponsor, the place/date of baptism, your civic address/email, and phone with the parish office: 902-535-2053. Preparation sessions for the sacrament will be held at the glebe and the date for the first meeting will be announced soon.

6: From The Catholic Register, August 27, 2025

A sculpture of Blessed Carlo Acutis kneeling at the foot of the crucified Christ is seen in Assisi, Italy, Aug. 21, 2025. The bronze work entitled "St. Carlo at the Cross" is by Canadian sculptor, Timothy & nbsp; Schmalz, and it portrays the young blessed leaning his head against the cross while holding a laptop depicting the sacred vessels for Holy Communion. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

