

April 15, 2018

3rd Sunday of Easter

"... a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."

Luke 24: 35-48

Bill's last, best gift

Thirteen years ago, Tracy Grant's husband of 19 years was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Tracy became Bill's faithful caregiver. Over the course of seven months, her husband Bill "went from beating me silly at tennis to needing my help to go to the bathroom." It was a difficult, stressful and exhausting time, but Tracy, a deputy managing editor at The Washington Post, writes that those seven months were the time in her life when she felt "most alive."

"I was 42 years old. I had become a respected professional, a responsible and, I hope, loving parent. But I had to discover the reason I was on this earth. During those seven months, I came to understand that whatever else I did in my life, nothing mattered more.

"I discovered that the petty grievances of an irksome co-worker, a child with the sniffles, or a flat tire pales in comparison with the beauty of spontaneous laughter, the night sky, the smells of a bakery. There were moments of joy, laughter, and tenderness everyday - if I was willing to look hard enough. I found I could train myself to set my internal barometer to be more compassionate than callous.

"In the days following Bill's diagnosis and brain surgery, being his caregiver required me to be the best reporter I knew how to be. I found clinical trials and talked to oncologists in Texas, Pennsylvania, and New York. It gave me a sense of purpose, and it gave Bill comfort - and a few chuckles - to overhear me reading the riot act to some insurance rep who'd told me a treatment wouldn't be covered."

And now, 13 years after Bill's death, Tracy looks at those last seven months with gratitude.

"... I haven't started a foundation to cure cancer. I haven't left the news business to get a medical degree. I work. I try to be there for my sons. I will never again have that high a purpose. But every day, I try again to be the person I became during those seven months. I try to be a little less judgmental, a little more forgiving and generous, a little more grateful for the small moments in my life. I am a better person for having been Bill's caregiver. It was his last, best give to me."

Wherever and whenever true love is present, resurrection is experienced. Tracy experiences that sense of resurrection in her caring for her husband - and it changes her in profound and beautiful ways. And, whether she realizes it or not, her loving generosity is a "witness" to the possibilities for such resurrection in her life and the lives of those she loves. In the compassion and peace we are able extend to those we love and who love us, we become "flesh and bone" signs of the hope and grace of Easter along the Emmaus roads we all walk.

(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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St. Stephen's Parish

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BISHOP OF CORNER BROOK & LABRADOR: Most Rev. Peter Hundt
Administrator: Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris) Associate: Rev. Vitus Echedo

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR: Warren Quinton
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Debbie Keough 643-6681
RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Theresa Dollimont
FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR: Vacant
SECRETARY: Carolyn O'Quinn

Knights of Columbus - Grand Knight Bob Miller 4th Degree Assembly - Faithful Navigator Irving Campbell
St. Anne's Guild - President Laura Rouzes

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE

Table with 2 columns: SUNDAY MASSES (Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M., Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M.), ROSARY (Saturdays from 1:30 pm until 2:30 pm, RECONCILIATION Saturdays at 3:00 P.M.; anytime by request), MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE (SUNDAY MASSES Saturday - 4:30 P.M., Sunday - 9:00 A.M.), REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES (Monday and Wednesday at 7:00 P.M., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:30 A.M., Thursday Adoration 10 A.M. - 12 NOON, 1st Friday - Acadian Village - 2:00 P.M., 3rd Friday - Silverwood Manor - 2:30 P.M.)

MARRIAGES. Six months notice is required; a year's notice is recommended.

BAPTISM PREPARATION. Next Session - April 23rd, 2018 - Please call to register

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. The 3rd Sunday of the month beginning at 2:00 P.M. and ending with benediction at 4:00 P.M

PRAYER MEETINGS. St. Stephen's Prayer Group — Wednesday at 7:45 P.M. in the Parish Meeting Room. Word & Spirit Prayer Group — Tuesday at 8:00 P.M. in St. Anne's Hall.

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY 8:30 am - 4:30 pm,
FRIDAY - 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM CLOSED DAILY 12:00 - 1:00 PM

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS APRIL 7-8:**

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,316.50
Development & Peace	\$ 35.00
Good Friday	\$ 105.00
Shepherds Fund	\$ 115.00
Capital Repairs	\$ 845.00
Initial Offering	\$ 5.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 25.00

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** In memory of Bernadette Hynes as requested by Martina Cormier.

**PASTORAL DUES RECEIVED WITH THANKS:** From Cyril & Sylvia Alexander and Deborah & Denis AuCoin.

**SCENT-FREE :** Please be aware that some people have allergic reactions to perfumes and other scents. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!

**COMMUNION IN THE PEWS:** Holy Communion will be served to those who are unable to go to the altar at the end of Communion.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** Just a reminder to please put your name and amount on your envelope before you pass it in. Thank you!

**VOLUNTEERS:** We are looking for volunteers for our Bereavement Team. If you would like to participate or get more information, please contact the Parish Office.

**SUNDAY MASS:** Parents are encouraged to attend Sunday Mass with their children as a way to develop a closer relationship with God together.

**MONTHLY PARISH COUCIL MEETING:** Will take place on Wednesday, April 18th after evening Mass.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

**St. Stephen's - Parish Meeting Room**

Year 2 (Group A), Monday, **April 16** at 6:00 pm  
Year 2 (Group B), Tuesday, **April 17** at 6:00 pm  
Year 3 (Group A) Monday, **April 23** at 6:00 pm  
Year 4, Thursday, **April 19** at 6:00 pm  
Yrs 5 & 6, Thursday, **April 26** at 6:00 pm

Yr. 7 Pre-Confirmation, Sunday, **April 15** at 6:00 pm  
Yr. 8 Confirmation, Tuesday, **April 24** at 6:00 pm

Yr. 9 & 10 Confirmation, Wednesday, **April 11** at 6:00 pm at St. Anne's Hall

**4 YOUTH:** The Gospels since Easter have told of Jesus' appearances to the Apostles after His Resurrection. In these accounts, the Apostles do not recognize Jesus at first. It might seem odd that these men who had been with Jesus throughout His public ministry didn't recognize Him but it is when He speaks to them and shares a meal with them that they recognize Him. Sometimes we get so distracted by what is going on in our lives that, like the Apostles, we can't recognize Jesus present in our lives. But Jesus is always present with us. We, like the Apostles, can recognize Him in His words that are read to us in the Gospel and in His Body and Blood that we share in the Eucharist.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS:**

On the weekend of April 21-22, there will be a special collection for ecclesiastical students. The money collected will be used to help support Vocation Ministry as well as for the training of priests for our diocese. This collection is held annually on the fourth Sunday of Easter, known as Vocations Sunday, a day when all Catholics are encouraged to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH HALL:** The Parish Hall will re-open for bingo on Thursday, April 19th.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS:** The final line of the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles is, "Repent, therefore, that your sins may be wiped away." This is part of a message which Peter evidently often stated as he evangelized and spread the word about the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Penance, repentance, is an important part of our Catholic faith. One of our seven Sacraments, there is much in Church doctrine about the importance of this sacrament. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#1424) it states, "It is called the sacrament of confession, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element. In a profound sense it is also a "confession" — acknowledgement and praise — of the holiness of God and of His mercy toward sinful men and women."

When St. Peter was speaking and used the term "wiped away," that had more meaning to the people of his time. Imagine if sins were listed on a document in ink. In ancient times the ink had no acid content, and thus it could be "wiped away" with a damp cloth. That was the image Peter was presenting. For us going to confession literally "wipes away" our sins. God's forgiveness is central to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Sacrament of Confession (reconciliation) means that from God's perspective it is as though our sins have never even occurred. In the Book of Hebrews the Lord declares, "I will never again remember their sins" — after repentance, that is.

**THE WILD GOOSE IS LOOSE SERIES:**

Wednesday, April 18th after evening Mass in the Parish Meeting Room is our final presentation of this 14 week seminar. Thank you to all who attended. The theme of this session is **The Spirit Remembers**. It is important for us to remember the great things that God has done for us. Often, we become consumed with our daily struggles and forget all that the Lord has done. We may also only focus on God not doing what we want of him. One of the blessings of the Holy Spirit is that the Spirit reminds us what Jesus said and what He has done for us. There is no limit to what God has done or what He desires to do in our lives.

**GAUDETTE ET EXSULTATE:** On April 9, a new Apostolic Exhortation was promulgated. *Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad)* was written by Pope Francis to encourage all people to accept the call to holiness in daily life. To read this exhortation in its entirety or to read a summary, visit the Diocesan web page at [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com)

**STEWARDSHIP COFFEE TIME:** The next coffee time will take place on Sunday, April 22nd after Mass in the downstairs meeting room of the Church. Please join us for a tea or coffee, a sandwich or a cookie as we gather together in Fellowship following Sunday Service!

**ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:**

**CHASE THE ACE:** Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their 4th Chase the Ace fundraiser. This event takes place on Sunday at the Santa Maria Building. Ticket sales start at 1:00 pm. and end at 3:45 pm with the draw at 4:00 pm.

**AL-ANON:** Al-Anon is a program that offers information, support and fellowship to family and friends of problem drinkers. For information on local meetings call 643-6153 or 709-638-8311 (cell).

**MONTHLY MEETING:** The Knight's of Columbus, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Assembly #1653, 4th Degree will be holding it's regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at the Santa Maria Bldg. starting at 8:00 pm., all Sir Knight's are encouraged to attend.

*"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls."*

*-Mother Teresa*