

**REFLECTION for Third Sunday in Lent 2017**

**Fr. Don**

*‘ Everyone who drinks of the living water... will never be thirsty.’*

The Biblical stories of the life-sustaining water flowing from a rock at Meribah and Massah, of a drink of ‘living waters’ from Jesus to the woman at Jacob’s well, and of Spirit-blessed love being ‘poured into our hearts’ should help prepare us for our journeys. Water is essential for life; for our bodily functions.

We may say that we thirst for relationship, for money, for health, or for power. But the real natural truth is that no matter what we thirst for in the metaphoric sense, if we get bodily thirsty, then that thirst will take precedence; witness the Israelites of our reading Our body’s basic needs trumps any social, psychological, or spiritual need. Remember the time when Jesus hung on the cross dying, the human Savior cried out for water.

God provides water for our bodily needs; and God also provides water for our spiritual needs.

Our base need for water will never be fully satiated. We will always be thirsting for water- cool spring water to drink will delight us, as well as refresh and enliven us. That’s why water is so essential for Baptism.

However, today, Jesus offers the woman at the well, and each of us, ‘living waters’- a metaphor for the life-giving Spirit of God. These waters are poured deep in the reservoir in our soul. It is filled and ready to sustain us, but the faucet is inside us, awaiting activation. Once we turn it on, copious quantities of this living water will nourish and refresh us; filling us with graces and blessings, and thus equipping us for the journey.

Doubt and fear are very powerful negative forces. All hope, joy, peace and faith, flee before them. St. Paul tells us that hope does not disappoint us. God’s love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. We also know that Christ died for us, even though we had done nothing to deserve it and were in fact still sinners.

What greater love can there be? But often we don’t get it. We cannot believe in the unconditional nature of God’s love; we look for the catch, the cost. It’s too good to be true, it’s too simple. Let us look at an example.

The Samaritan woman was an outcast, marked as immoral, an unmarried woman living openly with the sixth in a series of men. She was looked down upon by her own people. She was just what Jesus required to show us his desire to save the ‘poor in spirit.’

To be wanted, to be cared for when no one, not even herself, could see anything of value in her; this is grace indeed. We all crave it, we all are searching for it, we look here, look there, but it remains elusive.

But the Good News is that it can be found in the person of Jesus. He seeks to encounter us on our journey, to re-orient our lives, to call us to conversion. In short, He wants us to become children of God, his brother, his sister. This was His message to that woman at the well; and through her example His message to us.

Jesus gives Living Water; really that is the work His Father had asked Him to accomplish. For it ‘flows’ from God the Father through God the Son. The woman teaches us that accept Jesus as Lord and Savior and that salvation comes only to those who confess and repent of their sin and desire forgiveness.

A bit after today’s scripture passage, Jesus says the Living Water will flow from His Heart when He fulfils what was prophesied when Moses struck the rock. Later, John will tell us how he saw Jesus on the Cross bow His Head and hand over the Spirit, and how he saw the flow of Blood and Water, Living Water, from His side.

By this Paschal Mystery, Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit, who pours into our hearts the Divine Love. Like He did with that women, Jesus is willing to share Himself us. Lord, give us this Living Water always.

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

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

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

**Stations of the Cross:** Friday evenings at 7 pm during Lent

**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.

**March 19, 2017**

**The Third Sunday in Lent**

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS** (Mar 4, 5)

Collection	916.00
Votive Candles	94.00
Mass Stipends	60.00
In Memorium	220.00
Bibles	30.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Mar 20	No Mass
Mar 21	Irene Rumboldt
Mar 22	Edna Power
Mar 23	Bill Carroll
Mar 24	Bernadette & Anthony George
Mar 25	John McCarty & Linda Elkins
Mar 26	Parish Community

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS** (March 25,26)

**READERS**                      **EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Joan Penney	Eileen Moore, Marie Byrne,
Lynette Taylor	John Carroll
<u>Communion to Sick</u>	<u>John Carroll</u>
Maureen George	Barbara Neville, Calvin Gillis
Jerome Dicks	Donna Mitchell

**SINCERE SYMPATHY**

The parish community expresses condolences to the families of **Elizabeth (Betty) Caines** and **Genevieve Wheeler** who died this week. We will keep them in our prayers.

**STATION OF THE CROSS**

Please join us on **Friday evening March 24, 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

**BIBLE STUDY**

The group will next meet in the Chapel on **Monday evening March 20 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in ‘breaking open the Word of God’ as found in the Gospels.

**EXPOSITION and BENEDICTION**

We will celebrate this traditional Liturgy on

**Thursday Mar 23** and again on **Thursday Mar 30** immediately following our 7 pm Mass.

Please try to come to Mass and then spent some time before the Blessed Sacrament. It is a good way to spend time during Lent.

**OUR NEXT YOUTH MASS**

This will take place at our 11 am Sunday Mass on April 2. Again, we hope to have our young people perform the various liturgical ministries- Lectors, Offertory Procession, Cross and Candle Bearers., Ushers/ Collectors, and, if we can, Eucharistic Ministers. We are hoping that some of our youth in the late teens or twenties will come forward to become Eucharistic Ministers. If some would like to join the Choir, they are welcome.

**NEXT PARISH BINGO**

Our next game is this Sunday, March 19 at 2 pm in the cafeteria at the School. Please support this entertaining fund-raiser.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY and OUR PARISH**

Our Ladies Group are preparing home-cooked meals to feed the volunteers working to build the Home on Petries St. This little act of kindness is this parish’s way of participating in this worthwhile project. BTW, Qualipu First Nation helped us with this project by donating the meat used for the meals. The Ladies are adding the rest and serving a hot meal when needed. It is our thank-you to the men and women who are giving of their time to provide a home for those in need. It is also an example of many hands co-operating to build not only a Home, but building the Kingdom of God here in Curling.

**FOOD BANK COLLECTION**

This notice will serve as a reminder to you to try to bring a food item to Mass with you. There is a collection box at the back in which to put them. There is a list of preferred items posted as well. Remember, alms-giving is a Lenten priority.

**ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE**

During February, they made 14 home visits, meeting 14 adults and 5 children. 1 hospital visit. There were 66 volunteer hours involved. Mary's Kitchen served 100 adults and 4 children and had 60 volunteer hours. They also delivered a number of beds, tables, and other household furniture and effects. They spent \$1230.00 during the month. They are presently in need of good used furniture, especially beds, sofas, and tables.

Please consider helping them.

Call: 638-9010 for more information

**LENTEN SCRIPTURE SERIES – Week 4**

This is offered at 7 pm on each Friday in Lent at- All Hallows Church Basement. Fr. White will be giving a weekly study of Holy Scripture. Sessions will be about 45 minutes – snacks provided  
Topic: Job – The Question of Suffering

**BRIEF HISTORY OF SACRED HEART PARISH**

A year or so ago, Tom Collier put together this history. He presented it to the Parish in a binder. It contains some printed material and some pictures. We are placing it in the Chapel, on a table, for viewing. Please feel free to go in to take a look. But do not remove any, or all. of it.

**FOURTH DEGREE:**

Bishop O' Reilly Assembly will meet on Tuesday at All Hallows Parish starting at 8:00 p.m. All Sir Knights are asked to attend.

**Daffodil Days Campaign Volunteers Needed**

The Canadian Cancer Society is holding its annual Daffodil Days Campaign this year from April 7th to April 15th. During Daffodil Days, volunteers will be selling daffodils for \$8.00 a bunch at outlet locations in Corner Brook. For more information, please contact Agnes McCarthy 634-5687 or Sarah Neil 757-8536.

**PSALM 95 and us**

*O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen all my work.*

The Chosen People resisted and tested the Lord. Do we do the same? Do we argue and pout when God sends trials and tribulations our way? Recall instances in your life when you did this. Ask Jesus for the ‘living waters’ that he gave to the Samaritan woman at the Jacob’s well.

**BISHOP HUNDT IN ROME**

The bishops of the Atlantic region are making their official **Ad limina** visit to the Vatican. They will be meeting with Pope Francis on Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup> and will be visiting the different Congregations and Pontifical Councils throughout the week of March 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for God’s blessings upon the travel and visits of our Bishops to Rome.

**JESUS’ LAST WORDS**

This Lenten study suggestion is available on our website [www.sacredheartrcparish.ca](http://www.sacredheartrcparish.ca).

**CASH DRAW TICKET FUNDRAISER**

Keep an eye out for tickets! This upcoming draw is being put on by our Ladies Group, and will have a cash prize of \$1000!

**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.***