

REFLECTION for Fifth Sunday in Lent 2017

Fr. Don

'Lazarus, come out... Unbind him, and let him go.'

Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said: 'A person is a person through other persons; you can't be human in isolation; you are human only in relationships.' The dead person has hope of life through the actions of others- the physically dead rely on Jesus; the spiritually dead rely on Jesus, and His followers. Jesus alone can unbind physical death. But we can unbind ourselves and, through our actions, others who are spiritually dead.

Death represents no trickery; when we physically die, we are dead; when we spiritually die, we are dead. The remedy for all forms of death is Jesus. Thanks to the Paschal Mystery, resurrection from all deaths are possible. Why? Because Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Christian reality is this: Jesus is the answer to all questions. If we only believe this, if we only conform our lives to the life of Jesus, we conquer death. Sounds like a platitude, doesn't it? In our unworthiness, it seems unbelievable that Jesus is always the answer.

Lent is a time to reflect on death; this Sunday's readings provide us with the mechanism to do so. Ezekiel talks about the dead being brought up from their graves, Jesus brings Lazarus back from the dead, and St. Paul addresses the idea of dying to self and being reborn to the Lord. He even preached that we must do this daily.

Many years ago, I attended a conference where we took part in a very powerful exercise. We read today's Gospel as a group. Then, we paired with a partner and, using strips of cloth, took turns binding each other's hands and arms. While one of us was binded, we shared our thoughts about what it means to wrapped in burial cloth as was Lazarus. In effect, one of us was acting as Jesus and the other was acting as Lazarus.

Here are some of my thoughts during this exercise: This is life's destiny for me; this has happened to my loved ones, and, in time, will happen to me. Am I prepared, am I certain of my eternal homeland, what legacy will I leave behind, and most importantly, what lessons should I learn from this present exercise of binding?

It was awesome, humbling, and challenging, to be binded like that. It was like my death smacking me in the face. It was even more awesome to be the one who un-binded the other. It gave an experience of being Jesus to Lazarus; and the awareness that, even though I may not be capable of raising the physically dead, I could bring others back from spiritual death- if only I believe in the power of Jesus working through me.

I recall that afterwards we shared with each other the idea of 'dying to self' and saying YES to Jesus. We also shared the wonder of what happened to Lazarus after this. Did he go onward doing only good deeds and spreading the Good News that *God is in our land*? How much longer did he live? And again, perhaps more importantly for the two of us, once Jesus awakens us from our spiritual death, how will we live the remainder of our lives. In the end, both the binder and the un-binder gave praise for an enlightening Jesus-moment.

Scripture offers us moments to encounter God. Having the interest and desire to go to Scripture is an important first step. Then we can put our self there, imagining what we would do or say, what message is being given, what message are we receiving. These opportunities abound when we go to Scriptures. It offers us a new way of seeing and understanding, of exploring on a deeper level the story of human salvation, and our place in it. We come to know why it is called the Word of God and the Good News.

A further insight: some have said that this Gospel is all about friendship. Lazarus's death made Jesus weep. It is rare that this human response is ascribed to Jesus. Jesus mourned his friend; and what a friend he had in Jesus. Jesus raised His friend from death. Not being Jesus, our best response to our friends is to give them life - make their life fuller and better. Introduce them to the Holy Spirit-the indwelling God, the God-part of us.

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.

465 Curling Street
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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, Thurs at 7:00 pm, Friday at 2 pm (Lohnes)

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.

April 2, 2017

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (Mar 25, 26)

Collection	1970.00
Bldg. Fund	25.00
Pastoral Dues	125.00
Mass Stipends	30.00
Parish Insurance	25.00
St. Vincent de Paul	75.00
Lenten Folders	40.00
K of C Donation	250.00

MASS INTENTIONS

April 3	No Mass
April 4	Basil Donahue
April 5	<i>Mass of Chrism at Cathedral 7pm</i>
April 6	Irene Rumboldt
April 7	Intentions Rita Hall/John Mendes
April 7+	Ralph Brake
April 8	Joseph Hackett
April 8+	Betty Caines
April 9	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (April 8,9)

READERS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Carol Reid	Barbara Neville, Joanne Connolly
Joan Penney	John Carroll
<u>Communion to Sick</u>	<u>John Carroll</u>
Donna Eldridge	Brian Sparkes, Patsy Payne
Don Gallant	Donna Eldridge

EASTER SERVICES THIS YEAR

- Penitential Service-----Monday, April 10 at 7pm.
- Holy Thursday----- Mass at 7 pm.
- Good Friday----- Service at 3 pm.
- Stations of the Cross---Good Friday at 7 pm
- Easter Vigil Mass-----Saturday at 9 pm.
- Easter Sunday-----Mass at 11 am

MASS OF CHRISM This Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 5 at 7 pm in Holy Redeemer Cathedral. It is celebrated annually by the bishop and priests of a diocese in communion with their people. It is meant to publicly express the unity of the diocese and the unity of the priests with their bishop, as well as to celebrate the institution of the priesthood and priestly service. It is at this Mass that the sacred oils used in the celebration of

sacraments are blessed: the Oil of Catechumens, which is used in Baptism, the Oil of the Sick, which is used in the Anointing of the Sick, and the Oil of Chrism, which is used in Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER We are inviting donations for flowers for our celebration of Easter. Any person or family who wishes to donate can either contact the Office or put your donation in the Sunday collection. We thank you in advance.

NEXT PARISH BINGO This Sunday, April 2, at 2 pm in the school cafeteria. Come enjoy the game and the company. The time out will make winter bearable.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Our Monthly Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday, April 3rd in the Chapel Room.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Please join us on **Friday evening April 7, at 7 pm** here at the church. The youth of the parish will lead us in this most sacred of Catholic Lenten devotions. Come walk with Jesus.

BIBLE STUDY The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Sunday evening, April 2 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.

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. At the back of the church **you will find the Food**

Bank Network's recent newsletter. Please take a copy to find out about their latest activities.

BRIEF HISTORY OF SACRED HEART PARISH

A year or so ago, Tom Collier put together this history. He presented it to the Parish in a binder. It contains some printed material and some pictures. We are placing it in the Chapel, on a table, for viewing. Please feel free to go in to take a look. But do not remove any, or all, of it.

THANKS TO THE KNIGHTS Our parish expresses thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their support during the visit of the NET ministers. They gave us a \$250 donation, and more importantly, they were present at the services to help ensure the success of the venture.

BINGO PRIZE DONATIONS Thank you to the following people for their generous bingo donations: Joanne Connolly, Evelyn Ezekiel, Donna Mitchell, Marie Mitchell, Eileen Moore, Bob Musseau, Kay Musseau, Glenda Neilson, Barbara Neville, Barbara O'Blenis, Valerie O'Brien, Valerie O'Connor, Patricia Payne, Jack Pennell, Margie Pennell, Joan Penney, May Jo Perrett, Bernadette Pike, Kim Preston, Agatha Poole, Rita Pye, Gen Quigley, Gerry Quigley, Linda Randell, Carol Reid, Assumpta Roche, Annette Rowsell, Bernice Rowsell, Marie Samms, Rosemarie Snooks, Brian Sparkes, Mona Specker, Veronica Stone, Maxine Staples, Linda Tarbett, Lynette Taylor, Derm Traverse, Tammy Wareham, Clarence Woodman, Peggy Young. Together we raised \$928.55!

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE *Last weekend's collection was \$427.* Thank you. This group is seeking members from our parish to help them in their work. They operate Mary's Kitchen on Fridays. Right now, they need used furniture for needy families. Please consider helping them, especially if you have used items. Call: 638-9010 for more information

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Archbishop Howley Council will meet on Tuesday at All Hallows Parish

Centre starting at 7:45 p.m. All Brother Knights are asked to attend.

CASH DRAW TICKET FUNDRAISER Keep an eye out for tickets! This upcoming draw is being put on by our Ladies Group, and will have a cash prize of \$1000!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS For Catholics, the Stations are closely associated with Lent, especially Holy Week and Good Friday. This devotion commemorates 14 key events on the day of Christ's crucifixion, from the time He was condemned to His burial. The Stations originated in the Middle Ages. Sculptures or paintings depicting scenes of Jesus' journey to Calvary were placed along a procession route, so that pilgrims could walk the route and stop to pray at each station. Today the Stations can be found in almost all Catholic churches. This devotion allows us to pray and meditate on Christ's sacrifice for us. Most parishes will have the Stations of the Cross during Lent or you can make the Stations online. This is a good Lenten devotion to try!

LENTEN SCRIPTURE SERIES – Week 6 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: Maccabees – Rebellious Zeal for God!

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.