

## Pastors Message :

The old Christmas song says, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." And for the Christian it should ring true. Christmas is easily considered one of the happiest times of the year. Everyone gives presents to everyone else, there are beautiful decorations in homes and at stores and everyone is generally nicer this time of year. Christmas has turned into the act of buying people presents to show that you care about them, but there are so many more meaningful ways to tell someone that you care. Sure, there are plenty of presents that have a meaning behind them, but the ultimate gift we have to be joyful about is the gift of Christ himself, the reason for the season. Let us remember that the gift is always a token of the heart. Most gifts are soon broken, used and forgotten, but a loving, giving heart endures the tests of time. Jesus is the Gift who keeps on giving. Amidst our celebrations this Christmas, let us pause a while to look around us to recognize that Jesus who was born into the world, given to us as a gift. Let us make our holiday a Holy Day, add another seat or two at our table, sing the carols at the top of our voice, tell Christ's story with thanksgiving and awe and wrap every present in love!

**May the Spirit of Christmas bring you Peace. May the Joy of  
Christmas bring you Hope.**

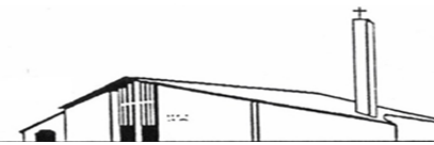
**And may the Message of Christmas reveal God's amazing  
Love.**

December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

## **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: [fatherchriststp78@gmail.com](mailto:fatherchriststp78@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

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

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

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

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

**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 PM - 1:00 PM**

**RECEIVED WITH THANKS Dec 15 & 16**

Sunday Collection	\$ 3189.10
St. Vincent de Paul (Collection)	\$ 227.00
Shepherd's Fund	\$ 27.00
Capital Repairs	\$ 50.00
Christmas	\$ 87.00
World Mission	\$ 2.00
Initial Offering	\$ 5.00

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** In memory of Mom, Dad & John as requested by Rosemary & Desmond Hann.

**DUES:** Gratefully received from: Laura Alyward, Margie Brisbois, Magdalen Cochrane, Darren Jesso, Ambrose & Millicent Penton, Anthony & Mary Smith and Richard Tracey.. Thank you for your continued support.

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

**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

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2018:** To be included on 2018 Income Tax Receipt, contributions must be received by December 26th.

**PARISH OFFICE:** The Parish office will be closing on December 24, 2018 at 12 Noon.

**CONGRADULATIONS:** We would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Ambrose & Millicent Penton on their 60th wedding anniversary. We wish you both love, health and happiness, not only just today but forever. With the blessings of God, may you continue to stay in love for all time.

**CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR Schedule:**

**2018-2019**

**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 27, 28, 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 - 9:00 am  
Mass - Piccadilly - 10:30 am  
Mass - St. Stephen's Parish - 10:30 am

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD:**

On January 1, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This, the highest title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was given to her at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. and is the oldest feast of Mary celebrated by the Catholic Church. It is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Canadian Church, which means that Mass attendance is required.

**THE INSTALATION AS ARCHBISHOP**

**His Excellency Bishop Hundt** as Archbishop of St. John's is scheduled for Tuesday January, 29, 2019. The installation will be held at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist in St. John's at 7pm. Please join me in offering prayers for his success as he embarks on this new endeavor. May God continue to bless him.

**APPRECIATION TO FATHER VITUS:**

On behalf of the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador, and in a very special way St. Stephen's Parish, I extend a sincere thank you and offer fond farewell wishes to Father Vitus. He will complete his seven year contract with the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador on December 29, 2018. He began his journey at St. Stephen's with father Moe, he then moved to Conche, on to St. Anthony and back here to St. Stephen's to complete his final term. He will be returning to his mother diocese Okigwe, Nigeria where he will continue with his priestly duties in his next parish assignment. We will be having a farewell gathering for him on St. Stephen's Day, December 26 downstairs after mass. Join with me in wishing him all the best in his future and thanking him for all he has done through his ministry here at St. Stephen's. Father Chris

**GREETINGS FROM FATHER CHRIS:**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters:**

At this special and sacred time of year, the best Christmas gift we can give to others is to share our faith not only with our loved ones but also with the strangers we meet. Let us reach out to one another with all the blessings God has given us, especially the gift of peace. My prayer is for each of us to be blessed during this joyous Christmas Season, and may we be filled with the love of God, acknowledging with gratitude our Heavenly Fathers incomparable gift to us, His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. May the peace of God and the joy of the season shine in our hearts and lead us to the heart of God. God bless you all.

**APPRECIATIONS:**

I'm grateful to God for His grace and love. I remain grateful to His Excellency Most Rev. Peter Hundt and the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador for the opportunity given to me to work in this peaceful country, Canada. The people of St. Stephen's Parish, Maria Regina, Piccadilly, St. Fintan's, Heatherton, Sacred Heart Parish Conche, St. Francis Xavier's Parish St. Anthony. You are great, your love and support have kept my faith and will remain indelible in my mind. Thanks to Fr. Kris and the staff of St. Stephen's Parish for the privilege of working with you. Thanks to those I can't mention their names. I appreciate your understanding and tolerance. I promise you my prayers as I request yours. I will miss you and I love you all. God bless and reward your kindness. Fr. Vitus Echedo ([echevichi@yahoo.com](mailto:echevichi@yahoo.com))

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE:**

On January 1, we celebrate the World Day of Peace. This observation was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968. Each year the Pope issues a message for the World Day of Peace, which has a specific theme chosen by him. For this the 51<sup>st</sup> World Day of Peace, the theme is *Migrants and refugees: men and women in search of peace*. To read the Pope's entire message, visit the Diocesan web page at [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com)

**ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:**

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

*Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace.*