

Home

Theologian and storyteller Megan McKenna recounts the tale of a blacksmith who was revered in his village for his hard work, skill and generosity. The day came for him to die, and so God sent his angel to accompany the man's soul to the place prepared for him in heaven. But the man said to the angel, "Please, let me stay for a little while longer. It IS time for the year's planting, and my neighbors need me." The angel agreed.

A few months later, the angel returned to bring the humble blacksmith to God's dwelling place. The blacksmith said, "I don't mean to be ungrateful, but could I stay a little longer? A neighbor of mine is seriously ill, and it's time for the harvest. A number of us are trying to save his crop so his family won't be destitute." Again the angel agreed to ask God for more time.

And so it went: the angel would come to bring the blacksmith to God, but the blacksmith would ask for more time, that he was still needed in his village. And the angel would agree.

After many years, the blacksmith grew old and weary. It was time, he realized, and so he prayed: "God, if you'd like to send your angel again, I'd be glad to come home now."

God's angel appeared to the blacksmith. "If you still want to take me home, I'm ready to go to God's kingdom."

But the angel laughed and, with delight and surprise, said to him, "Where do you think you've been all these years?"

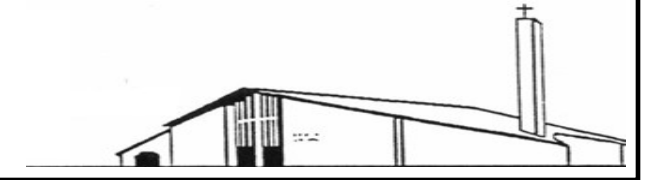
The blacksmith was already home.

[From **Parables: The Arrows of God** by Megan McKenna.]

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus challenges our often-illusory, distorted relationships with such things as money, food, technology and fashion at the expense of the important relationships we have with family and friends — and God. The blacksmith has discovered the true blessings of life that enable him to find "God's home" in his present life. Jesus challenges his disciples to *detach* from the ephemeral and shallow in order to *attach* to the lasting, fulfilling things of God. In embracing the spirit of God's compassion and mercy, we can transform our time and place into the time and place of God.

St. Stephen's Parish

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

Administrator: Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris)
 Email: fatherchrisstsp78@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.

REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES

Online Daily Due to COVID-19

MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday - 4:30 P.M.
 Sunday - 9:00 A.M.

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**

RECEIVED WITH THANKS AUGUST 22-23

Offertory	\$2078.25
Capital Repairs	\$60.00
Sheperds Fund	\$80.00

MASS INTENTIONS, August 31-September 4

MONDAY August 31, 7:00 P.M.

For the late Theresa Cashin
Special Intentions

TUESDAY September 1, 10:00 A.M.

For the late Bruce Pellerin

WEDNESDAY September 2, 7:00 P.M.

For the intentions of Eddy and Diane
For the late Herma Compagnon

THURSDAY September 3, 9:30 A.M.

For the late Michael Keough
For the late Fannie Young

FRIDAY September 4, 9:30A.M.

For the late Herma Compagnon
For the late Paul McComiskey

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.

BINGO

Bingo will be held Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.

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.

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,

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/civicism/contribute/transact> or by calling 1 888 664-3387.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Beginning the weekend of September 13th, the Diocese has developed a weekly to help families share the faith at home. “Family Connections” includes a weekly conversation starter for mealtime, a bed time story, a family activity, seasonal traditions and short prayers. Especially developed for this time of pandemic, “Family Connections” is easy to integrate into the day to day of family life and will help families connect with God, their faith and one another. “Family Connections” is available on the diocesan webpage (rcchurch.com) and on most parish websites.