

Second Sunday of the Year

"Spark" notes

He seemed nice enough. But, honestly, there was no spark. They had been set up on a blind date. She had met his mother and sisters at a party - a loving, good-humored crew. They thought she should meet Drew.

So, they met for dinner. It was a pleasant evening, nothing more. By the end of the evening, she had a new appreciation for the term "painfully shy": conversation was labored; eye contact was minimal.

There was no "spark." She liked Drew - but this relationship would be a lot of work. They were very different: she was professionally ambitious; he was happy working for modest money counseling the homeless. Too bad, she thought, but this was not going anywhere.

But then he called and invited her to a play. She agreed, anticipating just a pleasant evening. As they walked to the theatre, they stopped in their tracks when a homeless man sitting in the shadows called, "Hey, Drew!" The man's face lit up and shook Drew's hand, and the two chatted for a few minutes. She was surprised by their genuine affection and the ease of their banter - an ease she had yet to experience in Drew. As they turned to leave, the man declared, "You've got a good man there. A really good man."

That evening, Drew shared more about his work. She grasped the depth his compassion for the homeless, the addicted and mentally ill. He opened up about the mistakes he had made. He talked about what motivated him to do this work. He expressed his worry for his father, who was about to undergo risky surgery. The two had a real conversation about important things. Quiet, but deep, she thought. But, sadly, still no definitive "spark."

He called again a few weeks later. His father's surgery had gone well. He invited her to lunch at a place near the hospital. Afterward, he walked her to the train. They kissed. What's that, a spark? she thought. Just then, his brother came up behind him. "Drew, come to the hospital." Drew flagged a cab and handed him cash, "Get her home safely."

A few days later she was there at the church as he eulogized his father. She saw him supporting his grieving mother and siblings with quiet strength. She saw beyond his earning potential and small-talk prowess. She saw him. They recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. Twenty years of "sparks."

[From "Spark Notes" by Brenda Welch, The Boston Globe Magazine, October 15, 2017.]

A woman sees deeper than a man's social awkwardness and low earning potential to "behold" compassion and generosity that are the "sparks" that ignite a relationship centered in love and trust. Faith calls us to listen and look deeper than the surface, to see and hear beyond our own limited perspective. John admonishes his followers - and us - to open our hearts and consciences to see and hear this Jesus working, healing, and teaching in our midst; to embrace and be embraced by that love of God moving and animating this story of his beloved Christ living among us. Jesus dares us to "come and see": to realize the presence of God in the goodness and generosity around us, to focus our attention on the needs of others rather than our own needs, to find purpose in bringing joy into the lives of others rather than in the pursuit of the things the world deems as important. The Jesus of Mark's Gospel promises us, if we but seek it, God's grace opening our eyes and hearts to behold "sparks" of the life and love of God in our mist.

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Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8
Tel: (709) 785-5025

curlingparish@hotmail.com
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Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11:00 am

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Tues at 7:00 pm Wed, Thurs, Fri at 10:00 am
First Fridays - 2:00 pm at the Lohnes Complex

Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.

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

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

Baptisms: Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

January 14, 2018

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (January 6&7, 2018)

Regular Collection	1256.52
Pastoral Dues	140.00
Envelope Cost Contributions	38.00
Building Fund	40.00
New Years Day (Solemnity)	105.00
Christmas Collection	40.00
Advent Folders	40.00
Bingo Proceeds	585.95
Mass Stipends	50.00
St Vincent de Paul	5.00
Calendars	30.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 13	The Late Dennis Bruce & Theresa Tompkins
Jan 14	Parish Community
Jan 15	No Mass
Jan 16	The Late Ignatius Power & Edna Power
Jan 17	The Late Jack Neville
Jan 18	The Late Brian Canning
Jan 19	The Late Edward Buckle & Father Bernard Buckle
Jan 20	The Deceased Members of The Hall Family
Jan 21	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

January 20	
Victoria Murphy Linda Tarbett	Gerard Brake Marie Byrne Joe Byrne
January 21	
Donna Eldridge Hedy Kenny	Doreen Jones Don Gallant Amelia Dicks
Communion to the Sick – Eileen Moore	

PARISH COUNCIL The next meeting takes place on **February 5th at 7 pm.**

2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

These are now available at the rear of the church. Please note that some numbers have changed. To avoid confusion, please discard any unused envelopes from previous years.

WINTER WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.

RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

We have 2018 calendars featuring beautiful religious artwork available for \$5. All monies received will be donated to Catholic Missions.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The first meeting of the new year for Society of St. Vincent de Paul will take place in the basement of the Cathedral on Wednesday, January 17th, at 7 PM. All are welcome.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated annually around the world from January 18 (the Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter) to January 25 (the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul). During this week, Christians around the world are invited to celebrate a week of prayer for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, to participate in jointly-organized ecumenical services, and to share fellowship. The theme for this year's week of prayer – "Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power (Exodus 15:6)" - has been prepared by an ecumenical team in the Caribbean region. Christians around the world are invited to celebrate God's reconciling grace, to recognize the pain of the deep divisions which afflict the Church and to become ambassadors of Christ's message of reconciliation. Check with your parish for the location of the local ecumenical service.

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY

Our next gathering is Tuesday, 14th, at 7:30 pm at the Church meeting room. This group monitors all areas of security in ministry so as the rights of everyone are protected.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FOURTH DEGREE: Bishop O' Reilly Assembly will meet on Tuesday at All Hallows Parish Centre, starting at 7:45 p. m. All Sir Knights, are asked to attend.

THE WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The Church celebrates the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees on Sunday, January 14, 2018. This day is an annual commemoration by the Church that seeks to raise awareness of the migration phenomenon. It is especially appropriate given the unprecedented number of refugees and displaced persons now present in our world. The theme of Pope Francis' message for this year's World Day is "Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees." Visit the Diocesan web page at www.rcchurch.com to read the Pope's entire message or the Pastoral Letter by the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of the CCCB, released in 2015, entitled "I Was A Stranger and You Welcomed Me."

LENT IS COMING

We are hardly finished with Christmas and now Ash Wednesday is just one month away! That's right! Ash Wednesday is February 14th. Even now we should be preparing our hearts and bodies for the discipline of Lent. What is it that we want to change in our relationship with or with the church. What is it that we need to look at in our families, our communities and our places of gathering?

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: JANUARY 18 -

25: The week of prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated around the world on January 18 - 25, which are also the dates recommended by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. However, there has also been a long standing practice by a number of communities to celebrate the week of prayer on optional dates, in order to include two Sundays which in 2018 would be January 21 - 28. We are encouraged to meet, participate in liturgy and other activities and to pray together that all may be one, as Christ desires. The date for our gathering in Corner Brook is January 23rd at 7:00 pm at Humber United Church on Clarence Street. All are invited.

PARISH BINGO

Many thanks to all who supplied prizes, helped run the bingo and/or who attended and supported the Bingo of January 7. Our next parish Bingo will take place on Sunday, February 4th. Please continue with your generous support.

4YOUTH

Ordinary Time forms the largest part of the Church's liturgical year. It is the time in the liturgical year which is not part of a special season (Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter). Why is it called Ordinary Time? Well, it's not because it's unimportant or routine or boring! It's called Ordinary Time because the weeks are numbered. (The Latin word ordinalis refers to numbers in a series.) During Ordinary Time the Scripture readings focus on the events of Jesus' life between His birth and His death and Resurrection. This is Year B of the three-year cycle of Sunday Readings, so on most Sundays we will hear about the life of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. During Ordinary Time we reflect on the way that Jesus lived and the things that he taught so that we might become more like Him. Nothing ordinary about that!