

**REFLECTION for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Fr. Don**

*'Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.'*

A show of hands for all who would prefer an eternity in heaven! OK, now, a show of hands for all those who would prefer an eternity in hell! I'm guessing that heaven won hands-up in this vote. But is our attainment of heaven, with all its promised joys, reunions, and bliss, as easy as merely desiring to be there. Do we have 'work' to do or is it our birthright? Think for a moment, why is heaven called heaven!!

In a sense it is our birthright; Jesus died on the cross for all of humanity, He redeemed us, He paid the cost. By His resurrection and ascension, He flung open the gates of heaven and invited us to return home when our time on earth is done. The gate is always open awaiting those whom God loves and longs to welcome. Daily, one by precious one, we, like those who came before us and those who will follow us, each human, through earthly dead, was, is, or will be called home- to the home of all homes.

Is there a free-pass into heaven? Is St. Peter (as many jokes claim) at the gate checking our *credentials* saying 'you are welcome' to some and sending others to hell. Is Jesus at the gate with out-stretched arms welcoming everybody? Is there a list and does our name have to be on it for entrance, and once and for all, is that other place (hell) real and the only other alternate place for us to spend eternity?

In today's readings, God tells us that heaven and hell are real and that there are actual and demanding expectations that have to be met by anyone desiring to experience the Beatific Vision- that vision we all have of meeting Jesus and our departed loved ones in overwhelming joy and happiness. Our way of life here on earth determines our eligibility. Were we true Christians? Did we try to live our lives as saints or sinners; did we consciously and actively try our best? Did Jesus play an important role in our daily lives?

We have to live in imitation of Jesus and we need to have followed His Way. And what should really shock us is the message that God favors the poor- the materially poor and the spiritually poor. When we look into the faces of the poor, we are looking at the face of Jesus. Jesus is looking back at us and saying *'do you really love me; feed my sheep.'* And God is watching how we minister to the poor. Do we show them mercy, compassion, and love? Do we treat them as equals, as children of God, just like ourselves?

The poor may be our ticket to heaven; so who are the poor. Most of us think we have a mental picture of the poor. But in essence and in truth every human being is poor. The rich man in our Gospel thought Lazarus was poor; but in fact it was he who was really poor- poor in the way that leads to heavenly attainment. Those revelers in our first reading certainly did not think themselves poor, but in the end the poor souls went into exile. Remember, God shows no partiality; all of us are loved and precious to Him.

So, let us go chase our ace, go live life large, but never forget to bow to the power, the glory, the expectations of our God in heaven. Let us really and truly 'love our neighbor.' Let us moderate and fashion our living as Gospel People. Let us 'have each other's back', let us show by our lives that *we want to be in that number when the saints go marching in.'* Send Lazarus to cool my tongue, the flames of hell are hot!!

# 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](mailto:Curlingparish@hotmail.com)  
[www.sacredheartrcparish.ca](http://www.sacredheartrcparish.ca)  
Fax: (709) 388-1141

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church

Marriages: Six months' notice is required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

**September 25, 2016**

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

<b><u>RECEIVED WITH THANKS</u></b>	Sept 17,18
Collection	\$1,585.00
Building Fund	55.00
Mass Stipends	20.00
Votive Candles	43.00
Needs of Church in Canada	30.00
Bible	30.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sept 26	No Mass
Sept 27	for Sick Parishioners
Sept 28	Special Intention
Sept 29	Charlie Puddicombe
Sept 29+	Leo & Sara Hynes
Sept 30	Percy/Mary/Bern/Rod/Nicholas Joyce
Oct 1	Percy/Mary/Bern/Rod/Nicholas Joyce
Oct 2	Parish Community

**MINISTERS** (Oct 1,2)

<b><u>READERS</u></b>	<b><u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u></b>
Victoria Murphy	Art Hall, Barbara Neville,
Jerome Dicks	Marie Byrne
<i>*Tony Griffin- Communion Minister to the Sick</i>	

Hedy Kenny	Don Gallant, Donna Eldridge,
Mike Leonard	Calvin Gillis

**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

-Only three candidates put their names forward so, Don Gallant, Mike Leonard, and Barbara Neville have been elected by acclamation to serve for the next three years.  
 -Parish Council will meet on Monday Sept 26 at 7 pm in the parish house.

**BIBLE STUDY**

The group will meet in the parish house on Sunday evening at 7 pm this week. We encourage newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels.

**LARGE PRINT BIBLES**

We have more of these NRSV Bibles now available. If you wish to purchase one, please contact the parish house. They cost \$30 each

**FAMILY CATECHESIS- STARTING SOON**

Julia will speak about the Program at this weekend's Masses. A meeting of parents will take place soon. Spread the word about this. Please phone the Office (785-5025) to register your children.

**HEALING MASS**

On **Wednesday October 19 at 7 pm**, we will offer a Mass of Healing. It will follow the same format as previous Healing Masses. Prayer Teams will be available for individual prayer after Mass. Please mark the date and come to be healed.

**MASS OF REMEMBRANCE**

All Souls Day is **Wednesday November 2**. At our 7 pm Mass, we will remember all those who have died over the past year. Family members will be invited to come light a candle in their memory. Also we will have a ceremony to honor all our deceased loved ones. Please plan to attend this beautiful commemorative tribute.

**LADIES GROUP NEWS**

**A pot luck lunch** is planned for **Sept. 25 following Sunday Mass**. All parishioners are invited to attend. Please bring a dish & join us for our first social event of the year.  
**Our Harvest Sale** will be held on **Nov. 5 Election results** from Sept. 11: Veronica Stone-chair, Pat Jones-secretary, Joan Penney-past chair. Gratitude is extended to Theresa Dobbin for chairing the group last year. Bless You.

**FALL VARIETY CONCERT**

Save the date, **Friday, October 28 at 7:30 pm in Sacred Heart Auditorium**. Cost \$5. More details will follow. Lots of local talent.

**OUR CHURCH WINDOWS**

Installation of the 26 windows is scheduled for the last week of October. We wish to express deep gratitude to the 20 families who donated the cost of one window. In this regard, we have begun preparing the plaques for each window. In the next few weeks we will contact each family to find out the exact wording they wish to be inscribed on it.

**PASTORAL CARE TRAINING**

Western Health is pleased to offer a NEW training program for pastoral care volunteers, "Caring for the Human Spirit". The **5- week training program will begin on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30 -3:30 (every second Monday)** and is **FREE**. Registration deadline is September 21<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Don

**CANDLELIGHT ROSARY**

Will be held on the **first Friday** of each month at **the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Chapel from 7:00-8:00 PM**. Intention: *For world peace and for a stop to the persecution of Christians and torture of children.*

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL- FEAST DAY SEPT 27**

He was a 17<sup>th</sup> century French priest who dedicated his life to serving the poor. He was renowned for his compassion, humility, and generosity and is known as the Great Apostle of Charity. Here in Corner Brook we have a St Vincent De Paul Society who carry on the good works of this saint. Please support their efforts.

**FEAST OF THE ARCHANGELS- THURS, SEPT 29**

St. Michael (*one who is like God*) is chief of the Archangels and the one who cast the Devil out of heaven to roam the earth seeking whom he might devour. St. Gabriel (*man of God*) is the one who announced to Mary that she was to be the Mother of God and he was sent to the prophet Daniel to explain a vision. St. Raphael (*God heals*) travelled with Tobias in the Old Testament Book of Tobit. He healed Tobit's eyes and helped Tobias find his true love. Tradition is that families have a special meal on this day. It marks the beginning of harvest and autumn. So sumptuous foods are prepared. Why not visit the produce market and do this this week.

**ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS- Sat, OCT 1**

Therese Martin was the last of nine children born to Louis and Zelig Martin on January 2, 1873, in Alencon, France. She became the '*Little Flower*.' She died young but her piety and holiness inspired many. She has been declared a Doctor of the Church. She has taught all of us that holiness and salvation can be achieved by doing the '*little things*'- daily loving God and loving our neighbor. She is one of the greatest of all saints; devotion to her thrives today.

**NEW FOOD BANK HOURS**

The Bay of Islands Food Bank is located in the Salvation Army Thrift Store on Herald Ave in Corner Brook. Please be advised that the Food Bank hours of operation have changed. They are now: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9-12 and 1-3:30. If need is immediate at other times, then special arrangements can be made.

**Jesus, have mercy upon us; we are sinners seeking divine redemption only You can give.**