

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit...."
 John 15: 1-8

"The Crown"

The Crown is the acclaimed Netflix series on the life and times of England's Queen Elizabeth II.

A particularly revealing moment takes place in the first season of the series. Elizabeth's father unexpectedly becomes king when his brother, Edward VIII, abdicates the throne in 1936. King George VI was revered by his people for his humility and courage in leading England through World War II. In 1952, George VI dies after a long battle with cancer, and he is succeeded by his 26-year-old daughter, Elizabeth. The young princess confides to her grandmother, the dowager Queen Mary, her fear that she is totally inadequate and unprepared to succeed her father, that she is terrified that the nation and commonwealth will not accept her as their queen.

The dowager queen tells her beloved granddaughter that to be king or queen is about service, service that is centered in God. The person and personality of Elizabeth, Mary explains, cedes to God's greater good - the monarchy.

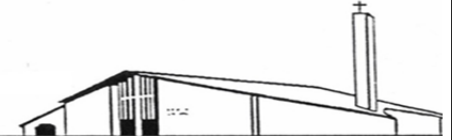
"Monarchy is God's sacred mission to grace and dignify the earth," the venerable queen explains to Elizabeth, "to give ordinary people an ideal to strive towards, an example of nobility and duty to raise them from their wretched lives. Monarchy is a calling from God. That is why you are crowned in an abbey, not a government building; why you are anointed, not appointed. It's an archbishop that puts the crown on your head, not a minister or public servant. Which means that you are answerable to God in your duty, not the public."

Queen Mary instructs her granddaughter that the crown she is about take on is not about her but about her people; the crown is not just a form of government but a nation's identity centered in God and the Gospel of Jesus. Jesus leaves a similar instruction to his disciples at the Last Supper: that whether we are a queen of king or a poor farmer or shop owner, our lives are meant to manifest the goodness of God, that in all things and at all times we "remain" in Christ. As branches of Christ the vine, we are part of something greater than ourselves, something which transforms and transcends our unremarkable "smallness" to define the meaning and purpose of our lives.

(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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

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 - *May 28th, 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 21-22:

Sunday Collection	\$	2,978.75
Development & Peace	\$	2.00
Capital Repairs	\$	90.00
Vocation Sunday	\$	1,103.85
Catholic Missions	\$	2.00
Good Friday	\$	3.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the Intentions of Stephen Hynes as requested by Reg Hynes.

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.

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

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE: The next Marriage Prep Course will take place on Saturday, May 26th starting at 9 am.. For more information or to register, please call the Parish Office.

6TH ANNUAL CATECHETICAL CONFERENCE: On Saturday, May 5th, the Diocese will host its annual catechetical conference at the Civic Centre in Comer Brook. At this conference, catechetical coordinators and catechists will engage in a time of spiritual renewal. Participants will also be introduced to a new resource to be used in Confirmation Year 1 and will participate in a session designed to assist in maximizing the use of all of the recently-implemented resources. Fifty-five people from all parishes of the Diocese are expected to attend the conference. Please include the participants and all the families of the diocese whom they serve in your prayers that all may be open to the graces and blessings of such an important ministry.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

St. Stephen's - Parish Meeting Room

Kindergarten, Thursday, **May 10th** at 6:00 pm
Year 1 (Group A), Monday, **May 7th** at 6:00 pm
Year 1 (Group B), Tuesday, **May 8th** at 6:00 pm

Year 2 (Group A), Monday, **May 14th** at 6:00 pm
Year 2 (Group B), Tuesday, **May 15th** at 6:00 pm
Year 3 (Group A) Monday, **May 28th** at 6:00 pm
Year 4, Thursday, **May 17th** at 6:00 pm
Yrs 5 & 6, Thursday, **May 31** at 6:00 pm

Yr. 7 Pre-Confirmation, Sunday, **May 27th** at 6:00 pm
Yr. 8 Confirmation, Tuesday, **May 29th** at 6:00 pm

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

Confirmation Celebration May 12th!

4YOUTH: Terrible things are happening – natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes, wars, bus accidents, senseless attacks on innocent people and so on. It seems like wherever we look, the news is bad. If we check the Bible, we learn that things were much the same in Jesus' time. People then, just like many today, wondered if these terrible things meant that the end of time was near. When bad things are happening, it is often hard to keep trusting God. But Jesus promised to give us the strength to continue to believe and He also promised that, by staying faithful to Him, "you will gain your souls". We should also remember that by using the gifts of time, talent and treasure that God has given us, we may be able to help make some of the bad situations better. And let's not forget to pray for all those affected by these terrible events.

HEALING MASS: Friday, May 4th, we will have the Anointing of the Sick at 9:30 am Mass. All are invited to experience the Lord's presence and use this opportunity to pray for healing, both spiritually and physically.

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.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: St. John captures the essence of what kind of love is expected from us toward our neighbor and those in need as he opens our Second Reading with "Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." Jesus made that point several times in His own teachings. It follows the old adage that "Actions speak louder than words." We have pointed out numerous times that being a good steward requires action. It may be easy for us come to an understanding of what it means to love one another; and additionally, we may speak of doing it; but the true measure is what we do, how we live our lives. The best examples of stewardship of that we may be aware in our parishes and community involve what we see and experience in others. That is the most effective way to be taught and it is the best way to teach others. Do it and live it.

That is John's point is it not? He continues his instructions in the Second Reading by saying, "We should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another as He commanded us." The Norwegian playwright and poet Henrik Ibsen, who had a great appreciation for the written word, once stated, "A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed." The point of Jesus' Parable of the Two Sons (Mt 21) in which one son says he will do his father's will but does not while the other says he will not obey, but repents and does what his father asked, is quite clear that deeds mean more than intentions.

"While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart."

~Francis of Assisi

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:

ROSARY FOR MAY: As part of the Knights of Columbus 5th Sunday Rosary program, this Sunday, April 29th the Holy Rosary will be recited at 7:00pm by the Knights of Columbus. All Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

May month being the month of the Holy Rosary, The Knights of Columbus will be reciting the Rosary each Sunday in May at 7:00 pm Sunday evenings. All Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

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.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 3742 Knights of Columbus will take place on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 8:00 pm. Please note the date change and that we are going back to our regularly scheduled day of the first Thursday of the month. All Brother Knights are encouraged to attend and remember the **Power of One**. Bring along another Brother Knight who you know have not been at a meeting for awhile.

"SPRING SHOWER" FUNDRAISER: The Bay St. George Women's Centre's (54 St. Clare Avenue) annual fundraiser will take place on Thursday, May 3rd from 10 am to 3 pm at . We are graciously accepting both new or gently used items for kitchen & bedroom, personal care items as well as cleaning supplies. We also welcome cash or gift card donations to Karen's Place-Temporary Housing Unit. A charitable receipt can be provided upon request. If you require further information please call 643-4444.

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.