

December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

**The sign of the ladle**

It had been a horrible day at the office, one crisis after another. He spent the day saving deals that were coming apart, reassuring angry customers whose orders had been messed up, going to the mat with vendors — putting out one fire after another.

Just as he was about to leave for the day, he remembered: it was his family’s night to volunteer at the soup kitchen. He called his wife, apologized for forgetting, and said he would meet her and the kids at the church hall in a half hour.

Once there, he slowly managed to put the stress of the day behind him and got into the rhythm of the busy kitchen. His job that night was making the soup, with his daughter helping cut the vegetables.

At 6 p.m., the doors opened. He took his station at the steaming caldron of chicken noodle soup. The first guest was an elderly woman in a torn coat and ripped sneakers. He ladled the soup into a bowl, and gently handed it to her.

“Thank you so much,” she said. “Thank you and bless you.”

Her smile was the brightest thing he had seen all day.

And, he realized that he was, indeed, blessed.

A busy dad comes to realize his blessedness in the unexpected “sign” of a homeless woman’s gratitude. In the course of our days, we all encounter such “signs”: indicators of the realities of God’s presence that we do not readily see or appreciate or have stopped seeing or would rather ignore altogether. These “signs” urge us to look deeper, to see beyond ourselves and our needs and expectations, to confront issues before they become disasters. In the “signs” of the good we give and receive, we “stand erect” to behold God’s Spirit of humility and wisdom, transforming our lives in the justice and peace of Advent.

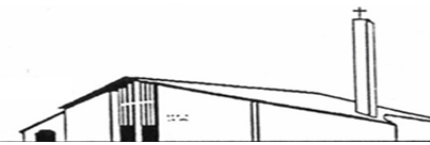
*(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)*

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# St. Stephen’s Parish

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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

Email: [fatherchrisstp78@gmail.com](mailto:fatherchrisstp78@gmail.com)

**PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Warren Quinton

Vacant

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**SECRETARY**

Debbie Keough 643-6681

Carolyn O’Quinn

**RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR:** Theresa Dollimont

LITURGY COORDINATOR: Bernice Maddock

**Knights of Columbus** - Grand Knight Bob Miller **4th Degree Assembly** - Faithful Navigator Clifford Osmond

**St. Anne’s Guild** - President Millicent Penton

## ST. STEPHEN’S PARISH SCHEDULE

<p align="center"><b>SUNDAY MASSES</b> Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Sunday Morning -10:30 A.M.</p>	<p align="center"><b>ROSARY</b> Saturdays from 1:30 am until 2:30 pm. <b>RECONCILIATION</b> Saturdays at 3:00 P.M.; anytime by request</p>
<p align="center"><b>MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE</b></p> <p align="center"><b>SUNDAY MASSES</b> Saturday - 4:30 P.M. Sunday - 9:00 A.M.</p>	<p align="center"><b>REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES</b> 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.</p>

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

**BAPTISM PREPARATION.** Last Monday of ever month from Sept - May *Please call to register*

**MASS FOR THE SICK.** Every First Friday of the month

**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 NOV 17&18:**

Sunday Collection	\$ 2475.85
Shepherd's Fund	\$ 2838.45
All Souls	\$ 12.00
Capital Repairs	\$ 5.00
Initial Offering	\$ 5.00

**SYMPATHIES EXTENDED:** We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of John Doyle. May he rest in Peace.

**ADVENT FOLDERS:** Advent folders are available at the back of the Church.

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

**STEWARDSHIP COFFEE TIME:**

Will take place on the following Sunday's after Mass in the downstairs meeting room of the Church. Please join us for a tea or coffee, a sandwich or a cookie as we gather together in Fellowship!  
**December 02, 2018**

**2019 SUNDAY MISSALS :** Are now available at the back of the Church or at the office cost is \$5.00.

**CHILDREN'S 2019 SUNDAY MISSALS:**

Are now available at the office cost is \$10.00

**2019 ENVELOPES:** Are available for pick up at the back of the Church. If you don't see yours there or would like envelopes please contact the Parish office.

**ADVENT:** Season of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year, begins on Sunday, December 2. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival". The season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. To learn more about the season of Advent go to [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com)

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE****December 2018**

Yr 1 (Group A) Monday, **December 3** at 6:00 pm  
Yr 1 (Group B) Tuesday, **December 4** at 6:00 pm  
Kindergarten Thursday **December 6** at 6:00 pm

Yr 2 (Group A) Monday, **December 10** at 6:00 pm  
Yr 2 (Group B) Tuesday, **December 11** at 6:00 pm  
Yr 4 Thursday **December 13** at 6:00 pm

Yr 3 (Group A) Monday, **December 17** at 6:00 pm  
Yr 5 & 6 Thursday **December 20** at 6:00 pm

Pre Confirmation **December 9th** 6:00pm  
Confirmation **December 12th** 6:00 pm

**CHRISTMAS CLEANING OF CHURCH:** You can help on **Tuesday, December 18** after mass. Bring along cloths and buckets. **LUNCH IS PROVIDED.** Many hands make light work.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:**

We have arrived at the powerful season of Advent, a season to prepare with awe and wonder for the Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus - born to us as Savior and Brother. It is a season to prepare for His return at the end of time. It is also a moment to remind ourselves that that our individual judgment day is coming, too, when we will be called to give an account for all that God has given to us during our lifetimes. In other words, Advent is a steward's season!

Our readings for the first week of Advent waste no time in calling our urgent attention to these themes of reflection and preparation. They seem to shout, "Wake up! Get ready!" and offer us some practical advice as we enter into this season. The Gospel, from Luke, warns, "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life." How easy it is to lose focus on our Lord either by too much indulgence in our lives or by too much worry about our lives. Both extremes are easy to fall prey to. To avoid these traps this we are told to "be vigilant" and "pray for

strength to sustain us." During Advent, we Christian stewards must ask ourselves some hard questions. Am I staying faithful to my prayer life? Am I using my energy and skills to serve others? Am I overly concerned about material gain? Am I relying my "stuff" or my investments as my source of comfort or security? Am I living for the moment or for the coming of the Lord? Get ready Christian stewards! He's coming! Let us prepare with awe and wonder.

**CANCELLATION OF DAILY MASS:**

With the winter approaching us is the practise throughout the diocese and in all parishes, including the cathedral parish, **daily mass will be cancelled on days when schools are closed.** If school is closed for the morning and morning mass has been scheduled, mass too is cancelled. If schools are closed for the afternoon, any evening masses scheduled are also cancelled.

**ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONCERT:** Will take place Wednesday, Dec. 5th at 7:00 PM in St. Stephen's Church. Tickets are \$5/adults & \$2/ children and are available at the Parish Office or the door. For more info, contact Aldonna at 649-1173.

**SIR THOMAS RODDICK HOSPITAL FOUNDATION:**

The annual Tree of Love Memorial and Carol Service will be held in the Courtyard of the Hospital on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7pm. Light a bulb on our "Tree of Love" in memory of a loved one or friend. For more info please call 643-7478.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Will be hosting a New Years Ball on Monday December 31. This will be a Steak Dinner and Dance event with all the trimmings. Tickets are \$30.00 single or \$60.00 double. Tickets are available at Debbie's Video or by calling Bob Miller at 643 2632.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** The annual Children's Christmas party will take place on Sunday, December 16 at 2:00 pm. The party will take place at the Knights of Columbus building. This is open to children, grand children, and great grand children age 12 and under of Brother Knights. Any one attending must register before Wednesday December 12, 2018 by calling Bob at 643 2632 or email at [bob-miller49@hotmail.com](mailto:bob-miller49@hotmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

**CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR Schedule:****2018-2019****Monday, December 17 -**

Mass at 9:30 am Reconciliation Service at 7 pm

**Monday, December 24**

Confessions at 3 pm  
At Stephenville and Port au Port

Mass - Heatherton - 5:00 pm  
Mass - St. Fintan's - 7:00 pm  
Mass - Piccadilly - 7:00 pm  
Mass - Port au Port - 8:30 pm  
Mass - Stephenville - 8:00 pm  
Mass - Stephenville - 10:00 pm

**Tuesday, December 25**

Mass - Port au Port - 9:00 am  
Mass - Piccadilly - 10:30 am  
Mass - Stephenville - 10:30 am

**Wednesday, December 26 - St. Stephen's Day**

Mass - Stephenville - 10:00 am  
Mass on December 28, 29, 2018 at 10 am

**Monday, December 31, 2018 -**

Mass - Port au Port - 4:30 pm  
Mass - Stephenville - 6:00 pm

**Tuesday, January 1, 2019 -**

Mass - Port au Port - 9:00am  
Mass - Piccadilly - 10:30 am  
Mass - St. Stephen's Parish - 10:30 am