

REFLECTION for First Sunday in Lent 2017

Fr. Don

Google 'wilderness experience' and we find this: A 'wilderness experience' is thought of as a tough time in which a believer endures discomfort and trials. It is a time of intensified temptation and spiritual attack. It is not necessarily a sign that a believer is sinning; rather, it is a time of God-ordained testing. It is often linked to a 'mountaintop experience'; that is, the struggle is followed by a success of some kind.

What are some concrete examples of wilderness experiences? Well, here are three:

A wife has just come from her doctor. The medical tests she had done confirm her worst fears. She has terminal cancer and only months to live. Her pain has intensified, her sleepless nights are more frequent, and now she knows why. She embarks on her 'wilderness experience.' Life or death hangs in the balance.

A middle-aged man who has had the same good-paying job for twenty-five years is handed a pink-slip. His services are no longer required. Is he too old to start over? He must go home and tell his family. He embarks on his 'wilderness experience.' A future of failure or success hangs in the balance.

Most of us will have that intrusion, that explosion, that life-changing tough time, in our life when we will have to embark on our 'wilderness experience.' Though not appreciated or awaited, it is an experience that is indeed a life lesson. And like all life lessons, the how-to manual is the Bible, the Word of God.

From where comes help for that wife, for that man, and for us? 'Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.' Jesus has been there, Jesus has triumphed, and shown us the Way; He says 'follow me, take my hand. In today's Gospel, Jesus is about to begin his ministry among the Jewish people. He realizes that he will be rejected, crucified, and hung upon a cross to die. Knowing the reason why 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us', he embarks on his 'wilderness experience.' The Way, the Truth, and the Life realizes that humanity's life (*salvation*) or death (*damnation*) hangs in the balance.

The wily Devil prowls in all wilderness experiences. He knows that it is in these times that we are most vulnerable; he anticipates that our guard will be down and he can negotiate with us. He did it to Jesus, and we are not Jesus. He sees in us 'easy-pickings.' He will promise the easy way out. He can do this because he knows he does not have to deliver; he just wants our souls. In our confused and weakened state, he hopes to win us to his way; not God's way. He wants us to forsake God's will for his will.

As we stand a little beyond the threshold on another Lenten season, it is not too late. Let us remember our commitment to 'turn away from sin and to believe in the Gospel.' Yes, that is what we prayed on Ash Wednesday when we accepted the mark of the ashes on our foreheads. We committed to 'die to self and live for Jesus.' We gladly, and outwardly, expressed our conviction that we are true Christians.

True Christians know the scripture stories. We know the difference between good and evil, we know the story of Job, we know that 'like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.' We know, through the words of today's Gospel that Jesus defeated the devil. We know that, out of unconditional love for us, Jesus provides a means of fighting-off the Devil- an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us and will equip us to fend-off all devilish attacks.

Oh, he will prowl, he will seek out those he deems easy-pickings, he will relish our 'wilderness experiences, he will fill our minds with confusion, and he will try to bring us down to hell with him.

But, let us not fall into despair, not fall into sin. Let us rest assured in the victory of Jesus. Like Jesus, may we see our 'wilderness experiences' as tests. Let us repent, reaffirm our faith in Jesus, recommit our lives to Him, and go onward. Good times come and go, as do bad times. Jesus is the only constant in our lives.

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: Tues, Wed, Thurs at 7:00 pm, and 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 5, 2017

The First Sunday in Lent

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (Feb 25,26)

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| Collection | 1,550.00 |
| Bldg. Fund | 75.00 |
| Pastoral Dues | 10.00 |
| Mass Stipends | 80.00 |

MASS INTENTIONS

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| Mar 6 | No Mass |
| Mar 7 | Jack Cashin |
| Mar 8 | Terry Snow |
| Mar 9 | Robert Samms |
| Mar 10 | Brian & Thomas Griffin Sr. |
| Mar 11 | Thomas, Edith & James Hackett |
| Mar 12 | Parish Community |

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (March 11,12))

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>READERS</u> | <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u> |
| Victoria Murphy | Joanne Connolly, Joanne Hackett |
| Gen Quigley | Tony Griffin |
| <i>Communion to Sick</i> | John Carroll |
| Debra Allen | Patsy Payne, Elizabeth Carew |
| Mike Leonard | Brian Sparkes |

ATTEND WEEK-DAY MASSES FOR LENT

All during Lent, we will offer 7 pm Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and a 10 am Mass on Friday. Additionally, we offer the Stations on Friday at 7 pm. Please commit to *taking-up* the practice of attending these for Lent this year.

SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family of the late **Irene Rumboldt**. May she rest in peace.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

This is a reminder to members that we meet on

Monday March 6, at 7 pm. Please make attending a priority.

NEXT PARISH BINGO

Our next game is **this Sunday, March 5 at 2 pm** in the cafeteria at the School. Please support this entertaining fund-raiser.

STATION OF THE CROSS

Please join us on **Friday evening March 10, 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

A BIG THANKS

The Pancake Supper was delicious. All who attended had a full belly and a great time of sharing. To all who worked at the planning, preparation, and serving, we say- well done. And when is the next time?

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Sunday evening March 5 at 7 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels.

.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.

ICE PROBLEM-BEWARE

Tons of ice fell from our roof onto the path at the side of the church that we designate as handicap-accessible. So, for the next few weeks it will not be

useable. If anyone with a disability wants to come to Mass during that time, contact us before-hand, and we will accommodate you.

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP

We hope there are some among you who desire to offer your services with preparations for Mass or in some other little way. **Now is the time for we need you.** Many hands make light work There will be a meeting on **Tuesday, Mar 7 following 7 pm Mass** for those willing to help us as sacristans, servers, cleaning church linens, preparing the altar for Masses, and being week-day Mass readers, plus other duties. For those who are shy and hesitant, relax and come, most of our needs do not require you to be front and center at Mass. Training, directions, guidance, will be given. It will be a joy for you and for us. BTW, this is necessitated by John's retirement. He did mountains of work for us. Thanks John.

TABERNACLE AND SHRINE TO MARY

Both these improvements are nearing finish. We believe they will look beautiful and enhance the prayerfulness and reverence of the church. We have been asked if real flowers could be placed on either side of the tabernacle and either side of the statue of Mary. Any family who wishes to participate by donating a plant to be placed is asked to contact the Office.

ALMS-GIVING FOR LENT

There are several special monetary collections being taken for worthy causes this Lent.
-Ash Wednesday one was for Catholic Missions.
-On April 1,2, one will be taken for Share-Lent.
-On Good Friday, one will be taken for the Churches in the Holy Lands.
-on the last weekend of each month, St. Vincent de Paul Society will be taking a collection after Masses. There are envelopes at the back for this one; please take one.
ALL money collected goes to these groups.

ATTENTION K of C MEMBERS

Archbishop Howley Council will meet on Tuesday at All Hallows Parish starting at 7:45 p.m. All Brother Knights are asked to attend.

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

LENTEN SCRIPTURE SERIES – Week 2

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: The Book of Jonah – Reluctant Spirituality

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.

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.