



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday of the Word of God

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 9:1-4*. This reading is another prophecy, concerning the messianic days, given by Isaiah in the eighth century B.C. It describes the new era of liberty and joy, which the future Messiah will usher in.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 1:10-13, 17*. St. Paul corrects the Corinthians for the pride that was causing them to form factions and divisions.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 4:12-23*. The prophet Isaiah announced a future of liberation and great joy for all of Galilee, through the image of light that dispels the darkness in which the people walk. The Gospel, quoting verbatim the same passage of the prophet Isaiah, presents Jesus as the Light thus fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy. He is the light that was promised to dispel the darkness of sin and to free man from the obscurity in which he is enclosed.

The light becomes an efficacious means to express God’s involvement in human history. God manifests Himself as ‘The Light’ that disperses the darkness. The light illuminates, encircles, defines things, emphasises the colours and gives depth to space. The light heartens and comforts: to be in an enlightened place helps us to accept reality for what it is and makes one feel happier, more certain and protected.

God’s initiative with regard to men permits them to have a renewed relationship with reality. In God’s light everything assumes a new significance, its authentic and definitive meaning. A light which illuminates gives strength and permits the disclosure of the universe and man. This is why, after saying, ‘on those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone’ (Is 9:1), the text adds, ‘you have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing’ (Is 9:2).

A joy and happiness that became real in Jesus’ presence. He is the promised light that has come into our midst, His physical presence that expresses the definitive arrival of the Light. The light that shines brightly marks God’s initiative performing His first merciful and free step towards a wounded humanity.

This dynamic is expressed through Jesus call of the first Apostles. He chooses them with an unequivocal call, ‘Follow Me’. Faced with God’s sudden interruption in their lives He invited them to abandon the nets and trust themselves totally to the Lord for a new ‘catch’, a new definitive horizon. At the Last Supper, the end of His earthly life, Jesus reminds His disciples ‘you did not choose me, no, I chose you’ (Jn 15:16).

This Sunday’s Gospel invites us to remember that our personal vocation is founded on God’s original and absolutely free choice. His invitation towards us, therefore, is an invitation to make a final decision to let Him conquer or re-conquer us to mark a turning point in our lives.

Let us ask the Lord, for us and the whole Church, for the gift of a true conversion of our hearts enabling us to receive Christ as the only Light to follow. Christ is the only one that really dispels the darkness within and around us.

—From the Dicastery for the Clergy

Collection

January 18, 2026

Envelopes	\$300.00
Initial Offering	\$10.00
Missals	\$5.00
Donation	\$300.00
	\$615.00

## Notices:

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

**2: Statement:** The 2025 financial statement is available this weekend.

**3: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group** This group will meet again on Thursday January 29th, 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.

**4: Our weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee** get togethers will be on Wednesday January 28th, 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.

**5: 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

**6: 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.

**7: 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. The time is 10:00. People are asked to arrive at 9:30.

**8: Come to the Ceilidh** On Sunday, February 8, 2 - 4 pm East Bay Firehall

Come to the Ceilidh And we'll all have tea!

with Bradley Reid, Brad Murphy, and Keith MacDonald

**9: Trafficking & Exploitation** St. Mary's CWL, East Bay, invites you to an information session on Human Trafficking & Exploitation

Presentation by: Elizabeth Fry Society

East Bay Firehall Sunday, February 1, 2 - 4 pm

**10: Mass Intention:** Sunday, February 1 - Elaine MacNeil

**11: Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary** on the occasion of the Eighth Centenary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, by which a special Jubilee Year is proclaimed, with associated Plenary Indulgences , 16.01.2026

**12: The first Ultreya** of the New Year will take place Thursday, January 29 at Our Lady of Fatima Church at 6:30pm. Hope to see you there.

**13: Sweet Serenade with the Cape Breton Chorale - a fundraiser**

Tea/Coffee/Sweets and Song

Sat. Feb 14th - two shows 1:00 P.M - 2:30 P.M. and 3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. \$30 per person - Storm date is Saturday, February 21st.

United Heritage Church Hall. 500 Charlotte St., Sydney. Seating is limited and pre-purchase is recommended. Call 902-270-2591 or buy online at [capebretonchorale.com](http://capebretonchorale.com)

**13: Challenge/Cursillo**

Cape Breton Challenge Executive are trying to renew the Challenge movement in our area again. We are reaching out to our Challenge/Cursillo family to see if there is anyone among you who would be interested in working a Challenge weekend or be a member of the Challenge Executive.

If this is of interest to you please reach out to us - Eastern region Rose Henry [roseh5029@gmail.com](mailto:roseh5029@gmail.com) or 902-577-1517, Mabou region Ashley Roach [roachashley1988@gmail.com](mailto:roachashley1988@gmail.com) or 902-224-5035.

We ask you to keep us in your prayers as we move forward and for the success of reviving this beautiful movement.

Thank You from Lay Directors Rose and Ashley