

REFLECTION for the Fourth Sunday in Advent Fr. Don.

“Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself.” Have you ever done this? Has life ever gotten to the point that you realized the only option remaining was to take it to the Lord- to openly admit that you need divine help and you profess belief in the power and mercy of God? To have the sense to do this requires trust and faith. And those two virtues are marvellously on display in today’s Gospel.

Imagine poor Joseph’s dilemma; he was betrothed to this young virgin woman named Mary. One day he finds out she is pregnant. He is not the father. Being an honorable man, he decides to quietly divorce her. This would hopefully lessen the gossip and afford both escape from ridicule and scandal.

Then, Joseph has a dream and an angel tells him to take Mary as his wife and that their son will be the long-awaited Messiah. When he awakens, he must make choices. Does he follow his way or does he follow his dream? Trusting in his belief in the power of dreams, he decides to follow the angel’s advise. He saw the dream as a sign from God. We also know that Mary had a dream and the angel Gabriel told her that her pregnancy was a gift from God. She saw it as a sign from God.

The Christmas story is full of other signs from God- there is the Star of Bethlehem (leading both Magi and shepherds to Jesus) and there is a young woman who is with child (a fulfillment of our first reading prophecy). Thank God all those involved in this divine plan listened to and followed the signs.

What are the signs of our times? To where are these signs leading us? How is our level of trust and faithfulness? For we can ignore the signs, we can misinterpret the signs, or we can use them to guide us to our ultimate destination. That destination, for Christians, is eternal salvation. It is our destiny.

Our parish church is a sign. I wonder how many people who drive by it each day take time to consider what it represents. Everybody knows what a church should represent but how many have ignored this. Too many have decided that the church is a sign to be ignored, that it holds nothing of importance to them. Remember we are our church. Our call is to promote our church as a positive sign.

You, if you profess to be a Christian, are a sign. Depending on how you live your faith, you can be that light- that sign- which leads others to go where you go and do what you do. If you claim this ability to be a sign, then you could be the Star of Bethlehem for lost sheep; you could become a shepherd. *Ask the Lord your God for this sign.* Trust in Lord; put your faith into action. Be a disciple of the Lord.

The church in Rome is a sign of our Catholic faith. Is it a bright shining sign that flashes the message ‘Come, this is your home? Is it attractive and are people drawn to it? Does it elicit trust and faith?

We are so close to Christmas that we can almost reach out and touch it, so, let us be attentive to the signs of our faith. Let us see signs of Jesus in everything and everyone. And then let us trust, trust as Joseph did.

If we are living a life based on firm faith, then God will lead us in right ways. Ask to Lord for the gift of peace, joy, mercy, love, trust, and dare to be bold. Tell the Lord that you want it all-all that will make you a sign of the Magnificence of the Lord. Seek to become a neon sign pointing others to Jesus.

‘Fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices.’ That most Holy of Nights is upon us. *O Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior’s birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.* THE SIGN OF SIGNS. GOD IS WITH US-Emmanuel.

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.

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
Tel: (709) 785-5025

Curlingparish@hotmail.com
www.sacredheartrcparish.ca
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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 at 10 am, 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 18, 2016

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

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| <u>RECEIVED WITH THANKS</u> | Dec. 10 & 11 |
| Collection | \$1,727.00 |
| Bldg. Fund | 105.00 |
| Votive Candles | 38.00 |
| Dues | 140.00 |
| St. Vincent de Paul | 20.00 |
| Church Envelopes | 25.00 |
| Windows | 40.00 |
| <u>Correction</u> ; last week's Offertory-2,110.15 | |
| Bldg. Fund was \$190.00, Calendars \$105.00 | |
| Sunday Missals-\$420.00 | |

MASS INTENTIONS

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| Dec 19 | Penitential Service |
| Dec 20 10 am | Mary Leonard |
| Dec 21 10 am | Joseph & Margaret Jennex |
| Dec 22 | Brendan Pike |
| Dec 22+ Deceased | Byrne & Murphy Family |
| Dec 23 | Dennis Murphy |
| Dec 24 Christmas Eve | Wm & Ada Myles, William & Lucy Whelan, Bill Baker, Dana, Jerome & Elsie Beales,, Phonse Noseworthy & Glennis McLennan, Thomas Sr. & Brian Griffin, Mary Russell, Joe Gallant, Mary & Nathan & Elizabeth Noseworthy, John & Veronica Pike, Brendan Pike. |
| Dec 25 Christmas Day | Parish Community |

MINISTERS (Dec 24, 25)

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| <u>READERS</u> | <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u> |
| Art Hall | Joanne Hackett, Theresa Dobbins |
| Edna Dwyer | Barbara Neville |
| Gerard Brake - <i>Communion Minister to the Sick</i> | |
| Mike Leonard | Elizabeth Carew, Brian Sparkes |
| John Carroll | Patsy Payne |

TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

We expect a large crowd at our 7 pm Mass. So, we want you to **enter** our lot by way of the

entrance by the Aliant building, and then after Mass **exit** through the entrance by the Diocesan property. This way we can park a lot more vehicles. Gerard Deveaux has volunteered to help direct traffic flow and is looking for a few more volunteers. Please consider helping. Let us know.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

If any family wishes to donate to the purchase of flowers for the sanctuary area during the Christmas Season, please contact the parish office or put your donation and request in the collection. This is another way to support your parish and honor loved ones.

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Due to bad weather and personal commitments, these sessions have now been postponed until mid-January. Please watch for further details and come enrich your Catholic faith.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on Monday evening Jan. 2 at 7 pm. We encourage newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels. We also break open a fine lunch afterwards.

CALLING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The time for action has arrived. We are calling to you. We are planning to offer a Youth Mass on the last weekend of February. To do this, we require our young people to participate. At this Mass, they will take the lead in the many ministry roles. *We have some more good news.* In March, NET Ministries will spend some time working with youth in our parish. These are a group of 10 young adults from across Canada whose ministry is to visit parishes to fill other

youth with zeal for Jesus and to provide ways and means for them to be active in parish life.

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.

MT. PATRICIA CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Mike Leonard has served as our parish rep on this Committee for several years. He is stepping down as of this month. We require someone to volunteer to fill this position. It would involve attending a few meetings a year and reporting back to the parish concerning any news from the Committee. There are major changes coming at Mt. Patricia, so we really need to be kept informed and involved. Consider doing it.

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 634-5141. You can view the meal schedule at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/enw70y>

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.

FOURTH DEGREE-Bishop O'Reilly Assembly will meet on Tuesday at 8 pm. All Sir Knights are asked to attend.

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

What good is it that Christ was born 2,000 years ago, if he is not born now in our heart?' Lord, we do far too much celebrating your actual coming in our hearts. I believe in God, but do I believe in God-in-me? I believe in God in heaven, but do I believe in God-on-earth? I believe in God out there, but do I believe in God-with-us? Lord, this year be born in my heart. Come alive in me this Christmas! Amen

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