

REFLECTION for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

We have been graced to have celebrated three infant Baptisms in our church over the last two weeks. Today we celebrate another one, the Baptism of the Lord.

We hear today the words spoken by God to Jesus, and to all present, when He was baptised.

Did the Lord also say of us when we were baptised, **"This is my Son (Daughter), the Beloved?"**

I believe God did. So then the question is: what does it mean to be claimed as a son or daughter of God?

Here is what one author tells us: *'In Baptism, and again in Confirmation, the Holy Spirit sealed us: he claimed us as the Father's; he christened us, that is, he conformed us to Christ; and he imprinted in us a love which can keep us loyal to our Father, and empower us to minister his loyalty to those he gives us as our neighbours. This work the Spirit fashioned is a resource on which we can continue to draw, so that we may securely journey into our inheritance.'*

This, dear people, is our baptismal call. The fruits of our baptism, the first of the sacraments of initiation, fully equip us to do the work of Jesus in this world. We are capable of doing good works to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth. Here are a few instances of this.

Recall that family member who drives you around the bend, who is so hard to love; well baptism equipped you to succeed in loving that person. It is called compassion.

Recall that temptation which you cannot seem to resist; well baptism equipped you to conquer it- just ask God and follow the advice given. It is called surrender.

Recall that disappointment when you did not get something or someone you really wanted; well take your concern to God and, because of your baptism, an understanding and a peaceful easy feeling will come to you. It is called contentment.

Remember, God said to **you: This is my Son (Daughter), the Beloved.** Believe in God.

Fr. Don

A PARISH HISTORY: has now been completed by Mr. Tom Collier and is in the possession of the Parish. It contains a well documented history, with photos, of our Parish up to the 1960's.

We are still looking for photos and/or stories from the 1960's through until today.

Please take time to look into your old picture albums. If you have old photos or other information of past parish life that you would like to share, it can still be added to our Parish history. Items we are looking for include photos of past parish priests and lay leaders who have served us.

Sacred Heart Parish

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

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website--www.sacredheartrcparish.ca

Tel: (709) 785-5025 Fax: (709) 388-1141

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Liturgical Celebrations

Weekend Masses:

Saturday - 4:30 pm

Sunday - 11:00 a.m.

Masses this Week:

Mon., Tue. & Wed 7:00 p.m.

Thur. & Fri. 10am.

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Third Sunday of each Month

2:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Mon & Wed after Mass

Marriages:

Six month notice is required.

A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms:

Celebrated at Weekend Mass

after preparation session.

Current Date

January 11, 2015

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Collection	Jan. 1st.	\$1,262.00
	Jan. 3 & 4	1,685.00
Building Fund	Jan. 1st.	20.00
	Jan. 3 & 4	25.00
Dues	Jan. 1st	270.00
	Jan. 3 & 4	60.00
Bingo	Jan.4th.	628.50
Votive Candles		95.50
Don./ Envelopes	Jan. 1	103.00
	Jan. 3 & 4	38.00

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

(RCIA) If you, or someone you know, wish to inquire into the process of being received as new members of the Roman Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, please contact the Office. Preparation will begin as soon as interested people come forward.

Since we have had no response to this call thus far, this will be the last week it will appear in the bulletin.

THANK YOU

We offer grateful thanks and sincere appreciation to the Executives of the Men's and Ladies Groups of our parish. Together they do great work in terms of fund-raising activities and social activities. The Men's Group have their annual meeting and election of a new Executive scheduled for Wednesday February 4 at 7pm.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Just a reminder that **Parish Council** meets in the Rectory on Monday Jan 12 following 7pm Mass.

The **Ladies Group** meets there at the same time on Monday Jan 19.

SICK VISITING

Our visiting is going well. Because of the restrictions on visiting at the Hospital and Long-Term Care Home, we have been unable to provide this ministry there. Do you know someone who is sick at home and shut-in and would like to receive Holy Communion and a visit from our ministers? If so, then let us know. You can contact the Office or Fr. Don at home.

2015 SYNOD QUESTIONNAIRE

The second phase of the **Synod on the Family** is to take place in Rome this October. Do you want to have your voice heard?

The CCCB has prepared a list of questions which they want all Catholics to read with a view to seeking the input of all the faithful. These questions are now available to you for your viewing and thoughts. They can be found on the parish website (www.sacredheartrcparish.ca) If you have not got access to the website and want the questions, let us know and we could make them available.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Jan 12 Mon	Thanksgiving
Jan 13 Tues	Theresa Tompkins
Jan 14 Wed	The Quigley Family
Jan 15 Thur	John Leonard
Jan 16 Fri	John Leonard
Jan 17	Theresa Tompkins/ Brian Canning
Jan 18 Sun	Parish Community

NOTE

WEEKDAY MASS: Mon, Tues, Wed, at 7pm;

and Thur, Fri, at 10am.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Jan 18-25 has been designated as a time to pray for unity among all Christian denominations. *On Tuesday Jan 20, the Bay of Islands Ministry Association has a PRAYER SERVICE planned to celebrate this week.* The time and place will be given in next week's bulletin. Please mark this date and try to attend it to show your desire and support for Christian Unity.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED

The parish offers sincere sympathy to Ann McHugh and her family on the death of husband and father, Gerald McHugh.

Also our sympathy is offered to Mona Specker and Millie King on the death of their father, John Osmond of Fogo Island.

May they rest in peace.

CONFIRMATION 2015

Registration forms are now available at the back of the church. Preparation classes will soon begin.

In our Diocese, children are eligible for this sacrament when in Grade 7. So, any child born in 2002 or 2003 should register this year and receive confirmation.

But if you know of a young adult who has not been confirmed and is older, please encourage them to register this year. All Catholics should receive all sacraments as soon as they are able. They are the gateway to many graces and blessings from the Lord. Indeed, they fortify, protect, and strengthen us on our life's journey.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Is one of your Resolutions to try to pray more? We may have help for you.

Are you aware that on our parish website you can find the daily Mass readings and meditations/reflections on those readings? In a section called **PRAY WITH US**, there are links to **Our Daily Bread** and **Living Faith** daily devotionals.

Please have a look and give it a try.

A WORD FOR YOUTH

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus, an event that happened when Jesus was 30 years old. His baptism is an outward sign that Jesus is God's own Son. Through our own Baptism in Jesus' name, we are made children of God, the brother or sister of Jesus and members of the family of God along with everyone else who has been baptised. Perhaps now is a good occasion for us to re-commit ourselves to God. It's a good New Years' resolution to try living our lives as Jesus taught us.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Meeting next Tuesday Jan 13 at 8:15 pm in All Hallows Church Hall.

THANK YOU

To all who made a donation toward our January bingo. With your generous support, we raised \$628.50 for our parish. Thanks also to the men & women who donate their time to run the games. Good job everyone!