

"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6: 60-69

### In it, for the long haul . . .

She's been working a long string of double shifts at the hospital. It's after 1 a.m., and she should have been gone hours ago. But she can't leave. This young woman was brought just after 11 - another opioid overdose. Her chances of making it through the night are nil. As yet, the hospital has not been able to track down anyone in the woman's family. So she's doing what she can to keep her comfortable until the end. She's been a nurse for ten years, and helplessly watching these kids die so senselessly is taking its toll. She's thought about quitting - but deep within her she knows that what she does on nights like this is important.

Why did she ever take this on? She doesn't need the extra work. Her evenings are full enough without the hassle of trying to organize this project for the parish. It would be one thing if people would just return her calls and e-mails - but this has been like trying to herd cats. Tomorrow she calls the pastor and hands this back to him. But then one of her prospective volunteers does call back. "Yes," she says, "I'd love to help. This is important work. Thank you for organizing this." OK, so maybe she'll put off that call to the pastor.

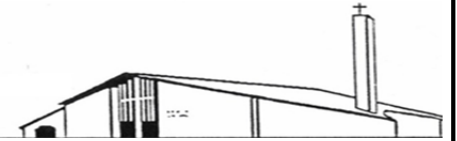
The past month has been a strain on both of them. The stress of his new job has turned him into a demanding, thoughtless jerk; trying to negotiate life in a new city has left her depressed and angry. This is not what they bargained for when they said "I do." Maybe their friends are right: better to walk away before they really hate each other. But they promised they would never lose hope in one another - and that hope, they know, will lead them to a brighter day. Together.

In today's Gospel, Peter has heard Jesus' difficult words that we have read these past four Sundays and, like those who have walked away, Peter, too, is struggling. He has just heard Jesus say things he doesn't understand, and what he does understand he can't accept. Jesus' words do not sound like life but death. But Peter's answer is a paradigm of maturity and sustained commitment. In effect, Peter says to Jesus: *Yes, I would like to walk away. Except I know better. What I have just heard, I'd don't get - and what I get, I don't like. Except I know, deep down, that I am better not getting it with you than getting it from some other place.* In any long-term commitment, there are days and seasons when that commitment looks like death and we'd like to walk away - except that we're smart enough and possess enough faith to know that, long range, this is bringing meaning and wholeness to our lives. May we always know the grace of God to hear Jesus' "words of eternal life" when eternity seems too long and life feels like a death sentence.

([www.connectionsmediaworks.com](http://www.connectionsmediaworks.com))

## 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](mailto:st.stephens.parish@nf.sympatico.ca)  
Web: [www.ststephensparish.com](http://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 Clifford Osmond  
**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 11:30 am until 12:30 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 - *September 24th, 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 Aug 18 & 19:**

Sunday Collection \$ 2723.25  
Capital Repairs \$ 135.00

**CONGRATULATIONS NEWLY BAPTIZED:**

We extend our congratulations and prayers to May the newly baptized, and their families continue to grow in the ways of faith.

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

**HOSPITAL VISITS:** Hospital visits are made on a regular basis, however, if someone is seriously ill, kindly let us know.

**EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION:** Sunday August 19, 2019 the Exposition & Benediction will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED:** If any parishioner knows of any senior or shut-in that are unable to attend Mass but who would like to receive Holy Communion, they are asked to submit the name and particulars to the parish office.

**NOMINATIONS-PARISH COUNCIL:** Each year we elect four members to our Parish Council for a three-year term. We will be accepting nominations during the first three weeks of September. If you wish to nominate someone, please make sure you have that person's consent, fill out the form provided and drop it off at the parish office.

**ATLANTIC BOY CHOIR:** Our Lady of Mercy Complex Committee invites you to an afternoon performance by the Atlantic Boy choir at Our Lady of Mercy Church on Thursday, August 30th at 3pm. Advance tickets may be purchased at Elaine's Variety, Debbie's Video, by e-transfer ([ourladyofmercycc@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofmercycc@gmail.com)), or by contacting any committee member. For further information please call Denise Goosney at 721-0200.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS:**

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus continues His instruction on the Eucharist. Many of his own disciples cannot accept His teachings and instead return to their former way of life, abandoning Christ altogether. Jesus turns to the Apostles and asks them to choose with the question, "Do you also want to leave?" Peter speaks up for the Twelve responding, "Master, to Whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

The demands of a stewardship way of life can be difficult. And the teachings of Christ can be hard to accept. How can we keep going when it gets tough? Peter's honest answer to the choice Jesus poses shows us a way to stay true to a stewardship way of life.

Looking at himself and the world around him, Peter comes to a realization. To paraphrase, he says, "I don't really see any better options, Lord. I've tried life with you and it's hard. But I've tried life without you and it's harder — it doesn't satisfy. Where else am I going to go? I choose you, Lord." Peter knows he doesn't have all the answers. And, so, he humbly chooses to rely on God. When the going gets tough, we can keep going by relying on God and trusting more deeply in Him.

Remembering blessings and relying on Him — these are two keys to a beautiful way of life.

**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018:**

The 2018 World Meeting of Families will take place August 21-26 in Dublin, Ireland, with the theme "Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World". Held every three years, this major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church. Pope Francis will attend the Festival of Families in Croke Park on Saturday 25th August and will celebrate an open air Mass in the Phoenix Park on Sun 26th Aug.

**POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST**

**Universal:**

That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

**Reflection**

People can authentically speak to the experience of growth in a family. In small yet steady increments over the years, we grow with our brothers and sisters, as parents we are drawn out of ourselves and into the paradigm that is caring for our children. It offers us opportunities to grow deeper in our humanity, stronger in hope, and more richly in love than we can ever imagine.

Family is not a defined ideal but rather a mosaic made up of many different realities. Families often feel abandoned due to a lack of interest on the behalf of the State. This failure to support is often expressed in a tentativeness to welcome new life, in a tendency to see older persons as a burden, the poverty of loneliness and in an increase of extreme

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

Through the sacrament of marriage, your Church sees in human love a sign of your presence. The fruitful love of spouses is an example of what each of us is "called to" as your children: to generate life.

The family is a place of life, hope, the future and communion.

For this reason, I pray to you this month, in union with Pope Francis and the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, for all families, so that they may receive political and economic support to fulfil their mission.

I pray in particular for those who live with greater difficulties, that your Spirit may be their strength and consolation.

Our Father...

Hail Mary ....

Glory be ....

**ALTER SERVERS:** There will be a meeting for all alter servers on August 29th, 2018 after mass. Anyone who would like to become a server please attend our meeting or contact the Parish office.

**CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY AT MUN:** If you are going to MUN this fall, be sure to visit the Catholic Chaplaincy. The office is at UC 3006. In addition, there is also a facebook page at MUN Catholic Community. If you wish to contact Fr. Joe Mroz, his email is [ej\\_mroz@yahoo.ca](mailto:ej_mroz@yahoo.ca).

**TIME FOR CREATION:**

The five-week period between September 1 and October 4 is known as Time for Creation. September 1, the beginning of the Orthodox Church Year, is the date when, since 1989, the Orthodox Church commemorates God's Creation by observing a Day of Prayer for the Environment. In August 2015, Pope Francis announced the establishment of a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to be observed annually on September 1. October 4 was chosen to mark the end of the Time for Creation as it is the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology. We are encouraged during this time especially to pray, to organize practical initiatives to combat the environmental crisis facing our planet and to reflect on ways to reduce the impact of our lifestyles on the environment. World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION:**

On Saturday, September 1, the Catholic Church will celebrate the fourth annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Pope Francis prepared a message for the celebration of this day of Prayer in 2016, entitled *Show Mercy to Our Common Home*, which may be read on the Diocesan web page. Additionally, the period of September 1 - October 4, designated as the "Time for Creation", is a good time for us to reflect upon our interactions with the wonders of God's creation and consider how we might be better stewards of those gifts. For more information, visit the Diocesan web page at [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com)