

February 24

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

“For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. . . Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.”

Luke 6: 27-38

Boors and beggars . . .

The young chaplain was not prepared for what she experienced the first weeks at the hospital. First, there was the Vietnam vet whose kidneys were failing him. He routinely insulted and demeaned the nurses assigned to his care with cruel and crude jokes. At first, the inexperienced chaplain was appalled at the man’s behavior, but, in time, came to understand why he acted as he did: Once powerful and vital, he was losing his easy strength and control over his body. He was suddenly vulnerable before women young enough to be his daughters, so grasped at whatever control he could find. The chaplain began to see him “doubly,” as the boor **and** the beggar — and against her best instincts, the chaplain was moved by his plight.

As the months passed, the chaplain began to see more people “doubly.” Patients were routinely racist, sexist, demanding aggressive or cruel with the nurses and staff — **and** they are afraid, exhausted, in pain, helpless. In the hospital, the illusion of control — over the function of a limb or organ, the strength of the hands, the length of the life — is shoved in the little closet alongside shoes and street clothes, and most people clutch at anything that might give a taste of it back.

The chaplain writes of those first days: “I would have preferred not to return to the rooms whose occupants turned their suffering on everyone around them, but duty and my supervisor’s insistence sent me back. I would have preferred to find excuses for the transgressions confessed to or committed in front of me, but responsibility to the transgressor stilled my tongue. I still would prefer those options. But my role demands a persistent and sharp-edged compassion, a capacity to behold both the sin and the sinner, to understand that humans do bad things that cause real harm and yet remain human. The best service a chaplain provides for a patient is treating them not as a symptom or a saint but as a whole person, complete with the pack of small evils all of us contain alongside our better angels. Even after years of practicing this double vision, some days it is more than I can manage. . . .”

It’s a struggle. Sometimes we can find a way to overlook or get past someone’s bad behavior; at other times, the only thing we can do is walk away, to punish them by our silence or ostracism. But the now-veteran chaplain has learned compassion, “compassion I have had to discover [that] requires effort and a willingness to hold onto tension, but it is not complicated to practice. It is as simple as completing the sentence: They are young, **and** they cause harm in their thoughtlessness. They desire acceptance, **and** they act cruelly to get it. They are vulnerable, **and** they are punishing others to feel stronger. They are hurting, and they hurt others. Always **and**. Always stay long enough for the **and**.”

[From “A chaplain’s compassion” by Bailey Pickens, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, Winter 2018.]

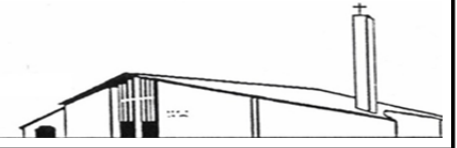
Over time, an inexperienced hospital chaplain develops the compassion urged by Jesus in today’s Gospel. Jesus’ hard teaching on loving one’s “enemies” challenges us to understand and acknowledge the hurt and pain in the lives of those we find difficult to tolerate, let alone “love.” In every relationship, in every set of circumstances, the faithful disciple of Jesus seeks to break that destructive rut of hatred and distrust by doing the hard work of seeing the “and” in everyone’s life, that we are all more than just our failings and sins — we are also our vulnerabilities and hurts. Always, always, Jesus says, “stay along enough for the ‘and.’”

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Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Stephen’s Parish

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APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF CORNER BROOK & LABRADOR: Most Rev. Peter Hundt

Administrator: Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris) **Associate:** Rev.A.H White

Email: fatherchristsp78@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

Warren Quinton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Debbie Keough 643-6681

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

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Vacant

SECRETARY

Carolyn O’Quinn

ST. STEPHEN’S PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M.

Sunday Morning -10:30 A.M.

ROSARY

Saturdays from 1:30 am until 2:30 pm.

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 3:00 P.M.; anytime by request

MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday - 4:30 P.M

Sunday - 9:00 A.M.

REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES

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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION. Last Thursday of ever 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 - 1:00 PM**

RECEIVED WITH THANKS Feb 16-17

Sunday Collection \$ 3510.05
Capital Repairs \$ 95.00
In memory of Dorothy Gale \$ 25.00

DUES: Gratefully received from John Dawson, Kevin & Ester Dollard, Christine Herritt, Doris McLean and Arthur & Doreen Swyers. Thank you for your continued support.

CONDOLENCES: We offer our prayerful condolences to the family of Andrew Murphy whose funeral we have celebrated in the last week.

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

LENTE MISSION CHOIR 2019: There will be practice for anyone who is interested in participating in the choir for the lent Mission to be held March 10, 11 and 12. Practice for this choir will be held at St. Stephen's on Sundays, February 24th and March 3rd at 7p.m. Please join with us.

CANCELLATION OF DAILY MASS:

With the winter here it 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 too is cancelled. If schools are closed for the afternoon, any evening masses scheduled are also cancelled.

STEWARDSHIP COFFEE TIME: Will take place on the following Sunday 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! **March 10, 2019**

LITURGY COMMITTEE: There will be a liturgy Committee Meeting Feb 26 after Mass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

February 2019

Yr 3 **February 25th** at 6:pm
Yr 5 & 6 **February 28th** at 6:00 pm

PARISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Have you considered assisting at your Parish before? Currently, we need **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** to help distribute the Eucharist, **Altar Servers** to assist at Mass, **Bereavement Team members** and **Sacristans** to help get things ready before Mass. All of these are excellent ways of serving the Lord, and your community. Please talk to a priest or contact the Parish office if you would be interested.

CATHOLIC MISSION IN CANADA: There are Catholic Mission Calendars available at the office for \$7:00 each.

4YOUTH:

In preparation for the beginning of Lent, it might be time to think about what we are going to do during Lent to prepare ourselves for Easter. Catholic Social Teaching is a central element of our faith, being rooted in the Hebrew prophets who announced God's special love for the poor as well as in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Catholic Social Teaching helps us understand who we are and how we are called to live in community with one another. The Church's social doctrines touch upon seven core themes: life and dignity of the human person; call to family, community and participation; rights and responsibilities; option for the poor and vulnerable; the dignity of work and the rights of workers; solidarity; and care for God's creation. There's a good video on You Tube called *The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching* that explains each theme. Why not consider what you can do to live these themes as you watch the video?

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF FEB 25 -MAR 01

MONDAY FEBRUARY 25, 7:00 P.M.

For the late Bessie Parsons
For the late Kevin Aylward
For the Intentions of Kaden Benoit & family

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 9:30 A.M.

For the late Bob Slaney
For the late Jo Dacey

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 7:00 P.M.

For the late Sis & Samuel Mclean
For the Intentions of the Youth
For the late Mary Ryan

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28 9:30 A.M.

For the late Gerry Smith
For the Intentions of Alice Noseworthy

FRIDAY MARCH 01, 9:30 A.M

For the late Bernard Reddigan
For the late Daniel Sr. Cochrane
For the late Bernard Cluney

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:

World Day of Prayer is an international movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. World Day of Prayer, initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions, is held internationally on the first Friday of March. In 2019 that will be March 1st. The women of this year's host country, Slovenia, have chosen the theme "Come - Everything is Ready" (Luke 14:15-24).

RETURNING OF BLESSED PALMS: There is a box at the back of the Church for your last years Blessed Palms, so we can prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday.

LENTE MISSION: Archbishop Hundt will be running a three-day mission at St. Stephen's Parish, on **Sunday March 10th** until **Monday march 12th**, every evening at **7pm** for our spiritual benefit. The Theme is "**Lord, it is Good for Us to Be Here.**" The cost of these sessions is being covered by the Parish. Every person should plan to attend. Archbishop Hundt is a profoundly spiritual and insightful speaker, and everyone wishing to deepen their Lenten pursuit of spirituality and holiness will benefit powerfully from this opportunity.

ASKED TO BE ANNOUNCED:

ST. ANNE'S GUILD: Will be having their regular monthly meeting on February 24, 2019 at 2:30p.m. All are encourage to attend.

BSG STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL:

Will be holding a "International Women's Day 2019". Keynote speaker Susan Fowlow on Friday, March 8 at 12:00p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion in Stephenville. Tickets are \$20.00 regular price and \$12.00 for students, seniors and un/underemployed.

WESTERN HEALTH: Volunteers - making a difference. We are implementing a NEW "Dining Companion Program" at Bay St. George Long Term Care and we require you assistance.

Food and companionship go hand in hand in nourishing our body, mind and soul. As a Dining Companion you will have a positive impact on a resident's experience and help to improve the health and emotional well-being of that resident. Volunteers will be matched with residents and assist the residents in:

- Encouraging them to eat
- Setting up their food trays
- Providing hands-on feeding assistance
- Providing additional comfort and social interaction

For more information, please contact: Volunteer Resources Coordinator 709-646-3217