

REFLECTION for Fifth Sunday of Easter 2017

Fr. Don

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.'

Today's Gospel reading is one of the most popular of all time. It exudes warmth and assuring hope. What memories arise in your mind when you read it? For me, it emits smells, sounds, and recalls images of comfort and coziness. It sends us back to our family roots and points us ahead to our vision of blissful heaven.

My parent's home was on Allen's Road. It was so heartening to know that there was a place that always greeted me. When hungry for mom's home-cooking, it was there. When the need for understanding, advice, or direction arose, it was there. Whenever and whatever, it was there.

It was an oasis, a refuge, a home away from home. It was there that dwelled boundless unconditional love, mercy, compassion, and hope. It was truly other-worldly. It was a 'safe harbor' from life's storms.

Now, only in fond memories exists my fathers' (mother's) house. That house is gone; but faith tells me that one just like it, perhaps even more welcoming, awaits. Yes, because of experiences in that earthly house, I believe in the hope and consolation found in the words of today's Gospel. I believe there exists *My Father's House*, as in God the Father, and there, in that heavenly home, a room is reserved for me. And there, I can dwell forever and ever. There await my loved ones, there awaits eternal bliss. There awaits the Beatific Vision.

Of all the promises made to us by Jesus, the promise of heaven seems most assuring. Let's meditate on this.

Life here on earth is chockfull of challenges- there are days of joy, there are days of trial, there are days of sorrow, there are days of pain and suffering, there are days of temptation, and there are days that test us to the point of breaking. And inevitably, there will come a day when we take our last breath. Then what?

Well, for non-believers, there is nothing. Life for them ends with death. To them, we are living a delusion.

But we say that they are wrong. We say that for the true Christian, there awaits the fulfillment of our hope for eternal life. As Easter People, as people who have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we believe in heaven.

We believe that there exists a new and everlasting life that is full of joy, happiness, and peace. There, we will find no pain, no suffering, no heart-ache, and no sorrow. There, in the room which Jesus has gone to prepare for us, exists life beyond our wildest dreams. We say to non-believers, we have chosen the better part.

But, as our two other readings remind us, we are not there yet. That House is still only a hope. While we *live, and move, and have our being*, there is work to be done here on earth. We must love God and love our neighbor to the best of our ability. How are we to accomplish this? Like the Christians in the first century church, we are called to perform 'works of mercy' for our brothers and sisters. We must see them as God's children and care for them. Like us, they are precious in the eyes of God. Like us, they require assistance.

Because *Jesus has called us out of darkness into His own wonderful light*, we must *become 'living stones' being built into a spiritual house, we must become a holy priesthood*. Rightly, we perceive this as a daunting task; not one for the faint of heart. From where will come the strength, courage, and conviction, to begin?

As always, our help will come from the Lord. Our faith is living and active. Our vocation is to save souls. It begins with saving our own, then we are sent forward to aid in the work of helping others save their souls.

Remember the prize: the Father's House with many dwelling places. There is a promise that there will be room for all who follow Jesus. He has gone to prepare a place for us, let us not turn down His invitation.

Our room is booked; we have confirmation, for Jesus has paid our reservation using his MasterCard.

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 4:30pm, Sunday 11:00 am

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

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

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.

May 14, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Easter

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (May 6, 7)

Collection	1572.56
Bldg. Fund	60.00
Votive Candles	26.00
Bingo Proceeds	900.00
Mass Stipends	100.00
Seminary Donations	235.00

MASS INTENTIONS

May 15	No Mass
May 16	No Mass
May 17	Mary Leonard
May 18	Hilary Mombourquette
May 19	Jill Playtor
May 20	Scott Connolly
May 20+	Special Intention
May 21	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (May 20, 21)

READERS **EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Gen Quigley	Frank Lewis, Art Hall
Lynette Taylor	Joe Byrne

Communion to the Sick **Joe/Marie Byrne**

Calvin Gillis	Margaret Dalley, Amelia Dicks
Debra Allen	Wayne Dicks

MASS INTENTIONS

Just a reminder that we do not have any Mass Intentions at present. We encourage you to request Masses for loved ones.

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.

On Wednesday May 24, following 7 pm Mass, 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.

SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPER

Our Ladies Group will be hosting a soup and sandwich supper in the school cafeteria on Saturday, June 3rd after mass for \$8 per person. Soup and Sandwich Sign-up Sheet (*say that ten times fast!*) is at the rear of the Church.

VARIETY CONCERT

We will be hosting a variety concert on Friday, June 9th at Sacred Heart School. Entertainment will begin at 7:30pm.

SPRING SUPPER & CONCERT

Our Sister Parish, Our Lady Star of the Sea in Benoit's Cove, is hosting a cold plate supper and concert featuring The Griffins and Local Guests, on Wednesday, May 31st. Supper tickets are \$12 or concert only is \$3 at the door. Tickets are available at our parish office. Come out and support our neighbors with some "Cold Plates & Hot Tunes!"

BIBLE STUDY

The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Monday evening, May 15 at 7 pm.** We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.'

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.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The Society is still looking for new members. And there is a need for used furniture. Call: 638-9010 for more information.

THANK YOU to the following people for your generous donation to our May bingo. Together we made \$900! Madonna Elford, Madonna English, Don Gallant, Mary Gallant, Sharon Gallant, Lori Gardener, Alvina George, Maureen George, Sheila George, Thomas George, Isabel Gillis, Margaret Gillis, Linda Green, Annie Griffin, Jackie Griffin, Brenda Griffin, Tony Griffin, Julia Hackett-Myles, John Hancock, Patsy Hall, Diane Hearn, Anna House, Joan Hutchings, Kay Hynes, Janet Jackson, Helen Jones, Pat Jones, Clara Joyce, Judy Joyce, Patrick Joyce, Mike Leonard, Edith Leonard, Gail Leggo, Kathleen MacDonald, Helen McCarthy, Ann McHugh, Linda Mclsaac, Derm Traverse, Elaine Lynch, Edmund McGrath, Shirley McGrath, Bill Peddle, and Daphne Brake. Thanks also to the men & women who helped run the game. Our next game will be on June 4.

CASH DRAW TICKET FUNDRAISER

Our Ladies Group is selling tickets on a prize of \$1,000.00. They have time booked at Colemans and Dominion to sell tickets but not enough people to fill all the time slots. If anyone can help with this endeavor, please call Veronica at 639-7216.

MOTHER'S DAY REMINDERS

'The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.'

'I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.'

'My mother thinks I am the best. And I was raised to always believe what my mother tells me.'

K of C News

-Fourth Degree Meeting this Tuesday evening at All Hallows starting at 7:45.

-The deadline for applying for the Knights Scholarship is **May 31**. See the K of C website.
-The Bingo Committee would like to Thank all those who came out to play and all those who gave Donations Funds raised was \$4,069.00 toward the purchase of defibrillators; which was a great success.

FROM POPE FRANCIS

"The thing the church needs today is the ability to heal wounds and warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after a battle. It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and the level of his blood sugars! You must heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds.... and you have to start with those in the pews."

MONTH OF MARY

May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom and we start thinking about planting gardens, family outings, and making vacation plans. It's also the Month of Mary. It is a time of recitation of the Rosary and novenas to her. We do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.

Pope's Pastoral Works

Next weekend, this special collection is taken up. Whenever disaster strikes around the world, the Holy See always responds with food, water, medicine, blankets and trained personnel. The proceeds of this special collection are used to help finance those relief efforts. Be as generous as possible, we never know when a need will arise.

JESUS PRAYER

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