

February 23, 2020

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Bishop's Lenten Message

In a time of strong opinions, deep divisions and unresolved issues in Canada and abroad, when heinous crimes against children, women and vulnerable populations are exposed in the news, and when even priests and bishops have been implicated, the healing ministry of Christ is as relevant today as it was on the day he died for us on the cross. He came to bring peace, God's gift of healing, reconciliation and mercy, but on seeing Jerusalem, "he wept over it, saying, "if you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes." (Lk 19: 42)

In a day and age that our own country has some tough work to in respect to our First Peoples and the Church has a lot more work to do in regards to healing the hurts of past wrongs, turning to Christ and asking, "what will make for peace?", may be a timely thing to do. Be it through spending more time with him in prayer, turning away from our excesses or in overtures of love, we need to find new ways of engagement and re-learn some of the basics of our faith: listening, forgiveness, gentleness, kindness, generosity, self-sacrifice, patience and self-control.

During Lent the Church is drawn into the wilderness by the Spirit to be more closely united to Christ. There we will be challenged and tempted, but not alone. For the desert path is not without its graces; the Spirit leads us there to strengthen us. Let us call on him at all times, knowing that without Christ's help, without taking up his yoke, and learning from him, who is gentle and humble of heart, we will never find rest for our souls, we will never find the peace he longs to share with us. By leaving our excesses behind, committing ourselves to a greater openness to God in prayer or setting our hearts on comforting the sorrowful, visiting the lonely or lending a listening ear to those whose sufferings have gone unheard, we are united to Christ and the peace he brings.

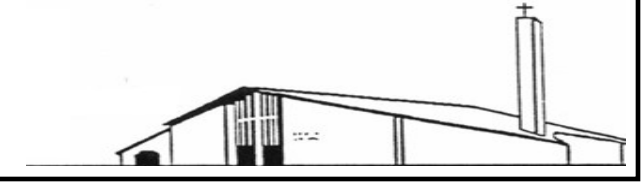
When we reflect on the unruly nature of our world today, amidst the distractions, confusion and the many voices calling for our attention, maybe there is more sanity in fasting, prayer and charitable deeds than all the riches, honours and desires of the world. "What will make for peace?" Maybe it is the moment when we truly find ourselves again, in all our God-created beauty. Perhaps it is when we come to see him as our loving Father and Merciful Redeemer. Perchance it is when we allow the Spirit to blow afresh on us and become instruments of his love. Lent is an ancient word synonymous with Spring. May this Lent mark a new Springtime in our lives together and may the time we spend to contemplate his cross, and the invitation he extends, lead to a new Springtime in our diocese and in our world.

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## St. Stephen's Parish

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

**Administrator:** Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris) Email: [fatherchrisstsp78@gmail.com](mailto:fatherchrisstsp78@gmail.com) **Associate:** Rev A.H. White Email: [fatherahwhite@gmail.com](mailto:fatherahwhite@gmail.com)  
**PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR** **FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**  
 Warren Quinton Rosa Dollard  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** **SECRETARY**  
 Kelly Samms 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  
**St. Anne's Guild** - President Millicent Penton  
**MARRIAGES.** Six months notice is required; a year's notice is recommended.

### 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 11:00 am  <b>RECONCILIATION</b>          Saturdays at 3:00 P.M.; or any time 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>

**BAPTISM PREPARATION-** Thursday February 27, at 7:00 *Please call to register.*  
**MASS FOR THE SICK-**The First Friday of every 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 Feb 15/16:**

Offertory	\$ 2428.65
Capital Repairs	\$ 50.00
Dues	\$ 100.00
Shepherd Fund	\$ 70.00
Catholic Mission	\$ 5.00

**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, FEB 24th to 28th**

**MONDAY FEB 24, 7:00 P.M.**

For the late Tillie O'Neill  
For the late Dorothy Doyle  
For the intentions of the staff at Acadian Village

**TUESDAY FEB 25, 9:30 A.M.**

For the late Cecilia Dollard ( Tela)  
For the late Teresa Bennett  
For the intentions of Ray and Barton

**WEDNESDAY FEB 26, 9:30 A.M.**

For the late Liz young, Mary Ryan  
And Tillie O'Neill

**WEDNESDAY FEB 26, 7:00 P.M.**

For the late Robert Mullaly, Agnes Gallant  
and Tillie O'Neill  
For the intentions of the youth

**THURSDAY FEB 27, 9:30 A.M.**

For the late Teresa Bennett  
For the late Mary Furlong Ryan  
For the late Jessie Young

**FRIDAY FEB 28, 9:30A.M.**

For the late Frank and Crocker  
For the late Jo Dacey  
For the intentions of Marie Brook

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** In memory of a Baby requested by the Quinten family.

**PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES**

Our prayers and condolences go out to the families and friends of Mary Teresa Bennett, Tori Lee Eileen Hovanak and Helen Jesso. We are very sorry for your loss. To those who read this, in your charity, please keep these people in your prayers.

**TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2019:** are now ready and can be picked up at the Parish Office.

**CATHOLIC MISSION IN CANADA:** Mission activity was the first action of the Apostles. When the Canadas began, French missionaries, accompanying explorers, continued that action in North America. Four hundred years later, some areas have yet to be fully established. Encouraged by Pope Francis, our home missions need our attention. The 'Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions' hopes to achieve this goal by asking God's blessing on our mission areas. Our Canadian missionaries and the Catholics they serve need our prayers. Each Canadian Diocese is choosing its own time to celebrate our Canadian missions. Our Diocese has selected Ash Wednesday as a day of prayer for this worthy cause. In particular, we will be asked to make an offering on this day. Envelopes for this purpose are in our package. Extra envelopes will be available in our churches. Please join the initiative. Sponsored by Catholic Missions in Canada, 201-1155 Yonge St, Toronto, ON M4T 1W2

**BAY ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CENTER:**

The Bay St. George Status of Women/Women's Centre is looking for help with personal care items and household cleaning items. If anyone has any of these items they can donate it will be greatly appreciated. Please see the attached poster for the list of specific items needed, If you have any questions, please call 643-4444.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**ST. STEPHEN'S LENTEN MISSION:** Our parish is taking part of a special mission during Lent. Bishop Bart will lead the mission March 22nd to 24th.

**ST. ANNE'S GUILD:**

St. Anne's Guild will be holding their monthly meeting on Sunday, February 23 at 2:30 pm. All members are encouraged to make a special effort to attend.

**COUNTDOWN FOR LENT: Ash Wednesday is February 26<sup>th</sup>.** The season of Lent prepares us for the great Easter season. It is a time for prayer, penance and fasting in preparation. **In particular, Ash Wednesday, is a day of fast and abstinence from meat.** It does not apply to seniors and to those who have special dietary needs. Masses at St. Stephen's Parish at 9:30 am and 7 pm; Maria Regina Parish at 5 pm.

**THE SEASON OF LENT:**

Lent is the yearly celebration by the Church of its corporate conversion in Jesus Christ. During this time, the Liturgy prepares catechumens to celebrate the Paschal Mystery by the various stages of Christian Initiation. It also prepares the faithful for Easter as we recall our Baptism and do penance in preparation for the greatest feast of the year. Lent recalls or prepares for Baptism, and emphasizes a spirit of penance. Through forty days of closer attention to God's Word and of more fervent prayer, believers are prepared to celebrate the Pascal Mystery. Lent shows us how Baptism and penitential themes are related. We are encouraged to make the most of this season of preparation.

**FAMILY MASS:** Sunday, March 1st will be a family Mass. All children enrolled in the Religious Education Programs and their families are encouraged to attend. Bishop Bart will be celebrating this Mass.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

February 2020

Please note that on Mondays it will be at St. Anne's Hall otherwise in the church basement. Confirmation classes are at St. Anne's Hall

Confirmation, Wednesday, Feb 26 at 6:00 pm

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** During the weeks of Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be said on Fridays at 7 pm

**COMMUNION CALLS:**

Fridays during the Lent if you know someone who might like Holy Communion brought to their home, please contact the parish.

**LENTEN FOLDERS:** Lenten Folders are available on the table at the back of the Church.

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATION COURSE:**

The Baptismal preparation session will take place on Thursday, February 27th at 7 pm, at St. Stephen's Rectory. We don't normally administer the Sacrament of Baptism during the Lenten Season

**DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT? (In the words of Pope Francis)**

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- Fast from Pessimism and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries and have trust in God
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
- Fast from pressure and be prayerful
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen