

"18th Sunday of the Year

What moral heroes are made of . . .

Who are your heroes? And not just mythic figures from history - but men and women who have touched your life, who have inspired you to do good things you never thought yourself able or disposed to doing, who have made you see that life is more than personal profit or gain.

In a column in **The New York Times** [May 21, 2018], David Brooks writes that he's been lucky enough to be around a lot of people he regards as "moral heroes" and has wondered what traits such people have in common.

"First, they didn't over-think their decision before choosing to live this way. They didn't weigh the costs and benefits or wage any internal battle with themselves . . .

"At some point in their lives, somebody planted an ideal. Somebody set a high example of what a good life looks like, and the person who went on to become a moral hero just assumed that, of course, that's what one should do.

"They tend to have a *This is what I do* mentality. They don't have a lofty sense of themselves. They don't have a sense that they are doing anything extraordinary . . . Their identity is not based on being a lawyer or a pianist. Their identity is fused with a moral ideal . . . We see them tirelessly serving the poor or risking their lives for democracy and think they are performing great acts of self-sacrifice, but it doesn't seem that way to them. It feels like the activation of their own nature. Doing that work seems to them as ordinary as doing the dishes. Something needed to be done, so they did it . . .

"Often, they have another strong back. There's usually a team of peers around them sharing the core tasks and carrying them when they can't carry themselves . . .

"People who lead these lives tend to possess an insane level of optimism, a certainty that history does change for the better and that achieving justice is only a matter of time. They remain undaunted even in the face of severe hardship and assume that every wrong is temporary.

"Finally, the direction of their lives moves almost invariably from fragmentation to integration. The fragments of their character have become integrated around one single-minded moral cause. They tend to be hedgehogs, not foxes. Their efforts are generally built around healing some rupture in society, reconciling differences, bringing the unlike together, a move from fragmentation to wholeness. However contentious the world may look, they have a mind-set that at our deepest level we are all connected in a single fabric."

*We all know some "moral hero" like this; every life here has been blessed by the kind of "saint" David Brook describes. They're the living signs of God's love in our midst; they accomplish the "work of God" because they believe in that work - healing, reconciliation, justice, mercy - and take it on in a spirit of humility and gratitude. They are "manna" for us in our deserts; they are "bread" that nourishes us along the road we travel through time; they are "water" that quenches our greatest thirsts for hope and meaning in our lives. May we give thanks for the "heroes" in our lives - and seek God's grace to become "heroic" signs of that grace for those we love and care for.*

(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

**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

### 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 JULY 28 & 29:**

Sunday Collection	\$	3136.50
Capital Repairs	\$	25.00

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** In memory of Tom & Tony Rotchford as requested by Sylvia Rotchford.

**CONDOLENCES:** To the Family of Mary Dawson whose funeral we celebrated this pass week.

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

**SPECIAL MASS:** Our Lady of Mercy Church, Port au Port West, will be celebrating the Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Wednesday, August 15th at 6pm with His Excellency Bishop Hundt officiating. We will be reciting the rosary at 5:30. All are welcome. There will be a special collection at this mass following communion in aid of Our Lady of Mercy Church Restoration for those wishing to donate to this cause.

**CHOIR MEMBERS:** Wednesday August 15, 2018 for Assumption of Our Lady Liturgy. St. Stephen's Choir as well as other singers in the parish are invited to join the Port au Port Choir to celebrate this event. All singers are asked to be in the church for practice at 4:45 P.M. on August 15th. Please contact Bride Doyle by Monday, August 13th at 643-8593 to confirm that you will attend. Thank you.

**CONNECTING WITH THE SUNDAY**

**READINGS:** Visit the Diocesan Web page at [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com) and check out the link on the sidebar called *Connecting with the Sunday Readings*. Published weekly by Our Sunday Visitor, this two page article is designed to help families make connections to the Sunday Readings. It includes reflections on the Gospel, a section called "Parent Survival" and another called "Car or Meal Talk" for those looking for ways to help families to stay connected with the Scriptures.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS:**

In the Gospel from John, Jesus advises us, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." By calling Himself the Bread of Life, Jesus is telling us by what He says, how He acts, and in fact Who He is that He is the Word of God made flesh.

God reveals to us the Word alive in the most complete way possible, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are to hear the Word and know Who Jesus is; we are to accept that Word into our minds and hearts — into our spirit — and we are to let that Word begin to change us.

That change is represented by knowing what God wants us to do. Today's Holy Scriptures make that clear. We must pray that we respond and do be good stewards of our time, talent, and treasure so that we can do the work God wants us to do. In the Second Reading, Paul reminds us that we need to undergo a conversion — in effect put on a new self. Our entire lives need to be devoted to change, so that we renew ourselves from the inside and live a stewardship way of life according to God's ways.

Charles Spurgeon, an English minister in the 1800s once wrote, "Conversion is a turning onto the right road. The next thing to do is to walk on it." That is our trial. Once we experience conversion, we must follow through by doing what the Lord wishes us to do.



**OFFICE CLOSED:** St. Stephen's Parish office will be closed on Monday August 6, 2018 for civic holiday. You may still call the Parish house for emergency's.

**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 ...

**OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH AND**

**MUSEUM:** Now open daily (Monday-Sunday) 10 am to 5 pm until mid August. After your tour, stop by our Tea Room for tea/coffee and sample our homemade baked goods and preserves. We look forward to your visit!

**HUMOR: Stepping-Stones**

There were three men in a boat halfway across a lake. The first man suddenly said, "I forgot my lunch , " got out of the boat, and walked to shore on top of the water.

Later, the second man said, "I forgot my fishing tackle, " and also walked across the water to shore.

By this time, the third man thought to himself, "They are not going to outsmart me. I forgot my bait can," and he started to walk across the water but he sank.

The first man said to the second, "Maybe we should have told him where the rocks were."

**ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:**

**WEST ST. CEMETERY COMMITTEE:** The West Street Cemetery Committee have opened an account at the Recycling Depot on the Hansen Highway. If anyone would like to donate their recyclables please let a staff member know at the time of drop-off. If you are unable to bring your recyclables to the Depot and wish to donate them, please call 643-5910 to arrange for pickup.

**CHASE THE ACE:** Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their 7th Chase the Ace fundraiser. This event is held on Sunday with ticket sales starting at 1:00 pm and ending at 3:45 pm with the draw taking place at 4 pm.

**TOWN OF STEPHENVILLE & REGIONAL**

**AQUATIC CENTRE:** Will be hosting a FREE swim in aid of Canadian Mental Health Association, on August 18th from 4:00pm to 4:55pm. There will be a reception to follow. Space is limited, registration is required. Please call CMHA at 643-5553 by Wednesday August 15th to register.