

**REFLECTION for Easter Sunday 2017**

**Fr. Don**

*'Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, give praise to His name.'*

*'This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.'*

Easter is the primary celebration of the Christian faith. We are defined by the events of that first Easter Sunday. The Church in its wisdom and in acknowledging the enormity of the Paschal Mystery (the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus), has extended the celebration to fifty days. Jubilantly, gloriously, and with many Alleluias, we will seize the joy of what Jesus accomplished out of love for us, and dearly hold onto it.

We are called to squeeze every ounce of happiness, joy, praise, and worship, out of that life-changing self-less act of unconditional love freely given/sprinkled on us by Jesus. He did it out of love, for us, sinful fallen humanity.

Yes, Jesus is our Lord and our God, my God and your God. Jesus paid the price to ransom each of us from sin and death. Jesus has given meaning to life, and enkindled in us hope for endless life.

Some will say that they don't understand. What is the Paschal Mystery? What is it all about? Why should I be jubilant? What did Jesus do for me. I would like to believe whatever you say I should believe, but please tell me more. I sometimes feel a burning desire to know the Lord, but it wanes; do you have the spark?

From the day of Jesus' resurrection until today, many have tried to share what being Easter People means. Where is the joy, where is the glory, where is the hope, where is the 'blessed assurance'? Here is another attempt to teach the world what it means to be saved, to be called children of the resurrection:

First, Jesus defeated death. Mary Magdalene is our witness. She *'went and announced to the disciples, I have seen the Lord.'* Death is inevitable but it is not the end. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we too can anticipate that we will rise from the dead. There is a place called heaven and Jesus has opened the gates. He left us directions- the Way, and if we live the Way, we can die assured that those gates will open to welcome us. The Way is not difficult; it calls us to focus on Jesus, do what he did, live our life in imitation of him.

Second, he redeemed us. We are naturally inclined to sin. None of us are perfect, but we must try. Again, it is inevitable, we will fail. We will fall back into sin. But with faith in the salvific act of Jesus, we can confidently go on. We can go on because we know that we can be forgiven- not once, not seven times, not seventy-seven times, but always and forever. Our sins can be remitted, and we can restore our souls to a state of grace. We can go down life's road with assurances of God's mercy, graces, and blessings. Like all parents, our Father, cannot but forgive us, love us, and take us back. Our second reading says: *'Everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'* Bless us merciful Jesus.

Third, he has claimed us as brothers and sisters calling us to witness for him. To witness for Jesus means that we live life knowing that he has our back. He will protect us, he will lift us up, he will carry us when we need to be carried. He will be that best friend who never disappoints. He calls us to smile not frown, to be light not darkness, to be forgiving and not hold grudges, to be givers not takers, to be merciful not merciless. In other words, he gives us the ability/choice to be a joy to be around, to be the best person we can possibly be.

The person we really want to be, the person who can look in a mirror and say: you know, I'm not a bad person, in fact I believe my friend Jesus, and my neighbors, would say that I am a good person. Never forget this: others can spot a real Christian (a true friend of Jesus) from a mile away. They can spot a fake Christian too. Give them time and they will see that Light- they'll know you are Christian by your love.

There are more Good News reasons to follow Jesus. They unfold as we embrace the Reason for the Easter Season. Day after glorious day, Jesus lovingly leads us to our true homeland. Come join, come be renewed, come be rejuvenated, come fulfill your true destiny as a child of God, friend of Jesus. Praise the Lord.

# 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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Fax: (709) 785-5025

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

**Reconciliation:** Wednesday after Mass, or by request

**Mass During the Week:** Wed, Thurs at 7:00 pm, Friday at 10 am

**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.

**April 16, 2017**

**Easter Sunday**

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS** (April 1,2)

Collection	1657.15
Bldg. Fund	20.00
Pastoral Dues	100.00
Mass Stipends	30.00
Parish Insurance	55.00
St. Vincent de Paul	5.00
Lenten Folders	105.00
Votive Candles	37.85
Mass Requests	30.00
Flower Contributions	75.00
World Mission Sunday	10.00
Cemetery Fund	5.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

April 17	No Mass
April 18	No Mass
April 19	Betty Caines
April 20	Brian Griffin
April 21	Ignatius & Edna Power
April 22	Living members of Gallant Family
April 22	George Musseau
April 23	Parish Community

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS** (April 22, 23)

<b>READERS</b>	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>
Victoria Murphy	Art Hall, Joe Byrne
Joan Penney	Marie Byrne
<i>Communion to the Sick</i>	<i>Tony Griffin</i>

Hedy Kenny	Don Gallant, Donna Eldridge
Mike Leonard	Calvin Gillis

**THANK YOU**

We wish to thank all those who came out last Monday to clean the church for Easter. It is so very heartening to witness people coming forward in large numbers to share in the work to building up the Kingdom here in our parish.

**ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED**

We need a few more teams of altar servers for our weekday masses; with hopes they will go on to serve on weekends. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know. We sure would

like to see some young people come forward for this vital parish ministry. This is our invitation.

**BIBLE STUDY** The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening, April 17 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.

**JUST ANOTHER REMINDER**

Google [sacredheartrcparish.ca](http://sacredheartrcparish.ca) and you will find our website. It contains the weekly Bulletin, the Ministry schedule, the Financial Report, a link to several daily prayer sites, and soon our Photo Gallery. Why not mark it as a favorite and visit it regularly.

**MAINTENANCE PERSON**

Still no one has come forward seeking this position. It requires working 50 hours per month and being open to working hours in accordance with our Mass schedule. Is there anyone interested? Please contact the Office.

**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.

**PURCHASE OF DEFIBRILLATORS FOR CHURCHES**

Knights of Columbus will be holding a giant merchandise bingo to raise funds for the purchase of defibrillators for Holy Redeemer, All Hallows, and Sacred Heart Parishes. We are asking parishioners to help by donating prizes, either merchandise or monetary. The bingo will take place at Immaculate Heart of Mary School on Tuesday, May 9th at 8 pm. Please contact Bill Peddle (639-9900), Maurice McDonald (634-6000), Garry Parsons (632-2231), or Mike Leonard (634-3261).

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE**

This group is seeking members from our parish to

help them in their work. They operate Mary's Kitchen on Fridays. They have a general meeting scheduled for **Wednesday April 19 at 7 pm** at Holy Redeemer. Please consider helping them, especially if you have used items. Call: 638-9010 for more information

**CASH DRAW TICKET FUNDRAISER**

Our Ladies Group is now selling tickets on a prize of \$1000! Tickets are \$1 and the winner will be drawn on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Please take some to sell to your friends. And to show support for our parish

**LADIES GROUP MEETING**

The ladies group will be meeting on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 pm in the parish house.

**K of C Scholarship**

The deadline for applying for the Knights scholarship is May 31. Any student graduating from high school this year is eligible. For information see the K of C website.

**EASTER DEFINED**

The New Testament states that the resurrection of Jesus, which Easter celebrates, is a foundation of the Christian faith. The resurrection established Jesus as the powerful Son of God and is cited as proof that God will judge the world in righteousness. For those who trust in Jesus' death and resurrection, *'death is swallowed up in victory.'* Any person who chooses to follow Jesus receives *'a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.'* Through faith in the working of God. those who follow Jesus are spiritually resurrected with him so that they may walk in a new way of life and receive eternal salvation.

**EASTER WISDOM from ST. AUGUSTINE**

*'Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds, Lay first the foundation of humility.'*  
*'God loves all of us as if there were only one of us.'*

*'He who created us without our help will not save us without our consent.'*  
*'If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.'*  
And to show he was human and had a sense of humor, like the rest of us: *Lord, give me chastity and continence, but not yet.'*

**A RESURRECTION PRAYER**

O Risen Lord, be our resurrection and life. Be the resurrection and the life for us and all whom you have made. Be the resurrection and the life for those who feel forsaken. Be the resurrection and the life for those who live as if you do not. Be the resurrection and the life in us who know the good but fail to do it, who have not been judged but still judge, who know love but still live for self, who know hope but succumb to despair. Be the resurrection and the life for those dying of malnutrition and hunger. Be the resurrection and the life in marriages that are disintegrating. Be the resurrection and the life for those whose lives are snuffed out in the womb. Be the resurrection and the life for anyone anywhere who knows suffering and death in any form.  
Be the resurrection and the life we share and the fellowship we enjoy, that filled anew with the wonder of your love and the power of your grace, we may go forth to proclaim your resurrection life to a world. Amen.

**DIVINE MERCY PRAYER**

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen  
BTW, next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday.

**JESUS PRAYER**

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