

Reflection for the First Sunday in Advent

Fr. Don.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly...Be alert at all times.'

This is an exciting time of year. For the Church it is the beginning of the **Liturgical Year C**. Anticipation fills the air. Our readings this week tell us that there is a sense of urgency, a sense of expectancy, and a sense of immanent divine intervention. He Comes, He who is the Alpha and the Omega- our lifeline/ Messiah

Though Christmas may be for children, undoubtedly Advent is for adults, adults with a childlike faith.

Advent is a hopefully realistic time when we as adult Christians have to admit to the poor quality and second-rate nature of much of our living as Christians. In our on-going journey of faith, hope and love, all three have flickered and faltered. We can do better. We have to do better. May the light from our Advent candles give proof of our determination in our renewed efforts to change our life for the better.

Let our actions make Advent an expectant time. It is not a time to be naively optimistic and carelessly trusting that matters will somehow turn out all right. Rather it is a time to renew a passionate hope in God and in all that God gives us in faith in order to live in love. Above all, let us anticipate and hope in the great Christmas gift of God, the Lord Jesus, and then in the indwelling Holy Spirit given to us by Him.

The world around us at the moment is a very dark place: tensions/ clashes in the Holy Lands, economic crises in most nations, unemployment, natural disasters, and even social collapse. It is almost a world depicting a modern-day portrait of the apocalypse we read about in the first reading for today. As we Newfoundlanders say: *She's gone b'y she's gone. T'is all over but the cryin'; last one out, close the door.*

However the readings this Sunday are really about the present and how we should behave in the present. They tell us to be alert in the here and now, to be awake in the here and now. The coming of the Lord is the active presence of God in our lives here and now; not just in the future. We are required to be alert and awake, and to be the light of faith. We are called to be bright lights shining in the here and now?

Jesus is the reason for the season. Awareness of our reliance on Jesus is required. Our focus should be Jesus. Sure there are the calamities listed above, sure there are the personal *worries of this life*; unavoidable anxiety about necessary things: about our health, about passing exams, about getting a job and keeping it, about feeding, clothing, and housing a family, about educating our children, about providing for elderly parents, or about one's own retirement. But somehow we have to navigate through these and keep Jesus in view. Remember it is in perseverance that we find salvation.

It is tough to say, even tougher to believe, but these '*worries of this life*' things should take second place to what really and truly matters. Advent means the arrival or dawning of something or someone.

The one who is arriving is Jesus. And that makes all the difference. He comes to save us, to redeem us.

Jesus left us a blue-print for living and a master-plan called the **WAY**. Its details are to be found in the Gospels and in praying and meditating on the words therein; it can be life altering.

Jesus will make our navigation through life's difficulties manageable. In Him we live, and move, and have our being. Let us resolve to turn our lives over to Jesus and trust in Him.

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.

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
Tel: (709) 785-5025

Curlingparish@hotmail.com
website--www.sacredheartcrparish.ca
Fax: (709) 388-1141

Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:

Saturday - 4:30 pm
Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Masses in Week Days:

Thurs 7 pm, Fri 2 pm

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.

November 29, 2015
The First Sunday of Advent

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Nov 21, 22

Collection	\$1,404.75
Building Fund	40.00
Mass requests	30.00
Refugee Crisis	\$50.00
Shepherd's Fund	525.00
Votive Candles	70.25
World Missions	10.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 30	No Mass
Dec 1	No Mass
Dec 2 (Wed)	No Mass
Dec 3	Theresa Tompkins (anniv)
Dec 4	John Leonard (anniv)
Dec 5	Annetta Hackett (95 th Birthday)
Dec 6	Parish Community

NOTE

No Mass on Wed, and Mass on Thurs will be at 7 pm. And Mass on Friday will be in the Lohnes Seniors Home at 2 pm.

PRIEST AWAY

The above changes for this week are because the priest has an appointment in Moncton this Monday for minor surgery/maintenance (akin to a tune-up). He will be back on Thursday afternoon. PRAY for him.

PARISH COUNCIL/ FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members of both groups are reminded of our meeting Monday Dec. 7 at 7 pm in the parish house.

Also, there is a special meeting for both groups scheduled for Mon, Dec 14 at 7 pm.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be held Thurs, Dec 3, following evening Mass, in the parish house.

COMMUNITY ADVENT CONCERT

On the First Sunday of Advent, Nov 29 at

7pm at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church there will be a Scripture and Carol Advent Service. This event is sponsored by the Bay of Islands Ministerial Association and is open to members of all churches in the area.

OUR ADVENT CONCERT

On Sunday Dec. 13 at 7 pm here in our Church we will have an Advent Carol Service. Our Saturday (Folk) and Sunday (Adult) choirs will combine to bring us an evening of song and praise. Please come enjoy, be inspired, and also bring a Food Bank item to donate. Get in the Spirit of Christmas- giving and receiving.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

On Tuesday Dec. 15 at 7 pm we will celebrate our **Penitential Service** to prepare us for Christmas. Our service will follow the same format as last year. There will be a brief Liturgy of the Word, followed by an Examination of Conscience, and then priests will be available to hear private confessions.

THANK YOU

To Christine/Cecil Collins for donating the metal grill that completes our ability to offer wheel chair accessibility to the church through the chapel entrance.

To donor of funds to cover the cost of new linen purificators for use at Masses. This donation was given in memory of Theresa Tompkins.

CONGRATULATIONSTO ALL

Kate Gracelyn Billard will be baptized at our

Sunday Mass this week. We welcome her to our Sacred Heart Parish family. Her parents Blair and Lindsey were married here exactly one year ago.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Instruction has begun for our Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Confirmation classes will begin after Christmas. Please take the time to contact any family who have eligible children and may not have heard that we are offering these classes. Invite them, you would be evangelizing.

SUNDAY MISSALS NOW AVAILABLE

The new missals for 2016, which actually begins in two weeks, are available at the back of the church. They cost \$5. Please take one; they contain the Sunday readings and can be a good tool to use to do a little praying at home.

PRAIRIE MESSENGER

This is a weekly Catholic newspaper printed in Saskatchewan. It is one of only two such publications in Canada. It contains local, national, and international news of interest to all Roman Catholics. We have subscribed for 25 copies weekly for the next year. Check the back table for this week's copy

PARISH POT LUCK

All parishioners are invited to attend our Christmas pot luck supper which will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5 at the school cafeteria after 4:30 Mass. Please bring a dish.

Dec. 5th is also the birthday of Mrs. Annetta Hackett who will be 95 yrs. young. Some of her family members will be attending the pot luck to help her celebrate her special day. Please stop by & offer her your regards.

TREE OF MEMORIES, Dec.2, 2015

Tree lighting & Carol Sing will be at Remembrance Square beginning **at 7 pm**. A service will follow at First United Church, Park St. at 7:30 pm. followed by a social. Bulbs in memory of your love ones may be purchased at the Hospital Foundation office; you may drop by or call 637-5353.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

St. Vincent de Paul will be accepting applications for Christmas hampers during the week of Nov. 30 to Dec. 4th. from 2 to 4 pm. daily & 7 to 8:30 pm. on Tuesday & Thursday evenings. Registration will be at the entrance of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Redeemer. Applicants need to bring MCP numbers of the applicant family.

PARISH BINGO, Dec. 6th at 2 pm.

No one will be called for a donation for this game. However, if you wish to give a monetary donation to help the parish buy hams or turkeys, it will be appreciated. A donation of a ham [pork shoulder] or a turkey is also welcome. They can be dropped off at the office during office hours. Thank you for your support.

ADVENT'S MESSAGE FOR US

STAY AWAKE, I SAY TO YOU, STAY AWAKE