



Pope: We are “Catholic Atheists” if we have hardened hearts

(Vatican Radio) Listen to the Word of God to avoid the risk of a hardened heart. That was Pope Francis’ message in his homily at morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta on Thursday. The Pope pointed out that when we turn away from God and are deaf to His Word, we become unfaithful or even “Catholic atheists.”

Pope Francis drew inspiration from the First Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah to meditate on the importance of listening to the Word of God. “When we do not stop to listen to the voice of the Lord we end up moving away, we turn away from Him, we turn our backs. And if we do not listen to the voice of the Lord, we listen to other voices.”

The Holy Father suggested that if we do not listen to God’s voice, then in the end we listen to the voices of idols. He noted bitterly that eventually, “we become deaf: deaf to the Word of God.”

“And all of us, if we stop a little today and look at our hearts, we will see how many times – how many times! – we close our ears and how many times we have become deaf. And when a people, a community, but we can also say a Christian community, a parish, a diocese, when they close their ears and become deaf to the Word of the Lord, they search for other voices, other lords, and it ends with idols, the idols of the world, the worldliness that society offers. That community distances itself from the living God.”

If the heart hardens, we become “Catholic pagans”, even “Catholic atheists.” As we move away from the Lord, the Pope added, our hearts harden. When someone “does not listen, the heart becomes harder, more closed in on itself, hard and unable to receive anything; not only is it closed: there is a hardness of heart.” That person lives “in that world, that atmosphere that doesn’t do him good. He moves further away from God every day.”

“And these two things – not listening to the Word of God and a hardened heart, closed in on itself – cause infidelity. You lose your sense of fidelity. The Lord says in the First Reading: ‘faithfulness is gone’, and we become unfaithful Catholics, Catholic pagans or, uglier still, Catholic atheists, because we have no reference to the love of the living God. To not listen and to turn our backs – that makes our hearts harden – takes us on the road to infidelity.

The Pope then asked, “This infidelity, how does it end?” He answered by referring to the Gospel passage from St Luke, in which Jesus is accused of healing people through the power of Beelzebul. “It ends in confusion; you do not know where God is or where He is not, you confuse God with the devil.”

His Holiness said we should ask ourselves whether we really listen to the Word of God or whether we harden our hearts. “This is blasphemy. Blasphemy is the final word on this path that begins with not listening, with the hardening of the heart.” This failure to listen and this hardening of the heart “leads to confusion, making you forget fidelity and, ultimately, blaspheming.”

To those who forget the wonder of the first meeting with Jesus, he said: “Each of us can ask ourselves today: ‘Have I stopped listening to the Word of God, taking the Bible in my hands and talking only to myself? Has my heart been hardened? Am I far from the Lord? Have I lost my fidelity to the Lord and do I live with the idols that offer me worldliness every day? Have I lost the joy of the wonder of my first meeting with Jesus?’. Today is a day to listen. ‘O that today you would listen to His voice! Harden not your hearts!’”. We ask for this grace: the grace to listen so that our hearts will not be hardened.”



St Mary’s Parish

Parish Website: www.stmaryssaskatoon.com

Served by the Redemptorist Community: www.redemptorists.ca

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4th Sunday in Lent March 26, 2017

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”
Ephesians 5:8-14 ESV



Sunday Mass Times:
Saturday: 7:00 pm
Sunday Rosary: 8:15 am
Sunday: 9:00 am & 11:00 am
Spanish Mass: 4:00 pm

Weekday Mass Times:
Rosary: Monday - Saturday 8:30 am
Monday to Saturday: 9:00 am
Wednesday: 9:00 am and 7:15 pm
Perpetual Help Devotions at both Wednesday Masses

Mass Intentions
Monday, March 27
9:00 am †Jose Sr & † Juanita Torrecampo
Tuesday, March 28
9:00 am †Mike Chilliak
Wednesday, March 29
9:00 am †Hermogenes Yntig
7:15 pm †Anna Ficko
Thursday, March 30
9:00 am Paciencia Torrecampo
Friday, March 31
9:00 am †Joe Bairos
Saturday, April 1
9:00 am †Casilda Trocid
7:00 pm †Irene Perret
Sunday, April 2
9:00 am †Jesse Savino
11:00 am For The Parish

PRAYER LIST

Brian Anderson	Marilyn Lewer	Angela Selsky
Yvonne Armstrong	Anne Lukan	Laura St. Germaine
John Baker	Dennise Martin	Joe Sousa
Beverly Banda	Paulette Martin	Verna Twordik
Marie Bear	Rod McFadyen	Laura Ulsifer
Judy Banda	Louise McKinney	Dorothy Upton
Conrad Brassard	Lynn Melnyk	Catherine Vogelgesang
Chris Breckner	Kathy Murphy	Mary-Lynn Waschuk
Betty Campbell	John Orlando	Olive Wegman
Gerry Degagne	Teresa Orlando	Lillian Williamson
Rose Deitner	Betty Penner	Mona Whelan
Lillian Dumont	Walter Prochera	Sharon Wiens
Sandra Dundas	Bernard Provost	Murray Wood
Lorraine Fox	Noreen Provost-Plant	Jack Wood
Joyce Guigon	Michael Prystupa	Olga Zolinsky
Inez Hill	Teresa Richmond	Elsie Zunti
Bettina Ho	Tony Roques	†Jose Torrecampo Jr
Betty Hummel	Paul Ruot	†Jerry Geenen
Marjorie Joseph	Filomena Santoro	
John Keindel	Joseph Saucier	
Rick Kostiuk	Eugene Schedlosky	

Sacrament of **RECONCILIATION** (confession)
Saturday: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm, & 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Priests are available anytime by appointment

VISIONTV **REDEMPTORIST PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS**
Each Wednesday at **6:30 am** and **10:30 am** the Redemptorists offer Perpetual Help devotions on Vision TV. **Shaw Cable 122 Sasktel Max 23**
DAILY MASS ON VISION TV watch daily Mass on Vision TV at **6:00 am** and **10:00 am**, Mon—Fri **6:00 am** on Sat.

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Sr. Carol Borreson, sgm—Parish Nurse
Phone number: 244-2983 ext 224
Carrie Witzel—Ministry of Care
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Brendan Rogal - Custodian
Ryan Baker—Office
email: stmarysrectory@sasktel.net
Office Hours—8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday to Friday

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Weekly Budgeted Offering:	\$ 5,158
Week of March 3—March 19, 2017	
Envelopes & PAD:	\$ 3,837
Loose:	\$ 705
Total for the week	\$ 4,542
Under Budget	\$ 616
Year to Date Budgeted offering	61,896
Year to Date Donations	56,414 Ⓢ
Under Budget	\$ 5,482

Long Range Planning: Have you considered including your parish in your will or naming "St. Mary's Parish Building Support" as an alternative charity in an obituary notice?

**Next Sunday April 2—5th Sunday in Lent
Sunday Summary**

Ezekiel 37:12-14
No grave, real or metaphorical, is permanent when our God holds the key to life.
Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
Even from the depths of despair, the cry of those who trust God is heard.
Romans 8:8-11
What depends on the material is immaterial. Only the spirit will last.
John 11:1-45
In matters of life and death, Jesus proves to the disciples he is the master.

Dates to Remember

Mon, Mar 27	Parish Mission	7:00PM
Tues, Mar 28	Prayer Shawl Ministry	1:00PM
Tues, Mar 28	Parish Mission	7:00PM
Wed, Mar 29	Parish Mission	7:00PM
Thurs, Mar 30	Finance Committee Meeting	7:00PM
Fri, Mar 31	Stations of the Cross	7:00PM
Fri, Mar 31	Youth Group	8:00PM
Sat, Apr 1	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10:00AM
Sat, Apr 1	Easter Tea	1:00PM
Tues, Apr 4	Prayer Shawl Ministry	1:00PM
Tues, Apr 4	Penitential Service	7:00PM
Sat, Apr 8	Sacramental Preparation	10:30AM

**LECTORS AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
Next Week Apr 1/2**

	LECTORS	COMMUNION
7:00 PM	Karl Baumgardner Fred Vogelgesang	Sr. Carol Borreson Sr. Josie Bouvier Brian Favel Vic Fortosky
9:00 AM	Lauren Fuller Yvonne Colleaux	Rose Wasylenka Maureen Blom Nick Blom
11:00 AM	Francis Nguyen Maria Zalesak	Zeljko Bilandzic Tuan Nguyen Eloisa Verdote Abe Verdote

Today in Samuel we see the beginnings (the roots) of David's rise to power following his anointing as the future king, while the power of the current king, Saul, would begin to weaken. The anointing of David signals that a period of transition will begin, a transition from the tribal days of Joshua, ultimately leading to a centralized state under David. Yet there are undertones of fear in the passage today. While Samuel appears to be a confident and strong messenger of the Lord, he is in fact fearful that Saul will hear of the anointing of David and there will be repercussions. The undertones of fear are further reinforced when immediately following the anointing, David himself will flee in order to avoid Saul. While in hiding, the power of David would grow while he stayed in the deserts of Judah offering protection to the southern tribes. Not until the death of Saul, in the battle of Mount Gilboa, would the succession of David begin.

Today's passage from Ephesians is from a section of the letter dealing with living the Christian life in the world (4:1-6:20). In particular the section today looks at the old life of darkness (pre-Christ) and contrasts it with the new life as "children of light". The message is clear and straightforward: "Live as children of light ... and Christ will shine on you." We are called to have nothing to do with "the unfruitful works of darkness". Our call is one of "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead!"

The gospel passage is from a section of John known as the "Book of Signs". In this section the true identity of Jesus is being both disputed and revealed through the works/signs Jesus is carrying out. Here in this section we see the healing of the cripple (5:1-47), the feeding of the five thousand (6:1-70), the raising of Lazarus (11:1-44), and today's passage where the blind man is healed (9:1-41). There are four things of importance in today's passage worth noting (there are others but these four points are key). One, the notion that the man was being punished with blindness because of sin is totally refuted by Jesus. Two, the giving of sight happens on the Sabbath day, a fact that so "blinded" the Pharisees it was all they could see. Three, blindness and fear resulted in the man being driven away. And four, perhaps the most important point of the entire gospel, all of the events in the gospel today lead to the powerful proclamation by the man: "Lord, I believe."

"Celebrating the Word" is an apostolate of the Congregation of the Resurrection [Resurrectionists], which makes this faith-sharing resource available without cost. To read the full issue, or some of our recent back issues, please visit: <http://resurrectionists.ca/celebrating-the-word>



PARISH MISSION began on March 25 at the 7:00pm Mass where Megan McKenna, a storytelling theologian will preach at all of the weekend Masses. Then on Monday March 27 through to March 29, Megan will speak from 7:00pm until 8:30pm on the following topics: The Woman at the Well, The Man Born Blind, and The Raising of Lazarus as levels of faith and practice in the Community of Beloved Disciples (John's Church). Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

FLOWERS DURING LENT The season of Lent is Penitential in nature, that is, it is a time to reflect on our weaknesses as human beings in order to call upon God's help. One of the ways that we help ourselves do this is by keeping the church decorations very simple. To help with this we would ask that you refrain from placing fresh cut flowers before the Tabernacle, altar or shrine so that when Easter comes the arrival of flowers in the Church will be an even greater moment of celebration.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Are you looking for an opportunity to pray this during this Lenten Season? Join us each Friday evening as we pray together, mediating on the passion of our Lord in the Stations of the Cross. Fridays at 7:00pm in St. Mary's Church. If anyone is interested in leading these prayer sessions, please call the parish office.

LENT TALKS: Are you looking to deepen your lenten journey this year? Why not join us for 'Lent Talks.' Each Tuesday during Lent a pastor from a different Christian denomination will share a book that they are reading as they enter into the season of Lent. The series, hosted by Christ Church Anglican, 515 - 28th Street West, Saskatoon continues on March 28th at 7pm, with Pastor Jakob Palm speaking on Alexander Schmemmann's *For the Love of the World*.

100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima: In honour of the 100th Anniversary of the first apparition Our Lady of Fatima, on May 13th 2017, to three small shepherd children; Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta in a little cove in Portugal, our Diocese will be celebrating with a number of events. Plans include a movie night on **April 30 at Holy Family Cathedral at 7 pm**. The movie is entitled "The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima. Admission to this event is free and all are welcome. Donations can be made at the door. A night of prayer and candlelight procession with Rosary will occur on **May 12th 2017 at 7pm at Holy Family Cathedral**. On **May 13th 2017 at 2pm, at St. Mary's Parish** we will celebrate with a mass followed by an outdoor procession and gathering in the church hall. **More information to follow regarding events to be held prior to these May celebrations.** We are looking for any volunteers, cultural groups, schools and participation from **ALL SASKATOON DIOCESE PARISHES** for this wonderful celebration. Please email Jennifer Nunes at nun-esjennifer@hotmail.com for further information or if you would like to participate/volunteer. Our Lady of Fatima - Pray for Us!

ST. MARY'S EASTER TEA & BAKE SALE – APRIL 1st 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall. Cost is \$3.00 which includes a door prize and refreshments. Come and have an afternoon of good food and fellowship. We look forward to your excellent baking. Please bring your baking to the hall Friday, March 31st after 7:00 p.m. – or – Saturday April 1st after 9:00 a.m. (Reminder raffle items may be dropped off at the rectory during office hours on or before March 27th.)

HONEY FOR SALE Eileen Provost is selling 1 kg containers of unpasteurized honey for \$8.00. The honey is locally produced by Provost Apiaries owned and operated by Burt Provost and his son Derek. If anyone is interested in purchasing honey, please contact Eileen at 306-382-4821.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION: This year at St. Mary's our Lenten Penitential Service will be held on **April 4** at 7:00pm. Reconciliation will also be available at the regularly scheduled times as per bulletin cover as well as by appointment.

ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO FIND YOUR POSITION ON DOCTOR-ASSISTED DEATH? You are not alone. Come to St. John Bosco Sunday Mass on April 2 at 10:00 to hear Fr. Mark Miller share his insights into "What is a Good Death Today? Technology and Ethics". Fr. Mark will speak during mass and continue immediately following. Fr. Mark has a PHD in medical Ethics and has addressed this topic many times. Muffins and coffee provided by the Health Council. Anyone interested in attending or has any questions please contact Sr. Carol at 306-244-2983.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL: Thank you to our parishioners for their contributions to the 2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The total raised by St. Mary's was \$21,927.00.

CWL 2017 Membership receipts are now available for pick up. Please check the CWL bulletin board at the back of the church. If yours is missing, please let Val know. (306)713-0311 Thank you.

SASKATOON PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held at 7 a.m. **Saturday, April 29** at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon, featuring "A Message of Hope" from guest speaker Jason Caldwell, and musical guests Brad Johner and the Johner Boys. Tickets: \$40 each. Tables of eight are available. Find more information at www.saskatoonprayerbreakfast.ca or call (306) 370-9870.

GREATER SASKATOON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION INC. PRESENTS SWING INTO SPRING FASHION SHOW & DINNER, May 4, 2017. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Hall B, Prairieland Park. Tickets are \$70 per person. For tickets or more information, please contact by phone 306-659-7003 or email catholic-schools-foundation@gscs.sk.ca