

April 22, 2018

4th Sunday of Easter

"I am the good shepherd [who] lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:11-18

The Good Shepherd in football cleats

There are many words that could be used to describe Aaron Feis: Selfless. Giving. Loyal. Resilient. But when it came to his everyday life at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, the word "ubiquitous" might fit best.

Coach Feis had an all-encompassing presence that both athletes and nonathletes knew and loved, a presence that extended beyond the school walls to the Parkland, Florida, community. In a piece written for ESPN.com, not one friend or former player interviewed expressed surprise that Coach Feis ran toward the gunfire and take a bullet for the students at his school, the place where he played football, graduated in 1999 and returned to help his beloved community. They want everyone to know: This is who Aaron Feis was - every minute, every day.

Feis, a school security guard and assistant football coach at his high school alma mater, was one of 17 killed in the Ash Wednesday shootings at Stoneman Douglas. He died shielding two students from the gunfire. He was 37.

Feis - nobody ever called him Aaron - was a loving father and husband and coach - more than a coach, especially to kids at-risk. His colleagues and friends all said that Feis thought about others more than he thought about himself.

College recruiters also got to know Feis because he made it his business to know them. Feis wanted his players to find opportunities to keep playing. He spent countless hours making highlight DVDs for any player who'd ask. He did this on his own time, on the same salary he made as a school security guard. Feis would say to a college coach about one of his players, "Here's a DVD of a player who needs help. If he doesn't fit at your school, Coach, could you please talk to your other colleagues and help him find a home?" Feis helped get 50 to 70 players into college who might have fallen through the cracks.

Brower County Sheriff Scott Israel said of his friend, "Before you even heard how he died, you knew he died putting himself in harm's way to save others. That's who he was. [He died] running toward danger while others were correctly running away from danger.

"Head coaches have come and gone [from Parkland] but what's the one constant? Big Feis. Kids would do more for Feis because they never wanted to let him down." And Feis never let them down.

Christ the Good Shepherd walks among us still in the lives of people like Coach Feis, whose love and compassion enable them to "lay down their lives" for the students, the patients, the soldiers, the mentally and physically challenged entrusted to their care. In Christ, we belong to one another; in imitating Christ, our lives are at the service of one another. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, may we give thanks for the courage and love of those who have laid down their lives for us and for others and seek for ourselves the grace to "lay down" our lives for the sake of justice and mercy for all the members of the "one fold."

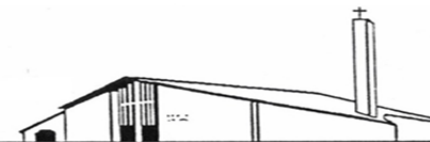
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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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

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 14-15:

Sunday Collection	\$	3,220.25
Development & Peace	\$	70.00
Capital Repairs	\$	121.00
Lenten Folders	\$	110.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: In memory of Jim Woodford as requested by Betty Morey.

PASTORAL DUES RECEIVED WITH

THANKS: From John & Susan Butler, Marjorie King and Dorothy Pike.

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.

VOLUNTEERS: We are looking for volunteers for our Bereavement Team (funeral service planning) and Hospitality Ministry (greeters). 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.

CONGRATULATIONS!: A very special congratulations to Father Chris on the 10th Anniversary of his Priestly ordination on April 17th. May God continue to bless him on his journey of faith and service.

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!

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

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: April 22nd is World Earth Day - Caritas Canada supports the [Leap Manifesto](#), a hopeful call for the transformation of Canada's current economic model, towards one that is based on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and social and economic justice.

The Leap Manifesto was launched in 2015, the same year as Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, as the international community was preparing for the Paris Climate Conference (COP21). Both *Laudato Si'* and the Leap Manifesto invite us to join the movement for a better world, recognizing that it is possible to tackle both the environmental crisis affecting our planet and the inequalities that create such extreme poverty.

4YOUTH: Did you ever wonder how the priest decides what color vestment to wear when he gets ready to celebrate Mass? Well, it all depends on the liturgical season. White vestments are worn during the seasons of Christmas and Easter as well as at funeral masses. Green vestments are worn during Ordinary Time. Purple vestments are worn during Advent and Lent. Red vestments signify the outpouring of blood and are worn on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and the feast days of Apostles and martyrs. Red also symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit and is worn on Pentecost and for the sacrament of Confirmation. So what color vestment is Father wearing today? And why is he wearing that color?

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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: "He is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone." This is St Peter preaching again in the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. However, in this instance he is speaking at his own trial. He and St. John had been imprisoned. What a different man Peter is compared to the man who denied Jesus in fear! Peter is no longer intimidated by the authorities; keep in mind that this is in effect the same court which condemned Christ to crucifixion. Earlier in Acts we witness Peter and the other disciples being filled with the Holy Spirit. This is not a one-time event, but something ongoing throughout their lives.

A woman named Corrie Ten Boom was a resistance leader and practitioner in the Netherlands in World War II. She and her sister provided a hiding place for Jews and others being sought by the Nazis. She later wrote a book titled *The Hiding Place* about those experiences. The Ten Booms were betrayed in 1944, arrested, and brought to trial. What she stated at that trial very much parallels what we hear from St. Peter today. She cited the power of the Holy Spirit.

She said, "Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you." Like St. Peter and Corrie Ten Boom, we are all filled with the Holy Spirit. Do we let it flow out of us?

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCA-

TIONS: The fourth Sunday of Easter is often referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday because in the Gospel reading for this day Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd. It is also the Sunday when Catholics throughout the world are invited to reflect on the meaning of God's call and to pray for vocations. What is a vocation? It is the call from God to join with Jesus in "shepherding" his people. We are all called to participate in this shepherding, each in our own unique way. Some are called to be Priests, others to be Religious Sisters or Brothers, others to be married life and still others to the single state; each called with their unique gifts and abilities to live holy lives. If you think God may be calling you to a vocation in the Priesthood or the Religious Life, and you would like more information on discerning this possibility, please feel free to contact Bishop Hundt by phone at 709-639-7073 or by email at diocese@nf.aibn.com.

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:

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).

NATIONAL ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR

AWARENESS WEEK: April 22 to 28th is NOT-DAW. We pray and honor those who, through Organ and Tissue donation, have given the **Gift of Life** to others. For more information on organ and tissue donation, please contact a donation coordinator at 777-6600 or toll free 1-877-640-1110.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP: Meetings take place at St. Anne's Hall the first Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. For more info. call Joan at 643-3425 or Joyce at 643-3021.

"Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason."

~ Pope Francis