

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ OCTOBER 1, 2023

**STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. JOSEPH, PORT FELIX
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR 902-366-2927
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 902-358-2346**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Donna Jackson, Janet Delorey, Cynthia Creamer,
Calvin Harnish, Agnes Casey, Corrine Munroe,
Gerry Parker, Gelly Parker, Paul Horne,
Sr. Alma, Marie Parker, Fr. Jonathan

*The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at
www.cansoparishes.org*

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday, October 7 - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥*For the Faithful*
- 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - †*Carmen Casey*

Sunday, October 8 - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes Hall - †*Louise Harnish*
- 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea - †*Terry Parker*

NOTE: This is to inform all the Parishioners that there will be NO WEEKDAY MASSES this week as I will be attending my Religious Order's Annual Meeting/Retreat in Alberta. I am very sorry for any inconvenience this might cause you. Thanks and remain blessed. **Fr. Jonathan**

COMMUNION CALLS - If you know of someone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS

YES AND NO! ACTION, NOT WORDS!! *The human freedom which enables us to say "yes" or "no" to God demands that we be responsible for our conduct and accountable for our behaviours. One day we will have to stand before the judgement seat of God and answer for our good or evil deeds. The good news is that with God's grace, we are capable of changing the direction of our lives for the better! The two different attitudes of the siblings in today's gospel tell us that there is a mixture of those different attitudes in all of us. There must be a connection between what we say and what we do. Jesus sternly criticized the religious leaders of his day, because their promises were empty. The trail of broken promises that each of us leaves behind points out the inconsistency between what we promise and what we do. The gospel teaches us that we may be saying "yes" to God during our Sunday worship but turn our backs on what we profess the rest of the week. The test of our allegiance to Christ lies in keeping the promises that we have made and doing his will, whatever it might cost us.*

STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH - NATIVITY SCENE - requires a new Nativity Scene. The present one is in deplorable condition with some of the figurines taped together with duct tape. We are asking for donations to help with the cost of replacement. If each family could donate \$20.00, the bulk of the cost would be covered. Donations may be placed in Sunday Collection, Etransferred to support@cansoparishes.org, or dropped off at the parish office.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (31)	626.00
Loose	107.00
St. Agnes (19)	345.00
Loose	10.00
Needs of Canadian Church (2)	20.00
St. Vincent de Paul (5)	60.00
Loose	8.00
St. Joseph (13)	230.00

ST JOSEPH NEWS

Weekly Bingo - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

ST. AGNES NEWS

Bingo - resumes October 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Fall Fund-raiser - **Special thanks for donations and support!**

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Cemetery Clean up - will be held Saturday, October 14 at 9:00 a.m. Anyone capable of helping is invited to tidy up the cemetery before the winter. Rain date is October 21.

Property/Finance Committee - will meet Tuesday, October 10 at 6:15 p.m. We welcome new members. Please help out!

Ministries Schedule, October 8

Lector - Juanita Dort

Cleaners - October 8 - 14 - Theresa & Eileen

Glebe Hill - There will be no public access through the glebe hill due to the condition of the road. **The church and Glebe can be accessed through Chapel Street.** Thank you for your cooperation. We are working on having the road repaired.

EVENTS - STAR OF THE SEA

Prize Bingo - Will be held Sunday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. in Canso Hazel Hill Fire Hall. We are short on prizes so we are asking parishioners to donate a prize. Thanking you in advance.

Trivia Night - Special thanks for your ongoing support! Profit was s\$1,015.001

Club 100 Tickets - Congratulations to Betty Ann Munroe, Patricia Rhynold, Rene LeBlanc, David Casey and Carolyn Quann! Thank you so much.

NOTES

The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine - The gift shop is open, 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, everyday. The Shrine is always open.

Mass for Shut Ins - Mass for Shut Ins will soon begin its 61st season. Starting October 15, will air Sunday mornings on the CTV channel.

Contact coordinator, Nick Vince, at nick@dioceseofantigonish.ca for scheduling

details or for donations.

CBU Student Retreat - Spend a day with a variety of fun activities. For all Students, For all spiritualities.. Free rides available, Free supper - Sunday, October 15, 1pm-7pm. 8430 Highway 105, Kranna Retreat House, Big Pond. For Registration, Contact: Basil Benoy, basilbenoy731@gmail.com. Sponsored by CBU Chaplaincy and Newman Society

October 1, 2023 • 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

Never Too Late to Change

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Ezekiel 18:25-28 - Personal responsibility
- ▶ Philippians 2:1-11 - Imitating the humility of Christ ▶
- Matthew 21:28-32 - Parable of the two sons

All three readings today give advice and encouragement for every person to live an upstanding life. The first reading from Ezekiel does this by way of a threat that was in keeping with how the ancient Jews thought of life and death. The idea of everlasting heaven and hell hadn't developed yet, so they didn't believe in the afterlife as we do. They thought that if you don't live a just and virtuous life, your punishment would be an early death. On the flip side, if you lived well, you would earn yourself a longer life. It's not hard to imagine how that thinking developed into the Christian understanding that how we live on earth will determine our fate for the afterlife. Jesus, and later St. Paul, expanded on this idea by stressing that God's mercy and grace reach beyond human behavior. We don't earn our salvation—God grants it.

Jesus' parable today seems straight-forward. It's better for a child ultimately to do what he or she was asked, even if they didn't agree to it initially. The chief priests and elders knew right away that is the preferred outcome compared to a son who promises something but doesn't follow through. So what is the point of the parable? It seems so obvious.

The kicker comes when we think about who Jesus is addressing here. He is talking to the chief priests and elders, the ones who thought they were the good ones, the righteous ones, the virtuous, chosen ones who deserved to be handed the Kingdom of Heaven because of their good behavior. Yet he points out that when John the Baptist came preaching repentance, inclu-

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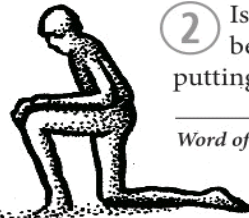
"Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves."

Sheepish Question:
When have I been humbled by serving someone in need? How?

sion, and economic and social justice, they dismissed him and ignored his message. On the other hand, the tax collectors and prostitutes (people looked down upon and ridiculed by the chief priest and elders) listened and heeded John the Baptist. They had the humility to recognize they needed to ask forgiveness and change their ways, and they did. Suddenly, Jesus' point becomes clear—it's never too late to change our ways, ask for forgiveness, and be welcomed into the Kingdom. On the other hand, if we say we want to do God's will, but never get around to it, we are no better than the hypocritical chief priests and elders.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Who do you usually relate most to - the first or second son? Why?
- 2 Is there something God might be asking you to do that you are putting off or resisting?



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