



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

October 19, 2025

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Exodus 17:8-13*. In this reading the Israelites are attacked in their journey from Egypt to Canaan by the Amalek tribe who would have annihilated them were it not for Moses's intercession with God.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Second Letter of Paul to Timothy 3:14, 4:2*. St. Paul continues to exhort and encourage his disciple Timothy to be loyal to the Christian faith which he had received from the most trustworthy of sources, St. Paul himself, and the sacred Scripture of the Old Testament. Timothy must continue to preach this "word," this faith, no matter what the obstacles may be.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 18:1-8*. There are many devout Christians who are deeply puzzled by what they think is God's indifference to their fervent pleas for spiritual favors, which to them appear essential in their journey heavenwards. These people would readily admit that God has good reasons for not granting temporal favors—they might not be for their eternal good. Why refuse or delay granting their spiritual needs? The man or woman who has dedicated his or her life exclusively to the service of God still suffers from human weaknesses. He or she is attracted to worldly things, is finding humility and obedience very difficult, suffers from dryness in prayer or worse still is scrupulous to a degree that makes the religious life almost unbearable. Such people could work so much better for God and for their neighbor if only God would remove these weaknesses which, in fact, he could so easily do.

Or again, why should whole nations of devout Christians suffer persecution from atheistic tyrants? See their children brought up deprived of the right to practice their faith, or, worse still, taught to despise it? Surely God should answer the prayers of these good people and the fervent prayers of millions of their fellow-Christians on their behalf....

These and many similar questionings arise in our minds because our limited, human intellects can see but one small section of the immense tapestry which God is weaving for the human race. We would all like immediate results in our own tiny corner of that tapestry while the all-wise God is occupied with the whole picture. He is not forgetting us either. If He delays in answering our urgent appeals, we can be certain that the reason is not that He wants to punish us, but rather to help us. There are many saints in heaven who would perhaps never have become saints if God had not allowed them to struggle on longer than they would have wished, against trials and difficulties—spiritual as well as physical.

Our divine Lord teaches us, in this parable, the need for perseverance in prayer. This perseverance develops our trust and confidence in God. It helps us to become humble and to realize how weak we are when left to ourselves. It keeps us close to God, as we learn how dependent we are on His generosity. If we only would realize that God is perhaps never closer to us than when we think He is forgetting us! The trials of life, spiritual or temporal, which He allows us to suffer are not obstacles to our spiritual progress but rather stepping-stones without which we could not cross the rivers of life at all.

God wants every one of us in heaven but just as no two men on earth have the same identical features, so also no two men on earth have the same road to lead them to heaven. God is supervising the journey of each one of us. He is ever there to help if the obstacle on one's road is insurmountable. We may and we must, keep asking God for the spiritual and temporal favors which we feel we need. We must never grow despondent or feel that God has lost interest in us, if He delays in granting these favors. When we shall look back on our earthly journey from the happy vantage point of heaven, we shall see how effectively and how lovingly God regulated our journey. When He did not grant a certain favor it was because He had a much more important one to give us, one we did not ask for or even realize we needed.

"Ask and you shall receive," not perhaps what you wanted, but what God knew you needed. "Seek and you shall find," not the easy way which you thought you deserved, but the harder way which would make you more deserving of heaven. "Knock and it shall be opened unto you," not the door you were standing at, which would have delayed or endangered your progress, but the door further down the street where refreshment and new courage to continue on your upward climb were awaiting you.

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

Collection
October 12, 2025

Envelopes	\$215.00
Loose	\$90.00
World Mission Sunday	\$50.00
	\$355.00

Notices:

- 1: Richmond Men’s Choir** will be at the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday October 26th.
- 2: Save the Date:** The Christmas Bingo will be held on Sunday November 9th, 2:00 pm at the Johnstown Parish Hall. Watch for more information.
- 3: In remembrance of our loved ones:** November is the month of remembering those who have died. It is customary in our parish to remember our loved ones who have died since November of the previous year. Consequently, there will be a candlelight service of remembrance at the Sunday mass on November 2nd. As the names are read, a family member will be invited to come to the stand to light a candle. Those to be remembered can include parishioners who have died during the year, relatives of parishioners whose burials took place in other parishes or relatives of people who were buried in Johnstown. Please call or email Louise at 902-535-3107/ louisecampbel@gmail.com
- 4: Lakeside Community Association FALL FAIR**, 8598 West Bay Highway, Sampsonville. Saturday October 25, 2025, 10am – 2pm. Vendors / Bake Sale. Goodies: Sandwich \$5, Sweet \$1, Tea/Coffee \$1
- 5:** There will be a special presentation at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish “**Understanding AI (Artificial Intelligence) – What it means for Us**” on **Tuesday, October 28th at 7PM**, Francis Syms, P.Eng., Associate Dean at Humber Polytechnic in Toronto, and a regular technology commentator for CBC Radio will present a special talk on AI.
Francis will give a special 30-minute presentation title “**Understanding AI: What it Means for us and How We can Respond**” He will explore what Artificial Intelligence really is, how it’s already part of our daily lives, and **what it means for our communities, families, and workplaces**.
All are welcome to attend this engaging and down-to-earth talk, followed by a Q&A session.
- 6: CORAH (Centre of Rural Aging & Health)** For Older Adults Age 55+ - This October, CORAH invites you to take part in a variety of enriching sessions designed to support your wellbeing and connect with your community. Learn how to cut your heating and power bills with Efficiency Nova Scotia’s programs-staff will be available to provide one-on-one support and help you get started with enrolment. Join our Guided Meditation Classes to relax and recharge or explore the physical and emotional impact of loss in Grief & The Body: Understanding the MindBody Connection. Meet a local author in our Meet the Author session, enjoy a cozy Afternoon at the Movies, or take part in open conversations at our Death Café. We are also offering an Information Technology Workshop led by NSCC IT Students and Energizing Your Day; a session focused on improving sleep, easing aches and pains, enhancing mental well-being, and incorporating energizing foods into your daily routine. For more information, or to register, call 902-625-4252. Monica DeGruchy, Administrative Support, CORAH (Centre of Rural Aging and Health)