

**REFLECTION for Fourth Sunday in Lent 2017**

**Fr. Don**

*'Hear, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but do not see, who have ears, but do not hear.'*

To expose their hypocrisy, Jeremiah said this about people who could actually see and hear. They chose not to see God's marvelous works and not to listen to the warnings of this prophet. It led to their ruin.

In the several hundred years after that time, and leading up to the time of Jesus, not much had changed. This week's Gospel attests to that. The Pharisees are convinced that the man born blind has also been a sinner from birth. They believed and taught that anyone born with a disability was like that because it was a punishment from God for past sins. Everybody is getting what he or she deserves. Even when young innocents suffer and die, it must be because of something they, or their ancestors, have done.

In the few thousand years since the time of Jesus, not much has changed. Most of us remain spiritually blind and deaf in terms of living our lives as true believers in things divine. We fail to live our lives as children of the light and we fail to see others as children of the light. We fail to see the Light of Christ. We fail to see Jesus- in our own lives and in the lives of others. The secretness/anonymity offered by darkness seems so attractive.

We can judge others, puff up our own egos, discriminate at will, and hide in the shadows of our own self-righteousness; we believe no one will see us and no one will call us to account. But, Jesus sees; Jesus penetrates the darkness and exposes our hypocrisy. *'Where can I run from the Lord?'---Nowhere!*

For example, today, there are many who like to see the AIDs virus as divine punishment for homosexuals, to see what is happening in the USA as divine retribution for a sinful nation, and to see evil, weakness, and faults, in everyone, except themselves. The Pharisees are the bad-guys of our Gospel and often we are like them.

Today's Gospel presents an interesting comparison between physical and spiritual blindness. We have a man born blind who believed in Jesus as the Son of God has his sight restored, is healed, and is forgiven.

He falls on his knees to worship Jesus, recognising Him not just as the source of his sight but, more notably, as the origin of a whole new way of being. He undergoes a conversion and becomes a witness for Jesus.

But he encounters men with sight who could not see what he saw. They fail to see Jesus as a healer; they see only a threat to their authority. These men became both judge and jury. They saw both the now-sighted man and Jesus as sinners. Jesus for curing on the Sabbath, and the man for his condition, even though it was now cured. These suspicious and self-righteous men remaining spiritually blind; they remained in their sin.

As we hear the unfolding of this story, none of us would sympathize with the Pharisees- they are wrong in their thinking. Yet, if we honestly look into the mirror of our own lives, we have been like them often.

The message of our readings is to listen to Jesus, see how He acts, hear what He says, and then follow Him. With our sights focused on Jesus, we will come to increasing *insight* into who Jesus is, and the gift He brings.

Jesus calls. Pray that our encounter with Jesus will elevate us into a new life. Pray we too receive a new capacity to be merciful witnesses, a new way of experiencing the world, and a deeper love of life.

As we pass through this holy season of Lent, pray that we open ourselves to the healing touch of Jesus, and prepare to see the world anew in Light that dispels the darkness. A Light that illumines our hearts to withhold snap judgment of others, to see only hope, and to see all as Children of the Light and Children of God.

The sin of the Pharisees was that they insisting they could see clearly, when they could not. We must see with the eyes of Jesus- eyes that see only love, only good, only hope, only the goodness of God.

# Sacred Heart Parish

**A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ**



**Parish Information**

**Parish Administrator:** Fr. Don Leonard

**Office Hours:** Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

465 Curling Street  
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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:** Tues, Wed, Thurs at 7:00 pm, Friday at 10 am

**Stations of the Cross:** Friday evenings at 7 pm during Lent

**Holy Hour of Adoration:** Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m.

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

**Baptisms:** Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

**March 26, 2017**

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS** (Mar 18, 19)

Collection	1967.95
Bldg. Fund	90.00
Pastoral Dues	200.00
Mass Stipends	40.00
Parish Insurance	10.00
Bingo	928.55
Lenten Folders	63.50
CMIC	10.00
In Memorium	50.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Mar 27	No Mass
Mar 28	Betty Caines
Mar 29	Ignatius Power
Mar 30	Irene Rumboldt
Mar 31	William Wells
April 1	Betty Caines
April 1	Mary Snooks
April 2	Parish Community

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS** (April 1,2)

<b>READERS</b>	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>
Basil English	Marie Byrne, Joan Penney
Matthew English	Art Hall
<u>Communion to Sick</u>	Joan Penney
Mike Leonard	Margaret Dalley, Anna House
Calvin Gillis	Hedy Kenny

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Intentions until April 20 are posted at the back of the church. We have none after that date, as of now. Please take advantage of this tradition to request Masses for our loved ones.

**FLOWERS FOR EASTER**

We are inviting donations for flowers for our celebration of Easter. Any person or family who wishes to donate can either contact the Office or put your donation in the Sunday collection. We thank you in advance.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Members are advised that we will meet in the Chapel Room on Wednesday Mar 29 following 7 pm Mass. The 2016 Parish Financial Report will be discussed

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Our monthly Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Chapel Room.

**ALTER SERVERS NEEDED**

We are in need of a few more teams of alter servers for our weekday masses. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know.

**EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION**

We will celebrate this traditional Liturgy on **Thursday Mar 30 immediately following our 7 pm Mass**. Please try to come to Mass and then spent some time before the Blessed Sacrament. It is a good way to spend time during Lent.

**STATION OF THE CROSS**

Please join us on **Friday evening March 31, at 7 pm** here at the church for this most sacred of Catholic Lenten devotions. Come walk with Jesus.

**BIBLE STUDY**

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening March 27 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.

**NET MINISTRIES VISIT**

It was a blessing to have these young men and women with us last week. We have hopes of having them return in a few years. We thank Joan Penney, Julia Myles, and all, who helped in making this parish venture a success. Going forward, we now plan to involve our youth in the ministries of our parish. Please encourage any you know to offer themselves for service; it will do them good to serve the Lord in any capacity. God knows we need them.

**OUR NEXT YOUTH MASS**

This will take place **at our 11 am Sunday Mass on April 2**. Again, we hope to have our young people perform the various liturgical ministries- Lectors, Offertory Procession, Cross and Candle Bearers., Ushers/ Collectors, and, if we can, Eucharistic Ministers. We are hoping that some of our youth

in the late teens or twenties will come forward to become Eucharistic Ministers. If some would like to join the Choir, they are welcome.

**FOOD BANK COLLECTION**

This notice will serve as a reminder to you to try to bring a food item to Mass with you. There is a collection box at the back in which to put them. There is a list of preferred items posted as well. Remember, alms-giving is a Lenten priority. At the back of the church **you will find the Food Bank Network's recent newsletter**. Please take a copy to find out about their latest activities.

**BRIEF HISTORY OF SACRED HEART PARISH**

A year or so ago, Tom Collier put together this history. He presented it to the Parish in a binder. It contains some printed material and some pictures. We are placing it in the Chapel, on a table, for viewing. Please feel free to go in to take a look. But do not remove any, or all, of it.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**

This group is seeking members from our parish to help them in their work. They operate Mary's Kitchen on Fridays and need volunteers to serve meals. Right now, they need used furniture. They have families looking for any various items. They do many other activities such as provide food to families, visit the sick. Please consider helping them, especially if you have used items. Call: 638-9010 for more information

**CASH DRAW TICKET FUNDRAISER**

Keep an eye out for tickets! This upcoming draw is being put on by our Ladies Group, and will have a cash prize of \$1000!

**LENTEN SCRIPTURE SERIES – Week 5**

This is offered at 7 pm on each Friday in Lent at- All Hallows Church Basement. Fr. White will be giving a weekly study of Holy Scripture. Sessions will be about 45 minutes – snacks provided. Topic: Ezekiel – Peering into the Mystery

**CURSILLO WEEKEND RETREAT**

The Cursillo Movement Weekend, sponsored by the Anglican Church, is being offered at Killdevil Camp and Conference Centre from Friday, May 19 to Sunday, May 21. Cursillo (pronounced Ker-see-yo) is a Spanish word meaning 'a little course in Christian Living'. This is a weekend, for men and women, 23 years of age and older, to hear again the great news of the Gospel in a community atmosphere of concern, prayer, dialogue, fun, fellowship, and of course, food. This weekend is open to all denominations and is intended for those who already have a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and are seeking to strengthen that commitment. The cost of the weekend is \$125.00. Anyone interested in attending and would like an application, or seeking further information, may contact The Rev. Ed King at 785-2761 or check online @ Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat.

**SHARE LENT 2017- COLLECTION NEXT WEEK**

The Bishops of Canada have reserved the Fifth Sunday of Lent for a collection to assist the Global South on the. *Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace* financially supports development and aid projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and informs Canadian Catholics on international social justice questions. Envelopes are available. Please be generous.

**SHORT LENTEN PRAYER**

**Lord, help me to turn away from sin, and to believe in the Good News, in Jesus Christ, and in myself. Lord, in times of triumph or tragedy, allow me to practice self-restraint by reminding me that I am dust, and to dust I shall return.** Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, amen.

**JESUS PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*