

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

There will be a **Christmas Children's Mass on December 24, Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm**. The Mass will be for Children and their families. We do understand that many families will be looking to attend this Children's Mass; however, due to the present circumstances only 100 people will be permitted to attend. There are other Christmas Masses that your family could attend; Christmas Eve at 8:00 pm and at 10:00 pm. Also, as in the past there will be a Christmas Day mass at 10:30 am for all families. Please keep in mind that attendance of 100 people is for all of the Masses. The attendance for all Masses will be done by **phone Registration** only.

Starting on Monday, December 7, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, you can call Debbie Wilton at 649-1958 to book your seats. It is recommended that you do not wait long to book on that date as we anticipate that the bookings will be in high demand.

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m. Reconciliation

**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 p.m. (Children's Mass)

8:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m.

**Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 a.m.

**Holy Family Mass**

**Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 a.m.

**New Year's Eve**

**Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

6:00 p.m.

**New Year's Day,**

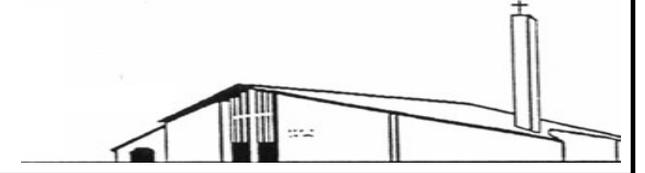
**Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

10:30 a.m.



**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



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

**Administrator:** Fr. Krishnarao Mekala (Kris)

**Associate Priest:** Ft. Vanathuraj Rayappan (Ray)

**PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Debbie Wilton

Rosa Dollard

**St. Anne's Guild**

**SECRETARY**

President, Millicent Penton

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

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

**BAPTISM PREPARATION-** *Please call to register.*

**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

**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

November 22<sup>nd</sup> - \$1966.50

November 29<sup>th</sup> - \$2745.00



## SCENT-FREE

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

For the late Francis Downey

For the late Marjorie Shelley

### **Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

For the late Bruce Pellerin

### **Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

For the late Michael Felix

### **Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

For the late deceased members of the J.V. and

Mary Ellen O'Quinn Family

### **Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

For the late Clinton Felix

## HOLY FATHERS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: EVANGELIZATION

For a life of prayer - We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as Advent and are represented by the liturgical colour purple - a symbol of penance, mortification, and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The liturgical colour changes to white or gold - a symbol of joy, purity, and innocence.



## U-TUBE REFLECTION

The Bishops of Canada are providing a short U-Tube reflection on the Sunday Advent Readings that can be accessed beginning every Monday of the week on the CCCB webpage at [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca). Bishop Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton, is the presenter.

## 4 YOUTH

December 12<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1531, a poor Aztec Indian named Juan Diego claimed to have seen a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Miracles were performed as a sign of her identity: roses bloomed in December, Juan's dying uncle was cured, and Mary's image came to be imprinted on Juan's shawl - an image which should have disintegrated within years but still exists today. Our Lady of Guadalupe was named Patroness of the Americas and Empress of Latin America by Pope John 11 in 1999. Because her image on Juan's shawl shows her as the God-bearer, pregnant with her Divine Son, she was also named Protectress of the Unborn Child. This would be a good week to say a special prayer for an end to abortion.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Our times cry out for the comfort that only Jesus Christ can fulfill.

1. We have experienced our own time of exile and hardship. a) The corona virus had brought us isolation from loved ones and from enjoyable pursuits. b) The pandemic has taken away many lives and altered our way of life, reminding us that the human race is vulnerable. A tiny, unforeseen adversary can threaten our way of life and our very existence. c) We experience alienation worldwide. National, ethnic, and religious divisions have resurfaced. We witness the unjust death of people on live television. The rich and the poor grow further apart. d) We also experience exile within ourselves. We fall short of ideals; succumbing to temptation and experiencing sickness and misfortune.
2. We have to learn patience, but we cannot give up hope. a) The Letter of Peter comforts us with the assurance of a "new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells." The letter's apocalyptic language describes God's ultimate triumph. b) The letter also tells us that God does not work according to our timetable. What seems to us like neglectful delay reflects God's patience so that we can get our act together, seek to change certain attitudes we have towards some people, and become more aware of our need to reach out to those who are suffering and in need. Paul invites us to some soul searching both as individuals and as a society. c) Building a better world will require a change of our attitudes. Jesus is our hope.

Once we learn to do things His way and let Him baptize us with the Holy Spirit, we can exchange our exile for the justice and joy of God's kingdom. (Taken from: *Franciscan Media, Sunday Homily Helps: 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 6 h, 2020. Series B Readings, Lectionary #5, Cincinnati (Ohio) USA, p10*).

## REFLECTION: LONELY VOICES

The voice of John the Baptist was a lonely voice which many of his contemporaries ignored. There are many lonely voices in our world. Somewhere at this moment a child is crying - crying for love or maybe simply for bread. Somewhere a young person is crying - crying for a listening ear or an understanding heart. Somewhere an old person is crying - crying for a visit or a word from his/her children. There are a thousand unheard cries in our world coming from the victims of injustice and neglect. Lord, help us to listen to your voice whispering to us in the wilderness of our hearts telling us that we are loved by you and that we are to love one another. (Taken from: *Flor McCarthy, New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies: Year B, Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, p21*).



## AND HOW CAN WE HELP YOU IN PRAYER THIS WEEK?

Let us pray: Lord God, we hear your call. We hear your call through the Prophet Isaiah, through John the Baptist, and through your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us heed that call with the help of your love and your grace; that we may make of this Advent a season of new life and renewal so that we may worthily celebrate the birth of our Saviour, your Son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen. (Taken from: *Resurrection Ministries of the Congregation of the Resurrection Ontario - Kentucky Province, Celebrating the Word, Waterloo (Ontario), pp 9-10*).

## WEEK 2 OF ADVENT: PEACE

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent as we strive to become the best people that we can be, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you wish, you can now make a monetary contribution to help buy Christmas flowers for St. Stephen's. Any donation will be gratefully accepted. Contributions may be made in memory of a deceased family member or friend. Please put your contribution in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" including your name, address and the envelop number.

## CHURCH ENVELOPES

Church envelopes are now available. They can be picked up at our Parish office during office hours.

## SUNDAY MISSALS

Our new Sunday missals are now available. They can be purchased for \$5 at our Parish office during weekday hours.



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 3742 Knights of Columbus will once again this year prepare a Christmas Dinner on December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day. This will take place at the Knights of Columbus building at 97 West Street from 11:30 - 1:00. Due to COVID 19 restrictions this year's dinner will be delivery only and all those taking part will have to register in advance.

All those planning on having a Christmas meal delivered must register on or before Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 2020. To register or for additional information, please call Bob Miller at 643-2632 or the Santa Maria Club at 643-2557 and leave a message.