

April 8, 2018

2nd Sunday of Easter

"Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

John 20: 19-31

"Enemy Lite"

Anne Lamott writes with wit and salt about finding God in her struggles with addiction, pain and single-parenthood. In her book Tender Mercies, she recounts her struggle with forgiveness.

The target of her animosity was the mother of one of her son Sam's classmates. She was too perfect, too sweet, too pretty, too together. She was everything that Anne wanted to be as a mom and woman - but wasn't. And her son eclipsed Sam in every subject in second grade. Anne's interactions with this woman were strained at best. Anne saw every offer of help from her as patronizing and subtle criticism. The two women were on opposite ends of everything, from politics to housekeeping. In her book, Anne dubs the woman "Enemy Lite."

Then one day, Sam is invited to play at Enemy Lite's house after school. When Anne goes to pick him up, Enemy Lite invites her inside and offers a cup of tea. At first, Anne refuses, wanting to get out of this House-and-Garden perfect home as quickly as she can. Anne writes about what happens next:

"Our boys appeared, and I got up to go. Sam's shoes were on the mat by the door, next to his friend's, and I went over to help him put them on. And as I loosened the laces on one shoe, without realizing what I was doing, I sneaked a look into the other boy's sneaker - to see what size shoe he wore. To see how my kid lined up in shoe size.

"And I finally got it. The veil dropped. I got that I was as mad as a hatter. I saw that I was the one worried that my child wasn't doing well enough in school. That I was the one who thought I was out of shape. And that I was trying to get her to carry all this for me because it hurt too much to carry it myself. I wanted to kiss her on both cheeks, apologize for all the self-contempt I'd been spewing out into the world, all the bad juju I'd been putting on her by thinking she was the one doing harm . . .

"This was me," Anne realized. "Not her."

In the light of Jesus' resurrection, we're able to see ourselves as we really are and confront our failings to be compassionate and our inability to forgive with hope and understanding. Anne Lamott came to realize that in her relationship with Enemy Lite; Thomas saw reason to let go of his doubt and skepticism in the person of the Risen Jesus. This Easter season, may we see our lives - both our gifts and failings, our certainties and doubts - in the light of Easter hope and grace, to embrace Christ's gift of peace enabling us to forgive and "let go" of our resentments and anger and disappointments in order to re-create our hearts and spirits in the living presence of the Risen One.

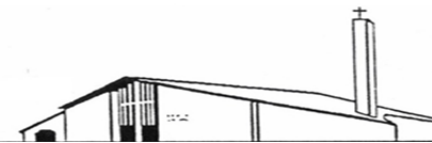
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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St. Stephen's Parish

78 West Street, Stephenville, NL, A2N 1E4
Tel (709) 643-2523 - Fax (709) 643-9745
Email: st.stephens.parish@nf.sympatico.ca
Web: www.ststephensparish.com



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

<p>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p>ROSARY Saturdays from 1:30 pm until 2:30 pm. RECONCILIATION Saturdays at 3:00 P.M.; anytime by request</p>
<p>MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE</p> <p>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday - 4:30 P.M. Sunday - 9:00 A.M.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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 MAR. 30-APR. 1:

Sunday Collection	\$	4,638.30
Development & Peace	\$	465.00
Good Friday	\$	1,998.25
Lenten Folders	\$	2,217.00
Shepherds Fund	\$	20.00
Capital Repairs	\$	20.00
Vocations	\$	5.00
Easter Flowers	\$	25.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: In memory of Monique Rideout as requested by Derrick & Lorraine Rideout.

PASTORAL DUES RECEIVED WITH

THANKS: From Ultan and Lloyd King, Carolyn Roberts, Max & Peggy Snow, Nigel & Rita Watson and Liam Whalen.

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.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Sunday, April 8th, the Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place from 2pm to 4 pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during that time. At 3 pm we have the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

APRIL 15TH MASS: Mass on Sunday, April 15th will include a special Thank You to all the volunteers of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. There will be a social to follow at St. Anne's Hall. All are welcome to attend.

THANK YOU!!!: To all of those who gave so generously of their time and talents during the Triduum last week. Also, Thank you to the parents who attended with their children at the Easter Family Mass on April 1st.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**St. Stephen's - Parish Meeting Room**

Kindergarten, Thursday, **April 12** at 6:00 pm
Year 1 (Group A), Monday, **April 9** at 6:00 pm
Year 1 (Group B), Tuesday, **April 10** at 6:00 pm

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

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION: Commemorates the appearance of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, his announcement that she was to be the mother of the Saviour and her acceptance of God's Will. Christ was then conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Annunciation falls on March 25, exactly nine months before the birth of Jesus at **Christmas**. However, the celebration of the Annunciation is transferred to a different date if it falls on a Sunday of Lent, during **Holy Week**, or during the octave of **Easter since** the Church considers Masses for the Sundays of Lent, any time in Holy Week, and any time from Easter through the Sunday after Easter to be so important that another feast cannot replace one of them. Since March 25 this year was Palm Sunday, the celebration of the Annunciation is moved to the Monday after the Sunday after Easter, which is April 9.

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED: To the families of Jim Conran, Bridget Ridgley, Stella Walsh, Anna Benoit and Reginald Russell who's funerals we celebrated this past week.

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

4 YOUTH: Did you know that, in the Catholic Church, Easter is not just one day but is a full season? The Easter Season continues for fifty days, until the feast of Pentecost. During the Easter Season, the Sunday readings focus on the appearances of the Risen Christ. The Old Testament readings are replaced by readings from the Acts of the Apostles, which focus on the growth of the early Church and how our faith spread throughout the ancient world. Easter is a time of joy and hope, because Jesus has overcome death by His Resurrection, which allows us to hope for our own Resurrection and eternal life with God.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: On this Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, what we hear in the Word of the Lord enforces what we need to believe. It has a lot to do with the idea of stewardship. Some of what we hear is often misinterpreted.

The First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles points out about the early Christian community: "The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his or her possessions was his own, but they had everything in common." This is a sign of unity, the kind of unity we as a faith community are striving to achieve. The bottom line is that those in the community regarded people more important than things. Is that not what Christ expects of us?

That community recognized that God was the granter and the owner of absolutely everything. Because the Lord had touched them so deeply, they found it easier to share. The misinterpretation often comes because some say, "That sounds like communism or socialism." Communism maintains that "What is yours is mine; if you do not share it, I will take it." The early Christian community said, "What is mine is yours; I will share it." It is a bit of a different viewpoint. In fact it is stewardship. We must remember that these people knew and were following the Apostles, who received this gift from the Lord: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them." And that is mercy.

THE WILD GOOSE IS LOOSE SERIES: April 11th, Wednesday at 7:30, after evening Mass in the Parish Meeting Room. The theme of this session is **The Spirit Gives Witness**. Synopsis: The Holy Spirit gives witness to Jesus. We are not able to fully understand who Jesus is in our own strength, intellect, and power. The Holy Spirit aids us in moving from our limited intellectual perception of who Christ is and what he has done for us to a life-changing understanding of Christ. It is also the Holy Spirit that inspires us to give witness to Christ by our words and action.

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST FOR GRADE 8-12 STUDENTS:

The Newfoundland and Labrador State Council of the Knights of Columbus is again this year sponsoring an essay writing contest. All Catholic students from Grade 8 to 12 are eligible to make entries. First Prize - \$200.00; Second Prize - \$100.00; Third Prize - \$50.00. The prizewinners will be announced at the State convention in April. This year's essay theme is: "Going to the Peripheries". Essays are to discuss the role of the Catholic Church in going to the peripheries and to describe the work of one widely known current or historical Catholic, or of someone personally known to the writer, who has helped alleviate human suffering. Essays are to be the writer's original work, 500 to 700 words in length and to be typed one sided, double spaced with one inch margins on 8 1/2" x 11" paper with the writer's name appearing only on the cover page. Essays must be submitted by April 15, 2018 to: Mr. Gordon Lannon, 3 Spruce Street, Pasadena, NL A0L 1K0