



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

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

September 27, 2026

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Ezekiel* 18:25-28. A notion very prevalent among the Jews, all through their history, was that the sins of parents were punished in their children. Ezekiel tells his audience that each man is responsible for his own sins. As each man has a free will, the good man may foolishly turn to sin, and likewise, the sinner may repent and live a good life.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians* 2:1-5. St. Paul is urging his new converts to live in unity of love and mutual charity. Each one must esteem his neighbor as of more importance than himself and help him in every way. In doing this, they are only imitating their Savior Christ Jesus who although Creator became a creature, though Master He made Himself a slave—all for love of us.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew* 21:28-32. This parable was primarily intended to show up the hypocrisy of the chief priests and elders of the Jews, and the perilous position in which they stood in relation to God and heaven. It is, however, a warning against hypocrisy for all time. Lip service of God will not merit heaven. Nominal Christians are not working in the Lord's vineyard. At any moment they may be called from this life, and what defense can they offer the just judge? Will they dare to offer the flimsy excuses with which they try to silence their consciences now: "we didn't realize how sinful we were"; "we were too occupied with family and personal cares to have time for our spiritual duties"; "we were led astray by bad example"; "we didn't like to be different from others"; "we were going to put things right"? Who will dare to offer such excuses at the judgment seat? Their utter futility will then be apparent in all its nakedness.

However, we are still on earth, and while we are the door of God's mercy is wide open to us. If in the past we said, "I will not go into your vineyard", we still have time to reverse that sinful decision. Not only can we with God's grace turn over a new leaf, but we can completely wipe out the sinful pages of our life's story written up to now. Remember that what God in His mercy did for the tax-collectors and harlots in the parable, the Matthews, the Mary Magdalenes, the Augustines, the Margarets of Cortona, the Matt Talbots and the millions of unknown penitents who are now saints in heaven He can also do for you.

We answered the call to God's vineyard by accepting baptism and membership of His Church. If we have grown lax in our fervor and refused to do the tasks allotted to us, we still have time, thanks to God's mercy and patience, to put things right. Today, look into your conscience and see how much of your past life you have given to God and how much you have kept for yourself. If you were called tonight to render an account to the Lord, would the balance sheet be in your favor? Is your corner of the vineyard producing abundant crops, or is it perhaps filling up with weeds, briars and brambles? If the latter, then we will say a heartfelt "Thank you, God, for not calling us to judgment today. We will begin right now to understand our sinful past, so that our corner of your vineyard will be in good order when you do call us. Thank you, Lord, for your mercy. God grant that we shall never abuse it."

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

Collection
September 20, 2026

Envelopes	\$345.00
Loose	\$45.00
Needs of the Canadian Church	\$50.00
Cemetery Fund/Envelopes	\$50.00
Cemetery Fund/Donation	\$5,000.00
	\$5,490.00

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: THE NEXT TEA & TUNES will be on Sunday Sept. 27, 2026 2 to 4pm at the Bonnie Brae. Entertainment by Evelyn MacRae, Mannie, Wayne and friends. Admission \$5.00, Half and half tickets will be sold along with a light lunch. Sept. 26-27

3 COMFORT TEA ... Come For Tea – September 29, 2026: We all experience many types of losses throughout our lives. To promote awareness of the impact of grief, you are invited to join us for a beverage and sweets. You may bring a friend, photo, memento, or memory to share or just be with others who understand. 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm on Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at the Creignish Recreation Centre, 2123 Highway 19, Creignish, N.S. Sponsored by the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society. All are welcome.

4: 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. For more information (or to book table), please call/text Kim at 902-371-4562, or message Tracy MacIsaac on Facebook.

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 Frances Burton President Cape Breton Right to Life
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: 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

8: 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

9: 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

10: Saturday October 31st. 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

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