

Reflection for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Fr. Don

The story of the prodigal son is familiar to all of us. It is one of the most striking and emotive stories found in all of scripture. We are glad for the returning son, we admire the forgiveness shown by the father, and we pity the other son (many would agree with him that he has not been treated fairly). All three characters have human behaviours that evoke our emotional responses. Perhaps each of us can put ourselves in the place of one, or all three, of them.

But today let us look at the parable's ending.

The wayward son has 'sown his oats, hit rock bottom, and now humbled and repentant, he has come home. He and his father appear reconciled. But it appears that the other son is now at odds with his father. He believes that he has been done wrong and perhaps he too will leave home and become this poor father's second prodigal son.

The father in this story is the key/strength of this whole sorrowful incident. He is the one whom we should pity, he is the one who deserves better, and he is the one who comes closest to being God. What has this poor man done to deserve the treatment he is receiving from his children?

And here lies the lesson of this parable. How many of us have treated our own parents similarly, how many of us have been treated like this, and most importantly how many of us have treated God like that father was treated? This season of Lent will not unfold as it should for each of us if we do not internalize this story. We need to meditate upon its message. We need to be honest with ourselves and with God.

If we identify with the prodigal son we should indeed remain repentant for the rest of our lives. We may not deserve it but we have been shown mercy beyond our ability to understand.

If we identify with the other son we should take another look at our life. Do we recognize how good we really have it? Do we truly appreciate the gifts we are receiving from our father or are we taking them for granted?

If we identify with the father do we, like him, loved our children unconditionally. There is nothing any of them can do to separate them from our love. Is there always a place for them in our homes and in our hearts?

We wonder what did the future hold for these three characters. Perhaps Jesus' point in telling this parable was to prompt us to wonder, and to work on, our future in our relations with others.

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 a.m.

Masses this Week:
Tues, Wed, Thurs 7 pm
Fri 2 pm Lohnes

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Third Sunday of each Month
2:00 p.m.

Reconciliation
Wed after Mass,
or by request

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

Baptisms:
Celebrated at Weekend Mass
after preparation session.

March 6, 2016
The Fourth Sunday in Lent

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Feb. 27,28

Collection	\$ 1,493.00
Building Fund	15.00
Mass stipends	40.00
Dues	50.00
Votive Candles	89.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 7	No Mass
Mar 8	Special Intention
Mar 9	Ada Myles
Mar 10	Margaret O’Keefe
Mar 11	Bernadette & Anthony George
Mar 12	Josephine Green/Margaret O’Keefe
Mar 13	Parish Community

SINCERE SYMPATHY

Our prayers and condolences go out to Frazer Borden on the passing of his wife MARILYN BORDEN, and to all his family members, as they mourn her loss. May she rest in peace.

2015 TAX RECEIPTS

Any tax receipts that have not been picked up by this weekend will be returned to the parish office. Anyone who did not get a receipt should call the office during business hours.

BIBLES AND CATECHISMS

All the bibles have now been sold. We still have some copies left of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. John has these available at the back of the church for

\$20.00 each. This book is nothing like the catechism we remember from our school days. The intro in the front of the book describes it thus; ...”it’s purpose of being presented as a full, complete exposition of Catholic doctrine, enabling everyone to know what the Church professes, celebrates, lives, and prays in her daily life.” This is a great reference book for Catholic faith and morals.

BIBLE STUDY

Some blessed sharing is taking place at **these sessions**. Since several attendees will be away for the next few weeks it has been decided to stop meeting until Monday afternoon, March 7 at 3 pm. It will be in the parish house. Please consider joining us for a time of scriptural sharing. This is an initiative of the parish in celebration of the Year of Mercy.

DRAMATIC WAY OF THE CROSS

Once again this year St. Stephen’s Parish in Stephenville is offering this presentation. It will take place in their church at 7 pm on Friday Mar. 18. A free-will offering will be taken at the entrance.

DIOCESAN MASS OF CHRISM

This Mass will be celebrated at **St. Stephens Parish in Stephenville on Wednesday Mar 16 at 7pm**. We need parish representation, other than the priest, to be present to receive the Blessed Oils. Let us know if you

can do this for the parish.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Great news! Tell your friends! Bring them! Our Parish is offering a **Lenten Mission here each evening from Saturday Mar 12 through to Monday Mar 14**. Fr. Bill Pearce, a friend of Fr. Don, will lead this mission. At this same time, Fr. Don will lead a mission at St. Joseph’s in Gander, Fr. Bill’s parish. The Mercy of God will be the key-note of both missions. More details will follow.

4Youth

Lent is more than half over – 22 days of the 40 are done. Many people may feel that time is passing too quickly and they haven’t really made a good Lent. Well, the fourth Sunday of Lent, which we celebrate this week, is called Laetare Sunday. The word “laetare” means “rejoice” in Latin and the entrance antiphon today begins “Rejoice, O Jerusalem!” Today, the strictness of Lent is lessened a little bit. The purple vestments and altar cloths of Lent may be replaced by rose ones. Flowers, which we normally do not see in church during Lent, may be placed on the altar. The point of Laetare Sunday is to encourage us to continue our spiritual preparations for Easter (or to start them, it’s not too late!). It’s not easy to follow the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and alms-giving for forty days. Laetare Sunday is meant to encourage us to stay strong!!

MEETING

There will be a meeting for Parish Council held this Monday, March 7th. at 7pm. in the parish house. All members are asked to attend.

Bingo

Our parish bingo takes place this Sunday at 2pm. in the school cafeteria. Please show your support by attending the game.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Pope Francis is inviting every parish around the world to open its doors for 24 hours, so that the faithful might encounter Jesus Christ anew in the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration. It is intended to be a time of reflection and prayer, an opportunity to speak with a priest, and a chance to rediscover the great mercy at the heart of the Catholic Faith. The theme chosen for this year’s initiative is “God is rich in mercy.” More details will follow.

We welcome back Fr. Don and hope he is well rested after his trip to the beautiful state of Texas.

PRAYER FOR YEAR OF MERCY

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