

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT ~ MARCH 3, 2024

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

PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR, 366-2927
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 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

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

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WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Mar. 9 - Port Felix - 6:00 pm - †*Howie Cashin*

Sunday, Mar. 10 - St. Agnes Parish Hall - 9:30 am - †*Jerome Keefe*
- Star of the Sea Church Vestry - 11:00 am - †*Vincent Cohoon*

WEEKDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS & MASS TIMES - EVERY WEEK DURING LENT

Wednesday, March 6 - 2:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Port Felix - ♥*For the Faithful*

Thursday, March 7 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

REFLECTION TODAY'S READINGS - *Our Hearts as the Temple of God*
Many cultures make a distinction between the sacred and the secular. God Himself sanctioned that distinction when He gave the Ten Commandments. Among other things, His name was to be held holy. The people who were buying and selling in the temple did not respect the distinction between the sacred and the secular. Jesus reminded them by driving them out of the temple with a whip of cords. That was how much the distinction meant to him. The word of God teaches that the temple of God is not just the physical building, but the individual believer as well. Jesus actually uses the word Temple to refer to himself in today's Gospel. Jesus is the original and primordial Temple of God. Every baptized person is a temple of God (the Holy Spirit) in so far as he/she participates in the dignity and status of Jesus as Temple. The Apostle Paul urged the believers of his time and all times to be alive to their status as God's temple (1 Cor 3:16). The New Testament sees each Christian and the Christian community as a whole as the temple of God, the new house of God where God dwells (1 Cor 3:16; 2 Cor 6:16). So, we are encouraged to grow into a Holy Temple of God manifesting him to the world.

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Property/Finance Committee - will meet Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6:15 p.m.

We are encouraging and begging for new members!

Ministries Schedule, March 10

Lector - Buzz Lumsden

Cleaning - March 3 - 9 - Irene & Juanita

Ways & Means events:

Easter Prize Bingo - will be held Sunday, March 24, 2:00 p.m. in Canso Hazel Hill Fire Hall. Donations are needed and would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your past support.

Tickets on Heat Certificate - Winner was Jude Baker, congratulations Jude!

Profit was 1,010.00, thank you to sellers and buyers

Trivia Night - a very special thank you to all who helped in any way, your generosity is much appreciated! Profit was 876.00. Always fun!!

ST. AGNES NEWS

Even Split Draw - profit was \$500.00, special thanks to the organizers! Winners were Heidi Bouchie and Ray Carrigan, congratulations! A huge thank you for the support.

Bingo - Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall

ST JOSEPH NEWS

Card Plays - continue Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (21) 653.50

Winter Fuel 100.00

St. Agnes (17) 505.00

Loose 15.00

Initial (5) 50.00

St. Joseph **No Mass**

NOTES

Mass for Shut ins - Mass for Shut Ins airs Sunday mornings on the CTV channel and is available for viewing on demand on our Diocese of Antigonish YouTube Channel.

Jubilee Year 2025 Dec. 24, 2024 through Jan. 6, 2026. To prepare for the Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis has announced that we begin a Year of Prayer. It will be "a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in one's personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world."

Lenten Reflections with Diocesan Hermit Sheila O'Handley - "The Resurrection is a cosmic event. It is our present and future HOPE.

Each week I will highlight a word or phrase from the Sunday Scriptures as a way to facilitate our discernment of, and identification of, the treasures homing in our hearts."

<https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/our-lenten-journey-2024/>

Denouncing oil pollution in Nigeria - Nigeria is Africa's largest economy and biggest oil producer. Despite oil exports worth billions of dollars, millions of Nigerians remain in poverty and face food insecurity. In the south, pollution and contamination by the oil industry are causing great hardship.

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's partner Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) defends farmers' rights and helps protect their lands. To learn more about the work of HOMEF, read our Mini-magazine and watch the video at devp.org/lent.

March 17 is Solidarity Sunday - Support the collection in parishes throughout our diocese, or give online at <https://devp.org/en/make-a-donation/>

Let us Pray: For all Healthcare personnel, Counsellors, and Spiritual Guides: that they be guided by the Spirit in their vocation of accompanying and caring for God's people, we pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

March 3, 2024 • 3rd Sunday of Lent • Year B

Reasoning Won't Work

This Week's Readings at Mass

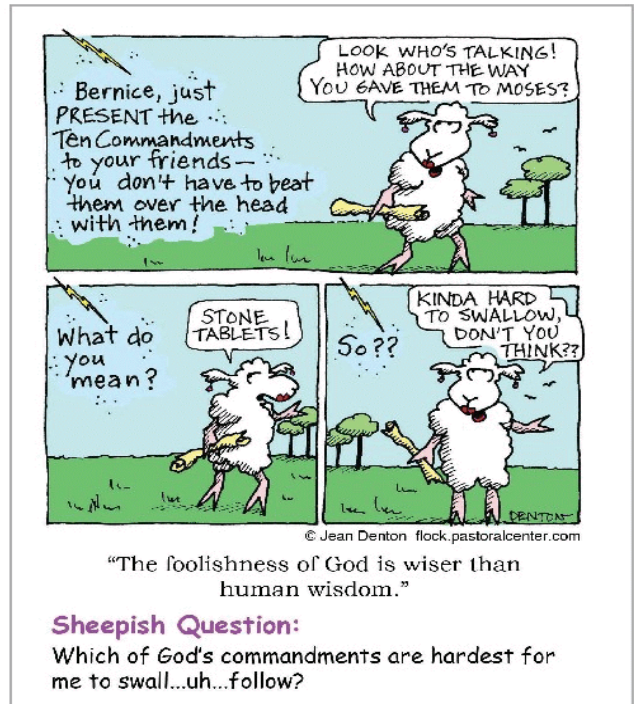
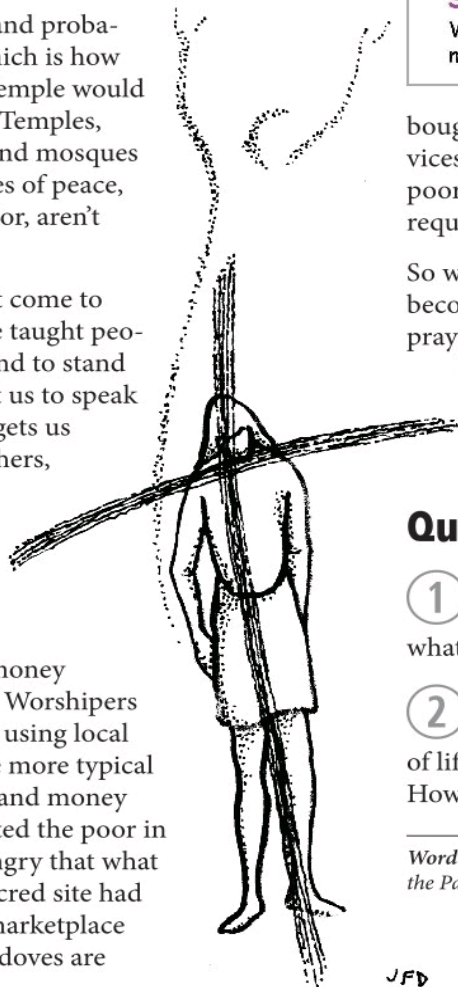
- ▶ Exodus 20:1-17 - The Ten Commandments
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 - The wisdom and folly of the cross
- ▶ John 2:13-25 - Cleansing of the temple

Imagine a man entering your church in a rage and waving a weapon to chase all the ushers, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, and priests out of the building. Picture that person flipping over the tables displaying fliers about the upcoming Crab Feed and Bingo nights. Finally, imagine him violently throwing the collection baskets and their contents across the floor while he shouts that his father's house is being dishonored.

It would be a shocking and probably terrifying scene—which is how Jesus' cleansing of the Temple would have been experienced. Temples, synagogues, churches, and mosques are supposed to be places of peace, prayer, and good behavior, aren't they?

The thing is, Jesus didn't come to teach good behavior. He taught people to do what is right and to stand up for justice. He taught us to speak the truth, even when it gets us in trouble with our teachers, employers, parents, or religious leaders. That is exactly what he does in the gospel reading today.

Jesus is furious to find money changers in the Temple. Worshipers had to pay a Temple tax using local Jewish currency, not the more typical Roman or Greek coins, and money changers regularly cheated the poor in the exchange. Jesus is angry that what was supposed to be a sacred site had become a commercial marketplace where sheep, oxen, and doves are



bought and sold for sacrifice. It was a “pay for services” model which led to even greater abuse of the poor who couldn't always afford to offer the sacrifices required of them in order to be declared “clean.”

So when Jesus enters the Temple and sees how it has become a commercial venture as much as a place of prayer, he reacts instantly with actions that cannot be ignored. If he had tried to reason with the leaders, he could have been disregarded, so instead he makes his point in a way that can't be forgotten.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What would you think or how would you react if someone came into your church and did what Jesus did in the Temple?
- 2 Are there ways in which your parish has strayed from its mission of preaching Jesus' way of life? Has it become a “marketplace” in any respect? How so?

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