



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

March 01, 2026

Second Sunday of Lent

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Genesis 12:1-4*. In due time God began the remote preparation for the Incarnation. Almost 2,000 years before Christ was to come he selected Abram to be the father of a people who would be his special friends, his "Chosen People," and through them, the fullness of his revelation. Christ, would come to all men. This is the divine event read for us today.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to Timothy 2 Tim 1:8-10*. Timothy, son a pagan father and a Jewish mother, became a Christian, together with his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois, on his first visit to Lystra. Later, Paul appointed him head of the church at Ephesus. This epistle is principally concerned with the pastoral duties of pastors or shepherds of the communities.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 17:1-9*. This momentary vision of Christ, in his glory, was given in order to strengthen the three principal Apostles to face the trials to their faith, which the sufferings and crucifixion of their beloved master would bring on them. For the very same reason it is retold to us today, in the early part of Lent, to encourage us to persevere in our Lenten mortification. It reminds us that, very soon, the Easter bells will be ringing out their message of joy once more. If we are sharers with Christ in his sufferings, we shall be sharers with him in his glory as St. Paul reminds us.

This is a truth we all too easily forget, namely, that we cannot and do not get to heaven in a limousine. Our spell on earth is the chance given us by our heavenly Father to earn an eternal reward. This reward surpasses even the wildest imagination of man. We could never earn it, but God accepts the little we can do and provides the balance of his infinite mercy. And yet there are many, far too many, who refuse even that little bit that is asked of them, and are thus running the risk of not partaking in God's scheme for their eternal happiness.

And are they any happier during their few years on this earth by acting thus towards the God of mercy? Can they, by ignoring God and their duties towards him, remove all pain, all sorrow, all sufferings, from their daily lives? Death, which means a total separation from all we possessed and cherished in this world, is waiting around the corner for all of us. Who can face it more calmly and confidently—he the man who is firmly convinced that it is the gateway to a new life, and who has done his best to earn admission through that gateway, or the man who has acted all his life as if death did not exist for him, and who has done everything to have the gate to the new life shut forever in his face?

Illnesses and troubles and disappointments are the lot of all men. They respect neither wealth, nor power, nor position. The man who knows his purpose in life, and is ever striving to reach the goal God's goodness has planned for him, can and will see in these trials of life the hand of a kind father who is preparing him for greater things. His sufferings become understandable and more bearable because of his attitude to life and its meaning.

The man who ignores God and tries to close the eyes of his mind to the real facts of life has nothing to uphold him or console him in his hours of sorrow and pain. Yet, sorrow and pain will dog his footsteps, strive as he will to avoid them, and he can see no value, no divine purpose in these, for him, misfortunes.

Christ has asked us to follow him, carrying our daily cross, and the end of our journey is not Calvary but resurrection, the entrance to a life of glory with our risen Savior. The Christian who grasps his cross closely and willingly, knowing its value for his real life, will find it becomes lighter and often not a burden but a pleasure. The man who tries to shuffle off his cross, and who curses and rebels against him who sent it, will find it doubles its weight and loses all the value it was intended to have for his true welfare. Let the thought of the

Transfiguration encourage each one of us today, to do the little God demands of us, so that when we pass out of this life we may be assured of seeing Christ in his glory, ready to welcome us into his everlasting, glorious kingdom.

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

Collection

February 22, 2026

No Mass

Notices:

1: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft Group This group will meet on Thursdays, 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.

2: Our weekly Wednesday Morning Coffee get togethers will be on Wednesdays, 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.

3: Change of Date: The Annual General Meeting Of the Bras d'Or Lakers Seniors Club will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

We will meet at the District 10 Fire Hall in Red Islands.

We look forward to a good turn-out for this meeting.

New members are welcome.

4: St. Patrick's Day Supper: St Patrick's Day is on its way. We are planning our Irish Stew dinner for 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 17th. The menu will include Irish stew, dinner rolls and dessert, with tea and coffee. The cost will be 13.00 per person. We look forward to seeing as many of you as can join us at District 10 Fire Hall, Red Islands. If you are planning to attend, please email howarddmacintyre@gmail.com, or call 902-631-5643 to let us how many will be in your party, for food planning purposes

5: Embracing Synodality through Faith, Discipleship, and Transfiguration

Just as Abram responded to God's call with faith and obedience, and Jesus was transfigured to reveal God's glory, we too are called to be transfigured through our participation in the Church's mission.

Synodality calls us to be a community that listens deeply to the needs, charisms, and voices of all the baptized, especially those on the margins.

We are called to foster a synodal Church that encourages more lay ministries, supports community discernment, and responds creatively and courageously to the needs of our people.

May our journey through Lent prepare us to be more receptive and courageous as we walk together on this mission. Synod Reports and Resources are available online:

www.antigonishdiocese.com/listening-church

6: This year the (Ecumenical) World Day of Prayer service will (hopefully) take place at 2pm, Sunday, March 8 (storm date March 15) at Holy Guardian Angels church. You may pass on that info.

Everyone is welcome!

The Prayer Service this year is written by the women of Nigeria. You can see/hear it all if you wish. Put into your computer:

World Day of Prayer 2026 videos

It's the one that is 55 min long.

As per usual, the invited churches are the three RC churches in our area, St Peters, River Bourgeois, L'Ardoise, the Christian and the United churches in St P, the Presbyterian church in Grand River, and a prayer group that gets together in Lower L'Ardoise.

Each takes a part in the service.