

REFLECTION for the Feast of the Holy family

Fr. Don

Today, the Feast of the Holy Family, presents us with what appears to be a contradiction between what this feast stands for- a depiction of a holy family- and the Gospel story.

Scripture gives us a story about the child Jesus being truant- He disappoints and disobeys his parents by staying behind and not telling them nor seeking their permission. This is not typical behaviour in any family and particularly not in the Holy Family. So, believing that everything that Jesus said and did was for the building up of the Kingdom here on earth, what are we to make of this story? How and what is Jesus teaching us? What message are we to take from this incident?

As a backdrop for this consideration let us recall the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, truthfulness, gentleness and self-control.

From time immemorial, the main trouble in most families is the gulf that can grow between children and parents; a divisive lack of communication and misunderstanding. Families can talk together about it, but most times this only leads to more divisiveness.

We are all unique, mysterious, sometimes difficult to understand and often difficult to live with. Yes, come on, admit it. Right or wrong, good or bad, happy or sad, holy or unholy, this is the human reality. This episode of Jesus' truancy was meant, and was recorded, to raise this issue, and help us here in this day and age.

As much as parents dread it, children have to find life and love, where, and how, they can. They are, like us adults, children of God. They have within them the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. God is calling them to activate these. They have to reach out in hope and place their trust in God so as to find their way, making sense of this world.

There is a key to this dynamic within the Christian family. It can be found in the idea that Jesus brought to us in today's Gospel. And that my dear friend is the idea of 'vocation'.

Jesus, and what He did in this Gospel story, is Vocation himself. He was called to do his Father's will. We all have vocations. We must follow them, each in our way, the way made for us the way God intends.

Children have vocations to find. Parents may have found, or sadly may simply never have sought or found their vocation. To follow a vocation is to do things as God wants. Our wishes and behaviour, seen as mere whims and wishes of our own, are rightly resented and resisted, by both parents in children, and children in parents. It is very difficult to see and respect children's' vocations. Mere whims and wishes they well might be but parents must trust in God's power to guide them along the right path. Today's Gospel is witness to that.

It is difficult for children to see and respect the vocation of parents. They may come to realize this one day. They may do so only, when they become parents themselves. Is that too late? Pray that the lesson of the truant Jesus awakens in our minds the courage to become a holier family.

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.

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Liturgical Celebrations

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

Masses this Week:
Wed-7 pm
(See schedule for New Years)

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Third Sunday of each Month
2:00 p.m.

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.

December 27, 2015

The Feast of the Holy Family

RECEIVED WITH THANKS Dec 19/20

Collection	\$2,258.15
Building Fund	15.00
Mass requests	50.00
Votive Candles	76.85
In memory of Bernard Pike	50.00
Christmas Flowers	240.00
Dues	50.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 28 & 29	No Mass
Dec 30 7 pm	Elizabeth Brake
Dec 31	Michael & Mary Leonard
Jan 1	+ Gallant Family
Jan 2	+ Quigley Family
Jan 3	Parish Community

MASS SCHEDULE FOR NEW YEARS

Thurs Dec 31 at 4:30 pm

Fri Jan 1 at 11:00 am

Do you know that in Canada Christmas Day and New Years Day are the only Holy Days of Obligation that are not Sundays.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On behalf of myself, the pastor, the Parish Council, and all our Committees, I wish you all a joyous, happy, and Spirit-filling Merry Christmas. Thank you for your support over the past year. May your families and homes all be filled with joy and peace this Christmas of 2015 (it comes no more). Let us resolve to continue to support each other by our prayers and generous giving of our gifts and talents.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Tempus fugit, or in English, Time flies. During the year 2015 God has blessed our parish in so many ways. As we take time to reflect on the past year, let us do so with a sense of deep gratitude. Looking forward, we pray for God’s continued mercy and guidance on Sacred Heart Parish. Thank you to everyone who calls this parish their spiritual home. Let us, as family, go forward into 2016 filled with hope.

CONFIRMATION

Classes begin for reception of this sacrament in the New Year. We have some youth registered. If you know of any not registered please inform them and their parents that the classes are being offered.

JUBILEE YEAR of MERCY

The Jubilee Year of Mercy formally began with the opening by Pope Francis of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. On Sunday, December 13th, 2015, the remaining six permanent Holy Doors as well as all of those temporarily designated in all of the Dioceses of the world will be opened. Our Diocese has two Holy Doors – one at the Cathedral in Corner Brook and one at the Basilica in Labrador City. *The faithful of the Diocese are invited to consider making a pilgrimage to one of the Diocesan Holy Doors during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.*

MARY’S KITCHEN

Immaculate Heart of Mary School is

planning to offer a meal to the poor/hungry each Friday from 5-6 pm at the school. They are seeking volunteers to help them in this corporal work of mercy during this Year of Mercy. If you wish to help in this effort please phone the school

WEEKLY SESSIONS HONORING MARY

Our Liturgy Committee is planning to offer a four week series of presentations focusing on Holy Mary and the Rosary. Each session will be an hour or so long. It will feature Prayer, Hymns, a 15 min DVD on Mary’s role in salvation history, and recitation of the Scriptural Rosary. Of course a tea/coffee social is included. Full details will follow in the New Year.

BIBLE STUDY

We also hope to begin a Bible study group early in the New Year. If this is of interest to you and you plan to attend please let Fr. Don know over the Christmas period. By doing so, we can determine the level of interest and the best time to gather for this endeavour. This is an initiative of the parish in celebration of the Year of Mercy.

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Jesus, our most loving redeemer, You came to enlighten the world with your teaching and example. You willed to spend the greater part of Your life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in their poor home at Nazareth. In this way, You sanctified that family, which was to be an

example for all Christian families. Graciously accept our family, which we dedicate and consecrate to You this day. Be pleased to protect, guard, and keep it in holy fear, in peace, and in the harmony of Christian love. By conforming ourselves to the Divine model of Your family, may we attain to eternal happiness. Amen

A QUOTE FROM MOTHER THERESA

‘It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother or sister and offer him or her your hand.’

Dickens on SCROOGE being REBORN

‘He went to the church, and walked about the streets, and watched the people hurrying to and fro, and patted the children on the head, and questioned beggars, and looked down into the kitchens of homes, and up to the windows, and found that everything could yield him pleasure. He had never dreamed of any walk, that anything, could give him so much happiness.’

Donations for Christmas Flowers were graciously received from; the Hearn family, the O’Connor family, Marie Samms, Donna Eldridge, Ross Pike, Rita Russell, Carol Reid, Theresa Murphy, & Annie Griffin.

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