



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

October 4, 2026

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 5:1-7*. Under the image of a wine-grower who had done everything he could to make his vineyard fertile and productive, the prophet describes God's care for and interest in his Chosen People.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 4:6-9*. St. Paul is encouraging his converts to put their full trust in God.

The **Gospel** is from *Matthew 21:33-43*. There are two leading thoughts that come to the mind of any true believer on hearing this parable: the infinite goodness, patience and mercy of God in His dealings with mankind, and the unsounded depths of wickedness and ingratitude to which men can sink. To His Chosen People of the Old Testament, God had given a fertile and fully-equipped vineyard — His revelation, His protection, a homeland of their own in Canaan, and all this in order to prepare them for the future Messiah, who would bring them an eternal home in God's own Kingdom. All He asked in return was their cooperation.

But they had other plans; they wanted their kingdom on earth. Yet God was patient with them; again and again He pardoned their infidelities. He sent them prophet after prophet to recall them to their senses, but they maltreated these messengers of God and refused to heed their warnings.

Then "the fullness of time" came and He sent His divine Son on earth in human form. He took His human nature from one of their race, lived among them and preached His gospel of love and peace to them. He tried to soften their hard hearts, and made them the final offer of the Father's mercy and pardon. But instead of accepting God's offer of mercy the chief priests and elders only made it an occasion of an even greater sin. To their crimes of infidelity and injustice they added the murder of God's Messiah and Son.

In God's plan of love and mercy the tragedy of Calvary turned out to be the great "triumph of failure." That death brought life to the world and opened the gates of God's eternal kingdom for all nations and races. The Gentiles rallied around the standard of Christ. A new vineyard was set up in which all men could work for their Father in heaven and for their own eternal interests.

We Christians today are the successors of the first Gentile followers of Christ. We too have been called to work in God's vineyard. Are we working honestly and devotedly? Are we producing the grapes and the wine that our divine Master expects of us? If our answer is "yes, I am living a true Christian life, I am working for God's honor and glory and for my own eternal salvation," then we can say a heartfelt "thank you" to our merciful Father, and ask him to keep us ever on this right path. But if our answer is "no," then let us pay heed to today's lesson. What happened to the chief priests and elders can and will happen to unfaithful Christians if they persevere in their infidelity and disobedience. But we can still put ourselves right with God. Let us do it today — tomorrow may be too late. —Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection  
September 27, 2026

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Envelopes                | \$320.00 |
| Loose                    | \$20.00  |
| Needs of Canadian Church | \$5.00   |
| Truth and Reconciliation | \$20.00  |
|                          | \$365.00 |

## Notices:

**1: Funeral Service:** The funeral service for Peggy Ouellette will be held on Thursday October 8th, at 11:00 am., in Sacred Heart Church, followed by the burial and a reception.

**2: Gentle Yoga 55 +** For seniors who are looking for a safe, effective way to enhance their physical health and overall wellness, the stretching, breathing, and meditation practices of yoga can be a great solution. Red Islands Fire Hall, Red Islands Wednesdays, 8 weeks, beginning October 7 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, Fee: \$30

**3: Chair Yoga 55+** Chair yoga is a great way for older adults to get the wonderful health benefits of yoga. It also makes yoga accessible to more people. Staying seated while doing yoga means that even frail seniors or those who aren't flexible can safely do the exercises. Red Islands Fire Hall, Red Islands Wednesdays, 8 weeks beginning October 7 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm, Fee: \$30

**4: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft** group will meet every Thursday at 1 pm, starting October 8th. Bring a project or idea and sew, knit and/or craft with others. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Department, Red Islands. Contact: Rita Campbell 902 631 0209

**5: Life Chain** is an annual pro-life event to raise awareness about the injustice of abortion and the inherent dignity of every human being. Participants pray silently and hold non-graphic signs with messages of love and truth at hundreds of locations across North America. Join us for this year's Life Chain event in St. Peter's parking lot and bear witness to the sanctity of human life!  
When: Sunday, October 4th, 2:00-3:00 PM Where: St. Peter's parking lot in front of the church  
Visit: [campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain](https://campaignlifecoalition.com/life-chain) Frances Burton President Cape Breton Right to Life  
[www.capebretonrighttolife.ca](http://www.capebretonrighttolife.ca)

### **6: Oct. 3-4 Indigenous Reconciliation Fund Annual Collection**

The Indigenous Reconciliation Fund was established in 2022 by Canada's Catholic Bishops to support healing and reconciliation initiatives. The fifth annual collection in our diocese will launch the weekend of Oct. 3-4, 2026, concluding the Season of Creation and on the first weekend of Mi'kmaq History Month. Donations may be made at any time in church collections with envelopes marked 'Indigenous Reconciliation Fund' or online through the Donate link on our website. Money contributed by our diocese will be returned to our diocese through funding for initiatives that support healing, cultural revitalization and community building. For details on funded projects and the application process: <https://irfund.ca/>

**7: Weekly Wednesday morning coffee** starts again on October 14, 2026, at the Red Islands District 10 Fire Hall: 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome.

**8: Big Pond Fire Dept Community Centre Fall Market** Saturday October 24th, from 10:00pm – 2:00pm. This year we have lots of makers, bakers and other creators with so much to offer! Admission \$2.00, children 12 and under free.

**9: Preserving Faces and Voices:** The Human Person in the Age of AI with Dr. David Deane, Atlantic School of Theology  
Thursday, October 29, 6:30 - 8:00 pm St. Ninian Place, Antigonish  
Presented by Vicar of the Founder Lecture Series, St. Francis Xavier University  
A discussion on *Magnifica Humanitas*, the encyclical of Pope Leo XIV ... a vital conversation for all of us as humanity faces a choice: "to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together."  
Admission Free. Light Refreshments. All Welcome.

**10: Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>.** Halloween get together for witches and friends, to take place at the Johnstown Landing and the Parish Hall. All witches, ghoules, ghosts and Halloween costumed, and people who are not in costume are welcome, whether this is your first Halloween or your 100th, More details to follow. This will take place in the early afternoon.

**11: 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 1st. 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)

**12: Save the Date:** Our Christmas Bingo will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>.