

REFLECTION for the Ascension of the Lord

Fr. Don

Heaven is our true home. Our souls and our hearts remain restless as we await our ultimate destiny. My father lived the last years of his earthly life longing for death; to him death was the gateway to heaven. Where did he get this belief? Of course it came from his belief in Jesus. Jesus came from heaven and returned to heaven. After His resurrection, He promised to go back there and to prepare a place for us. My dad believed this with all his heart and soul.

That, my dear friends, is the greatest gift arising from today's Solemnity called the Ascension. Death is not an end; it is a new beginning. It is a magnificent new beginning that has no end.

We gather today as church to celebrate, and to glory in, this joyous truth. By His Ascension, Jesus invigorates us and fills us with hope that we too will experience an ascension into heaven.

But we haven't yet punched our ticket. It is essential that we continue following the Way as lived by Jesus. But the truth is that we can achieve, we can anticipate, and we can actually one day experience, seeing Jesus face to face. Praise the merciful Jesus for His bountiful love!!

Staying the course of our faith is not easy. Our fallen human state opens our souls to sin and to turning away from the Way and forgetting His promises and His goodness. Thus, let us embrace, and thank Jesus for, another gift arising from His Ascension- the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

In a sense, we could imagine that the Holy Spirit holds our ticket to heaven; holds the keys to our happiness and joy for the remainder of our earthly life, and has the power to enflame us with the fire of faith. Yes, God the Holy Spirit can make us fully alive as children of God.

Jesus has sent the Advocate to guide us, to help us down life's tricky rocky path, leading us home. The Spirit dwells in our heart and soul. However the Trinitarian God- the Three Persons- loves us so much, respects us so much, and trusts us so much, that we are giving the choice. We are free to choose or to reject the Holy Spirit. What amazing love God has for us. God does not, and will not, force us to choose. Eternal salvation, happiness and joy, are free-will choices.

Rather, God makes available to us the knowledge of the powers/ gifts/fruits of the Holy Spirit. God- the Father and the Son- assures us that the Holy Spirit is also God. The Old Testament scripture says it best- *'I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, **Choose life.***' What a challenge, what an opportunity.

Because of the Ascension, we say **YES, Lord, I choose the gift of Life in the Spirit for eternity.**

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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Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:
Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 am

Masses in Week Days:
Wed, Thurs 7 pm
Fri 10am

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Third Sunday of the Month,
at 2 pm

Reconciliation
Wed after Mass,
or by request

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

Baptisms:
Celebrated at Weekend Mass
after preparation session.

May 8, 2016

The Ascension Of The Lord

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

April 30, May 1, 2016

Collection	\$1,937.00
Building Fund	60.00
Dues	50.00
Mass Stipends	100.00
Votive Candles	71.00
Parish Insurance	10.00
Seminary Collection	86.00
Lenten Offering	40.00
Bingo	1,019.50

MASS INTENTIONS

May 9	No Mass
May 10	No Mass
May 11	Basil Donahue
May 12	Dr. Charles O’Connell
May 13	Bernadette & Anthony George
May 14	Basil Donahue/Scott Connolly
May 15	Parish Community

TIMES : see front of bulletin

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

The Parish wishes all mothers heartfelt blessings and joys on this special day. Mothers are the heart and soul of Christian families. The truth of this expresses itself in their dedication to our parish. Again, God Bless Mothers.

HELPERS NEEDED

In the spirit of our parish as family, we are seeking to recruit new members for most of our parish Groups and Committees. We are re-populating all our ministries lists now in anticipation of September start-up.

We are asking you to consider volunteering for service with our Altar Servers, our Ushers, our Choirs, our Lectors, our Eucharistic Ministry, our Greeters, our Finance and Parish Council Committees, and any other task you may want

to offer. Parish Council has sub-committees to match your talent.

We are in immediate need of persons to help our Responsible Ministry-where we need persons to count and record the weekly collection, And also for our Bereavement Teams who help prepare funeral liturgies and in comforting those in mourning.

Please don’t underestimate the contribution your involvement can add in building up this parish. You are needed and your gifts and talents are wanted. Just let Fr. Don or the Office know and soon you will begin blessing us with the gift that is **you**.

LADIES GROUP FUND-RAISER

Here’s a chance to get involved in a worthwhile event in our parish. Please take a book of tickets to help the Ladies Group in their effort to raise funds for the parish. The beautiful hand–made quilt can be viewed at the back of the church.

YOU ARE INVITED

You are invited to attend the priestly ordination of Andrew White. This blessed event takes place at the Cathedral on Sunday, May 15, at the 5 pm Mass.

2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

It was presented and discussed at our Annual Parish Meeting last Sunday evening. If you want to view it- it is now available on our website and a few copies are placed at the back of the church. You may direct any questions or inquiries regarding it to the Parish Office.

ROSARY FOR MAY

The Ladies Group will lead the recitation of the Holy Rosary before each Saturday Mass during the month of May. They will begin the rosary 20

minutes (4:10) before the start of Mass. Please plan to come early and join in this Marian devotion.

BIBLE STUDY

This group meets each Monday evening at 7 pm in the parish house. We would like to encourage/ invite others to join us for sharing the Word of God in scripture and for fellowship.

CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE

This Diocesan training session for catechists will be held at the Civic Center in Corner Brook on Friday, May 13 (7-9 pm) and on Saturday, May 14 (9am -4pm).

We are hoping some people from our parish will attend.

PAMPHLET MINISTRY

Many beautifully illustrated and inviting pamphlets are now available for free at the back of the church. This week we highlight the one dealing with **END OF LIFE ISSUES**, it contains much wisdom. Please have a look and take any that are of interest to you.

THE GIFT: A Holy Spirit Based Faith Building Course

This will be offered on **May 14 & 15 at Sacred Heart School cafeteria from 9am. to 4pm. each day.** For more info contact Wayne or Amelia Dicks at 388-1048. This weekend is free of charge & lunch will be provided. The Holy Spirit enriches our lives with Wisdom, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Compassion, and Self-control.

World Communications Day

On Sunday, May 8, the Church celebrates World Communications Day, a day originally called for by the Second Vatican Council. Social

media surrounds us wherever we go and we can use it to help spread the Good News of the Gospel, to help create a just society and to learn more about our own faith

National Week for Life and the Family

May 8-15 is the National Week for Life and the Family. The theme of this year’s Week is “My Family: A School of Mercy”. In God’s great plan of love for humanity, the family is intended to be the privileged place where merciful love is first encountered and nurtured. No family is perfect; but parents and children who stay in touch with Christ through prayer, the Word of God and the sacraments gradually become more and more like Christ who is mercy made flesh.

Bingo Donations

were graciously received from; Sharon Bennett, Sandy Buckle, Karen Buckle, Donna Eldridge, Madonna Elford, Mary Gallant, Alvina George, Maureen George, Sheila George, Tom George, Isabel Gillis, Margaret Gillis, Linda Green, Annie Griffin, Tony Griffin, Julia Hackett Myles, John Hancock, Patsy Hall, Barbara Hayes, Col Healey, Diane Hearn, Anna House, Joan Hutchings, Kay Hynes, Janet Jackson, Doreen Jones, Pat Jones, Helen Jones, Clara Joyce, Edward Joyce, Judy Joyce, Patrick Joyce, Edna Kearney, Florence King, Lori Gardener, Edith Leonard, Gail Leggo, Frank Lewis, Vince Lewis, Elaine Lynch, Lori Lynn Lyver, Kathleen MacDonald, Helen McCarthy, Edmund McGrath, Shirley McGrath, Ann McHugh, Linda McIsaac, Barbara O’Blenis, and Bill Peddle. Thank you all for your support.

PRAYER FOR YEAR OF MERCY

Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.