

Reflection for the Second Sunday in Lent

Pope Francis' words on MERCY:

"I desire mercy, and not sacrifice" (Mt 9:13). The mystery of divine mercy is revealed in the history of the covenant between God and his people Israel. God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion. God plays the role of the betrayed father or husband, while Israel plays the unfaithful child or bride. This love story culminates in the incarnation of God's Son. In Christ, the Father pours forth his boundless mercy even to making him "Mercy Incarnate."

As a man, Jesus of Nazareth is a true son of Israel; he embodies the words of the Shema, which today too is the heart of God's covenant with Israel: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." The Son of God does everything to win over the love of his people to whom he is bound by an unconditional love.

This is the very heart of the apostolic preaching, in which divine mercy holds a central and fundamental place. It is "the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead", that first proclamation which "we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment".

Mercy "expresses God's way of reaching out to the sinner, offering a new chance to look within, to convert, and to believe".

In Jesus crucified, God shows his desire to draw near to sinners, however far they may have strayed from him. In this way He hopes to soften the hardened heart of His people.

God's mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbour and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls *the spiritual and corporal works of mercy*.

These works of mercy remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbours in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged? For this reason, I expressed my hope that "the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty of spirit, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor in spirit have a special experience of God's mercy."

In the poor of spirit, the flesh of Christ "becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us." It is the scandalous mystery of the suffering of the Innocent Lamb, the burning bush of gratuitous love. Before this love, we can, like Moses, take off our sandals, especially when the poor are our brothers or sisters in Christ who are suffering for their faith.

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 7 pm

Holy Hour of Adoration:
Third Sunday of each Month
2:00 p.m.

Reconciliation
Wed after Mass,
or by request

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

Baptisms:
Celebrated at Weekend Mass
after preparation session.

February 21, 2016
The Second Sunday in Lent

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

Feb. 13 & 14

Collection	\$ 1,442.45
Building Fund	10.00
Mass stipends	50.00
Votive Candles	80.00
Catholic Missions/ Canada	680.25

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 22	No Mass
Feb 23	No Mass
Feb 24	Catherine Dales/Margaret O’Keefe
Feb 24 also	Thomas Griffin
Feb 25	No Mass
Feb 26	No Mass
Feb 27	Ada Myles/Josephine Green
Feb 28	Parish Community

WELCOME

Fr. Terry Boland has graciously offered to fill-in at our parish while the pastor is away. Fr. Boland will celebrate **the Weekend Masses and a Mass each Wednesday evening at 7 pm.**

DRAMATIC WAY OF THE CROSS

Once again this year St. Stephen’s Parish in Stephenville is offering this presentation. It will take place in their church at 7 pm on Friday Mar. 18. A free-will offering will be taken at the entrance.

2015 TAX RECEIPTS

These receipts are now available. Please check at the back of the church or contact the parish office during business hours.

BIBLES AND CATECHISMS

The Parish has received the shipment of 20 **NRSV Bibles** (that is the version we use at church). Every Catholic home should have a Bible and a Catechism- treat them as coffee-table books- always on display and available to be read and/or referenced (out in the open and not elsewhere gathering dust). The Bibles, which are large print, cost \$25 each. If you are interested in buying one for your home (or your children’s home), John has a few available at the back of the church.

CATECHISMS

We have 20 copies now available. The cost for these is \$20.00 each. Please see John Carroll or call the office if you wish to buy one. If the need exists, we will order more copies of each book.

WEEKLY SESSIONS HONORING MARY

The last in our four-week series of presentations focusing on Holy Mary, Mother of God, and the Rosary will take place on Sunday evening at 7 pm in the parish house. Each session will be an hour or so long. It features Prayer, Hymns, a 15 min DVD on Mary’s role in salvation history, and recitation of the Scriptural Rosary. Of course a tea/coffee social is included

BIBLE STUDY

Since several attendees will be away for the next few weeks it has been decided to stop meeting until Monday afternoon, March 7

at 3 pm. It will be in the parish house. Please consider joining us for a time of scriptural sharing. This is an initiative of the parish in celebration of the Year of Mercy.

DIOCESAN MASS OF CHRISM

This Mass will be celebrated at **St. Stephens Parish in Stephenville on Wednesday Mar 16 at 7pm.** We need parish representation, other than the priest, to be present to receive the Blessed Oils. Let us know if you can do this for the parish.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Great news! Tell your friends! Bring them! Our Parish is offering a **Lenten Mission here each evening from Saturday Mar 12 through to Monday Mar 14.** Fr. Bill Pearce, a friend of Fr. Don, will lead this mission. At this same time, Fr. Don will lead a mission at St. Joseph’s in Gander, Fr. Bill’s parish. The Mercy of God will be the key-note of both missions. More details will follow.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will commence on Tuesday, Feb. 23, from 6:30-7:30 pm. and will take place in the Church. Registration Forms should be completed and brought along, if they have not already been submitted. [Julia]

50th ANNIVERSARY OF D & P

To celebrate this 2017 event, Development and Peace has initiated a 50th Anniversary Quilt Project Pilgrimage. On Feb. 28, 2016 Bishop Hundt will preside at the 10:30 am.

Mass at the Cathedral where the quilt patch from our diocese will be on display, along with those from the Archdiocese of St. John’s and the Diocese of Grand falls. These will be forwarded to add with patches from various dioceses across our country, to complete the project. Please join us in appreciation of Development and Peace.

Stations of the Cross

The Ladies Group will be doing the Stations of the Cross following Saturday evening Masses during Lent. You are encouraged to remain after Mass and take part in this service.

MEETING

The Ladies Group will be holding their next meeting on Monday, Feb. 29, at 7 pm. in the parish house. New members are always welcome to join or drop by & check it out.

“WE KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SEDUCED BY MONEY, FAME AND POWER. FOR THIS REASON, THE CHURCH GIVES US THE GIFT OF THIS LENTEN SEASON, INVITES US TO CONVERSION, OFFERING BUT ONE CERTAINTY; HE IS WAITING FOR US AND WANTS TO HEAL OUR HEARTS OF ALL THAT TEARS US DOWN.” Pope Francis, during his visit to Mexico. Read more at catholiconline.

PRAYER FOR YEAR of MERCY

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