

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT~ MARCH 17, 2024

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*

PALM SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday, March 23 - Port Felix - 6:00 pm - †*Cecile Mary Sampson*

Sunday, March 24 - St. Agnes Parish Hall - **NO MASS**

- Star of the Sea Church Vestry - 11:00 am - †*Vincent Cohoon*

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

Wednesday, March 20 - 2:00 p.m. - St. Joseph's - *Stations of the Cross* **NO MASS**

Thursday, March 21 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

REFLECTION TODAY'S READINGS - *God's New Covenant With Us*

As we draw closer to Holy Week, we recall God's promise to make a new covenant with us. Although God was faithful to the old covenant, His people breached it by disobeying Him. Thus, God decides to make a new covenant in which His law shall be no longer written on stone, but inscribed in our hearts. The essence of the new covenant is, "I will be their God, and they shall be my people." Christ is the new covenant who creates pure hearts for us and gives us steadfast spirits. We are reminded that we have to give up our old ways of sin in order to gain life in this new covenant. A grain has to be buried in the ground in order to become a rich harvest. We have to die to sin in order to experience the fruits of divine grace in us. Again, we have to die in our bodies in order to enter into the joy of life eternal. Christ's death on the cross reconciled the world to God and brought all people into one flock. Let us not forget the words of Christ, "If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him" (John 12:26).

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (19)	405.00
Loose	15.00
Fuel Oil	60.00
St. Agnes (16)	226.00
Loose	20.00
Initial (3)	15.00
St. Joseph (42) March 3/10	532.00

Thank your for your ongoing support.

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Please note - The Star of the Sea Cemetery, Canso will have restricted access during Spring thaw conditions. Thank you for your understanding.

Property/Finance Committee - will meet Tuesday, April 2 at 6:15 p.m. *We are encouraging and begging for new members!*

Ministries Schedule, March 24

Lector - Donna Lewis

Cleaning - March 17 - 23 - Harry Delorey

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.

ST. AGNES NEWS

Even Split Draw - profit was \$250.00, special thanks to the organizers! Winner was Myrna Casey 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.

BUTTERFLY MEMORY TREES - will be placed in Star of the Sea/St. Joseph Church/St. Agnes Hall for Easter Sunday, March 31 and will remain until Pentecost Sunday, May 19. If you wish to remember a loved one in this manner please fill out a Memorial Card and return it to the parish. A donation of \$5.00 is requested per Butterfly. Donations will be deposited to the parish of your choice. For more information contact the parish office

NOTES:

Our Annual Holy Land Collection, taken on Good Friday, March 29 unites the generosity of our Canadian churches with the Catholic communities across the world. United in solidarity with the Holy Land, they support the Christian peoples and the holy sites in the land where Christ lived and where the earliest Christian communities arose.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

There will be a Reconciliation Service in preparation for Easter on Friday, March 22 at Star of the Sea Vestry at 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers for Feet Washing

We are calling for volunteers who would like their feet to be washed on Holy Thursday Mass to indicate in the sign-up sheet at the back of the Church or by contacting the Parish Office.

Easter Triduum Schedule:

March 28 - *Holy Thursday* – 7:00 pm

St. Joseph's Church, Port Felix

March 29 - *Good Friday* – 3:00 pm

St. Joseph's Church, Port Felix

March 30 - *Easter Vigil* – 8:30 pm

St. Joseph's Church, Port Felix

March 31 - *Easter Sunday* – 9:30 am

St. Agnes, Little Dover

March 31- *Easter Sunday* – 11:00 am

Star of the Sea, Canso

Farmers Can Understand

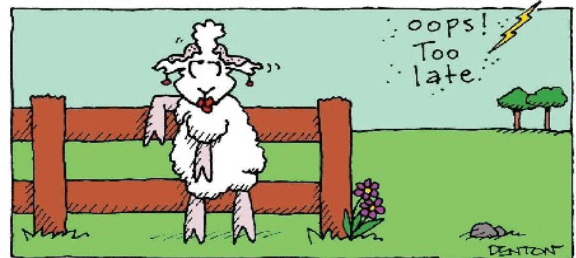
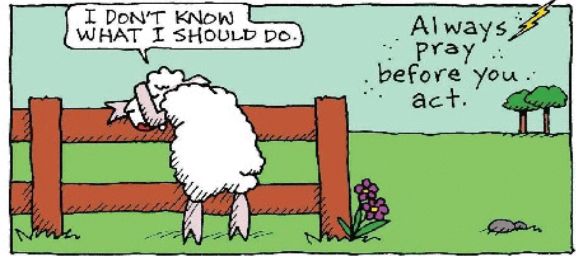
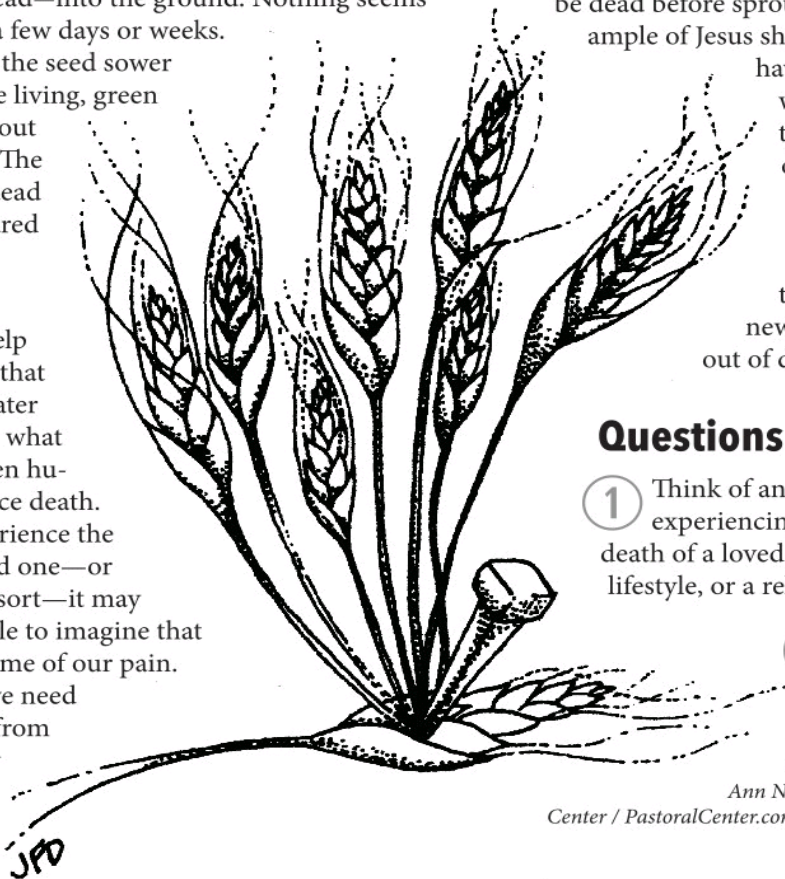
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Jeremiah 31:31-34 - The new covenant
- ▶ Hebrews 5:7-9 - Jesus, compassionate high priest
- ▶ John 12:20-33 - A grain of wheat must die

In Jesus' day and time, almost everyone who heard him would have had farming experience, or at least been exposed to the farming life. It meant that Jesus could use examples and images from agriculture that would be easy for most people to understand. He does this in today's gospel reading when he reminds his listeners that "unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (Jn 12:24).

For those of us in today's world who haven't had the experience of planting seeds, we have missed out on this amazing miracle. A person plants seeds—which appear to be dead—into the ground. Nothing seems to happen for a few days or weeks. Then, one day, the seed sower wakes up to see living, green shoots poking out of the ground. The seeds weren't dead like they appeared to be.

Jesus uses this metaphor to help us understand that something greater is at work than what we can see when humans experience death. When we experience the death of a loved one—or a death of any sort—it may seem impossible to imagine that new life can come of our pain. That is when we need this reminder from Jesus. Not only do we know that seeds appear to



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"He learned obedience from what he suffered."

Sheepish Question:

What must I do to conform my heart to Jesus' heart?

be dead before sprouting again, we have the example of Jesus showing us that death does *not* have the final say. We may not want to let someone or something in our life go, but we can do so in an act of faith. We can choose to act in faith and to act despite our feelings of pain and hopelessness, trusting that God can bring new life in some unforeseen way out of death.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Think of an example from your life of experiencing new life after a death (the death of a loved one or the death of a dream, a lifestyle, or a relationship). What happened?
- 2 In what area(s) of your life are you still awaiting new life after a death?

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