

## **REFLECTION for Second Sunday in Lent 2017**

**Fr. Don**

*"Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."*

Life is a journey; all humanity is bound for somewhere. As we live, and move, and have our being, we are navigating life's joys and sorrows to a final eternal destination. For Christians, there is heaven or hell. Few are those who would choose hell; it's too damnable hot. So, we wonder, what does heaven look-like?

Lent should motivate us to practice alms-giving, prayer, and fasting. However, today's Scriptures expand upon another feature of Lent. For Lent is a season meant to highlight our call to journey. It is a time to lessen our doubt and heighten awareness of our part in determining our abode for eternity. Yet we still doubt.

In times of doubt, we envy the apostles. They journeyed with Jesus. Jesus seems absent in today's world; our society doubts Jesus, his message, and demeans us who believe in Jesus. If only Jesus would take us, and our world, on a journey to demonstrate His divinity and power. Please, Jesus come, journey with us, assure us.

In times of doubt, we meditate upon Abram who goes on a journey of unknowing with only his faith and his trust in the God who sends him. We are comforted by St. Paul who urges us to put our hands in the Hands.

Our three scripture readings this week offer us such assurances of faith. Hearing them gives us hope.

Peter, James, and John, go on a short journey up Mount Hermon. There, they experience the transfiguration of Jesus in the presence of Moses and Elijah. Jesus, by allowing them to participate in this glorious moment, has given them proof-positive that He is the Son of God. They came down from that mountain as changed men. Surely, their ministry going forward must have been more zealous. The glorious vision was a validation. They now had less doubt in the existence of heaven; now, remained their running the race, following the Way.

That brilliant moment offered the apostles a glimpse of their ultimate destination. It was a peek into the joys of heaven. Through our faith in the truth of Jesus, their brief glimpse gives us a glimpse of our heavenly destination. On any journey, if we're not sure what our destination is, chances are we'll never get there.

To quote St. Thomas Aquinas *'To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.'* For the faithful, Lent is a time of renewed commitment to a willingness to journey.

Through our acts of penance, our moments of prayer, our fasting, our acts of charity, we will have Jesus by our side. We will encounter Jesus at every turn. Whenever we go to our private places to pray, He is there. If we climb the highest mountain, He is there. Sometimes, Jesus journeys with us and we never leave home. Sometimes, we will see visions; maybe when we are seriously ill, or when praying in groups, or when alone.

We must trust God and trust in the Word- like Abram who embarked on his journey, a journey away from country and kin, to a land that the Lord was to show him. He had such faith in God that he followed the call and submitted his will to the will of God. Such abandonment to God is always rewarded. And 'God would never lead him astray, but lead us to salvation. That is the kind of faith we need, Abram's faith.

Through faith, Abram became Abraham- the father of many nations and the father of many religions. We may not become as great as him, but by our obedience and trust, we can attain heaven. God may even bless us with visions of it. May our dreams be filled with its brilliant light, its radiant rainbow colors, celestial voices.

We can anticipate being where God lives; to taking up residence in that place where we can best encounter God in full radiance and intimacy. Fickle humanity may waver, unsure of what to do or where they are going.

But not for us; let us go there with trust and obedience as true Christians being led by the will of God. If we are willing to live as Jesus' disciples, we can be transformed to clearly comprehend our true homeland.

# Sacred Heart Parish

## **A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ**



### Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

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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:** Tues, Wed, at 7:00 pm, Thurs, Friday at 10 am

**Stations of the Cross:** Friday evenings at 7 pm during Lent

**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:** Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

**March 12, 2017**

**The Second Sunday in Lent**

### RECEIVED WITH THANKS (Mar 4, 5)

Collection	1,351.40
Bldg. Fund	125.00
Pastoral Dues	145.00
Mass Stipends	180.00
Catholic Missions	268.60
St. Vincent de Paul	10.00

### MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 13	No Mass
Mar 14 7pm	Mary Russell
Mar 15 7pm	Eileen & Arthur White
Mar 16 10am	Stanley & Clara O'Brien
Mar 16	Joe Gallant
Mar 17 10am	Jack Neville
Mar 17	Sarah & Pearce Brake
Mar 18	Irene Rumboldt
Mar 18	Nellie & Joseph Hayes
Mar 19	Parish Community

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS (March 18,19))

<u>READERS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>
Lynette Taylor	Joe Byrne, Art Hall
Linda Tarbett	Frank Lewis
<u>Communion to Sick</u>	<u>Gerard Brake</u>
Wayne Dicks	Hedy Kenny, Donna Eldridge
Amelia Dicks	Doreen Jones

### MASS REQUESTS STILL NEEDED

Right now, we have enough requests to complete this month's Mass schedule. We invite you to request Masses for your deceased or sick loved-ones. Either call the Office or put your request in your Sunday envelope.

### SINCERE SYMPATHY

The parish community expresses condolences to the family of **William Wells** who died this week. We will keep him in our prayers.

### NEXT PARISH BINGO

Our next game is **this Sunday, March 12 at 2 pm** in the cafeteria at the School. Please support this entertaining fund-raiser.

### STATION OF THE CROSS

Please join us on **Friday evening March 17, at 7 pm** here at the church for this most sacred of Catholic Lenten devotions. Come walk with Jesus in His Passion, share in His suffering, glory in His love, and give Him thanks

### BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening March 12 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels.

### NET MINISTRIES- COME MEET THEM

**This Thursday** March 16 at 7 pm, we invite you to come meet this group of 10 young men and women who will join us in **Exposition, Eucharistic Adoration, and Benediction**. We will follow this with a social. Come, bring a young person, to hear about their work and to meet them.

**On Friday evening and on Saturday**, they will meet with our youth to share their faith experiences and to encourage them to actively practise their faith. This takes the form of a retreat from 6-9 pm and then from 10 am -5:30 pm. They will join us for the celebration of our 4:30 Mass.

### EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION

We will celebrate this traditional Liturgy on **Thursday Mar 23** and again on **Thursday Mar 30** immediately following our 7 pm Mass. Please try to come to Mass and then spent some time before the Blessed Sacrament. It is a good way to spend time during Lent.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY and OUR PARISH

Our Ladies Group are preparing home-cooked meals to feed the volunteers working to build the Home on Petries St. This little act of kindness is this parish's way of participating in this worthwhile project. BTW, Qualipu First Nation helped us with this project by donating the meat used for the meals. The Ladies are adding the rest and serving a hot meal when needed. It is our thank-you to the

men and women who are giving of their time to provide a home for those in need. It is also an example of many hands co-operating to build not only a Home, but building the Kingdom of God here in Curling.

### FOOD BANK COLLECTION

This notice will serve as a reminder to you to try to bring a food item to Mass with you. There is a collection box at the back in which to put them. There is a list of preferred items posted as well. Remember, alms-giving is a Lenten priority.

### WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP

We wish to thank those who came to our meeting last week and have volunteered to shovel snow, clean altar linens, serve as sacristans, do weekday readings, and other duties. Now we are looking for people to volunteer to come at 10:30 am on Saturday mornings to clean the church. Some have already committed, please call the Office if you wish to come help them occasionally. It would be appreciated.

### ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

This group is seeking members from our parish to help them in their work. They operate Mary's Kitchen on Fridays and need volunteers to serve meals. BTW, our parish has recently donated \$200 to them to aid in providing the meals. They do many other activities such as provide food to families, visit the sick. Please consider helping them.

Call: 638-9010 for more information

### LENTEN SCRIPTURE SERIES – Week 3

This is offered at 7 pm on each Friday in Lent at-All Hallows Church Basement. Fr. White will be giving a weekly study of Holy Scripture. Sessions will be about 45 minutes – snacks provided  
Topic: The Book of Jonah – Reluctant Spirituality

### Daffodil Days Campaign Volunteers Needed

The Canadian Cancer Society is holding its annual

Daffodil Days Campaign this year from April 7th to April 15th. During Daffodil Days, volunteers will be selling daffodils for \$8.00 a bunch at outlet locations in Corner Brook. For more information, please contact Agnes McCarthy 634-5687 or Sarah Neil 757-8536.

### FEAST OF ST. PATRICK- Friday, March 17

Legends about St. Patrick abound; but truth is best served by seeing two qualities in him: humility and courage. Overcoming many obstacles and adversity, he brought Christianity to Ireland. The Irish see irony in the fact that his burial place is in County Down in Northern Ireland, long the scene of strife and violence. What distinguishes St. Patrick is the resilience of his efforts. When one considers the state of Ireland when he began his mission work, the vast extent of his labors, and how the seeds he planted continued to grow and flourish, one can only admire the kind of man St. Patrick must have been. The holiness of a person is known chiefly by the fruits of his or her work.

### BISHOP HUNDT IN ROME

The bishops of the Atlantic region are making their official **Ad limina** visit to the Vatican. They will be meeting with Pope Francis on Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> and will be visiting the different Congregations and Pontifical Councils throughout the week of March 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for God's blessings upon the travel and visits of our Bishops to Rome.

### A SHORT LENTEN PRAYER

**Lord, help me to turn away from sin, and to believe in the Good News, in Jesus Christ, and in myself. Lord, in times of triumph or tragedy, allow me to practice self-restraint by reminding me that I am dust, and to dust I shall return.**  
Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, Amen.

### JESUS PRAYER

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**