

THE 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SOME MUSINGS

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Day crept reluctantly over the horizon; the anemic sun giving little hope of warmth. The snow was fierce and blowing in the open as if to find a treasure hidden somewhere beneath the earth’s frozen surface. The sidewalks had not been cleared and the cold seemed to permeate the very fibre of one’s being. And suddenly a knock at the door, my son, coming to make sure things were okay with his mother. Ah yes! Easy to love people like that. A phone call from a friend leaves me laughing and joyful. Another person easy to love. But the others are sometimes difficult. Those who speak unkindly of others can be difficult. The ones who take and take and give back little again are difficult to love. Those who hurt us don’t make our lives one bit easy. Yet according to our gospel today we’re asked to love even those with the kind of love that Jesus shows us when we don’t live the life He’s called us to live. At times our willingness to love is like that anemic sun of my morning.

Luke’s account of the Sermon on the Mount, while very different from that of Matthew, still contains the Lord’s Prayer in which we say, “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” We want to be forgiven by God but if that’s to happen, we have to forgive others. Asking forgiveness is easy but if we truly want forgiveness we have to forgive. We can find it easy to pick and choose what we want to hear from the teachings of Jesus. We want all the blessings but are often loathe to do what He calls us to do. We’re called to be generous with our goods, with our blessings. We’re not to give just out of our abundance but also out of our poverty. Responding to the needs of others when we’re busy, or tired, or feel the need of some private time is not as easy as asking for those things we need for ourselves. Loving the way Jesus would have us do requires a heart willing to think of others before ourselves. The role of Christ’s disciple requires discipline and courage.

The teachings from the Sermon on the Mount are meant to help us live a life of service and love. They help us grow in love for God and neighbour. They most certainly challenge us to a high standard. They call us to be merciful to others. Living a life of mercy, love and service enriches our relationships with others and with our heavenly Father. It’s a life well worth living.

However, carrying that out in practice means that we’re aware of those around us, of those who enrich our lives and those who can try to diminish us. We have to choose which kind of life we’ll live – a life of service or a life of self-serving. Choosing the latter may mean sacrifice on our part; it may mean we have to choose a path that challenges us, that stretches us. It means that we seek out opportunities to assist. Just as the ice and snow can isolate us from one another, leaving us cold and lifeless, so loving others can warm us and others surrounding us in a wrap of life-giving warmth.

There is much food for our journey in the Sermon on the Mount, much to digest and strengthen us, much to challenge us. Let’s spend some time reflecting in those teachings and find places we can improve our faith practice for His service here and make this cold world a warmer place for all. Let’s labour in the cold so when the spring comes, we’re ready to plant seeds of love and compassion, of mercy and joy, and so bring a bit of His love to others. Wishing you a week of much joy and many small miracles.

Betty Bruch

		Days of Abstinence: No meat can be eaten on Ash Wednesday and all of the Fridays during Lent. This applies to all Catholics 14 and older.
		Days of Fast: Only one full meal is permitted on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for Catholics between 18 and 59. Two smaller meals are permitted, but the small meals should not equal a second full meal. Drinking coffee, tea and water between meals is allowed. Snacks between meals are not allowed.

FEBRUARY 24, 2019

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SACRED HEART PARISH

Sacred Heart Church
24 Albert St.
Langton, ON



St. Michael’s Church
978 St. John’s Road
Walsh, ON



Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 5:00 pm
Sunday – 8:30 am (St. Michael’s)
Sunday – 10:30 am

Daily Mass

Tues. – 5:00 pm
Wed. to Fri. – 9:30 am

Reconciliation

20 min. prior to weekday mass
Sat. 4-4:45 pm
Sun. 8-8:20 am, or by appt.(St. Michael’s)

Mailing address

Box 8, Langton, ON N0E 1G0

Phone: 519-875-4438

E-mail: sacredheartlangton@dol.ca

Fr. Thomas e-mail: tckuriacko@dol.ca

Parish Clergy

Rev. Thomas Kuriacko, Pastor

Jack Grim, Deacon

Brian Hanley, Deacon

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 9 am – 4 pm;

Baptisms – Contact Rev. Thomas—6 months notice **Marriages** – Contact Rev. Thomas— one year notice required

Schools – Sacred Heart, Langton - St. Michael’s, Walsh - Our Lady of Fatima, Courtland

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK:

The words of Jesus in today’s Gospel describe a world almost the exact opposite from the world we know, from the way we tend to live. When Jesus says, “Love your enemies... Do good to those who hate you...Bless those who curse you...,” the Lord is speaking, on one level, to His followers about the Romans who are occupying Palestine. He is also referring to those who would reject the Gospel and persecute its missionaries. But the Lord is also speaking on a more general level to all of us today. To say that we should love our enemies, do good to those who hate us always been the most difficult part of the Gospel message. Forgiving our enemies has never been a popular commandment but it is crucial for spiritual health. May be we can look at forgiveness as strength, as liberation, and as a grace.

Scarcely any day passes without the news about terrorism, crimes, rape or other brutality. The old Jewish law: ‘an eye, for eye, tooth for tooth’ (Lev. 24:19), seems to be as much relevant in this century as it was 2000 years ago. Is Jesus’ command: ‘love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,’ still hold good?

Jesus not only preached, he lived what he preached, he destroyed enmity by loving. When Abraham Lincoln was asked once: ‘Why can’t you destroy your enemies,’ he replied: ‘Yes, I do destroy my enemies by making them my friends.’ Jesus by dying on the cross destroyed sin and death. So we understand that God is good and loving, he is good even to the ungrateful, forgives sinners, and loves enemies. Jesus loves and, like Jesus, we too must love without reserve, without condition. For everyone created in God’s image, shares in God’s own life; hence we have no reason to condemn or despise anybody. Jesus says: “Do not judge, and you will not be judged, do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.” St. Augustine said it this way: If you want to stop thinking about the other person’s failings, the thing you have to do is to focus first on your own faults. Augustine was not talking about becoming scrupulous or morbid. What it involves is taking a deep breath and before I fly off the handle about someone else, to ask myself: How is it that I so quickly see the other person’s laziness or hypocrisy or greed? Could it be that I have similar faults, may be even worse ones? When Jesus said that he came not to condemn, but to save, he was referring to you and me – as much as anyone else.

Jesus rejected the law of retaliation and declared: ‘Treat others as you would like them to treat you.’ That means: Jesus expects of his disciples more than mere friendliness and mutual hospitality, for ‘if you love only those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners do so.’ There must be some difference between the disciples and other people in their attitude; their life must be marked by the golden rule which says: if someone curses you, do not curse back, but rather bless; if someone treats you badly, pray for him; if someone slaps you on the face, do not slap back but turn the other cheek; if someone steals your goods, do not keep grudge, do not stop helping the needy. An amazing example has emerged from the life of Ronald Reagan. On March 30, 1981, a young man ambushed the president. He fired six shots wounding Reagan and three others. When they wheeled him into the operating room, Reagan had an image of the gunman crouching in the darkness. The image filled him with rage. But he immediately got hold of his anger and said to himself, how can I expect God to forgive me, if I don’t forgive that man? This incident sums up what we must do when rage overcomes us. Remember that we too will be judged. Only mercy can free us from condemning others. Mercy knows no limits. Therein lies the true challenge, heroism; loving forgiveness is its highest aspect.

“Have a great week!!!”

Fr. Thomas

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – SACRED HEART, LANGTON

DATE	TIME	MASS INTENTION	BY
Tues Feb 26/19	5:00 pm	• Mary Tokaji, Dona & Steve Schonberger	• Frank & Cathie Schonberger
Wed Feb 27/19	9:30 am 11:15 am	• Paul Herman 1st Communion Retreat for SHS	• Bernadette Couture
Thurs Feb 28/19	9:30 am 11:30 am	• Don Loncke 1st Communion Retreat for STMS	• Frieda Loncke
Fri Mar 1/19	9:30 am Adoration 11 - 4 pm	• Louis Keursten Visiting house-bound	• Martin & Tonie Van Bommel

DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wed Feb 27/19	11:15 am	1st Communion Retreat for SHS
Thurs Feb 28/19	11:30 am	1st Communion Retreat for STMS
Fri Mar 1/19	9:30 am 11 - 4 pm	Adoration + First Friday Visit to house bound
Sat Mar 2/19	5:00 pm	Youth Ministry Mass
Mon Mar 4/19	7:30 pm	Langton CWL Meeting
Tues Mar 5/19	9:30 am	School Reconciliations for STMS
	8:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Meeting
Wed Mar 6/19	9:30 am	Ash Wednesday School Mass for SHS & OLFS
	1:45 pm	Ash Wednesday School Mass for STMS
	7:00 pm	Walsh CWL Meeting
Thurs Mar 7/19	10:00 am	School Reconciliations for SHS
	1:45 pm	School Reconciliations for OLFS
Sat Mar 30/19	5:00 pm	Knight of Columbus Annual Wing Ding @ LCC

NEW PARISH WEBSITE

From January 1st our parish is having a new website which we share with St. Mary's Tillsonburg because the Diocese has stopped supporting our parish website. As we are still working on it, it will take awhile for us to post all information's about our parish. In order to have access to our parish bulletin, please click on the Sunday date, and if you happen to click on Saturdays date, you will be finding St. Mary's bulletin. You will no more be receiving the bulletin by emails. Thank you for your patience.

2018 CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS

The 2018 Charitable Donation Receipts are available at the back of the Church. Thank you for your co-operation in picking up your 2018 donation receipts.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY – FEB 17, 2019

St. Michael's

Regular Envelope	\$ 380.00
Thanksgiving Appeal	\$ 10.00
Loose	\$ 55.00
Sub-Total	\$ 445.00

Sacred Heart

Regular Envelope	\$ 1822.00
Loose	\$ 82.00
Sub-Total	\$ 1904.00

Total Operating Goal **\$ 2349.00**
\$3,700.00

Shortfall **\$ 1351.00**

SH Building Fund \$ 50.00



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2019 LANGTON C.W.L. RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, March 23, 2019
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Langton Community Centre
Flea Market, Clothing, Books, Toys, & More
Drop Off Dates and Times

Langton Arena

NOTE: No drop off on Sunday!

Monday March 18: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday March 19: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday March 20: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday March 21: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Volunteers needed to help load trailer at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday March 21, 2019

Please come out and join us
March 22nd for set up day and
March 23rd for the Sale Day
Everyone is welcome.
Questions?

Call Darlene @ 519-875-1887
or Roxanne
@ 519-875-3347



LANGTON CWL RUMMAGE SALE

NEEDS STUDENT HELPERS

If you are available, this service can go towards your community hours. They need help on the following dates and times. If you can help please sign the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

1. **Thursday March 21st @ 4:00 pm** to move items from the Langton Arena to the Langton Community Centre.
2. **Friday March 22nd @ 8:30 am** to help sort and place items in the Langton Community Centre.
3. **Saturday March 23rd @ 12:00 noon** to help pack up left over items and load onto the Diabetic's truck.

Your help would be appreciated.

Any questions please contact CWL member:

Linda Elku at 519-875-5648 or
email: retired06@execulink.com

BAPTISMAL PREPERATIONS

There will be Baptismal preparation classes for Grade 2 children who are getting ready for their First Communion, and who are not yet been Baptized, for the following dates : **Wed Feb 27th at 6:30 pm at Sacred Heart Church, Langton.**

ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY LEARN FOR LIFE SERIES

No papers, no exams... just Learn for Life! Assumption University, Windsor, invites you to register for Learn For Life 2019 Winter/Spring courses at www.assumptionu.ca/learnforlife. Upcoming offerings include "The Church and the International Order," "Laudato Si," and "Religion and Politics."

CWL SACRED HEART INGERSOLL- ANNUAL YARD & BAKE SALE

We invite you to our Annual Yard & Bake Sale. It will be held on Saturday April 6th at 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at Henderson Hall John Street in Ingersoll. There is a big variety on gently used items for everyone interested in treasures and good deals. The home baked goodies are fresh and delicious, a must to try out! All proceeds will go to our local and mission projects. Thank you for your support.

HEALING JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF

Sacred Heart Parish, Ingersoll will hold an eight week grief support group called "Healing Journey Through Grief" Thursday March 21st until Thursday May 9th. The group will use the Alan Wolfelt resource Understanding your grief: Ten essential touchstones for finding hope and healing your heart. Registration is limited to 8 participants for these sessions. The cost of the resources is being shared by the Parish Health Ministry at Sacred Heart reducing the cost for the eight sessions to \$25.00. For more information or to register, contact Faye Brekelmans at 519-485-1802.



Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger and
abounding in
kindness.
— Psalm 103:8