



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah* 49:3, 5-6 and is the second of the "suffering servant" prophecies, found in Isaiah. These were prophecies uttered during the Babylonian exile to encourage the Jewish exiles to persevere in their trust in Yahweh, who would soon liberate them from Babylon, and eventually send them the long-expected Messiah, promised to Abraham.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians* 1:1-3. The opening verses of this letter have been chosen for the reading because they show the prophecy, read in the first lesson, as fulfilled among the pagans, as well as emphasizing the purpose of the Messiah's coming: the sanctification and true enlightenment of all nations.

is from *St. John* 1:29-34. The pages of the Gospel present John the Baptist as a symbolic example of a ‘bridegroom’s friend’, as Christ’s excellent and exemplary witness. The Baptist’s pre-eminent witness was affirmed in two ways: firstly with regard to the content of his testimony and secondly with respect to its style.

With regard to the content of his testimony, the Baptist identified Jesus as ‘*the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*’ (Jn 1:29). Anticipating Jesus’ messianic and salvific role, each of the four evangelists start their Gospels with the Baptist’s words. The Lamb refers to the idea of salvation. The Lamb is the gift of liberation that, following the flight from Egypt, the Israelites sacrificed to the Lord. The Lamb recalls the servant of the Lord, the messianic image described by the Prophet Isaiah, ‘*like a lamb led to the slaughter-house, like a sheep dumb before its shearers*’ (Is 53:7). The Lamb recalls the image of the Victorious Lamb in the Book of the Apocalypse who at the end of time will definitively destroy evil and sin. John the Baptist is therefore, an authoritative witness who knew Jesus’ exact identity and why He came amongst men.

With regard to John the Baptist’s style, St John’s Gospel (cfr Jn 3:28-29) presents St John the Baptist through the image of the ‘bridegroom’s friend’. He gives witness, yet is not positioned central to the events that are unfolding. His testimony is totally centralised on Christ. John indicates the presence of

the Lord and then steps into the margins. ‘*I am not the Christ*’ and he goes on to affirm ‘*I am the one who has been sent to go in front of him. It is the bridegroom who has the bride; and yet the bridegroom's friend, who stands there and listens to him, is filled with joy at the bridegroom's voice. This is the joy I feel, and it is complete. He must grow greater, I must grow less.*’ (Jn 3:28-30)

Today’s Gospel offers us an eloquent example to imitate, so that we can also become Christ’s authoritative witnesses. A believer can only give an authoritative witness if it coexists in perfect harmony with two of the Baptist’s evangelical qualities. Firstly, knowledge of Christ that is cultivated through prayer, the sacramental and ecclesial life, reading good books and edifying friendships. Secondly, the constant attributes of a ‘bridegroom’s friend’ who goes in search of the Groom through the virtue of humility because always, in everyone’s life, Christ must increase and we must decrease! —From the [Dicastery for the Clergy](#)

Collection

January 11, 2026

Envelopes	\$290.00
Missals	\$5.00
January 1st	\$25.00
Initial	
Offering	\$95.00
Christmas	\$750.00
	\$1,165.00

## Notices:

**1: Water:** The water has been turned off, in the church, for the winter

**2: Church De-decorating:** Thank you to all who stayed after mass and helped to take down the decorations and set up mass in the Vestry

**4: Official Receipts:** The 2025 church receipts are available. They will either be mailed out, or you can pick them up at Mass

**5: Move into the Guadalupe Chapel–** This Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup> will be our first Sunday in the Vestry

**6: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group** This group will meet again on Thursday January 15th, at 1:00 pm. This is an informal group. Bring your own project and create with kindred spirits. A sewing machine is available, plus help, for anyone who wants to sew, quilt or knit. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands.

**6: Our weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee** get togethers will be on Wednesday January 14th, 9:00 – 11:30 am, at the District 10, Red Islands Fire Hall. Drop in and visit with your friends and neighbours. Cards, games and puzzles are available. Everyone is welcome.

**7: Combined Chair / Yoga** will be on Wednesday's, Starting January 14th Time 1.30pm - 3pm 8 weeks , fee \$30. There will **not** be a floor yoga during the winter.

**8: Bye Bye January** (Bonfire, Hot Chocolate and Rummoli Game)

Red Islands Fire Hall Friday, January 30, 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Sponsored by: District 10 Volunteer Fire Dept. Contact: Debbie Johnston, 902-304-0558

**9: Cribbage Tournament** L'Ardoise Community Centre

Sunday, January 18, 1:00 pm Sponsored by: L'Ardoise Recreation Club Contact: Andrée Sampson, 902-587-2201 andreesampson48@gmail.com

**10: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** will be celebrated from

Jan.19th - 23 from 12-1pm at St. Marguerite Bourgeois church at 40 Cabot Street and all are invited to attend! This year's theme is from Ephesians 4:4 'There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope of your calling'. More information can be found at [weekofprayer.ca](http://weekofprayer.ca).

**11: Session on MAiD:** Knights of Columbus-St. Peter's Council Port Hood-is hosting a session on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) on Sunday January 25, 2026, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

The session will be led by Professor William Sweet, Director, Centre for Philosophy, Theology, and Cultural Traditions, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish.

There will be a presentation and time for questions & answers. Snacks and Tea will be served.

**12: Liturgy Study Day** at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish

Saturday, Jan. 24, from 10:00am-3:00pm.

From 10:00am-12:00pm will be a general session on the meaning of the parts of the Mass and its structure.

1:00pm-3:00pm there will be breakout sessions for lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and ministers of hospitality.

Another workshop for liturgical music in February, TBD.

Open to all parishes.

Lunch will be provided free of charge.

Please call the parish at (902) 564-9021 if you plan to attend so we can prepare numbers for lunch.

**13: Mass for Shut Ins** Our three parishes and Sacred Heart, Johnstown, will be responsible for the Mass for Feb. 8. Tapping will take place on Saturday, January 31 at St. Marguerite Bourgeois Church at 40 Cabot St., Sydney. We need lectors and as many for a congregation that can attend. Thank you to the choir and organist who have agreed to attend. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate.