

REFLECTION for the Third Sunday in Advent.

Did you notice that the Advent candle lit today was pink (rose) colored, that the priest wore rose colored vestments, and that the word 'rejoice' appeared a lot in the readings.

This is Gaudete Sunday and all of the above are its outward signs; but outward signs to what?

They celebrate the halfway point of Advent and remind us to always rejoice in the divine gift we are to receive at Christmas. The once-for-all Incarnation of Jesus and His ultimate Life, Death, and Resurrection will forever change our lives. It makes life divine, makes heavenly eternity possible, and makes human life worth living. It puts smiles on our faces and love in our hearts.

Let's shout and sing it: *O Come Divine Messiah... O Come, O Come, Emmanuel...*

Oh the Promises we will realize through our trust in the realities of the Paschal Mystery!

Really it is all about me and you- the proverbial **us**. Jesus breaks through into human existence and saves (redeems) broken humanity. Heavens gates had been closed, humanity was lost and longing, and the children of God needed redemption and direction.

Jesus, God made visible, comes to show the way for us to follow to reach happiness while here on earth and then the joy of eternal salvation in heaven. Deep in our souls is a Holy Longing and Jesus satisfies that within each of us.

He brings to glory the Kingdom of God here on earth and challenges us to model his example of living so as to establish the glorious reign of God to illumine the whole world. Each of us has a vital role to play in the accomplishment of this. Each of us is unique and precious in God's eyes. Jesus believes that the faithful can indeed bring heaven to earth and earth to heaven. The two can become one. So, say **Yes** to Jesus and become *His voice crying out in the wilderness- prepare you the Way of the Lord, make crooked ways straight.*

This is the time of year for child-like faith. Children all over the world are waiting in agonizing joy for the gifts that Christmas will bring them. Most of them have a vague idea of what it will be but are open to the benevolence of the giver. So too must we be as followers of Jesus.

Here is a story to offer inspiration for us to commit to following our beliefs. It takes place on this Sunday in 1942 in a Nazi concentration camp. An imprisoned priest has made a crude Advent Wreath and has been lighting candles for Advent. But this past week he has heard rumours that his barracks is on the list to soon be sent to the gas chambers. He is tormented and troubled. Where is God and why is this allowed to happen, he asks himself? He ponders: 'Why should I light this Gaudete Sunday's candle of Rejoicing when anguish fills my soul?

He thinks about Jesus, His promises, his parents' faith, and his own commitment to follow Jesus. Then with joy he lights the candle, sings, and prays to His Saviour.

(*In February he did go to his death.*) Imagine being in his shoes, then imagine his faith, and above all imagine how he pleased God. Let us not hesitate in lighting our candles of rejoicing.

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, Thurs, 7 pm
Fri 10am

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 13, 2015
The Third Sunday of Advent

RECEIVED WITH THANKS Dec 5/6

Collection	\$1,817.00
Building Fund	125.00
Parish Dues	150.00
Parish Insurance	15.00
Garden Party	10.00
Mass requests	30.00
Votive Candles	83.00
In Memory- Mary Russell	30.00
Shepherd's Fund	25.00
Bingo	842.00
St. Vincent de Paul	20.00

GAUDETE SUNDAY

The word "Gaudete" is the first word (in Latin) of the Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass and it means "rejoice". We light the pink candle on our Advent wreath because we want to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near. Keep praying as we wait for the birth of our Saviour.

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 14	No Mass
Dec 15	<u>Penitential Service 7 pm</u>
Dec 16 7 pm	William/Winnifred Lynch
Dec 17 7 pm	+ Buckle & Parsons Families
Dec 18 10 am	Joseph Peddle
Dec 19	Sylvia/Joseph Hickey
Dec 20	Parish Community

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS

- Thurs, Christmas Eve at 7 pm and 9 pm,
- Friday, Christmas Day at 11 am.
- Saturday Dec 26 and Sunday Dec 27, regular weekend Mass times at 4:30 pm and

11 am respectively

NOTE: The choir will be offering a Carol presentation beginning at 8:30 pm, prior to the Christmas Eve 9 pm Mass.

PARISH COUNCIL/ FINANCE COMMITTEE

There is a **special meeting**, with Bishop Hundt in attendance, for both groups scheduled for this Mon, Dec 14, at 7 pm.

OUR ADVENT CONCERT

On Sunday Dec. 13 at 7 pm here in our Church we will have an Advent Carol Service. Our Saturday (Folk) and Sunday (Adult) choirs will combine to bring us an evening of song and praise. There will be solo performances by some choir members. Please come enjoy, be inspired, and also bring a Food Bank item to donate. Get in the Spirit of Christmas- *giving* food for the needy and *receiving* the gift of fine festive music.

CHOIRS APPRECIATION SOCIAL

All choir members are asked to meet at the parish house for their appreciation supper Sunday Dec 13 at 4:30 pm.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

On Tuesday Dec. 15 at 7 pm we will celebrate our **Penitential Service** to prepare us for Christmas. Our service will follow the same format as last year. There will be a brief Liturgy of the Word, followed by an Examination of Conscience, and then priests

will be available to hear private confessions.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Any parish family wishing to donate flowers (in memory of deceased loved ones) for the sanctuary area during the Christmas season is asked to please contact the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS

The list of intentions for December is posted at the back of the church. If you wish to request a Mass please do so by putting your request in with your Sunday envelope or by contacting the parish office.

SUNDAY MISSALS NOW AVAILABLE

The new missals for 2016, which we are now using, are available at the back of the church. They cost \$5. Please take one; they contain the Sunday readings and can be a good tool to use to do a little praying at home.

PRAIRIE MESSENGER

This is a weekly Catholic newspaper .We have subscribed for 25 copies weekly for the next year. Check the back table for this week's copy

THANK YOU Donations for our Dec. bingo were received from: Donna Eldridge, Carol Reid, Donna Beales, Eileen Buckle, Gerry Buckle, Theresa Dobbin, Jack Pennell, Assumpta Roche, Mary Gallant, Kay Hynes, Tom George, Alvina George, & Marie Samms. The manger, by Wm. Stone was won by W.C. Brake. The Christmas stocking, by Donna Beales was won by Annette

Rowsell. Thanks to Gail Leggo for all your help.

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.*

MENS GROUP TICKET DRAW

David Payne won the \$1000 prize in the draw. Congratulations to him. The parish wishes to thank all the men who worked so hard to sell the tickets and make this fundraiser a huge success. Thanks again for your service to the parish.

FOOD BANK NEED This is the season of giving. Please take time this week to be generous to the Food Bank. Those coming to our Carol Concert are asked to bring a food donation. We encourage all parishioners to bring a food donation to next weekend's Masses. The need is great.

PRAYER FOR YEAR OF MERCY (say daily)
Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.