

## **REFLECTION for Fourth Sunday of Easter 2017**

**Fr. Don**

*Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.*

St. John the Evangelist's gospel account of the Good Shepherd was written near the end of the first century. It is set amidst the time of an intense conflict within Judaism, which resulted in the expulsion of Jewish-Christians from the synagogue. It marked the separation of Christians from Jews. The Temple had been destroyed by the Romans and now, as they set about rebuilding it and starting over again, they wanted to purify their flock. Like the sheep in the gospel story, early followers of Christ were cast out from the safety of the sheepfold. They needed new pasture and reassurance.

These God-inspired words of scripture were serving to reassure these poor cast-out sheep that Jesus was with them. He would care for them, protect them, and lead them to safety. All they had to do was continue to follow his voice to find good pasture to restore their souls. The message is clear: emphatically, Jesus is the Good Shepherd and that is what good shepherds do- they tend the flock and none who listen to His voice will be lost. *'Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.'*

Jesus is the true Good Shepherd but, can you or I be good shepherds; must we be good shepherds?

If we ponder the role of a spouse, a parent, an employer, a teacher, a religious, a priest, then we can come to realize that all these roles call for an imitation of the Good Shepherd. We are all, at one time or another, cast in the role of shepherd or sheep. If called to shepherd, we must model the Good Shepherd. Only when we live the life of a sheep can we really appreciate the role of a good shepherd.

We are all sheep to the Good Shepherd, Jesus. As Pope Francis has pointed out: to be good shepherds we must, like Jesus did on so many occasions, live with the smell of the sheep on us- spend time in the pasture.

We cannot fulfill the roles listed above by lording it over those to whom we shepherd. We must live and breathe what they live and breathe. We must encounter them and care for them as they struggle with their trials and difficulties; with those thieves and bandits trying to steal them away from the fold. We must be one with them. When we look at them we must see Jesus; and we must pray that when they look at us they see Jesus. Our second reading reminds us that Jesus died for us so that we *'might live for righteousness.'*

This is also Vocations Sunday. We are asked to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and to pray for those priests presently serving us as good shepherds. Today, the numbers of these ordained shepherds are in sharp decline. Today, the sheepfold is under spiritual bombardment. From where comes our help? The Holy Spirit has emblazoned many of the sheep. Some who are sheep in the sheepfold are being called to leadership roles to help alleviate the shortage of clergy and to counteract societal thievery and the devil's alluring trickery. Good shepherds are urgently needed. Thank God many are responding positively, but many more, including you, are needed.

Pope Francis points out that those who find themselves drawn to God with a desire to follow Jesus *'discover within themselves an irrepressible desire to bring the Good News to their brothers and sisters through proclamation of the Good News and through the service of charity.'* He goes on to say that *'we need men and women touched and transformed by the joy of God's love who cannot keep this experience just to ourselves.'*

Want to be a good shepherd? Let's ask ourselves this question: who are the sheep of today?

Well, here is a partial list: you, me, lesbian and gay people, the divorced, the liberals, the conservatives, the nones (those who claim no religion), the teens, the impoverished, the mentally ill, the hungry, the lonely, the refugees, and yes, the Anglicans, the Pentecostals, the Catholics, maybe even your friend, even your enemy too.

The pastures are filled with lost sheep, the sheepfold is under attack, the wolves are at the gates eager for the easy kill. Where are the good shepherds? The altar call this week cries out for our YES, send me.

# Sacred Heart Parish

## **A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ**



### **Parish Information**

**Parish Administrator:** Fr. Don Leonard

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

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

465 Curling Street

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Fax: (709) 785-5025

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday 4:30pm, Sunday 11:00 am

**Reconciliation:** Wednesday after Mass, or by request

**Mass During the Week:** Wed, Thurs at 7:00 pm, Friday at 10 am

**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:** Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

**May 7, 2017**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS** (April 29, 30)

Collection	2114.25
Bldg. Fund	50.00
Parish Insurance	10.00
Votive Candles	57.60
Mass Stipends	10.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

May 8	No Mass
May 9	No Mass
May 10	William Barker
May 11	In Thanksgiving
May 12	Special Intention

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS** (May 13, 14)

<b>READERS</b>	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>
<b>Joan Penney</b>	<b>Joanne Hackett, Tony Griffin</b>
<b>Carol Reid</b>	<b>Joanne Connolly</b>
<i>Communion to the Sick</i>	<i>Tony Griffin</i>
Don Gallant	Elizabeth Carew, Brian Sparkes
Dennis Bruce	Doreen Jones

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

This weekend those children who have been prepared will make their First Confession. Please pray for these young boys and girls that God may be their source of constant forgiveness.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Just a reminder that we do not have any Mass Intentions at present. We encourage you to request Masses for loved ones.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Emily Marie Noseworthy was baptized at our church on Sunday. We wish God’s continued blessings upon her and her parents. Our prayers go with you.

**CHALICE DONATION**

We thank Pat and Christine Moore who have donated a chalice in memory of Doris Moore.

**PASTORAL PLANNING**

The Diocese has sent us another questionnaire. Its purpose is for parishes to re-evaluate their vitality.

How are things going, what changes are taking place, how can we make our parish more vibrant and active? Copies of this questionnaire have been given to Parish Council members and will be discussed at our May meeting.

**In mid-May, we will have our General Parish Meeting.** At that time, we will consider the health of our parish. To allow your full participation in this meeting, copies of the questionnaire are available at the back. Please take one, answer the questions from your point of view. Then, come to our Parish Meeting and share your thoughts.

**PARISH BINGO**

Our next bingo is **Sunday, May 7 at 2 pm** in the school cafeteria. Please mark the date and come support this venture.

**SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPER**

Our Ladies Group will be hosting a soup and sandwich supper in the school cafeteria on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> after mass for \$8 per person. Soup and Sandwich Sign-up Sheet (*say that ten times fast!*) is at the rear of the Church.

**VARIETY CONCERT**

We will be hosting a variety concert on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart School. Entertainment will begin at 7:30pm.

**SPRING SUPPER & CONCERT**

Our Sister Parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea in Benoit’s Cove, is hosting a cold plate supper and concert featuring The Griffins and Local Guests, on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Supper tickets are \$12 or concert only is \$3 at the door. Tickets are available at our parish office. Come out and support our neighbors with some “Cold Plates & Hot Tunes!”

**BIBLE STUDY**

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening, May 8 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in ‘breaking open the Word.’

**SUMMER STUDENT**

The Parish has been approved for a summer student position for 7 weeks by the Federal

Government Summer Employment program. Work, which primarily is digital input, begins in late June.

**MAINTENANCE PERSON**

Still no one has come forward seeking this position. It requires working 50 hours per month and being open to working hours in accordance with our Mass schedule. Is there anyone interested? Please contact the Office.

**PURCHASE OF DEFIBRILLATORS FOR CHURCHES**

Knights of Columbus will be holding a giant merchandise bingo to raise funds for the purchase of defibrillators for Holy Redeemer, All Hallows, and Sacred Heart, and Our Lady Star of the Sea Parishes. We are asking parishioners to help by donating prizes, either merchandise or monetary. The bingo will take place at Immaculate Heart of Mary School on **Tuesday, May 9th at 8 pm**. Please contact Bill Peddle (639-9900), Maurice McDonald (634-6000), Garry Parsons (632-2231), or Mike Leonard (634-3261).

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**

Thank you for your donation this week. The Society is still looking for new members. And there is a need for used furniture. Call: 638-9010 for more information.

**CASH DRAW TICKET FUNDRAISER**

Our Ladies Group is now selling tickets on a prize of \$1000! Tickets are \$1 and the winner will be drawn on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Please take some to sell to your friends. And to show support for our parish

**K of C Scholarship**

The deadline for applying for the Knights scholarship is **May 31**. Any student graduating from high school this year is eligible. For information see the K of C website.

**GOOD SHEPHERD QUOTES**

*‘It takes some of us a lifetime to learn that Christ, our Good Shepherd, knows exactly what He is doing with us. He understands us perfectly.’*  
***‘Is not our Lord as meek and humble in the***

***Blessed Sacrament as He was during His life on earth? Is He not always the Good Shepherd, the Divine Consoler, the Changeless Friend? Happy the soul that knows how to find Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, and in the Eucharist all things!’***

**OUR LADIES GROUP WILL BE RECITING THE ROSARY BEFORE MASS EACH SATURDAY IN MAY @4:10 PM**

**MONTH OF MARY**

May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom and we start thinking about planting gardens, family outings, and making vacation plans. It’s also the Month of Mary. It is a time of recitation of the Rosary and novenas to her. We do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone’s mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.

**CANADA HEALTH DAY, May 12**

This Friday marks National Health Day here in Canada. The day marks the birthday of Florence Nightingale a remarkable woman whose contributions to public health will not be forgotten. The day reminds us we are responsible for our personal health. It is an essential part of our baptismal vocation. We must care for our physical, emotional, social, and spiritual health.

**JESUS PRAYER**

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

