



## Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

**October 26, 2025**

### Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of *Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18*. The Lord is not deaf to the wail of the orphan, nor to the widow when she pours out her complaint. The one who serves God willingly is heard; his petition reaches the heavens.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Second Letter of Paul to Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18*. In his three pastoral letters to Timothy and Titus, St. Paul often quotes his own life and sufferings to encourage his disciples and successors to persevere in their apostolic labors. He now feels that his earthly life is nearing its end but he has full confidence in God, his just judge, who will give him his eternal reward.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Luke 18:9-14*. During His hidden life in Nazareth, and especially during His public life when He traveled through the towns and villages of Palestine, our Lord met sinners of all kinds. There is not a single record of a harsh word spoken by Him to any of them. In fact, He was accused of mixing too freely with them. His answer was that "it was those who were ill who needed a doctor, not those who were in good health." The sinners He met knew that they were ill. They regretted their sins. He forgave them.

There was one group, however, and only one, against whom He uttered condemnation and for whom He foretold an unhappy ending. These were the Pharisees. In Mt. 23, the whole chapter is devoted to Christ's condemnation of them. It contains eight "woes" which He utters against them. He calls them by many unflattering names. One was "whited sepulchres, appearing beautiful to men on the outside but full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness within" (23: 27). Such harshness, coming from the

gentle Christ, may surprise us, but knowing as He did that pride, the first and basic sin of mankind and the root of all other evil in the world, was so ingrained in their very hearts, that they could never seek forgiveness, He stated nothing but the truth concerning them or to them.

In this parable which He addressed to the Pharisees themselves, He tells them once more where their pride will lead them. They will be excluded from the kingdom of God, because they will not admit or repent of their pride and their lack of charity. Instead of thanking God for the many gifts He had given them, they almost demanded thanks from God for being such pious people. They had virtues. They avoided serious injustices. They did not commit adultery. They fasted often. They paid all their Temple dues, but it was all done, not for the honor and glory of God, but for their own honor and glory. They told the world about it. They demanded the first places in the synagogues, and special marks of reverence on the streets. They had to be called "masters" as they claimed to represent and interpret Moses to the ordinary people.

One thing that we can learn from this sad story of the Pharisees is that, while God approves of no sin, His mercy and His forgiveness is available for all sinners except the proud. It isn't that God cannot or will not forgive the sin of pride but that the proud man will not ask for God's forgiveness.

We must all be on our guard against this insidious and destructive vice. It is insidious because it can grow in us almost without our knowing it, and once it has taken root it is difficult to eradicate. It is destructive because it spoils every other virtue we practice and every good work we do. Charity, or brotherly love,

cannot flourish in a proud heart, for a proud heart is so full of self that it has no room for others. No true love of God can exist in a proud heart, for even the very acts of religion which a proud man performs, are done for the motive of self-glory and not for the glory of God. The Pharisee in this parable proves that fact. He boasted of his good works.

A few simple straight questions can tell us whether or not we are proud. Do we like others to see and hear of our good works, or do we prefer to do them in secret? Do we give as generously to charitable causes when no list of benefactors is published? Do we willingly take part among the rank and file in parish activities or do we feel offended if we are not the leaders? Do we criticize offhand those who are not all they should be, or do we thank God that we were saved from similar temptations? Do we always try to find an excuse for the failings of others or have we excuses for our own faults only? God forbid that any one in this congregation should be suffering from this, the worst of all vices. If anyone recognizes that he is, let him pray to God from the bottom of his heart for the opposite virtue, the true Christian virtue of humility, and look for every possible occasion to practice it. Let us all remember the two men praying in the Temple. One was full of himself and boasted to God and to all present, of his many good works. The Other just humbly beat his breast and asked for mercy—he had nothing to boast of. Yet, he left the Temple forgiven, the other returned home a worse sinner than when he had entered the Temple.

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

Collection  
October 19, 2025

Envelopes	\$220.00
Loose	\$10.00
	\$230.00

Notices:

**1: Richmond Men’s Choir** will be at the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>. A small luncheon will be held at the hall following mass, for the Choir and parishioners. Everyone is welcome.

**2: Save the Date:** The Christmas Bingo will be held on Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:louisecampbel@gmail.com)

**4: A Second Look At MAiD** - Presentation and Discussion Monday, October 27 @ 7pm, at East Bay Fire Hall  
Dr. Jeane Ferguson, a respected local physician and community leader, provides timely information on MAiD in Canada, policies regulating MAiD, and how we can advocate for dignity-affirming alternatives in Cape Breton.

**5: Cape Breton Chorale** - A Sing-along Gathering for Remembrance Director: Ryan Billington Piano: Kevin Orrell Sunday, November 9 @2:30pm at St. Mary's Parish Church, East Bay  
Tickets: \$30.00 at the door online at [capebretonchorale.com](http://capebretonchorale.com) or phone: 902-270-2591

**6:** There will be a special presentation at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish “**Understanding AI (Artificial Intelligence) – What it means for Us**” on **Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

**7: Comfort Tea ..... Come For Tea**

Throughout our lives we experience many types of losses, such as death of people and pets, job changes, and impacts of serious illness or life events. We wish to promote awareness of the effect of grief on our lives. You are invited for beverages and sweets in a supportive setting. You may bring a friend, memento, photo, or experience to share.  
You may have words of support to offer or just be in the company of those who understand. All are welcome.  
Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 1:30 - 4:00 pm  
Anne Sampson Building, 39 Recreation Rd, RiverBourgeois, NS  
Sponsored by the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society and the Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association

**8: Mass for Shut Ins is beginning its 63<sup>rd</sup> Season.**  
As always, we encourage anyone to join us during tapings on Saturday mornings at 9:30am at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys on Cabot Street in Sydney.  
We also encourage you to book a taping with your parish, community group, or organization, as this ministry means so much to the sick and shut ins who join us from home.  
If you would like to book a taping or make a donation to Mass for Shut Ins, please contact Nick Vince at [nick@dioceseofantigonish.ca](mailto:nick@dioceseofantigonish.ca) or by phone at (902) 539-6188 ext. 222