

LET US LISTEN TO THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS AT THE ANGELUS:

‘St. Stephen teaches us to forgive’ Praying the Angelus on the Feast of Saint Stephen, Pope Francis says the first Christian martyr teaches us to trust in God and always to forgive others. Pope Francis prayed the Angelus on Wednesday with pilgrims and tourists gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

As the Church celebrates the feast of the first Christian martyr, the Holy Father reflected on St. Stephen’s example of trust in God and forgiveness. “Forgiveness,” he said, “broadens the heart, generates sharing, and gives serenity and peace.”

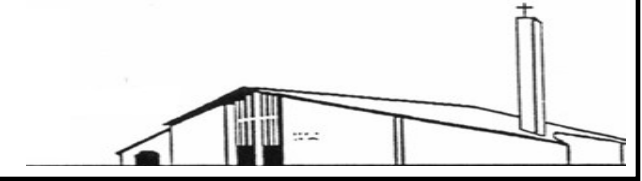
Joy and martyrdom: Speaking on the day after Christmas, Pope Francis said the contrast between the joyful birth of the little Child and the cruel drama of St. Stephen’s martyrdom “may seem strange”. “In reality this is not the case, because the Child Jesus is the Son of God made man, Who will save humanity by Dying on the Cross.” St. Stephen, said Pope Francis, was the first person to follow in Jesus’ footsteps through martyrdom. He died like Jesus, “entrusting his life to God and forgiving his persecutors.” Trust in God: In the day’s First Reading (Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59), the deacon Stephen is dragged before the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem on false charges of blasphemy. He speaks at length to them, but they are enraged by his words. They throw him out of the city and stone him to death.

Pope Francis said Stephen displayed an attitude of faithful acceptance of whatever life brings, be it positive or negative. “Trust in God helps us to welcome difficult moments and to live them as an opportunity for growth in faith and for building new relationships with our brothers and sisters,” he said. Forgive always: Stephen, the Pope said, also imitated Jesus with an attitude of forgiveness, praying for his persecutors. “We are called to learn from his example to forgive, to forgive always.” Stephen’s example is a way to live our relationships with other people: in the family, at school or work, and in parish life. “The logic of forgiveness and mercy always prevails and opens up horizons of hope.” Forgiveness, said Pope Francis, is cultivated through prayer, “which allows us to keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus.” Pray intensely: He said Stephen was able to forgive his killers because, “full of the Holy Spirit, he looked up intensely to heaven and his eyes were opened by God.” “Prayer gave him the strength to suffer martyrdom.”

We too, the Pope concluded, need to pray insistently to the Holy Spirit for “the gift of strength that heals our fears, our weaknesses, and our small-mindedness.”

St. Stephen’s Parish

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BISHOP OF CORNER BROOK & LABRADOR: Most Rev. Peter Hundt

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

Email: fatherchrisstp78@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

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Vacant

SECRETARY

Carolyn O’Quinn

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

ST. STEPHEN’S PARISH SCHEDULE

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

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

MASS FOR THE SICK. Every First Friday of the 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 JAN 5&6

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| Sunday Collection | \$ 2473.25 |
| New Years | \$ 256.00 |
| Initial Offering | \$ 202.00 |
| Sheperds Fund | \$ 52.00 |

DUES: Gratefully received from Mary Denis, Cecilia Smith, Louie Hull, Elizabeth Felix, Sheila Bennett, Marie Lavallee, Michael White, Regina Kennedy, Paula Kendell, Fintan Bourgeois, George & Madeline White, Donald & Lucy Dumont, Debbie Downey, Verna Muise, Mary Malone, Margaret & Aaron Bennett, Wayne Alexander, Edmund Gushue and Clyde & Sandra O'Quinn. 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!

CHILDREN'S 2019 SUNDAY MISSALS:

Are now available at the office cost is \$10.00

2019 SUNDAY MISSALS: Are now available at the back of the Church or at the office cost is \$5.00.

CANCELLATION OF DAILY MASS:

With the winter approaching us 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 has been scheduled, 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's 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!
January 20, 2019

PARISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Have you considered assisting at your Parish before? Currently, we need **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

January 2019

Kindergarten, **January 17th** at 6:00 pm
Yr 1 **January 14th and 15th** at 6:00 pm
Yr 2 **January 21st and 22th** at 6:00pm
Yr 3 **January 28th** at 6:00 pm
Yr 4 **January 24th** at 6:00 pm
Yr 5 & 6 **January 31st** at 6:00 pm

Pre- Confirmation Schedule Yr 7
January 13th, 2019 from 6:00 to 7:00
Confirmation Schedule Yr 8
January 16th, 2019 from 6:00 to 7:00

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.

THE BAPTISMS OF THE LORD:

On Sunday, January 13, 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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: There will be a Parish Council meeting on Wednesday January 17, 2019 at 7:30 pm. Please plan to attend if you are a councillor.

LITURGY COMMITTEE: There will be a Liturgy Committee meeting on Tuesday January 15, 2019 at 10:15 am. All are encourage to attend.

SCRIPTURE READING REFLECTION: If one listens carefully to today's Scripture readings, one will hear talk of the release of the Holy Spirit, foretold by the prophets, realized in the Baptism of Jesus. We may think of Baptism as simply the erasure of original sin and the official taking on of a name (Christening), but, in reality, it is far more than that, and we need to constantly be paying attention to what that more is in our daily lives. In the Genesis story of creation, we hear that God initially breathed His Holy Spirit upon the world, to bring it into existence. We are familiar with what human beings did to God's plans for us. And so, in an effort to start over again, God chose the people Israel to be a leaven for the entire human race. The Old Testament is full of indications that the Jews, although God's elect, were not quite up to that task. And so, Jesus came into our midst to be the new Israel, bringing about a new creation, ultimately for all, with the new Israel as the leaven. The key to understanding today's feast, is not that Jesus needed Baptism to forgive original sin, but rather as the firstborn of the new Israel, as a sign of the release of the Holy Spirit to bring about a new creation, i.e. a new way for human beings to live their lives, in union with the risen Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We, who have been baptized, need to live ever conscious of this destiny.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated annually around the world from January 18 (the Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter) to January 25 (the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul). During this week, Christians around the world are invited to celebrate a week of prayer for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, to participate

in jointly-organized ecumenical services, and to share fellowship. The resources for this year's week of prayer have been prepared by an ecumenical team in Indonesia. The theme which they have chosen for this year is "*Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue ... (Deuteronomy 16: 18-20)*". Christians around the world are invited to celebrate God's reconciling grace, to recognize the pain of the deep divisions which afflict the Church and to become ambassadors of Christ's message of reconciliation.

ASKED TO BE ANNOUNCED:

CHASE THE ACE: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 3742 Knights of Columbus Chase the Ace will continue Sunday January 13, 2019 with ticket sales starting at 1:00 pm. The jackpot will be starting at \$1,500.00 and stay there until we reach that amount in sales.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: There will be a 4th , degree meeting n Jan 17, 2019 at the Santa Maria Building. All members are urged to attend.

STEPHENVILLE FOOD BANK: Would like to thank everyone for there generosity. January Suggested item is "**Pastas**". All donations of any food is welcome.

“My whole strength lies in prayer and sacrifice, these are my invincible arms; they can move hearts far better than words, I know it by experience.”

— St. Therese of Lisieux
Patron Saint of Corner Brook and Labrador