

July 1, 2018

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the LORD their God." ~ Luke 1: 5-17

[Zechariah] asked for a tablet and wrote: "John is his name," and all were amazed.  
~Luke 1: 57-66, 80

Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" ~Mark 4: 35-41

### A prophetic "No"

Nearly 740 doctors in Quebec have done something seldom seen in modern medicine - or in any professional field, for that matter: They turned down a pay raise. This past February, the doctors, residents and medical students petitioned the provincial government in Quebec to take money that would have been used to increase their incomes and give it to nurses and other health care workers who are dealing with crushing workloads and limited resources.

The pay raises amount to just under two percent. But the group of doctors - a small minority within Quebec's medical community - believes turning back the raises is a first step in changing a medical system that has revolved too much around physicians and hospitals at the expense of patient care and services. The doctors call the proposed pay increases "indecent" in light of the growing awareness of the low pay and heavy workload among Quebec's nurses, who are forced to work repeated overtime, sometimes mandatory, because of a chronic lack of staff.

In their petition to the government, the doctors wrote:

"These increases are all the more shocking because our nurses, clerks and other professionals face very difficult working conditions, while our patients live with the lack of access to required services because of the drastic cuts in recent years . . . We, Quebec doctors, are asking that salary increases granted to physicians be canceled and that the resources of the system be better distributed for the good of the health care workers and to provide health services worthy of the people of Quebec."

The stand by these doctors can only be described as "prophetic": putting aside one's own interest for the sake of the greater good, placing justice and compassion before personal profit and gain. Their stand (which has not been welcomed by all doctors in the province of Quebec) mirrors the spirit of John the Baptist, the last great prophet who heralds the coming of God's Christ, Jesus of Nazareth, who reveals God's Kingdom of mercy, justice, reconciliation and peace. As John was called, so are we all called to the work of the prophet - "one who proclaims." In baptism, God calls each one of us to be agents of integrity; illuminators of the light of truth in every dark and hidden place; consciences of our homes, our schools, our workplaces. As we celebrate the birth of John, the last great prophet and herald of the Christ, may we recommit ourselves to the call of our baptisms to be prophets of God's mercy and justice along our own highways and Jordan Rivers.

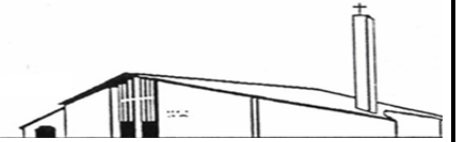
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

July 1, 2018

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## St. Stephen's Parish

78 West Street, Stephenville, NL, A2N 1E4  
Tel (709) 643-2523 - Fax (709) 643-9745  
Email: [st.stephens.parish@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:st.stephens.parish@nf.sympatico.ca)  
Web: [www.ststephensparish.com](http://www.ststephensparish.com)



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

**Administrator:** Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris)

**Associate:** Rev. Vitus Echedo

**PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR**

Warren Quinton

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Debbie Keough 643-6681

**RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR:** Theresa Dollimont

**FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Vacant

**SECRETARY**

Carolyn O'Quinn

**Knights of Columbus** - Grand Knight Bob Miller **4th Degree Assembly** - Faithful Navigator Irving Campbell  
**St. Anne's Guild** - President Laura Rouzes

### ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAY MASSES

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

#### ROSARY

Saturdays from 11:30 am until 12:30 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.

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

**BAPTISM PREPARATION.** Next Session - *September 24th, 2018 - Please call to register*

**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 JUNE 23-24TH:**

Sunday Collection	\$	3,525.60
Capital Repairs	\$	170.00
Insurance	\$	210.00
Papal Charities	\$	25.00

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** For the Intentions of Diane Lush as requested by her Family.

**CANADA DAY:** The national day of Canada! A federal statutory holiday, it celebrates the anniversary of the July 1, 1867, enactment of the Constitution Act of 1867 (then called the British North America Act, 1867), which united the three separate colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick into a single Dominion within the British Empire called Canada. Originally called Dominion Day, the holiday was renamed in 1982, the year the Canada Act was passed. Canada Day celebrations take place throughout the country, as well as in various locations around the world, attended by Canadians living abroad. Happy Canada Day!

**CONDOLENCES:** To the Families of Nora O'Quinn and Kenneth Joseph White who's funerals we celebrated this week.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** Just a reminder that the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, July 2nd, for the Canada Day holiday. We will re-open on Tuesday, July 3rd at 8:30 am. Have a great long weekend!

**CONNECTING WITH THE SUNDAY READINGS:** Visit the Diocesan Web page at [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com) and check out the link on the sidebar called *Connecting with the Sunday Readings*. Published weekly by Our Sunday Visitor, this two page article is designed to help families make connections to the Sunday Readings. It includes reflections on the Gospel, a section called "Parent Survival" and another called "Car or Meal Talk" for those looking for ways to help families to stay connected with the Scriptures.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS:** "Your abundance at the present time should supply their needs, so that their abundance may also supply your needs." This is the fourth time in 2 Corinthians, chapter 8 that St. Paul addresses the issue of giving. What Paul is trying to explain is that the motivation for giving should be similar to God's motivation for gifting us. In the passage which constitutes today's Second Reading Paul says, "As you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also."

In the original, Paul uses the old Greek word *charis* to describe the giving to which he is making reference. We can probably see that the roots of that word are very much the same as the roots of the word "charity." Giving and sharing are definitely the work of God's grace in us. In fact, our motivation should be very much the same as that of the Lord. He gives to us because of Who He is, not because of what or who we are.

We, too, must give if we wish to show holiness, or to at least aspire to it. That is also what we mean when we say that we are all called to stewardship, to be good stewards. It is one thing to be faithful, but it is another to give. At times we may think there are too many collections, but it is the results of these opportunities to give which support the Church's work both locally and around the globe.

**4YOUTH:** As you settle into the easy rhythm of summer vacation, be sure to keep your eyes open for the presence of God in your life. If you look carefully, you can recognize Him in the beautiful nature around you, in the family members with whom you spend time, in the friends who share in your activities, in the new people that you meet and in the special pleasures of summer. And don't forget to thank God every day for all of the blessings in your life. Take care and we'll talk again in the fall.

"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive."  
~ Dalai Lama

**CCCB STATEMENT ON THE LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS/MARIJUANA:** Last week, the Cannabis Act was passed by the Senate and received Royal Assent, thereby legalizing marijuana for recreational use in Canada. On Monday, June 25, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) issued a statement on the legalization of cannabis, which comments on what the CCCB worries will be the effects of using and promoting the use of marijuana for recreational purposes, reiterating the information and insights already expressed in its prior "[Statement on Canada's Opioid Crisis and Drug Addiction](#)", as well as highlighting the important evidence-based concerns raised by a number of community professionals and the Holy See. The entire statement can be found on the Diocesan webpage at [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com)

**COUNTDOWN TO CELEBRATE:** Have you registered yet? Don't miss out this exciting Catholic faith-filled weekend. Inspiring talks from international speakers, children's age appropriate streams, Mass, worship, and a variety of workshops. Fun and faith for everyone. To be held at All Hallows Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary School on Humber Road in Corner Brook, July 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. Call Amelia at 388-1048. [www.celebratenl.ca](http://www.celebratenl.ca) Facebook: Celebrate Conference NL. Let this weekend be the highpoint of your summer activities!

**ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:**  
**WEST ST. CEMETERY COMMITTEE:** The West Street Cemetery Committee have opened an account at the Recycling Depot on the Hansen Highway. If anyone would like to donate their recyclables please let a staff member know at the time of drop-off. If you are unable to bring your recyclables to the Depot and wish to donate them, please call 643-5910 to arrange for pickup.

**AL-ANON:** Al-Anon is a program that offers information, support and fellowship to family and friends of problem drinkers. For information on local meetings call 643-6153 or 709-638-8311 (cell).

**CHASE THE ACE:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 3742 Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their 5th Chase the Ace fundraiser. This event will be held on Sunday afternoon with ticket sales starting at 1:00 pm and ending at 3:45 pm with the draw taking place at 4:00 pm. Proceeds in aid of K of C Charities.

**THANK YOU!!!** A very special Thank You to the Knights of Columbus and family members who volunteered in the clean up of the St. Vincent de Paul storage room this past weekend. Your help was greatly appreciated!!

**RHYTHM AND GRACE-CELIC GOSPEL TOUR:** Join us Monday, July 16th at 7:30 pm at St. Stephen's Gym for a dynamic, musical, Faith-filled experience with Rhythm and Grace – featuring the Duketow family from Lakefield, Ontario. Miriam and Alex Duketow, with their 6 oldest children ages 6 to 16, will help us get our feet tapping and our hands clapping through harmonious song, energetic step-dancing, vibrant fiddling and more. This event promises to be a life-giving experience for all ages. Free-will offering accepted at the door.

**HUMOUR-ROTTEN EGGS:** The elderly pastor was searching his closet for his collar before church one Sunday morning. In the back of the closet, he found a small box containing 3 eggs and one hundred \$1 bills. He called his wife into the closet to ask her about the box and its contents. Embarrassed, she admitted having hidden the box there for their entire 30 years of marriage. Disappointed and hurt, the pastor asked her, "WHY?" The wife replied that she hadn't wanted to hurt his feelings. He asked her how the box could have hurt his feelings. She said that every time during their marriage that he had delivered a poor sermon, she had placed an egg in the box. The pastor felt that 3 poor sermons in 30 years was certainly nothing to feel bad about, so he asked her what the \$100 was for. She replied, "Each time I got a dozen eggs, I sold them to the neighbours for \$1."