

REFLECTION for Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Don

Hopefully, we all realize that, through the Gospel readings over the past month, we were spiritually transported back in time to be among the faithful gathered for the Sermon on the Mount. We have heard the Beatitudes proclaimed, been commanded to lovingly live them, commissioned to go the extra mile, and been told that we are holy and must strive for perfection. Jesus has outlined the teachings essential for true discipleship. It is the WAY, and can serve as an awesome springboard into Lent and Easter.

In a few days, on Ash Wednesday, we will enter the Great 90 Days- the 40, comprising the joyful rigors of Lent, and the 50, marking the glorious celebration of Easter. We are pausing Ordinary Time; it will not be part of our Sunday liturgy again until June 25. These 90 days offer us another opportunity for renewal.

Our focus will switch to giving, to prayer, and to fasting, and then, to glorious and joy-filled praise. By our attendance at Mass, our hearing Sacred Scripture, we are being prepared for celebration of the Paschal Mystery- the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus tells us today, to trust, follow, and grow.

On this 8th Ordinary Sunday, Jesus seeks to reassure us that we are loved, loved perhaps more than a mother loves the child within her womb. He wants us to know that His challenging words to us and the actions He is calling us to perform are attainable; attainable because we are precious in the eyes of the Lord and the Lord will accompany, even carry, us as we journey onward in faith with perseverance.

We are reminded what slavery to Mammon means. It is fretting over the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and excessive greed for money, power, and status. Jesus knows the everyday cares of this life and will not deny that hardship and poverty will cause suffering and pain. But through it all, God has our back.

God loves us, his creation, unconditionally. We can depend on God, if no one else. We will never be forgotten or abandoned. The hand of God relieves any anxiety that people experience over life's challenges: brokenness, sickness, trouble with bills, out of work, let us take it to, and trust in, the Lord.

We must do our part. We must listen to, submit, and embrace, our call to be children of God. Failure to do this leads to a divided heart, one which drives us to attempt to serve two masters and thus creating a struggle with a resulting battle of wills- our will in conflict with the will of God.

If we seek to do the Father's will, as Jesus did, we will be blessed and saved. In our own personal lives, grace and goodness will triumph. If we are to live in Christ, we must do so through embracing the Good News. Yes, it is good news; life saving words that demand loving obedience. The Word of God demands the gracious sharing of the goodness of creation. We have been made *'stewards of the mysteries of God.'*

In the Church of today, with the advance of the practice of Stewardship, this takes on greater meaning. God calls us to use well and wisely our time, talents, and treasure, in the building up of the Kingdom. Thus, with confidence, we will be *"found trustworthy"* through our compliance and our discipline.

Jesus urged His followers to not borrow trouble from tomorrow. The trouble we have today is all we can handle. Many of our fears of the future never materialize. He insisted that the focus of our lives should be our relationship with God and walking in God's ways. It is like the nurturing parent-child relationship.

Worry is destructive and counter-productive. It can destroy our health, our relationships, and our peace of mind, even preventing us from finding solutions to our problems. God provides, we must seek that provision. Like a good parent, with unconditional love, God is there, our God will always be there.

It is important to know this in times that test our souls. God can seem absent from so much of our world's chaos and fear. We can have nagging doubts whether we, and the world, matter at all to God.

Let us stand apart from this doubt, let us claim our birth-right. We are God's favourite child.

'We will never be forgotten or abandoned. He bears us up on eagle's wings. Always and forever, Amen. That's the real message of the Sermon on the Mount. Our God is an awesome God! Onward to Lent!

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

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

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Wednesday, Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Friday at 2pm at the Lohnes Home

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.

February 26, 2017

The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (Feb 18,19)

Collection	1826.00
Bldg. Fund	70.00
Votive Candles	32.00
Pastoral Dues	100.00
Mass Stipends	80.00
NL Power Refund	840.24

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 27	No Mass
Feb 28	No Mass
Mar 1	Marilyn Borden
Mar 2	Brian Griffin
Mar 3	Intentions of Rita Hall/John Mendes
Mar 3	George & Ralph Hunt
Mar 4	Terry Snow
Mar 5	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (March 4,5))

READERS EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Jennifer Noseworthy Marie Byrne, Joan Penney
Carol Reid Eileen Moore

Communion to Sick Joan Penney

Mike Leonard Doreen Jones, Don Gallant
Hedy Kenny Anna House

MASS REQUESTS NEEDED

Right now, we do not have enough requests to complete next week's Mass schedule. So, once again, we invite you to request Masses for your deceased or sick loved-ones. Either call the Office or put your request in your Sunday envelope.

REMEMBER TO JOIN US ON ASH WEDNESDAY FOR 7 PM MASS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening Feb 27 at 7 pm**. We encourage newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels.

STATION OF THE CROSS

Please join us on **Friday evenings, beginning March 3, at 7 pm** here at the church for this most sacred of Catholic Lenten devotions. Come walk

with Jesus in His Passion, share in His suffering, glory in His love, and give Him thanks.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

This is a reminder to members that we meet again on Monday March 6, at 7 pm. Please make attending a priority.

NET MINISTRIES- COME MEET THEM

Please mark these dates. On Thursday March 16 at 7 pm. This group of 10 young men and women will join us in a brief Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. We will follow this with a social. Come and hear about their work and to meet them.

The following Friday evening and on Saturday, they will meet with our youth to share their faith experiences and to encourage them to actively practise their faith.

LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKLETS

The purpose of Lent is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, Christian growth, penitence, change, and simplicity. During Lent, we are called to fast, to pray, and to do acts of charity. To help in our efforts at prayer, we have booklets available. They can be picked up at the back on beginning on Ash Wednesday. One offers daily reflections by Pope Francis and the other is from Living Faith. Please use them for daily prayer this Lent. *And please use the links to daily prayer that are available all the time on our website: sacredheartrcparish.ca*

LENTEN FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Lent is traditionally described as lasting for forty days, in commemoration of the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert. It runs from Ash Wednesday up to, but excludes Mass, on Holy Thursday. The **Gloria** and the word **Alleluia** are not sung. The priest wears purple vestments. In Canada, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are Days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays are Days of abstinence, but we can substitute special acts of charity or piety on these days. This is an obligation

for those between 14 and 59 years. For Catholics, fasting is the reduction of one's intake of food, while abstinence refers to refraining from eating meat

BECAUSE SOMEONE ASKED

Emptying or covering holy water fonts during Lent is a modern innovation not found in the Church's directives. Water is always kept in the holy water fonts until after Mass on Holy Thursday, when they are emptied of holy water and later refilled with the water blessed at the Easter Vigil. And, remember when we draped all statues and crosses in purple. The Church directive now is that they *may be covered* for the last two weeks of Lent.

FIVE REASONS WHY WE GO TO CHURCH

- It is what Jesus did
- It is a good habit to practice
- It nurtures a positive example of good living
- It is important in building community ties
- It fosters personal humility/ discernment

FIVE REASONS WHY NOT TO GO TO CHURCH

- If I see it as an obligation/chore
- If I think this is all it means to be a Christian
- If I go only to have an immediate need met
- If I go to be made to feel instantly holy
- If I go only to perform, to show-off my talents

FIVE REASONS WHY SOME CATHOLICS LEFT

- I find these interesting, do you?
1. I left the Catholic faith without even realizing it, one day I just stopped attending and never went back. I never felt connected to the Church or parish and no one has even noticed I am not there anymore.
 2. I have gone through many agonizing struggles with Catholic dogma, and ultimately realize that my life situation cannot be reconciled with Catholic doctrine.
 3. A traumatic life event in general has questioned my belief in God or Christianity
 4. Hypocrisy. An indiscretion involving a member

of the church hierarchy has left me reeling and this religious abuse ended my ties with Catholicism in a split second.

5. I left because I married a non-Catholic and decide to embrace that faith instead.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY This group is seeking members from our parish to help them in their work. They operate Mary's Kitchen on Fridays and need volunteers to serve meals, they do many other activities such as provide food to families, visit the sick. Please consider helping them.

Call: 638-9010 for more information

STAND WITH REFUGEES A petition has circulated "Will you stand with refugees?" which calls on all governments to work together and do their fair share for refugees. The petition will be delivered to UN headquarters in New York before the UN General Assembly high-level summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants, scheduled for September 19. This petition, which is only available on-line, may be found at <http://www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/petition/>

ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECTION A collection will be taken at this Mass for Catholic Missions in Canada. Please support this group; they have helped this and many other churches in this Diocese.

A SHORT LENTEN PRAYER

Lord, help me to turn away from sin, and to believe in the Good News, in Jesus Christ, and in myself. Lord, in times of triumph or tragedy, allow me to practice self-restraint by reminding me that I am dust, and to dust I shall return. Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, Amen.

JESUS PRAYER

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