

## March 24, 2019 – Third Sunday in Lent

### The parable of the fig tree.

Luke 13: 1-9

#### “A Rare Gift”

Sarah Gray was three months pregnant with identical twin boys when she and her husband, Ross, learned that one of them suffered from anencephaly, a fatal birth defect. Six months later, Thomas and Callum were born; Callum survived, but Thomas died six days later. Sarah and Ross decided to donate Thomas’ tissues and organs to science research. They were able to donate his liver, his cord blood, his retinas and his corneas.

A short time later, Sarah was on a trip to Boston. She remembered that Thomas’ corneas had gone to the Schepens Eye Research Institute at Harvard. She and Ross had signed away any rights to future information about the donation. But she decided there was nothing to lose by calling.

“I donated my son’s eyes to you a couple of years ago,” Sara explained to the receptionist at Harvard. “I’m in town on business for a couple of days. Is there any chance I can stop by for a ten-minute tour?”

The woman who answered paused. “I’ve never had this request before.” The woman asked Sara to hold for a moment; finally, someone came on the line and said she would be welcomed. The next day, Sara met one of the researchers at the lab. The researcher said that an infant’s eyes “are like gold to us.” Thomas’ cells were still being studied at the lab as they developed treatment for a number of different eye ailments.

The warm and grateful welcome she received gave Sarah “the bug.” So she and Ross arranged visits to the other three labs around the country where their little boy’s tissues had been sent. At Duke University, they learned that Thomas’ blood was part of a study on how anencephaly develops. Scientists at the Cytonet lab explained how Thomas’ liver was being used to develop lifesaving therapy for liver disease. And at the University of Philadelphia, the Rosses saw how Thomas’s retinas were a Godsend to researchers looking for ways to treat retinoblastoma, a deadly cancer of the retina.

For Sarah and Ross and Callum, the donation of Thomas’ tissue was no longer an abstract “nice thing to do.” The extraordinary good of Thomas’ gifts became something real to them. Their feelings of grief turned into pride. Their son and brother was with them in this life-giving work.

[From Sarah Gray’s story at The Moth, told at the Tarrytown Music Hall in Tarrytown, N.Y.]

**Sara and Ross Gray model the generosity of heart and spirit of optimism of the gardener in Jesus’ parable. Like the gardener who sees some hope for the struggling fig tree, the Rosses are able to see beyond their grief to make some good come from their little boy’s death. As God’s mercy and compassion know no end, we are called to embrace the faith of the gardener: to work and re-work our own small plots and realize its harvest of compassion and grace.**

March 24, 2019

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

# Sacred Heart Parish

**A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ**



### Parish Information

Pastor: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Administrator: Robyn C. Gallant

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Friday: 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

465 Curling Street

Corner Brook, NL, A2H 3K8

Tel: (709) 785-5025

curlingparish@hotmail.com

www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11:00 am

**Reconciliation:** By request

**Mass During the Week:** Tues & Thurs at 7:00 pm

Wed & Fri at 10:00 am

First Fridays - 2:00 pm at the Lohnes Complex

**Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.**

**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:** Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

**St. Vincent de Paul:** To assist those in need. Call 638-9010.

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS**

(March 16-17, 2019)

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Regular Collection          | 1,479.90 |
| Building Fund               | 5.00     |
| Parish Dues                 | 50.00    |
| Special Donation            | 487.63   |
| Votive Candles              | 47.25    |
| Mass Stipends               | 30.00    |
| Catholic Missions in Canada | 105.20   |
| Lenten Folders              | 10.00    |

**MASS INTENTIONS**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Mon, Mar 25  | No Mass  |
| Tues, Mar 26 | Late Tom Murphy  |
| Wed, Mar 27  | Late Bernadette & Anthony George                           |
| Thur, Mar 28 | Late Ted English   |
| Fri, Mar 29  | Late Fr. Don Leonard                                       |
| Sat, Mar 30  | Late John McCarthy & Deceased Members of the Elkins Family |
| Sun, Mar 31  | Parish Community   |

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

| <b>March 30</b>                        |   |
|--|---|
| Lynette Taylor<br>Janet Jackson        | Joan Penney<br>Marie Byrne<br>Art Hall          |
| <b>March 31</b>                        |   |
| Don Gallant<br>Sherry Lynn Brake       | Margaret Dalley<br>Hedy Kenny<br>Donna Eldridge |
| <b>Communion to the Lohnes Complex</b> |   |
| Eileen Moore                           |   |

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Come join us as we walk the way of the cross on Friday at 7:00 pm.

**ADVANCED NOTICE – HOLY WEEK**

**SCHEDULE:** The Holy Week schedule for readers and communion ministers is now available in the back of the church. If your name is on this schedule, please take a copy and if you cannot be available for your scheduled time please let Tony Griffin or Carol Reid know.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** If you wish to donate toward Easter Flowers in memory of a loved one, you may do so by putting the persons name on an envelope with a donation in the Sunday collection or drop by the Parish Office.

**PARISH BINGO:** Our next parish bingo will be held on **April 7<sup>th</sup>**. The list of donors includes those with last names beginning with A-E. Please support this important fundraiser.

**NET MINISTRY:** A great opportunity for our parish youth will take place on **Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 6-9 pm and Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 10 am - 4 pm**. This event will take place at Sacred Heart School. A group of young adults will be offering a fun-filled faith sharing weekend of events. They have been in our parish before and were greatly appreciated by our youth. Any youth now interested in taking part please contact Jennie Colbourne or email hrahayouthandfamilygroup@gmail.com to pre-register.

**PARISH MISSION AT HOLY**

**REDEEMER CATHEDRAL:** Services will take place on Monday and Tuesday, **April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**. This mission is for all Corner Brook parishes. "Hope for Our Roller-Coaster World" given by Father Michael Prieur. This will be a time for renewal in faith. It will provide opportunity for reconciliation and retreat in preparation for the Easter celebrations. Plan now to join us.

**MASS OF CHRISM:** The annual Mass of Chrism takes place at the Cathedral on **Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 pm**. This is a gathering of people, pastoral ministers and priests from all our parishes as they celebrate the blessing of the holy oils to be used throughout the diocese in the coming year. A great chance to re-unite with former pastors and people from western Newfoundland and all Labrador.

**4YOUTH:** Well, here it is, already the third week of Lent. How are you making out with your Lenten resolutions? Are you still trying to figure out how you're going to observe Lent? Are you fasting from something that you really love? Have you increased your daily prayer time? And what are you doing about charity and service? It's never too late to make a good Lent. Resolve to start something today, or to start over, if your first try didn't quite work out. The Busted Halo 2019 Fast Pray Give Calendar is still an option. Don't give up! Remember, God never gives up on you!

**SHARE LENT 2019:** The theme of Share Lent 2019 invites us to share the journey with children such as Shominara, who fled Burma with her family to escape the persecution suffered by the Rohingya and found refuge in Bangladesh; with young women such as Qawthar, who fled war in Syria and has spent the last six years living in Lebanon; with women such as Kelly, an Afro-Colombian peasant who was displaced multiple times because of the armed conflict that afflicted her country for 50 years; and with people from poor coastal communities in the Philippines who lost everything to Super Typhoon Haiyan five years ago. Visit <https://www.devpo.org/en/lent> to learn more

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** Next weekend, **March 30/31**, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be taking up its Poor Box Collection. SSVP will be honoured with an award at a reception at **Fairway Honda on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2-5 pm**. All are welcome.

**HUMOUR:** A cowboy appeared before St. Peter at the pearly gates. "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asked.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the cowboy offered. "Once while I was travelling in the big city I came upon a gang of bikers, who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So, I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him in his face and kicked his bike over. I then yelled, 'Now, back off, or things are going to get even worse for all of you!'"

St. Peter was impressed. He leafed through the great book he held. "When did this happen?"

"Just a couple minutes ago. . . ."

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:** The Holy week schedule is as follows

- **Monday, April 15 at 7:00 pm**  
Reconciliation Service
- **Holy Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 pm**  
Mass of the Lord Supper  
Washing of Feet, Exposition
- **Good Friday, April 19 at 3:00 pm**  
The Passion
- **Good Friday, April 19 at 7:00 pm**  
Stations of the Cross
- **Holy Saturday, April 20 at 9:00 pm**  
Easter Vigil
- **Easter Sunday, April 21 at 11:00 am**  
Easter Mass