

### **REFLECTION for Christmas 2016**

**Fr. Don**

*'Today is born our Savior, He is Christ the Lord.'* This is the gist of the Good News. God, out of great love for us, has been born as a living breathing human being. Jesus, who had only *divine nature*, has taken on our *human nature*. The Word became flesh, like us, and this has made all the difference.

*'Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.'* Yes, for the faithful, God now dwells among us; indeed, God-is-with-us. A baby is born whose destiny is to save fallen humanity.

This salvific act, if we allow it to penetrate our hearts and souls, can potentially changed each of our lives forever. Nothing or nobody can separate us from the love of God except ourselves. In joy and sorrow, in light or dark, in laughter or tears, Jesus is our Advocate, our Helper. Jesus is so close, indeed, He is within.

This is true, if we believe in Jesus and all His Holy Name denotes. Jesus is the Reason for this Season. Humanity awaited the coming of the promised Messiah for thousands of years. And then, in a stable in Bethlehem, the promise was fulfilled. *'O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by, yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.'*

Just think about all the hymns, the prayers, and the practices, that have arisen over the past two thousand years. Imagine the faith of our ancestors down through the years; imagine the joy they experienced. Christmas meant something special to them; it was a holy time; it was a family time. It was *'the most wonderful time of the year.'* It was *'the night of our dear Savior's birth.'*

Does this Christmas spirit still cause a flutter in our hearts? Do we still celebrate Christmas with gusto; or has the Grinch stolen it from us? Would our loved ones, now looking down upon us from Heaven, approve of our modern approach to this joyous Season?

Imagine the many times that they sang these joyful songs. Imagine one of them singing this when you were an infant: *'I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.'*

More than any other time of the year, Jesus is calling to us. Come home, come home, He calls.

This Christmas can be our opportunity to accept Jesus as our Savior, to accept Jesus as our Lord and God. We could join in this chorus sang by so many down through the ages: *'O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'til He appeared and the soul felt it's worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.'* Yes, *'fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices.'* Christmas is packed with hope and promise.

Here's a Family activity: Google the song Christmas in the Trenches, and listen to it. It tells of the tradition of the Christmas cease-fire during WW1. For a few hours, they would stop fighting and, in quiet, celebrate Christ's birth. But the song tells us that one side (the Germans) began singing Silent Night, then the other side joined them. Soon, soldiers from both sides were singing and celebrating together in No Mans Land. For that night in those few hours for those men, there was peace on earth and good-will towards man. And that is what Christmas means still- humanity allowing the Divine Power, Love, and Mercy, of God to break-through into our world. It is allowing God to reign in our lives. God bless us.

# 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.

465 Curling Street

Corner Brook, NL A2H 3K8

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Fax: (709) 785-5025

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

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

**Mass During the Week:** Wednesday at 7pm, Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Friday 10 am

**Holy Hour of Adoration:** Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church

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

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

**December 25, 2016**

**The Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ**

<b>RECEIVED WITH THANKS</b>	Dec. 17, 18
Collection	1849.20
Bldg. Fund	10.00
Votive Candles	46.00
Dues	150.00
Windows	65.00
Mass Stipends	260.00
In memory of Mary Russell	30.00
In memory of Wm & Lucy Whelan	290.00
Calendars	145.00
Flowers	30.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Dec 26	No Mass
Dec 27	No Mass
Dec 28	Wm and Ada Myles
Dec 29	Mary Russell
Dec 30+	Intention of Regina Vardy
Dec 30	Gallant & Quigley Family
Dec 31	Michael, Ada, Lawrence, Reanie George
Jan 1	Parish Community

**MINISTERS** (Dec 31, Jan 1)

<b>READERS</b>	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>
Victoria Murphy	Joan Penney, Eileen Moore,
Linda Tarbett	Marie Byrne
Joan Penney	- <i>Communion Minister to the Sick</i>

Wayne Dicks	Donna Mitchell, Margaret Dalley
Amelia Dicks	Donna Eldridge

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

God has been good to our parish. So, this Christmas we wish to express our gratitude to Jesus for inspiring all of you to support and improve life for all of us who call ourselves members of Sacred Heart Parish.

**ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT**

Due to bad weather and personal commitments,

these sessions have now been postponed until mid-January. Please watch for further details and come enrich your Catholic faith.

**BIBLE STUDY**

The group will next meet in the Parish house on Monday evening Jan. 2 at 7 pm. We encourage newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels. We also break open a fine lunch afterwards.

**CALLING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

The time for action has arrived. We are calling to you. We are planning to offer a Youth Mass on the last weekend of February. To do this, we require our young people to participate. At this Mass, they will take the lead in the many ministry roles. *We have some more good news.* In March, NET Ministries will spend some time working with youth in our parish. These are a group of 10 young adults from across Canada whose ministry is to visit parishes to fill other youth with zeal for Jesus and to provide ways and means for them to be active in parish life.

**PARISH POT-LUCK SOCIAL**

This social was recently cancelled because of bad weather. Now it is scheduled for **Ole Christmas Day, next Friday Jan 6.** It will take place at the School cafeteria beginning at 6 pm. Come join us in saying goodbye to Christmas. Mummers and musicians will be allowed in.

**APPRECIATION SOCIALS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS**

We want to show our appreciation to our Parish Council and Finance Committee members, our many Liturgical Ministers, our Choirs, and members of other Parish groups. One way to do this is to offer them an evening with a meal and a social gathering. It is planned to do this early in

January. This is notice to all our volunteers- let us know some possible convenient dates.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

To assist those in need - 638-9010

**A CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen

**Habitat for Humanity**

Volunteers are also needed to provide meals- lunch & snacks- for the workers on this project. It is suggested that 2-3 people get together to prepare enough food for 15 workers. If you are interested in helping, contact Madonna English at 634-5141. You can view the meal schedule at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/enw70y>

**UPDATE ON OUR WINDOWS**

We wish to thank you for your generosity. Donations were received that nearly covered the total cost of replacing all of them. We are now working to have all the plaques ready to be placed. Soon, you will see samples of them and then we will install them on the windows.

**SOLEMNITY of MARY, the MOTHER of GOD**

On January 1, the Church celebrates this Feast Day. This is the highest title of the Blessed Virgin Mary and was given to her at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. and is the oldest feast of Mary celebrated by the Catholic Church. In the

Canadian Church, it is a Holy Day of Obligation, which means that Mass attendance is required.

**FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY**

On Friday, December 30th, the Church celebrates this Feast. It is usually celebrated on the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas. However, when there is no Sunday between Christmas Day and New Year's Day, as is the case this year, the Church celebrates this feast on Friday, December 30th. The primary purpose of the Church in establishing this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS**

In preparation for the arrival of a new calendar year, many people make these, looking to improve themselves in some way. Why not include a resolution to improve your relationship with God? Resolve to talk to God more often. In the morning, thank Him and ask for His help in getting through the day. Before you eat, thank Him for the food you have and those that you're sharing it with. When you go to work or to class, offer your efforts asking Him to help you do your best. Before sleeping, thank Him for the day. This is praying ceaselessly.

**THANK YOU**

We wish to thank John Boland and his workers for making a priority of the electrical repair of our church outdoor lights this week in time for Christmas. You will notice that the Parking Lot is now better lit. Please watch your step.

**JESUS PRAYER**

**Jesus, have mercy upon us; we are sinners seeking divine redemption only you can give.**