

January 13, 2019

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Second Sunday of the Year
Second Sunday after Epiphany**

"Everyone serves good wine first, and the when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."
John 2: 1-11

When sturdy love is what you need . . .

Michelle was at work when a friend texted the link to a newspaper article from her hometown newspaper. It included a photo of an icy Montana highway, a pickup with the hood smashed in and a blue Subaru Outback that had been cut cleanly in half. According to the story, the woman who had been driving the Outback was their former high school classmate Deirdre. Deirdre survived, but her three-year-old daughter Zoe was killed.

The tragedy dredged up painful memories for Michelle. Three years before, Michelle and her husband, Eric, lost their 22-month son, Seamus, when they were struck in a crosswalk by a careless driver. Michelle writes that their marriage became "like a ship that had weathered a bad storm — grateful and relieved to be afloat, but the damage was extensive."

The couple had just become parents again. The twins, a boy and a girl, had just turned one and the family was about to celebrate Christmas for the first time in three years. "Having more children did not reduce the sadness that had become the identifying feature of our marriage, but it did force our hearts to expand to accommodate other, happier emotions," Michelle remembers.

Michelle had not talked to Deirdre in 20 years. Michelle wasn't sure what to do. One afternoon, while the twins were napping, Michelle retrieved from the basement a wicker basket of cards they had received when Seamus died. *There are no words . . . You are in our hearts . . . I cannot imagine your pain.* No one can think of the perfect thing to say at such times. But Michelle remembered the comfort the notes had brought her, and so decided to send Deirdre a note. To her surprise, Deirdre replied by e-mail and the two were soon regularly exchanging texts. In April, Michelle had a trip planned to Montana, and they arranged to meet.

Michelle and Deirdre greeted each other with a hug. There was no small talk. Walking together through the streets of Deirdre's neighborhood, they talked about watching their children die, moving easily between medical terms and "mother" terms. Michelle asked Dierdre how her marriage was holding up. And Dierdre opened up about the struggle her husband was having over the decision to withdraw care for Zoe. Michelle listened, giving Deirdre space to voice her fears, and then offering the assurance of a wife and mother who had been through the same devastating experience herself, and found the way to move on.

Michelle later wrote that she hoped Deirdre would discover what she learned: "that grief is exactly as painful as you think it will be, but with time you will learn to love your sadness because of the tiny shoots of joy and gratitude that sprout around it, like new growth on scorched earth."

As she drove home from Deirdre's, Michelle "thought about the comfort of sturdy, unglamorous things, my marriage among them. Ours may not be a great love story, but set against a backdrop of cruel nature and boundless beauty, I didn't need it to be."

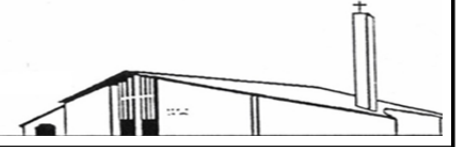
Good marriages, imperfect but "sturdy," manifest the love of God at its most powerful: love that enables spouses to navigate together life's hard roads of fear, heartache and illness. As ministers of the marriage sacrament, wives and husbands, in their love for one another, help all of us to recognize the great love of God the Father made real for us in the person of His Christ, the Bridegroom. Throughout Scripture, God speaks of his love for humanity in terms of espousal; Christ, who performed his first miracle at a wedding, called himself "the Bridegroom" who comes to bring His people to the wedding feast of the Father. Spouses, in their "sturdy" love centered in selfless trust, are living signs to all of us of the hope of God's great wedding banquet.

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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

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE

<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>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday - 4:30 P.M. Sunday - 9:00 A.M.</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>

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION. Last Thursday 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

Sunday Collection	\$ 2782.85
Capital Repairs	\$ 89.50
Initial Offering	\$ 114.00
Sheperds Fund	\$ 50.00

DUES: Gratefully received from Winnifred Brennan, Lucy Tourout, Wanda Pond, Edward & Theresa Hartly, Elizabeth Chaisson, Francis & Kathleen Bourgeois, Debbie & Tom Keough, Clyde & Elsie Russell, John Hanratty, Heather Roberts, Phil & Hazel Hynes, Mary Fleming, Annie Whalen, Tim Gaudet, Marjorie King and Linda Wheeler. 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!
February 17, 2019

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

January 2019

Kindergarten, **January 17th** 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

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the intentions of Baby Anna Madison Terry by Lorraine and Warren Quinton.

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.

CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL:

On January 25 the Church celebrates the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Saul of Tarsus had vowed to wipe out the new Christian church. He was on his way to Damascus to arrest any followers of Jesus that he could find there when he and his companions were struck down by a blinding light and Saul was blinded. Three days later, Jesus sent His disciple Ananias to restore Saul's sight. Following this encounter with Jesus, Saul was Baptized, changed his name to Paul and was instructed in the Christian faith. He spent the rest of his life spreading the Gospels to the Gentiles, enduring brutal physical pain, persecution and finally martyrdom. The conversion of St. Paul shows us that God can transform anyone's life when they believe in Jesus and open their hearts to Him.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JAN 21 JAN 25

MONDAY JANUARY 21, 7:00 P.M.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE HAWCO FAMILY
FOR THE LATE JOHN DOYLE
FOR THE LATE JAMES AYLWARD

TUESDAY JANUARY 22, 9:30 A.M.

FOR THE LATE ISIBLE BENOIT
FOR THE LATE MARY WALKER
FOR THE INTENTIONS OF MARY LAKE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23, 7:00 P.M.

FOR THE LATE IVAN WHITE
FOR THE INTENTIONS OF BRITTANY NOSEWORTHY
FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE YOUTH

THURSDAY JANUARY 24 9:30 A.M.

FOR THE LATE STEVEN KUSKI
FOR THE LATE ELIZABETH KEATING
FOR THE LATE BRANDEN WEBB

FRIDAY JANUARY 25, 9:30 A.M

FOR THE LATE DAMIEN DRAKE
FOR THE LATE MARY BENNETT

CELEBRATING FR. VITUS:

This is a message to thank everyone who was involved in Fr. Vitus' goodbye send-off. It was a wonderful event, and very much appreciated. It was truly a very kind gesture. You will be glad to know that Fr. Vitus has returned safely home. Please, remember to keep him and his future ministry in your prayers.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:

Today's Gospel reading from John recounts the familiar story of the wedding feast at Cana when Jesus launched His public ministry by performing His first miracle at His Mother's request. In the midst of the feast, the Blessed Mother noticed that the wine had run out and pointed out the problem to Jesus. Then, she gave the servants instructions that are equally applicable to us modern-day stewards, saying, "Do whatever He tells you." Jesus gives the servants a simple and seemingly mundane task, telling them to fill some stone jars with water. They did what He told them to do. And Jesus used their obedience in the accomplishment of that simple task to perform His first miracle, turning the water into the choicest wine. Our Lord didn't have to include those servants in order to perform this miracle — He *chose* to. And today, 2,000 plus years later, He still chooses to include us in the performance of His miracles through our cooperation with Him in using the gifts and talents He has given us. What a privilege! Let us take care to listen to our Blessed Mother: let's examine our lives this week to see if we really are "doing whatever He tells us," cooperating with God to make the best use of the gifts He has given us for the benefit of those around us. If we all take this call seriously, He will perform miracles in our families and our parish.

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.

ST. ANNE'S GUILD:

In conjunction with Stephenville Winter Carnival St. Anne's Guild will be having a beans, bologna & touton supper on Friday Feb 01 from 4-6 pm at St. Anne's Hall. Eat in or take out. Tickets can be purchased at Debbies Video or by calling 643-2695. Tickets \$7.00 adult \$3.00 Children