



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Next Sunday, March 22nd, will be the last Sunday in the Vestry. We will be back into the main church on Palm Sunday, March 29th.

The **First Reading**, from the *first Book of Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a*, contains, at best, oblique references to the other two readings. The anointing of David as king may be a reference to the anointing in the responsorial psalm both of which may refer to Christ the good shepherd. The figure of David may also be a prefiguration of the anointing to Messiahship of Jesus for his mission. Whatever the reason for its selection for this day, the theme of the liturgy is better reflected in the other two readings for they present implications and applications of the baptism of the believer.

The **Second Reading** from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14* is particularly significant because throughout the season of Lent the community has been urged to cast aside deeds of darkness and walk in the brilliance of the light of Christ. In this reading, for the first time during Lent, the darkness-light theme which will be so predominant at Easter is enunciated. The believer must leave the deeds of darkness and live according to the justice and truth of God through the light of Christ. The selection of this reading for the Sunday liturgy of the second scrutiny emphasizes clearly that the preparation of a person coming to the faith is one of moral formation as well as information about the faith. The preparation of adults to be baptized has more to do with choices and deeds than it does with dogmatic

The **Gospel** reading from *John 9:1-41*, dominates the liturgy by the length of the reading and its significance. Already, in Old Testament Revelation, the Lord God had shown the People of Israel how the justice of the Creator was so much more profound and true than the thoughts of men. We have, in fact, heard in the first reading *‘God does not see as human beings see; they look at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’* (1 Sam 16:76). The Lord pointed out in this way the true, unique, criteria on which men are judged. He also indicated the unique place in which man can meet God’s gaze and enter into a relationship with Him—in his heart. Obviously, by the word ‘heart’ the Bible doesn’t mean the centre of pulsation, but man’s ‘shrine’, his conscience where he can really listen and recognise God’s voice and so benefit from the Light: *‘for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and uprightness and truth’.* (Eph 5:9)

Man, incapable of remaining faithful to the truth that is in him, falls back to his own limited criteria. This criteria produces every malice, injustice and falsehood and is used to govern himself, to decide between good and evil, whilst hoping that what he obtains will be to his benefit and so in this way he acts *‘like God’* (Gen 3:5).

God doesn’t give up but comes to meet everyone of us in the two fold way described in today’s Gospel. Firstly, *‘he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes’* (Jn 9:6). God made man, who is a creature. He united Himself to ‘our earth’ so that man would never need to flee Him, but could come to recognise Him through a meeting with His Holy Humanity. St. John wrote in the Prologue to his Gospel, *‘The Word became flesh, he lived among us’* (Jn 1:14).

In the second place from the Gospel account we read, *‘He said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam”’—which means Sent—* ‘. (Jn 9:7a). Christ, sent by the Father, takes onto Himself all our sins, which are ultimately the consequences of our blindness, as far as allowing Himself to be stripped, crowned with thorns, nailed to the cross, rejected by His own people and abandoned by His closest friends. Christ’s unprecedented love can’t but definitively overcome, with time, every fear in the face of our limitations because there isn’t anything that can stop Him from loving us. From the loving assumption of our rejection to our obtuseness murder, the Lord has worked extraordinary feats in history. He frequently offered His Body to the Father for our salvation and therefore has consecrated His entire Person for every one of us. He has introduced us into His Most Holy Heart, inflamed with love for us, which is the same as God’s light. In the Light of the Resurrection he made us a *‘new creation’* (cfr 2 Cor 5:17) and in the Gospel account we have heard *‘he went and washed, and came back able to see’.* (Jn 9:7)

Let us ask Most Holy Mary to help us to be faithful to the truth, to the events of our lives, taking the hand that always takes us to live totally for Him, in this life and eternity. *‘Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’* (Eph 5:14).
—From the Congregation for the Clergy

Collection

March 01, 2026

Envelopes	\$215.00
Heat	\$105.00
	\$320.00

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. The last coffee club will be on Wednesday March 25th

3: 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

4: Fish Cake Supper - Friday April 3rd, 4:30 pm Eat In or Take Out - Fish Cakes, Homemade Beans, Biscuits, and homemade chow. Cost \$12.00, Johnstown Parish Hall. If you would like to donate a package of salted cod bits, or would like to order a meal please contact the following: Louise: 902-535-3107 Barbara: 902-828-2079 Rita: 902-631 0209 Edie: 902-322-6543 or email louisecampbel@gmail.com

5: Gaelic Glasses: Classes are language based, no reading or writing for the beginner level. Lots of fun to be had!

Beginner Gaelic (good for those with little or no Gaelic experience)

8 weeks, \$40

Starting Monday, March 23

1 - 3:30

Early Intermediate Gaelic (some Gaelic experience)

8 weeks, \$40

Starting Friday, March 27

1 - 3:30

Place: Red Islands Firehall

Contact: Cathy at 902-217-2088

6: Holy Week Celebrations

Note: Parishioners of all parishes are welcome to join all Holy Week celebrations. The Sacred Triduum is one liturgy and should be celebrated in one parish church. This year the Sacred Triduum will be held at St. Peter's Church, St. Peter's.

Chrism Mass Monday, March 30, 2026, at 2:00 pm Celebrated at St. Ninian Cathedral

Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday) April 2, 2026 - SP - 4:00 PM

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday) Friday, April 3, 2026 - SP - 3:00 PM

Note: Holy Mass is not permitted on Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Good Friday service consists of three parts: The Liturgy of the Word with Intercessions, the Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. There should be no physical contact with the Cross, but veneration may be expressed by a reverent bow or a genuflection.

The Resurrection of the Lord At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night Saturday, April 4, 2026 - SP
8:00 PM

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5, 2026

SH 9:00 AM

HGA 11:00 AM