

August 23, 2020

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Reflection From *CatholicCulture.Org*

The days of summer have provided a welcome change of pace. However, while vacations afford us the time to relax and refresh, the change of habits and routines can also have a negative impact on our spiritual lives. As if to re-ignite us, the Church offers us in the plethora of August feasts vivid examples of the virtue of perseverance: six martyrs — two who are named in the ancient First Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass and two who were martyred during World War II; seven founders of religious congregations, as well as three popes and two kings; the apostle, St. Bartholomew; the great Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine and St. Monica, his mother; the humble patron saint of parish priests, St. John Vianney, and the patron of deacons, St. Lawrence, who joked with his executioners while being roasted alive.

It is never too late to begin — as the life of the reformed sinner, St. Augustine teaches us — nor too difficult to begin again, as demonstrated by the conversion of the martyr, St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein). We present-day members of the Mystical Body are certain of the reward to which we are called, for Christ's Transfigured body (August 6) is a preview of that glory. Moreover, in the Assumption of his Mother (August 15), Our Lord has demonstrated his fidelity to his promise. Her privilege is "the highest fruit of the Redemption" and "our consoling assurance of the coming of our final hope — the glorification which is Christ's" (*Enchiridion on Indulgences*).

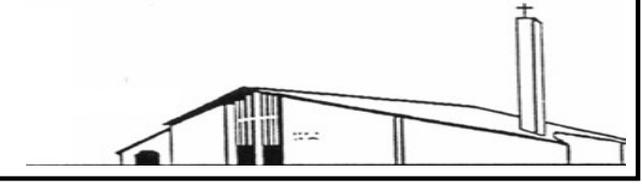
The Blessed Virgin Mary is the most perfect example of Christian perseverance, but she is also our advocate in Heaven where she is crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth (August 22). Mary is the "Mother of Perpetual Help", the patroness of the Congregation founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori (August 1). "No one who has fled to her protection is left unaided" is the claim of the *Memorare* of St. Bernard (August 20). Heretics have returned to the faith by the prayers of her Rosary, first preached by St. Dominic (August 8) in the Twelfth Century, and hearts have been converted by the graces received while wearing her Miraculous Medal, promoted by St. Maximilian Kolbe (August 14) and adopted as the "badge" for the Pious Union he founded. *Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope!*

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St. Stephen's Parish

78 West Street, Stephenville, NL, A2N 1E4
Tel (709) 643-2523 - Fax (709) 643-9745
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Web: www.ststephensparish.com



BISHOP OF CORNER BROOK & LABRADOR: Most Rev. Bart Van Roijen

Administrator: Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris)
Email: fatherchrisstp78@gmail.com

Associate: Rev. A.H. White
Email: fatherahwhite@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Warren Quinton

Rosa Dollard

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SECRETARY

Kelly Samms

Carolyn O'Quinn

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Theresa Dollimont

LITURGY COORDINATOR: Bernice Maddock

Knights of Columbus - Grand Knight Clyde Russell

4th Degree Assembly - Faithful Navigator Bob Miller

St. Anne's Guild - President Millicent Penton

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

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M.

Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M.

MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday - 4:30 P.M.

Sunday - 9:00 A.M.

REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES

Online Daily Due to COVID-19

ROSARY

Saturdays at 11:00 am

RECONCILIATION

By Appointment

BAPTISM PREPARATION- *Please call to register.*

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**

MASS INTENTIONS, August 24-August 28

MONDAY August 24, 7:00 P.M.

For the late David Stoodly

TUESDAY August 25, 10:00 A.M.

For the late Michael Keough

WEDNESDAY August 26, 7:00 P.M.

For the late Margaret White

THURSDAY August 27, 9:30 A.M.

For the intentions of Father O'Quinn
For the intentions of Eddy and Diane

FRIDAY August 28, 9:30A.M.

For the late Herma Compagnon

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

St. Anne's Oil

Our parish has available small bottles of St. Anne's oil, from the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec.

This oil is often used to bless people who are seeking protection from harm or are looking for relief from sickness or injury. Bottles cost \$5.

NOTE OF THANKS

Thank You! We wish to thank those who have continued to make their donations to the parish, via drop off, Interact transfers. It is greatly appreciated!

EXTRA MASSES

St Stephen's Parish is returning to **two week-end Masses**, now that we have a 100 person capacity per Mass.

MASS REGISTRATION

With the move to 100 people at each Mass, we have decided as a community to eliminate pre-registration. We still need to maintain contact tracing.

Upon arriving at the church, simply fill out a small information ballot and place it in the spot provided. These will be destroyed in fourteen days.

FACE MASKS IN CHURCH

Government regulations are requiring Face Masks in all public buildings, including churches. This begins Monday August 24th.

You **do not** need to wear a mask:

- While seated
- People with medical conditions
- Children 4 and under
- Receiving Holy Communion

But you will need to wear one while moving about: Entering, exiting, using the bathroom, and coming up to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS AT MASS

100 people may now attend Mass in our St. Stephen's Parish. While we will still need to register, this will allow many more people to worship God.

Please, share this news to everyone. Many people have been struggling to attend, and we are very anxious to have our brothers and sisters return.

*"When life is cruel
and unjust,
keep praying.
God is the victim
not the cause"*

EMAIL MONEY TRANSFERS

Our parish still welcomes your financial

support. Many people have dropped off their envelopes in the mailbox and we appreciate that. Now you also have the option to make donations via email money transfer. The email address for e-transfers only is stephensparish@gmail.com, also include your envelope # in the comments section if you have one. If not please include an address where a tax receipt may be sent. Thank you.

VOUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We need volunteers for ushering/check in duties and sanitizing the church and after every Mass from Saturday evening to Sunday morning and evening. As a faith community we will need to abide by the procedures stated by Western Health Authority to keep our church and safe and clean so we can continue to have Mass offered to the public. You can call 643-2523. if you are available to help.

BAPTISM:

If you or someone in your family has recently had a child, or is about to, congratulations! There are few joys in life to compare to the birth of a new baby. No preparation for a baby is complete without planning the Baptism, of course. The gifts of God to children in Baptism are innumerable, and no child should be deprived of these gifts! Doesn't that beautiful baby deserve every gift of God? We make every decision for our children when they are small, and they make their own choices later in life. Every child deserves the gift of God's love in Baptism. Don't let this necessary part of any child's life go unattended.

D&P: CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MEDIA

You can contact your local media to tell them about our appeal or if you are organizing a local fundraising initiative. If you need

support, please contact Marie-Hélène Bachand, Communications Officer, at mhbachand@devp.org.

CRISIS IN LEBANON – DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE EMERGENCY FUND

The situation in Lebanon following August 4th explosion has been described as “beyond imagination.” Thousands of people have been affected with over 159 people dying, over 6,000 injured, and over 300,000 people left homeless. The explosions have also worsened the country’s social, economic, and political crisis.

Development and Peace’s partner, Caritas Lebanon, is providing food, water, medical aid, and psychological and social support to those impacted by this crisis.

Please join in Pope Francis’ invitation to pray for the victims, for their families, and for all of Lebanon. Please also consider joining the Pope in responding to this desperate cry for help by donating to the emergency relief effort at Development and Peace – Caritas Canada through the following link:

<https://www.devp.org/en/civCRM/contribute/transact> or by calling 1 888 664-3387.

