

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Baptism of the Lord**

Our Christmas season concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus was not baptized because he needed to repent — rather, He was revealing who He is and what He came to do.

It is from His mission that we can receive the sacrament of baptism — when we become adopted sons and daughters of God. From that moment, we belong to Christ — we become His stewards. Our lives should be a reflection of this relationship. The way we live should reveal Whose we are.

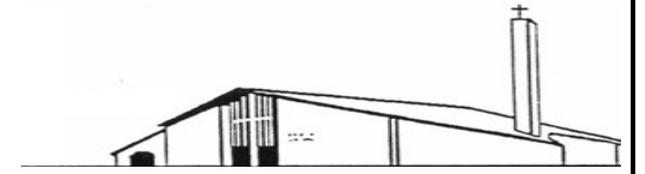
In our First Reading, the prophet Isaiah shares a message of hope, “Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy?” We should ask ourselves, "Who is the king of our hearts?" As Christian stewards, it should be God. We often fill our lives with things that satisfy us only for a moment. If we truly do belong to Christ, then we will make Him our top priority. What we fill our lives with should reveal that He is King.

In our Gospel, Mark reveals the intimate relationship between God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus and God the Father proclaimed, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” We, too, have access to an intimate relationship with God. But like all good relationships, it flourishes with effort. How we spend our time and share our gifts says a great deal about Whose we are.



**St. Stephen's Parish**

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**Baptism of the Lord**

**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**

**SUNDAY MASSES**

Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M.  
Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M.

**REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES**

Monday and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 9:30 a.m.

**MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY MASSES**

Saturday - 4:30 P.M.  
Sunday - 9:00 A.M.

**ROSARY**

Saturdays at 11:00 am  
**RECONCILIATION**  
By Appointment

**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

Christmas Offering - \$3161.70

New Year's Day - \$890.00



## 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

**Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

For the late Alonzo & Marie Gibbon & Family

**Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

For the late Richard & Minnie O'Brian & Family

**Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**

For the late Christopher Hynes

For the late Bernard Drake

**Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

For the deceased members of the J.V & Mary Ellen O'Quinn Family

**Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

For the late Valerie Dwyer

## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

If you wish to have your child Baptized, please call the office at 643-2523 to register. Baptisms will be done **by appointment only** due to COVID-19. This preparation is for parents and Godparents. We offer an update on the meaning of this Sacrament together with a practical walk-through of the liturgy.

## WE PRAY

For our Innu brothers and sisters in Labrador, who are dealing with a succession of tragic events during this Christmas season - that they may draw strength from their faith and from the support of all the people of God, we pray to the Lord.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

**JANUARY 18-25**

This special time of prayer for unity is celebrated around the world. It encourages Christians of all denominations to meet, participate in various liturgical and community activities, and pray together that all may be one as Christ desires. The Bay of Islands Ministerial Association invites members of congregations to gather on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at Holy Redeemer Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. for this celebration. Distancing will be facilitated and due to restrictions, no refreshments will be served. This is a departure from our well established tradition. However, the COVID conditions are uppermost in our minds! Kindly come to this gathering to celebrate our theme for this year: "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" Jn 15:5-9.

## 4 YOUTH

Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, the Church marks the end of the Christmas season with the celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During the season of Christmas, the Church celebrates three feasts which mark the revelation of God to humanity: Christmas as the incarnation of God, Epiphany as the revelation of God to the Gentiles through the visitation of the Magi and the Baptism of Jesus as the revelation of the Trinity (Jesus Son of God present at the baptism, the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and the voice of God the Father announcing that this was His Son in whom He was well pleased). For more about the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, visit [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com)



## REFLECTION

Finding One's Work: I think it is a great blessing when people find their work. I often feel that I am as rich as Croesus; not in money, but rich because I have found my work. In that

work, I have something to which I can devote myself heart and soul, and which gives meaning and inspiration to my life. Even though I have lots of difficulties and there are many gloomy days in my life, I count myself among the fortunate. This is not the road on which one perishes. This is a powerful stream that will bear me safely to port. (By Vincent Van Gogh - Taken from Flor McCarthy, New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies: Year B, Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, pp.63-64).

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Isaiah 42: 1-4; Acts 10: 34-38; Matthew 3: 13-17

This weekend, we are invited to move beyond a passive acceptance of the idea of the Holy Spirit to an active awareness of the Holy Spirit's powerful presence in our lives. 1) Jesus and the Holy Spirit: a) John had been preparing the whole countryside for Jesus by baptizing the people with water and promising them the Holy Spirit through Jesus. b) Jesus joins the community by experiencing the waters of baptism. Before the baptism is complete, Jesus is joined by the Holy Spirit in a spectacular way for all to see. And at that moment, the love of God ours out from the sky in literal words, "You are my beloved; with you I am well pleased." c) As the second reading today makes clear, the life and mission of Jesus is linked to the presence of the Holy Spirit, who never leaves the side of Jesus and is always powerfully present. Jesus is explicit with His followers about this throughout His ministry.

## WHY DID JESUS ASK TO BE BAPTIZED?

Neither John nor Jesus invented baptism. It had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent of Confession. Until the fall of the Temple in 72 A.D. it was common for Jewish people to make a spiritual cleansing in a special pool called a MIKVEH - literally a "collection of water". This was said to remove



spiritual impurity and sin. Men did this weekly on the eve of the Sabbath. Women did it monthly. Converts were also expected to do it before entering Judaism. Orthodox Jews still retain the rite. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah. Jesus transformed this continual ritual into the one single, definitive act by which we begin our faith. In effect He fused His divine essence with the water and the ceremony. (Taken from: Father Richard Lonsdale, Resources for Catholic Educators, Baptism of the Lord - B Cycle, 2000).



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### APPOINTMENTS

To help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we are monitoring the amount of traffic within the Parish offices. Therefore, we ask that you call ahead of time if you wish to meet with the priest outside of emergencies.

### CHURCH ENVELOPES

Please note that your Church envelopes can now be picked up during weekday and weekend Masses. A volunteer will be available during Mass in the back of the church to distribute envelopes to Parishioners.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our next café will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup> and every third Thursday thereafter.