

Reflection for the Second Sunday in Advent

Fr. Don

Let us consider these words from our first reading. *'Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.'* Let us meditate on how this verse can change our view of *preparing the way of the Lord; making straight His path.*

Black Friday sales have just ended. Christmas season, in all its commercialized glory-or is it gory, is in full swing. By the time Christmas Eve comes many Christians are sick and tired of all the misplaced celebration. They lament that society seems to have forgotten the REASON FOR THE SEASON. JESUS, His incarnation, and His Messianic mission for humanity's salvation seem forgotten; pushed into near insignificance and now just a passing fancy. Like sourpusses we say, *'Christmas is not like it was!'*

In church papers and in books we read about society's abandonment of the real meaning of Christmas. In their homilies, clergy join in the proclaiming that Jesus is ancient history.

But wait a minute! Is our pessimistic, sour and dour, attitude helping the situation? Is it not dampening our own joy and fueling the folly we bewail as so prevalent in others? Are we perpetuating what we grumble about? Are we not *divinely proclaimed Children of the Light?*

Let us vow, let us commit, and let us live by *'putting on forever the beauty of the glory from God.'* We have to live and make our way in this present world but we do not have to be consumed by this present world. Today, being a worshipping Christian is counter-cultural; it is not the way of the world. Let us start a new way- to transform and conform ourselves to Jesus.

So this Advent we will choose to go about our daily lives with smiles on our faces and joy in our hearts. Let each of us resolve to shout it from the rooftops and not hesitate to tell others why we are so happy and blissfully expectant. Let our living speak for itself. Let us personify this message: Jesus is coming and I'm so joy-filled I can't contain myself. He is my Savior and my Hope, and friends the news gets even more marvellous; for He is your Savior and Hope too.

There is beauty and consolation, hope and salvation, in being true Children of God as we confront the worries of this life and the lackadaisical approach to living the faith.

Allow me to suggest actions for us to use with these words. It is our putting these words into action that identifies us as Jesus' followers. This may be a leap of faith or a bold step for many of us but remember, God is calling us to witness and to actually try this approach.

Here is the suggestion: Come to our Carol Service on Dec 13 at 7 pm and to our Penitential Service on Dec 15 at 7 pm and invite a friend, who would not normally come, to come along with you. Share your joy and your experience of the *beauty of the glory from God.*

Sharing is caring. It is a gift that will just keep on giving. It is a gift that can be life-changing and life-saving. It is a gift God loves. It is a gift that fulfills the great commandments.

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
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Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:

Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Masses in Week Days:

Wed, Thurs- 7 pm
Tue, Fri -10 am

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.

December 6, 2015
The Second Sunday of Advent

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Nov 28, 29

Collection	\$1,906.00
Building Fund	10.00
Mass requests	50.00
Shepherd's Fund	405.00
Misc. Donations	700.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 7	No Mass
Dec 8 10am	+ Roche Family
Dec 9 7 pm	Roy Reid
Dec 10 7 pm	+Griffin/Hynes Families
Dec 11 10am	Betty Caines
Dec 12	Joseph & Margaret Jennix
Dec 13	Parish Community

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION- Dec 8.

This Tuesday is the Solemnity of this great feast day. It also marks the beginning of the Year of Mercy. Mass is scheduled for 10 am. Why not make a special effort to attend this Mass so as to honour Mary and celebrate God's mercy.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS

-Thurs, Christmas Eve at 7 pm and 9 pm,
-Friday, Christmas Day at 11 am.
-Saturday Dec 26 and Sunday Dec 27,
regular weekend Mass times at 4:30 pm
and 11 am respectively

NOTE: The choir will be offering a Carol presentation beginning at 8:30 pm, prior to the Christmas Eve 9 pm Mass.

PARISH COUNCIL/ FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members of both groups are reminded of our meeting Mon, Dec. 7 at 6 pm in the parish house. There will be an appreciation supper/social prior to our meeting.

Also, there is a **special meeting**, with Bishop Hundt in attendance, for both groups scheduled for Mon, Dec 14 at 7 pm.

OUR ADVENT CONCERT

On Sunday Dec. 13 at 7 pm here in our Church we will have an Advent Carol Service. Our Saturday (Folk) and Sunday (Adult) choirs will combine to bring us an evening of song and praise. There will be solo performances by some choir members. Please come enjoy, be inspired, and also bring a Food Bank item to donate. Get in the Spirit of Christmas- *giving* food for the needy and *receiving* the gift of fine festive music.

CHOIRS APPRECIATION SOCIAL

All choir members are asked to meet at the parish house for their appreciation supper Sunday Dec 13 at 4:30 pm.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

On Tuesday Dec. 15 at 7 pm we will celebrate our **Penitential Service** to prepare us for Christmas. Our service will follow the same format as last year. There will be a brief Liturgy of the Word, followed by an Examination of Conscience, and then priests will be available to hear private confessions.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Instruction has begun for our Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Confirmation classes will begin after Christmas. Please take the time to contact any family who have eligible children and may not have heard that we are offering these classes. Invite them, you would be evangelizing.

SUNDAY MISSALS NOW AVAILABLE

The new missals for 2016, which actually begins in two weeks, are available at the back of the church. They cost \$5. Please take one; they contain the Sunday readings and can be a good tool to use to do a little praying at home.

PRAIRIE MESSENGER

This is a weekly Catholic newspaper .We have subscribed for 25 copies weekly for the next year. Check the back table for this week's copy

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

St. Vincent de Paul will be accepting applications for Christmas hampers during the week of Nov. 30 to Dec. 4th from 2 to 4 pm. daily & 7 to 8:30 pm. on Tuesday & Thursday evenings. Registration will be at the entrance of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Redeemer. Applicants need to bring MCP numbers of the applicant family.

PARISH BINGO, Dec. 6th at 2 pm.

No one will be called for a donation for this game. However, if you wish to give a monetary donation to help the parish buy hams or turkeys, it will be appreciated. A donation of a ham [pork shoulder] or a turkey is also welcome. They can be dropped off at the office during office hours. Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Our ladies group will be having a carol sing-a-long with the seniors at Lohnes Complex on Thursday, Dec. 10, starting at 7 pm.

Music will be provided by Gerard Deveaux & friends. Please feel welcome to come along & join the festive event.

THE CHILDREN'S WISH FOUNDATION

Corner Brook Chapter is presenting their 7th. Annual Christmas Wishes Program on Sunday Dec. 6, at the Westside Tabernacle, 37 Elizabeth St. at 6: 30 pm. There is no admission cost for this event. However, any monetary donations will be graciously accepted.

JUBILEE YEAR of MERCY BEGINS

The Jubilee Year of Mercy formally begins on Tuesday, December 8th, 2015, with the opening by Pope Francis of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. On Sunday, December 13th, 2015, the remaining six permanent Holy Doors as well as all of those temporarily designated in all of the Dioceses of the world will be opened. Our Diocese has two Holy Doors – one at the Cathedral in Corner Brook and one at the Basilica in Labrador City. The faithful of the Diocese are invited to consider making a pilgrimage to one of the Diocesan Holy Doors during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Mrs. Annetta Hackett turns 95 years young this weekend. We are joining with her family to have a birthday party for her. But we, as her parish faith community, want to publically wish her many blessings and our best wishes on this momentous occasion.