

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

**Fr. Don**

*'Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.'*

What is the importance of Mass? Why go to Mass? Why is the Mass structured to highlight the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist? Why is it important to listen intently to the Word as it is proclaimed? Why do we reverently enter the Communion line to receive the Body and Blood of Christ?

Well, to reference the scripture verse above, because *'Jesus has come near'* and we wish to recognize Him. Our Easter proclamation is that Jesus is our Christ, our Lord and our God. He deserves glory, honor, and praise. Our attendance at Mass is our opportunity, to join with members of our faith community, for a sacred encounter with Jesus. We seek to avoid spiritual blindness- we know Jesus asked us to gather in his name.

Today's Gospel about the two disciples on the road to Emmaus teaches us this lesson explicitly.

In many ways, those two disciples are just like you and me. They are normal folk (some say they were a married couple) filled with hopes, dreams, and expectations of living good decent lives. They know they need assistance to achieve this goal. They heard of Jesus and his claims of being the promised Saviour, the Messiah. They are searching for help in the daily struggles. Tradition told them- *our help comes from the Lord*.

They have a story to tell us. In fact, their story is our story. When we meet them, they are in despair; they thought they had found the answer to their prayers, but, typical of life circumstances, it just didn't materialize.

Are we too living with lost hopes, frequent trials, haunting temptations, and those ever present *near-occasions-of sin*? Our lives may be jam-packed with duties, routines, and responsibilities; our minds, full of disappointments; our consciences, depressed, with sins. There seems little room for hope in all this. What can we do? Thank God, we are not in this struggle alone. Thank God for scripture wisdom- let's eavesdrop:

Despite their despair, perhaps because of it, they listened to this Teacher explain the Scriptures to them. Then, as their understanding grew, they were moved to renewed hope and said, *"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the Scriptures to us?"* See, this is proof of the power of the Word. It can bring about conversion of heart and renewed faith.

Next, they practiced hospitality. They invited the stranger into their home. They wanted more of what this stranger was offering. Be welcoming; you never know when Jesus will come in disguise- be alert.

We can have Him as a guest in our homes. We learn this first by having Him as our host, going to Church, as his guests. There, we even have the Bread broken for us, the same Bread, he left us- the Bread of Life. We don't simply look behind the Bread for him; no, we recall the Last Supper when he told us to take and eat the Bread. Then, Jesus desires that we take him home with us, and live with him there and everywhere.

The two disciples were a little more fortunate than us. They saw Jesus take, bless and break Bread, and become the risen Jesus made present to them. And, as he breaks Bread for them, their journey through the scriptures is complete. All comes together, their eyes are opened, and they see the Lord.

Isn't this a marvelous truth. Scripture is just as alive today as it was in Jesus' time. When we listen to Jesus' own words in the Gospel, he explains our stories by means of theirs. Today, it is still in the breaking of bread that we see him and come to know that all these stories, his, theirs and ours are one. We become those two disciples. Pray for the conviction to go like they did, to spread the message that 'God is in our land.'

What we learn in the Emmaus story is that the gift of Jesus works through the scriptures and the Holy Eucharist, which use memory and imagination to raise the mind, so that we understand what we are seeing: Jesus Christ offering his life in love for all people. This is the Easter Message- this is indeed Good News.

# 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.

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**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 2pm (Lohnes)

**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.

**April 30, 2017**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS** (April 22, 23)

Collection	1991.85
Bldg. Fund	5.00
Lenten Folders	535.50
Votive Candles	30.00
Mass Stipends	50.00
Development & Peace	250.00
Holy Lands	15.00
St. Vincent de Paul	30.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

May 1	No Mass
May 2	No Mass
May 3	Paul & Alice Murphy
May 4	Fr. St. Croix
May 5	Intentions Rita Hall/John Mendes
May 6	Mary Russell
May 7	Parish Community

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS** (May 6, 7)

**READERS**                      **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Basil English	Frank Lewis, Gerard Brake
Matthew English	Shirley Noseworthy
<u>Communion to the Sick</u>	Gerard Brake
<b>Wayne Dicks</b>	<b>Hedy Kenny, Barbara Neville</b>
<b>Amelia Dicks</b>	<b>Patsy Payne</b>

**MASS INTENTIONS**

For your information, Sunday Mass is to be offered for our parish community. Masses for private intentions are celebrated the rest of the week. Even so, our private intentions for Saturday are repeated in our Intercessions on Sunday morning. Just a reminder that we do not have any Mass Intentions at present. We encourage you to request Masses for loved ones.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Members are reminded that we will meet on **Monday May 1 at 7 pm** in the Chapel Room. Discussion of the Pastoral Planning Questions is one item on the agenda.

**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.

We would like to thank the following for contributing prizes for our April Bingo: Kelly Adey, Debbie Allen, Mike Basha, Donna Beales, Evelyn Beales, Diane Bennett, Sharon Bennett, Marjorie Blanchard, Colleen Boland, Cathy Bolt, Bill Brake, Dorothy Brake, Leila Brake, Mary Brake, Michelle Brake, Regina Brake, W.C. Brake, Eileen Buckle, Karen Buckle, Sandy Buckle, Nora Burton, Hilda Butt, Marie Byrne, Roberta Canning, Cathy Carroll, Marina Cashin, Mary Louise Cashin, Joanne Connolly, Helen Cook, Lynn Coombs, Lena Curnell, Gertrude Daye, Barbara Dicks, Theresa Dobbin, Vivian Donahue, Rosemarie Doody, Edna Dwyer, Madonna Elford, Christine Jewer, Gail Leggo, Mary Park, Jim Park, Genevieve Park, Veronica Stone.

**BIBLE STUDY**

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Sunday evening, April 30 at 7 pm.** We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION**

This is Volunteer Appreciation Week. We have many, each essential, here in our parish. They do everything from celebrate Mass to cleaning the floors and taking out the garbage. No task is too large or too menial; all tasks are vital in the successful operation of our parish. Thank you to

all. Let us continue to offer our services in thanksgiving for God's goodness to us.

**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 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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our Ladies Group is in need of volunteers to sell tickets at various location around town. Please contact Veronica Stone (639-7216).

**ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES**

This is a global Catholic prayer event. It is scheduled for **May 5, 6 and 7.** Participation in this multinational pro-life prayer event involves praying at least one Rosary for an end to abortion and people can participate from wherever they are at the time. Please join in the effort.

**VOCATIONS SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Next **Sunday, May 7,** there will be a special collection for ecclesiastical students. The money collected will be used to help support Vocation Ministry as well as for the ongoing education of the priests serving in our diocese. This collection is held annually on the fourth Sunday of Easter, a day when all Catholics are encouraged to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Archbishop Howley Council will meet on Tuesday May 2nd at All Hallows starting at 7:45 p.m. All Brother Knights are asked to attend.

**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.

**SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER- MAY 1**

To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. This silent saint, who was given the noble task of caring and watching over the Virgin Mary and Jesus, now cares for and watches over the Church and models for all the dignity of human work.

**JESUS PRAYER**

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