

### Reflection for the Third Sunday in Lent

### More from Pope Francis on MERCY:

Living and performing the works of mercy expresses unconditional love of neighbor. In the light of this love, as strong as death, the real poor are revealed as those who refuse to see themselves as such.

Those who consider themselves rich may actually be the poorest of the poor. This is because they are slaves to sin, which leads them to use wealth and power not for the service of God and others, but to stifle within their hearts the profound sense that they too are only poor beggars.

The greater their power and wealth, the more this blindness and deception can grow. It can even reach the point of being blind to those begging at their doorstep. The poor man, is a figure of Christ, who pleads for our conversion. As such, he represents the possibility of conversion which God offers us and which we may well fail to see. Such blindness is often accompanied by pride which reflects in a sinister way the diabolical words to Adam and Eve *“you will be like God”* which is the root of all sin.

This illusion can likewise take social and political forms, as shown by the oppressive systems of the twenty-first century which would make God irrelevant and reduce man to raw material to be exploited. This can also lead to an idolatry of money which leads to lack of concern for the fate of the poor who close their doors, refusing even to see the poor.

For all of us, then, the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year is a favourable time to overcome our alienation of others by listening to God’s word and by practising the works of mercy. In them we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy – counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer.

The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated. By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering, sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need. By taking this path, the “proud”, the “powerful” and the “wealthy” spoken of in the Magnificat can also be embraced and undeservedly loved by the crucified Lord who died and rose for them too.

This love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness and love that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches. Yet the danger always remains that by a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor, the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is Hell. The pointed words of Abraham apply to them and to all of us: *“They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them”*. Such attentive listening will best prepare us to celebrate the final victory over sin and death of the Bridegroom, now risen, who desires to purify his Betrothed in expectation of his coming.

Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favourable a time for conversion! We ask this through the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, who, encountering the greatness of God’s mercy freely bestowed upon her, was the first to acknowledge her lowliness and to call herself the Lord’s humble servant.

# 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 this Week:  
Wed 7 pm

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.

**February 28 2016**

**The Third Sunday in Lent**

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Feb. 20, 21

Collection	\$ 1,489.00
Building Fund	80.00
Mass stipends	20.00
Dues	100.00
Votive Candles	46.30
Catholic Missions	25.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Feb 29	No Mass
Mar 1	No Mass
Mar 2	7 pm Josephine Green
Mar 3	No Mass
Mar 4(Lohnes)	Intentions Rita Hall/John Mendes
Mar 5	Ralph Spencer/ Margaret O’Keefe
Mar 6	Parish Community

**WELCOME**

Fr. Terry Boland has graciously offered to fill-in at our parish while the pastor is away. Fr. Boland will celebrate **the Weekend Masses and a Mass each Wednesday evening at 7 pm**

**2015 TAX RECEIPTS**

These receipts are now available. Please check at the back of the church or contact the parish office during business hours.

**BIBLES AND CATECHISMS**

The parish has purchased 20 **NRSV Bibles** (that is the version we use at church) and 20 **Catechisms of the Catholic Church**. Every Catholic home should have these two books- treat them as coffee-table books-

always on display and available to be read and/or referenced (out in the open and not elsewhere gathering dust).

The Bibles, which are large print, cost \$25 each. The Catechisms are now available for \$20.00 each. If you are interested in buying one for your home (or your children’s home), John has a few available at the back of the church.

**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.

**WEEKLY SESIONS HONORING MARY**

These sessions have now concluded. We would like to offer special thanks to Carol Reid, Tony Griffin, and Mike Leonard for the work they did in preparing and offering the presentations. It was truly an enlightening experience.

**CHURCH ENVELOPES**

We still have a few boxes of envelopes left. This is a good way to keep track of your charitable donations for tax purposes. If you would like to have a box of envelopes, please speak with John Carroll.

**BINGO**

Our next parish bingo will be on March 6, at Sacred Heart School cafeteria, starting at 2 pm. We encourage all parishioners to participate in some way—either by giving donations or by attending the game. The list of donors for this game is now posted on the bulletin boards. [ Last names –in alphabetical order--beginning with Mitchell & ending with Young ].

**Special Collections during Lent**

As Christians we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter through prayer, fasting and alms-giving during the season of Lent. Each year during Lent, there are two special collections – one on the fifth Sunday of Lent (March 13) in support of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace and one on Good Friday (March 25) in support of the needs of the Church in the Holy Land. You are encouraged to take note of these upcoming opportunities for alms-giving and to be as generous as possible in support of these two worthy causes.

**Mary’s Kitchen**

Come in out of the cold. Join us at Mary’s Kitchen for a free hot meal at Holy Redeemer’s church basement, every Friday from 5:00-6:30pm. If you would like to prepare a meal or make a donation, please contact Madonna English at [benGLISH@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:benGLISH@nf.sympatico.ca) or call 634-5141.

**TICKETS**

Starting next weekend, we will have tickets available on a beautiful handmade quilt by Edith Leonard. Please take a book to buy or sell. The quilt is queen size & has two shams. It will be on display at our bingo next Sunday, March 6.

**PRAYER FOR YEAR of MERCY**

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