

February 19, 2023: 7th Sunday in ordinary time

**“Jesus said to his disciples, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also;.....
Matthew 5:38**

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil.

In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible? The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

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The command to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us seems impossible at times. When we have truly been wounded by another person, forgiveness is much more difficult than flipping a switch. It takes time and patience. A good first step is to ask the Divine Physician to heal the wound. For a raw, hurting wound makes it almost impossible to focus on anything else. When we become focused on the hurt, replaying the memory in our heads, ask the Lord for healing. Speak to Him about how you feel. He knows better than any of us what it feels like to be betrayed and wounded. It might also be necessary to pray for the desire to forgive the other person. Our natural instinct is to want revenge. We need God’s help to change our hearts to truly want to forgive. When the desire to forgive is growing in our hearts, then we can pray for the person who has hurt us. It is also important to realize that none of this process requires interacting with the person who hurt us. That is completely optional. We might never get an apology or an understanding of what caused the incident. Waiting for that just keeps us held hostage. Letting go and forgiving sets us free.

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**February 19, 2023
7th Sunday in Ordinary time**

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Administrator: Joseph Stany Moothedan

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Friday: 8:30 am- 2:30 pm

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 3K8
Tel: (709) 785-5025
curlingparish@hotmail.com

e-transfers: sacredheartrcparish@gmail.com
Password "Church"
www.sacredheartrcparish.ca
Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am

Mass During Week: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7 pm.
Friday at 10 am.

Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather

Lohnes Complex

First Fridays - 2 pm at the Lohnes Complex, **closed to public.**

Bible Study:

Bible study will resume on Sundays at 7pm.

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Post-poned until further notice.

Reconciliation:

By request.

Marriages:

Six months’ notice required. A year’s notice is recommended.

Baptisms:

Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

Family Connections:

At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.

St. Vincent de Paul:

To assist those in need. Call 638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

February 11th – February 12th, 2023

Regular Sunday	\$2265.00
Building Fund	170.00
Saint Vincent De Paul	30.00
Reconciliation Day Fund	35.00
Roof Fund	100.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue. 7 pm	Late Annie Griffin
Wed. 7 pm	Intentions of Donor
Thu. 7 pm	Intentions of Donor
Fri 10 am	Late Pad Antle
Sat. 4:30 pm	Late Gus & Irene Rumboldt
Sun. 11 am	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Feb 25	
John Carroll	Don Gallant Joan Penney
Feb 26	
Amelia Dicks	Anna House Margaret Dalley
Communion to the sick –Joan Penney	

CONDOLENCES: We offer our condolences to the family of Late Robert Neville, father of Jacqueline Neville. Let us remember Robert and his family in our prayers. Rest in peace.

PARISH DUES: Dues were kindly received from Mary Joe Perrett.

COFFEE TIME: Our Parish Outreach Committee will continue coffee time after masses on Sunday mornings. Come join us for a cup of tea or coffee and maybe a little snack. This is the time to share with your brothers and sisters and also welcome new members.

ASH WEDNESDAY: The season of Lent prepares us for the great Easter season. It is a time for prayer, penance and fasting in preparation. In particular, **Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence from meat.** It does not apply to seniors, children or those who have special dietary needs. Everyone is invited to enter into this time of preparation.

ASH WEDNESDAY: Masses on Ash Wednesday will be:
10:00 am at Sacred Heart Church,
5:30 pm at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
and 7 pm at Sacred Heart Church.

Ashes will be distributed during each of these masses. Please make every effort to attend one of these masses.

PARISH OUTREACH: This committee, consisting of, Marie Pennell (709-388-5090), Gerard Deveaux (709-638-4411), Pat Moore (709-785-2440), and Tony Griffin (709-632-5755) are offering to bring communions and provide a pastoral visit to those who wish to have this ongoing contact. They are also exploring social activities for the parish as a whole. Please support them in their efforts. Please call them if you or a family member wish to avail of this service.

RECEIPTS AVAILABLE: Receipts are available for pick up at the parish office. Due to disruptions in the office, mistakes could be possible. Receipts will be available at church. If there are any errors, please contact the parish office and we will try to resolve the problem.

BIBLE STUDY: Bible study will continue this Sunday. Everybody is welcome.



LADIES GROUP FUNDRAISER: Our ladies are selling tickets on \$1000 cash. The draw will take place on March 31st at Sacred Heart Church after mass. If you wish to purchase ticket, please contact members of the ladies group.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The ladies group are looking for volunteers to help sell tickets at Dominion on the following dates: Thurs Feb 23, Sat, Mar 4, Thurs, Mar 9, Fri, Mar 10, Sat, Mar 18 and Thurs, Mar 23. We are also asking parishioners to take as many tickets as you can to sell to family and friends. Tickets will be available to sign out before each weekend Mass in the front porch. Together we can make this a success. Contact Veronica at 639 7216 if you are able to help in raising funds for our parish.

WINTER CARNIVAL BRUNCH: Brunch will be held at **All Hallows Parish on Sunday, Feb 26th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm** and will consist of bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, pancakes, homemade beans, toast, juice, tea or coffee. Price is \$10.00. Takeout will be available

ALL HALLOWS CARNIVAL BINGO: The 29th Winter Carnival Bingo will be held in the church basement of All Hallows Church on **Sunday, Feb 19, at 2:00 p.m.** All are welcome.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR POSITION: Joseph Moothedan will not be continuing his position as Office Administrator. He will be leaving his position on March 17, 2023. We are now accepting applications for this position. This is a 20 Hour per week position. If interested, please contact the Parish Office to obtain a Job Description.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: The upcoming campaign is: Stand for the Land to Create Hope. We will Stand for the Land in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are defending their territories in the Global South by protecting their lands and waters, the environment and human life. Be sure to discover this Share Lent campaign at our national launch webinar on February 25th. To register - devp.org/events

4 YOUTH: In preparation for the beginning of Lent which starts with Ash Wednesday, on February 22nd we can begin to think about what we are going to do during Lent to prepare ourselves for Easter. Catholic Social Teaching is a central element of our faith, being rooted in the Hebrew prophets who announced God’s special love for the poor as well as in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Catholic Social Teaching helps us understand who we are and how we are called to live in community with one another. There are several good videos on You Tube called The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Have a look.

POOR BOX COLLECTION: This collection will be on the weekend of February 25th-26th.

