

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish In Love With Christ

REFLECTION for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

The liturgy for this Sunday presents us with the powerful and appealing image of Christ as the Good Shepherd. Christ is depicted in Christian art carrying a sheep on His shoulders, holding its legs firmly with His hands. It is an image full of reassurance; one that promises safety and security; one that tells us to rely totally on Christ, just as the sheep is totally supported by Him. As Christ promises His hearers in the Gospel, *'I shall give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand.'* Christ the Good Shepherd holds onto His sheep very tightly.

He identifies the sheep of His flock as those who hear his voice and follow him. There is a definite order in these two ideas. It is only if we learn to listen to and hear His voice that we can recognise Jesus of Nazareth as the Good Shepherd, who offers us the surety of eternal life. Be still and know!

We need to listen to the voice of Christ as we find it in the word of the Bible, in prayer, in our liturgies, and as we find it speaking to us in the daily business of our often hectic domestic lives. Only by such listening and by reflecting on the significance of what we hear will our minds be raised to see the truth of what Christ tells us and our hearts be moved to follow Him and to shape our lives in conformity with His will.

In like manner, in Christ's resurrection appearances, the disciples only come to recognise that Christ is truly risen and present with them when they become able to listen and hear His voice, as Mary Magdalene hears the voice of Christ calling her name, as the disciples on the way to Emmaus hear His voice explaining the scriptures to them, and as they hear calling from the shore to cast their nets again.

We live in an 'online' age, in which we are bombarded by invitations to explore websites, by demands to respond to emails, requests to enter chat rooms, and by ever-present advertisements. The danger is that the voice of Christ the Good Shepherd can easily become submerged and excluded by the many other voices that compete with each other for our attention.

Such a melee of voices makes it difficult for us to listen to Christ at all. So, if Christ's word is to have any chance of sinking into our minds and hearts, then we have to discipline our minds in the art of attentiveness to His voice.

We must make a conscious effort to focus our thoughts, imaginations and emotions on Christ, His person, His life and His teaching, so that reasons and desires to follow Him are awakened in our minds and hearts. And one good reminder for us to practice the art of attentiveness to the voice of Christ is to have a picture of Christ the Good Shepherd somewhere nearby, holding onto his sheep so very tight.

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 am

Masses in Week Days:
Wed, Thurs 7 pm
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.

April 17, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Easter

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

April 9, 10

Collection	\$ 1,678.30
Building Fund	65.00
Lenten Folders	20.00
Votive Candles	36.70
Holy Lands (Good Friday)	5.00
Parish Insurance	35.00
Bibles/Catechisms	310.00
Word Among Us	15.00
Donations mem. Basil D.	220.00

MASS INTENTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK

Apr 18 & 19	No Mass
Apr 20	John McCarthy
Apr 21	Linda Elkins
Apr 22	Margaret O’Keefe
Apr 23	Kevin Cain
Apr 24	Parish Community

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Hundt will join us next Sunday morning, April 24, at 11 am Mass to confirm this year’s candidates. A social is planned afterwards at the school cafeteria. Congratulations to our youth. Please join us for this celebration

HOLY HOUR

This will take place at the church this Sunday afternoon, April 17, at 2pm. Please come join us for Exposition, Adoration, the Recitation of the Rosary, and Benediction.

SPRING VARIETY CONCERT

Friday evening May 6 at 7 pm has been set as the date and time of our Variety Concert. Our organizing committee is busy lining up talent to entertain you again. More details will follow soon.

LADIES GROUP FUND-RAISER

Here’s another chance to get involved in a worthwhile event taking place in our parish. Please consider taking a book of tickets to help the Ladies Group in their effort to raise funds for the parish. The prize is a beautiful hand-made quilt.

ANNUAL PARISH GENERAL MEETING

This meeting is scheduled for evening of Sunday, April 24, at 7 pm. It will be held in the church. Please come to hear a brief pastor’s report, the 2015 financial report, and to share in an open forum in which to share any concerns, suggestions, compliments, or complaints. Mark the date and time and make your attendance a priority.

SUNDAY, MAY FIRST

At our 11 am Mass, the children who have prepared for First Communion will receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. We plan to begin this celebration with a Procession to honor and crown the Blessed Virgin Mary. And to end this celebration with a social at the parish house. Please join in the spirit of this occasion.

BIBLE STUDY

This group meets each Monday evening at 7 pm in the parish house. We would like to encourage/ invite others to join us for sharing the Word of God in scripture and for fellowship.

BIBLES AND CATECHISMS

We have 4 large print **NRSV Bibles** remaining at a cost of \$25 each, and 4 copies of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** at \$20 each. Every Catholic home should have a copy of both of these books.

WEEKEND OF GRACE RETREAT

This retreat is for men only and is being offered on the weekend of April 29 to May 1. It is taking place at a retreat center near Halifax. For more information please visit the website www.weekendofgrace.com

CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE

This Diocesan training session for catechists will be held at the Civic Center in Corner Brook on Friday, May 13 (7-9 pm) and on Saturday, May 14 (9am -4pm). We are hoping some people from our parish will attend. Beginning in September, all the parishes in the Diocese are to offer religious education and sacramental preparation classes for our young people. We are asking for help, please consider attending this conference so as to help your parish.

BINGO; Our next game is on May 1. Please check the bulletin boards for the list of donors.

TALKING BEFORE MASS BEGINS

Some people have express concern about the level of noise before our weekend Masses. This presents your parish leaders with a difficult task. While we do not wish to discourage friendly greeting and talk during this time, **we ask that you turn down the speaking level a bit.** Do this out of respect for those who like quiet, while at the same time continuing to share greetings with friends. We fully realize that the church before and after mass, is an ideal time, and perhaps the only time, we see and greet each other as proud members of this parish. We encourage that.

PAMPHLET MINISTRY

Soon you will notice a display of beautifully illustrated and inviting pamphlets at the back of the church. We have ordered many on a variety of church issues in packs of 50. There are on the Rosary, End of Life issues, even one with the title How to Forgive the Church. Please take any that will aid you in your commitment to pray daily and to inform and strengthen your faith.

THE GIFT: A Holy Spirit Based Faith Building Course

This will be offered on May 14 & 15 at Sacred Heart School cafeteria from 9am. to 4pm. each day. For more info contact Wayne or Amelia Dicks at 388-1048. This weekend is free of charge & lunch will be provided. The Holy Spirit enriches our lives with Wisdom, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Compassion, and Self-control.