

REFLECTION for the First Sunday in Advent

Fr. Don.

As we begin again the season of Advent, we marvel at the big picture-view presented by Isaiah. He, like all of us 21st century Christians, is looking forward to *'the days to come'*, to the future when God will finally establish his Kingdom. *All the nations of the world will stream to it, to worship God in His Temple, to know His ways and to walk in His paths.* It will be a time of justice and peace, a time of total fulfilment for all. No swords, only ploughshares. Yes, he is using words and images appropriate for his time. In our time, we are challenge to dream the dream, to fix our gaze, to hope, and to put our trust in the coming of our Messiah. Our life in the Kingdom can and will be marvelous, it will knock our socks off.

As we begin again the season of Advent, we marvel at the possibilities in our world. Let our imaginations run wild, fill our hearts and minds with the joys of our ultimate future basking in the Beatific Vision. Sure, the reality of today's world is startling- some people still flock to the Church, some believe they are persecuted by it, and some have just taken to ignoring it.

Faith, and its companion, salvation, are personal choices. We have free-will. Each year Advent comes and Christmas is in the air. For Christians, it is a time to spruce-up our souls, to shine-up our commitment to Jesus, and to recharge our divine heaven-programmed internal batteries. We will attend carol services, seek out penitential services, and anticipate; like children we can't wait, there are gifts galore awaiting the faithful Christian. But wait we must. Waiting can refresh, can enflame hope, and can sprout love.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus warns us to be ready for what he calls *'the coming of the Son of Man'*. The Son of Man is continually present among us though we often fail to recognise him. We must.

Jesus is urging us to be aware. In the days of Noah, He says, people went about their ordinary business unaware of the judgement awaiting them. In a similar way, the coming of the Son of Man is awaiting us as sure s we live and move and have our being. Some will be ready for it, some will not. If you are not prepared, you will suffer the consequences. Ponder these, let them scare us straight.

If we are prepared, if we accept Jesus, then He will welcome us, which is a gift and a grace from God. If, on the other hand, we are unprepared, if we reject, then we reap the consequences: frustration, misery, hate. That old gift of free-will could end up damning us. Let us look to the Incarnation for hope.

Jesus' unconditional love for each one of us gives us the confidence to make every day of our lives a day to turn away from sin and back to the Lord, to allow the Holy Spirit to liberate us from that deadly indifference to God's will for us.

The *'coming of the Son of Man'* need not be a future event. All the time the Son of Man is coming to us. He is always present with us and we are being challenged to accept or reject Him. Advent is the time when we think about this especially, when we try to open our lives to his coming, to the indwelling Spirit of His love and forgiveness. It is a time when we strive to accept the good and reject the bad, so that we become more and more like the Son of Man.

This Advent is *another* opportunity for change. It is a time of new beginning. Don't delay, and don't become complacent, thinking that Advent comes around every year. This may be our last Advent. It certainly will be for many. God is giving us another chance to respond to His amazing love for us before death steals upon us and we slip away, scarcely noticed, into divine judgment. Pray and take action that in the words of today's psalm, we can truly rejoice when we hear it said *'Let us go to God's house'*.

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: Friday 2pm at Lohnes

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.

November 27, 2016

The First Sunday in Advent

<u>RECEIVED WITH THANKS</u>	Nov. 19 & 20
Collection	\$1,449.40
Mass Stipends	40.00
Bldg. Fund	25.00
Votive Candles	35.00
Windows	265.00
Shepherd's Fund	470.60
Donation mem. Dennis Murphy	100.00
St. Vincent De Paul	100.00

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Dec 2 (2pm) Intention Rita Hall/John Mendes
 Dec 3 Percy/Mary/Bern/Rod/Nicholas Joyce
 Dec 3 Theresa Tompkins/ Paul Young
 Dec 4 Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (Dec 3,4)

<u>READERS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>
Basil English	Joan Penney, Joanne Connolly
Matthew English	Joanne Perrett
<i>*Joan Penney- Communion Minister to the Sick</i>	

Calvin Gillis	Brian Sparkes, Patsy Payne,
Maureen George	Elizabeth Carew

BIBLE STUDY

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

SUNDAY MISSALS 2017

Our new **Missals** are now available. They cost \$5.00 each and begin on Nov. 27, the first Sunday in Advent.

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 we need them with us to keep us young at heart.

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 available at a cost \$30 each. Catechisms are \$20.00. Please see John.

FEAST OF ST. ANDREW, Nov 30

St. Andrew was St. Peter's brother. Little else is known of him. Legend has it that Andrew preached the Good News in what is now modern Greece and Turkey and was crucified at Patras. He was an apostle. That is enough. He was called personally by Jesus to proclaim the Good News, to heal with Jesus' power and to share his life and death. Holiness today is no different. It is a gift that includes a call to be concerned about the Kingdom, an outgoing attitude that wants nothing more than to share the riches of Christ with all people.

FEAST of ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, Dec 3

All of us are called to "go and preach to all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Unlike this saint, our preaching is not necessarily on distant shores but to our families, our children, our husband or wife, our coworkers. And we are called to preach not with words, but by our everyday

lives. Only by sacrifice, the giving up of all selfish gain, could Francis Xavier be free to bear the Good News to the world. Sacrifice is leaving yourself behind at times for a greater good, the good of prayer, the good of helping someone in need, the good of just listening to another. The greatest gift we have is our time. Francis gave his to others.

The Children's Wish Foundation of Corner Brook Subchapter are hosting Christmas Carol Programs for the following dates and times.
Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Westside Tabernacle, Elizabeth Street
Monday Dec. 5, 2016 at 7 pm. United Church, Pasadena

Tuesday Dec. 6, 2016 at 7 pm. St Nicholas Anglican Church, Cox's Cove
Sunday Dec. 11, 2016 at 7 pm. Our Lady Star of the Sea, Benoit's Cove
 Come and join us for an evening of performances from local entertainers. A nice way to begin the Christmas Season. There is no admission fee. A collection will be taken during the program if you wish to make a monetary donation.

ADVENT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

On the first three Sundays of Advent the Liturgy Committee will present three different sessions at 7pm. in the Parish House.

Nov. 27 WHO IS JESUS?

Dec. 4 THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE LIFE OF GRACE

Dec. 11 WHY DO I NEED THE CHURCH?

You are encouraged to take in all or any of these sessions. The usual cup of tea will follow.

Bingo Dec. 4 at 2pm.

In December the ladies will not be calling to ask anyone for a donation. This will be a ham or turkey bingo and is the only game during the year when anyone or everyone who so desires can give a donation. Hams or turkeys can be dropped off at the office between now & Dec.2. Monetary donations can be clearly marked & put in the collection. Thank you for your generous support.

Parish Pot Luck –Fri. Dec. 2 at 6 pm. in the school cafeteria. Music will be provided. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this social event. Please bring a dish.

Special Event: Our Ladies Group will be presenting a revised comedy of "The Price Is Right" this Tuesday at 2 pm. at The Lohnes Complex. Anyone who wants to come along is welcome.

CHURCH WINDOWS

We are in the process of having the plaques printed. They will be ready soon. God bless all of you for your amazing generosity.

Volunteers are needed to provide meals for the workers at "The Habitat for Humanity" project on Petries' St. For more info. Call Madonna Eng. At 634-5141. For meal schedules go to <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/enw70y>

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