

REFLECTION for the Third Sunday in Advent Fr. Don.

'Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.'

Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. It is a special name given to the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western Church, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, many Lutheran Churches, and other mainline Protestant churches. The Latin word GAUDETE means REJOICE. So, as we draw near to Christmas and the Incarnation, the Church is reminding us to fight through the daily preparatory distractions and to focus on Jesus- the true and only *'reason for the season.'*

The word REJOICE means **to be full of joy or to feel or show joy or happiness.** From this definition flows the natural question to ask ourselves: What is there in our lives that calls forth rejoicing?

We must answer this question first and foremost from a Christian perspective. We rejoice because the *'Word became flesh and dwelt among us.'* Jesus, the Son of God, humbled Himself, and became human to save us, to open the gates of heaven for us, to show us the WAY to live as true Christians, and to redeem fallen humanity. It is the one great salvific act that reverberates daily in the lives of all believers.

It is indeed reason to rejoice. It is indeed the reason that all *'will know we are Christians by our love.'* Indeed, we can live with the knowledge that our sins can be forgiven, that Jesus provides the WAY- that blue-print for living the golden rule- *to do unto others as you would have them do unto you*, that the joys of heaven await us with its 'communion of saints' and everlasting joys, and that God dwells within us to guide us in our daily struggles. For Christians, our lives are safely in the care, compassion, and love of our Trinitarian God. YES, we have a lot of divine gifts for which we should daily REJOICE, again I say REJOICE.

REJOICING in the Lord daily can bring about awesome positive changes in the way we live our lives. If we experience any trial or difficulty, we can find solace and relief by ***'taking it to the Lord.'***

Do you believe in the power of Jesus, do you believe in the love of Jesus, are you a child of God?

Everything is GIFT FROM GOD and calls forth rejoicing. We should rejoice because of our gift of family. If our family is joy-filled, then rejoice. If our family is having difficulties, then rejoice in the gift of forgiveness and reconciliation in our family. We should rejoice in our present state of health. If we can 'leap over tall buildings', then rejoice; if we are racked with pain and suffering, then rejoice (suffering is redemptive). Jesus will never over-burden us. See, REJOICING can be difficult and challenging at times. *'I say, REJOICE.'*

We should rejoice in our daily living. If we are students, then rejoice in the gift of learning and strive to form lasting relationships among peers. If we are working, then we rejoice for the gift of our job. If we are unemployed, then rejoice in the gift of perseverance and hope- there is something good waiting around the next corner. If we are retired, then rejoice in the gift of freedom to pursue our 'wildest desires.'

REJOICE, it will put a permanent smile on your face (for the world to see) and a smile on your soul (for you to savor and delight) in every moment of your life.

We have choices. And, because we are Christians, our choices have eternal consequences. We can choose to be filled with doom and gloom. We can live a woe-is-me existence. We can Scrooge ourselves.

Or we can choose to be 'appy. Is you 'appy, really 'appy?

That's the Newfoundland way of asking you to: *REJOICE, I say, REJOICE always. The Lord is near.*

Sacred Heart Parish



A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Friday 10 am

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church

Marriages: Six months' notice is required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

December 11, 2016

The Third Sunday in Advent

<u>RECEIVED WITH THANKS</u>	Dec. 3 & 4
Collection	\$2,275.15
Mass Stipends	30.00
Bldg. Fund	550.00
Votive Candles	44.00
Dues	40.00
Shepherds Fund	600.00
St. Vincent de Paul	140.00
Bingo	1,235.85

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 12	No Mass
Dec 13	William & Winnifred Lynch
Dec 14	Roy Reid
Dec 15	Paul Young
Dec 16	Charles Gregory
Dec 17	Theresa Tompkins
Dec 17+	Joseph & Sylvia Hickey
Dec 18	Parish Community

MINISTERS (Dec 17, 18)

<u>READERS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>
Carol Reid	Joan Penney, Eileen Moore
Lynette Taylor	Marie Byrne
<i>*Tony Griffin- Communion Minister to the Sick</i>	

Dennis Bruce	Don Gallant, Hedy Kenny
John Carroll	Barbara Neville

OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES SCHEDULE

- The **Advent Penitential Service** will take place on Monday, Dec. 19 at 7pm. Additional priests will be available to hear confessions.
- Our **Christmas Masses** will be at **7 pm on Christmas Eve** and at **11 am on Christmas Day**.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our parish family expresses condolences and assurances of our prayers to the families of **Jean**

Buckle and Rhodena Cochrane who died recently. May they rest in peace.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

These Sunday evening sessions began last week. However due to bad weather and personal commitments, these have now been postponed until mid-January. Please watch for further details and come enrich your Catholic faith.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

All members are urged to attend our next meeting this Monday evening, Dec 12, at 7 pm. It will take place in the Parish house.

LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Members are reminded that we will meet at the Parish house this Tuesday evening, Dec. 13, following 7 pm Mass.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will meet in the Parish house on **Sunday evening** for this week at **7:00 pm**. We encourage newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT- Down the Bay.

The Children's Wish Foundation is offering a Carol Service this Sunday, Dec 11, at 7 pm in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Benoit's Cove. The Griffins, Tara Quilty, Sacred Heart Folk Choir, Danielle Pond, Dave McHugh, and many others will perform. Admission is free- but a free-will offering will be collected with all proceeds going to the Wish Foundation. Try to attend and catch the Spirit of the Season.

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Our Sunday Readings for the next month focus on prayer. Please join us in prayer for our young

people to come join us at Sunday worship. We are looking for youth to serve as Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, and any other capacity. Spread this message of welcome to our young people. Tell them that we need them.

PARISH POT-LUCK SOCIAL

This social was recently cancelled because of bad weather. Now it is scheduled for **Ole Christmas Day, Friday Jan 6**. It will take place at the School cafeteria beginning at 6 pm. Come join us in saying goodbye to Christmas. Mummers and musicians will be allowed in.

APPRECIATION SOCIALS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

We want to show our appreciation to our Parish Council and Finance Committee members, our many Liturgical Ministers, our Choirs, and members of other Parish groups. One way to do this is to offer them an evening with a meal and a social gathering. It is planned to do this early in January. This is notice to all our volunteers- let us know some possible convenient dates.

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY

Will be held on the **first Friday** of each month at **the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Chapel from 7:00-8:00 PM**. [for world peace]

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

To assist those in need - 638-9010

LARGE PRINT BIBLES---are still available at a cost \$30 each. Please see John or call the office.

Habitat for Humanity are building two homes on Petries St, Curling and are looking for Volunteers. Anyone who would like to Volunteer please register at www.habitat.nl.ca and call Maurice McDonald

634-6000 for further information. Volunteers are also needed to provide meals- lunch & snacks- for the workers on this project. It is suggested that 2-3 people get together to prepare enough food for 15 workers. If you are interested in helping, contact Madonna English at 785-634-5141. You can view the meal schedule at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/enw70y>

SPECIAL THANKS to the following people for your donation for our Dec. bingo: Sheila George, Kay Hynes, Pat Jones, Barb Neville, Joe Hayes, Rosemarie Doody, Carol Reid, Mike Canning, Kay Musseau, Vivian Donahue, Isabelle Gillis, Linda Corbett, Theresa Dobbin, Tom George, Annie Griffin, Veronica Stone, Gen Quigley, Eileen, Karen, & Gerry Buckle, Linda & Marina Cashin, Bill Peddle, Marie Samms, Donna Eldridge, Tammy Wareham, & Tony Griffin. If anyone has been omitted, please call the office & let us know. Thank you to all the men & women who helped run the game & clean up afterwards.

SPECIAL THANKS Special thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Shoe Box campaign. You have brought great joy to 60 children in impoverished countries.

UPDATE ON OUR WINDOWS

We wish to thank you for your generosity. Donations were received that nearly covered the total cost of replacing all of them. We are now working to have all the plaques ready to be placed. Soon, you will see samples of them and then we will install them on the windows.

Jesus, have mercy upon us; we are sinners seeking divine redemption only you can give.