

REFLECTION for the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Fr. Don

'Let those who have not sinned cast the first stone.' Who among us cannot imagine ourselves either being the woman (sinner) or being in the crowd in this familiar scriptural story?

The woman was caught committing the sin of adultery; not many of us would commit this sin. We have to admit that at some time we have committed other sins; many of which we are ashamed of and wish we had never done. The inclination to sin is inherent in human nature. Thank God, we live in a society where the chance of someone dragging us, as sinners, before a crowd of accusers is unlikely. No, our accusers are really ourselves; we sense the pang of guilt for sins. I think our soul is wired to sense when we sin and it sends messages to the brain.

We know when we have sinned; it is our God-given conscience that often draws us to admit our guilt before God. Mercifully Jesus treats us like he treated that woman. He forgives us, advises us to avoid sin, and lovingly sends us onward in life. How many times!

What do you think happened to that woman after Jesus forgave her? That was a question Pope Francis attempted to answer three years ago. You see, it was three years ago today that Pope Francis celebrated his first Mass as Pope. And so, this Gospel story was the one he preached. He concluded that, since the Name of God is Mercy, if she came back a month later and said she had sinned again, he would have forgiven her, told her to sin no more, and lovingly send her on to live her life. And if she came back again it would be the same. Sounds incredible, sounds odd, well, that is the nature of the mercy of God- our loving father, our loving mother.

Yes, we are all too often in that woman's shoes. Thankfully, God is Mercy, God is Love.

Now what about us being in the crowd? Are not we often quick to judge and condemn. It is difficult for us to admit it, but many times in many different situations, as regards other people and what we perceive as their sins, we mercilessly judge them.

That woman had broken the Jewish Law, she had committed adultery. The Law prescribed that she, and her lover (who is conspicuously absent), must be stoned to death. Like the Jews in that crowd, we are taught to obey the Law. Justice must be served.

Ah, now, the eureka moment of this Gospel: the message of Jesus is that there is a new Law being inaugurated- the Law of Love. The old Law is still valid, but it must be tempered by the new Law of Love. The mercy of God knows no bounds. It turns human justice into divine justice.

Again, we praise and thank Jesus that this new Law applies to you and me, self- proclaimed sinners begging, time after time after time, for the mercy and love of God. And receiving it!!

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

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website--www.sacredheartcparish.ca
Fax: (709) 388-1141

Liturgical Celebrations

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

Masses in Week Days:
Tues, Thurs 7 pm
Fri 10 am

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.

March 12, 2016
5th Sunday in Lent

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

March 5, 6

Collection	\$ 1,249.00
Building Fund	65.00
Mass stipends	30.00
Bibles	450.00
Votive Candles	66.00
Catholic Missions	20.00
St. Vincent de Paul	100.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 14	Penitential Service	7 pm
Mar 15	Joe Gallant/Compagnion Family	
Mar 16	Mass of Chrism (Stephenville)	
Mar 17	Josephine Green/Richard Samms	
Mar 18	Ada Myles	
Mar 19	Margaret Jennex	
Mar 19 also	Joseph & Bertha Hennessey	
Mar 20	Parish Community	

NB: see front of bulletin for Mass times

OUR EASTER MASS TIMES

Holy Thursday---March 24	7 pm
Good Friday---March 25	3 pm
Good Friday (Stations)	7 pm
Easter Vigil ---March 26	8:30 pm
Easter Sunday ---March 27	11 am

PARISH BINGO

Bad weather forced postponement of our Bingo last week. It has been rescheduled for **Sunday, March 20 at 2pm** in the School cafeteria. Please show your support by attending the game.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP FOR EASTER

This will take place on Monday of Holy Week, March 21, beginning at 10 am. Everyone who wishes to join us in this work is more than welcome to come. Remember, many hands make light work.

BIBLES AND CATECHISMS

An order has been placed and we will have more **NRSV Bibles** available soon. They cost \$25; if you want one, please let us know. We still have some copies left of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. They cost \$20. Every Catholic home should have a copy of both of these books.

BIBLE STUDY

Some blessed sharing is taking place at these sessions. Our next gathering will be on Monday evening, March 21 at 7 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.

MEN'S GROUP INVITATION

All members of the men's group are invited to attend a supper at the parish house on Friday, March 18, at 6:30 pm. Food will be provided by the ladies group in appreciation for the men always being there to lend a helping hand when needed.

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**. Joe and Marie Byrne have graciously offered to receive the Blessed *Oils* on behalf of our parish.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Our Parish **Lenten Mission** started today. We welcome Fr. Bill Pearce who will lead this mission. The **Mercy of God** will be the key-note of this Mission. Please join us for a **Holy Hour** on Sunday evening at 7 pm and again on Monday evening at 7pm for a **Penitential Service**.

This Mission is being offered in response to an invitation from Pope Francis for all churches to open their doors for 24 hours so that the faithful may encounter Jesus Christ anew in the **Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration**. We encourage all our parishioners to attend.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Our Parish depends financially on your Weekly Offering. The money supports our many activities. Right now, there are, additionally, three special collections to which you are being asked to contribute. These are Development and Peace, the St. Vincent de Paul Refugee cause, and the Holy Lands collection on Good Friday.

We, as a Parish Council, are aware of your limited resources. We hope that these multiple simultaneous requests for financial support don't come too often. Please be as generous as is possible.

FOURTH DEGREE K of C MEETING

Next Tuesday at 8 pm at All Hallows Parish Rooms. Members are encouraged to attend.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Benoit's Cove is seeking a part time Office Administrator. The preferred applicant will have prior clerical experience including computer accounting along with being a reliable and conscientious person. Serious inquiries can forward a resume to staroftheseabenoitscove@yahoo.ca or mail to P.O. Box 70, Benoit's Cove, NL. A0L 1A0 on or before March 31, 2016.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Government is being asked to consider recommendations including extending physician-assisted suicide to people with non-terminal conditions, not excluding individuals because of psychiatric conditions and extending the process to "competent mature minors". For links to the full report and to statements made in reaction to it, visit the Diocesan webpage at www.rcchurch.com

THANK YOU to Eileen Moore and Sandy Buckle for giving the parish house a good cleaning. It was badly needed after all the recent meetings and social gatherings.

CONCERT: There will be an afternoon of entertainment at Star of the Sea Parish on March 20 from 2 to 4 pm. Admission is \$5.00

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