

December 20th, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Due to the COVID-19 social distancing measures in place, you need to call to register for our Christmas and New Year's Masses. To register, you can call Debbie Wilton at 649-1958.

Our Christmas Mass schedule is as follows:

Thursday, December 24th
4:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m. (Children's Mass)
8:00 p.m.
10:00 p.m.

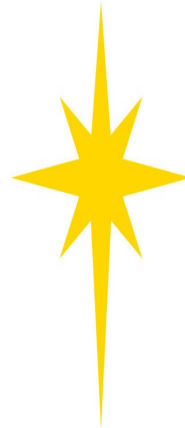
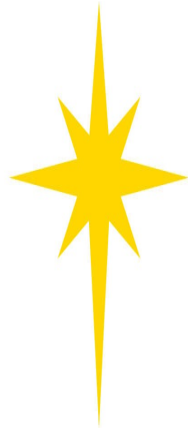
Friday, December 25th
10:30 a.m.

Holy Family Mass
Saturday, December 26th
6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 27th
10:30 a.m.

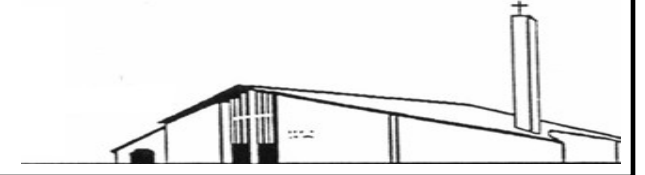
New Year's Eve
Thursday, December 31st
6:00 p.m.

New Year's Day,
Friday, January 1st
10:30 a.m.



St. Stephen's Parish

78 West Street, Stephenville, NL, A2N 1E4
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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: Fr. 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

<p>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p>REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES Online Daily Due to COVID-19</p>
<p>MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE</p>	
<p>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday - 4:30 P.M. Sunday - 9:00 A.M.</p>	<p>ROSARY Saturdays at 11:00 am RECONCILIATION By Appointment</p>

PRAYER MEETINGS:

St. Stephen's Prayer Group and Word & Spirit Prayer Group Meetings have been cancelled until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

December 6th - \$3247.00

December 13th - \$2985.05



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 21st

For the late Carmelita Russell

For the late Philip Morgan

Tuesday, December 22nd

For the late Mary Cormier

For the late Fintan Gabriel

Wednesday, December 23rd

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

Ellen O'Quinn Family

For the late Natasha Connolly

For the late Terrence Bennett

Thursday, December 24th

Friday, December 25th

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.

4 YOUTH

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life”. (Jn 3:16) As we recall and celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ on that first Christmas Day, may we find love, joy, and peace in our hearts and in our lives.

A STORY: THE FIRST CRIB

We have a tendency to pretty up the Christmas story. But in doing that we remove it from us. We empty it of much of the meaning it carries for us. It was St. Francis of Assisi who assembles the first crib in a cave on an Italian hillside in the year 1223. His aim was to make the Christmas story come alive for the people of the locality. His idea was to show them how close it was to them and their lives. And it seems that he succeeded. On

Christmas Eve the friars and the people assembled with candles and torches around the crib. Francis spoke to the people, who were mostly farmers and shepherds,



about God’s Son coming among us to teach us that we too are children of God and that as such we have an eternal destiny. The shepherds and farmers got the message: God had time for simple folks like them. At the end of the vigil they all returned to their homes, full of peace and joy, feeling very close to God and to one another. (Flor McCarthy, New Sunday and & Holy Day Liturgies: Year B, Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, pp 30-31.)

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Luke 1:26-38: - Because Gabriel knew Mary would be afraid, he tried to calm her: a) Only in deep prayer can we become aware of what God wants from us. It takes time, quiet and openness to be receptive to God’s request. b) Sometimes we are God’s messenger, inviting people to respond to God in a new way. c) In a time of distress such as the sheltering in place required of us earlier this year, we can view such a moment as an opportunity to set apart quiet space to be more open to receiving God’s word. d) Perhaps this Advent we can see again God’s in breaking within our world. (Franciscan Media, Sunday Homily Helps: 4th Sunday of Advent - December 20th - 2020, Series B Readings, Lectionary #11, pp23-24)

REFLECTION

Lonely at Christmas: You sometimes hear people say, ‘I always find Christmas Day a lonely day’ I think what they are really saying is: ‘I always feel lonely on Christmas Day’ Loneliness is caused chiefly by two things: absence and emptiness. Let us spare a thought, a prayer and maybe a visit for someone who will spend Christmas alone. And if while spending Christmas in the midst of others, we still feel lonely, let us not be alarmed. Our hearts are always longing for something more, or rather, for someone else. In every human heart there is an empty chamber waiting for a guest. That guest is God. (Flor McCarthy, New Sunday & Ho-

ly Day Liturgies: Year B, Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, p32)

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU IN PRAYER THIS WEEK?

Great and merciful God, from among this world’s lowly and humble you choose your servants and call them to work with you to fulfill your loving plan of salvation. By the power of your Spirit, make your church fertile and fruitful, that, imitating, the obedient faith of Mary, your church may welcome your Word of life and so become the joyful mother of countless offspring. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen. (The Congregation of the Resurrection Ontario-Kentucky Province, Celebrating the Word, Waterloo (Ontario, p7)

WEEK 4 OF ADVENT: LOVE

Lord, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we gather with four candles burning brightly, just as our love for you is shining brightly. We pray that our love for you will continue to shine. Thank you Lord for all that you have given us. May Jesus, the light of the world, fill our lives with peace, patience, kindness, and love this season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE CLOSED

St. Stephen's Parish office will be closed from December 24th - December 28th and will reopen December 29th at 1:00 p.m.

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 envelope 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

Curbside café for December 17th is cancelled. The Zion Pentecostal Church will be holding their roast beef dinner on December 17th and we will be holding our annual Christmas Dinner (delivery only) on December 25th. Our next café will be held on January 21st and every third Thursday thereafter.

CHRISTMAS POEM

Twinkling stars light the sky,
Sparkling bright leading path,
To the songs the angels sing;
"Sounding Glory - To the prince of peace!!!."

Light your heart having hope,
Lending hand spreading kindness ,
Love the all with warming heart;
"Live the joy- Lighting home!!!."

Precious gifts around the tree,
Glittering baubles tinkling sounds,
Pealing bells summons sharing;
"Gathering family- The unity sprouts!!!."

Let the joy relieve your worries,
This is the season with a reason,
Standing now proclaim Christmas tides;
"Joyous Christmas - Brightening New Year!!!."

By Fr. Ray

