

July 22 2018

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while . . ." Jesus was moved with pity for the vast crowd, for they were like sheep without a shepherd. Mark 6: 30-34 (53-56)

Unseen casualties

Ten at Santa Fe. Thirteen at Columbine. Twenty-six at Sandy Hook. Seventeen at Parkland. We know the numbers of those who were killed. But there is collateral damage to the uniquely American crisis of school shootings. Since the Columbine shootings in 1999, more than 187,000 students attending almost 200 elementary or high schools have experienced a shooting on campus during school hours. And many of these students are never the same.

Every day, threats send classrooms into lockdowns that terrify students - even when they turn out to be false alarms. Thousands of schools conduct active-shooter drills in which kids as young as four learn to hide in darkened closets and bathrooms from imagined murderers. Feeling safe in school is no longer presumed.

Samantha Haviland understands such fear. At 16, she survived the carnage at Columbine. Now 35, she is the director of counseling at Denver's public school system and has spent her entire professional life treating traumatized kids. Yet she herself has never fully escaped the effects of what happened to her on that morning in Littleton, Colorado. The nightmares have lingered for years. There are the panic attacks. Even now, the image of children walking out of schools with their hands up is too much for her to bear.

Karson Robinson was six when a teenager opened fire on the playground of his elementary school in Townville, South Carolina, two years ago. Karson had leaped a fence and ran at the first sound of gunfire. But his buddy Jacob Hall didn't make it; he was shot and killed. That's when the guilt took hold. Maybe, Karson thought, if he hadn't fled he could have saved Jacob, the smallest child in their class. At home, Karson began to explode in anger. Other times, he insisted that everyone hated him.

Last October, before a doctor finally diagnosed the boy with PTSD, Karson had a party for his eighth birthday, and at the end, they released balloons in the sky for Jacob. It was more than a year after the shootings. Afterward, Karson walked off by himself. His mother followed, asking what was wrong. "I should have waited for Jacob," Karson said.

These survivors of school violence are among the "shepherdless" that Jesus' heart breaks for. There are so many broken and lost victims of violence in our midst who carry their guilt and fear alone; there are also those suffering the effects of abandonment, abuse, addiction and illness whose trauma isolates them from the rest of us. As disciples of Christ, may we take up his work of compassion and reconciliation, intentionally reaching out to and walking with those who have faced the dark hopelessness of their lives alone for too long.

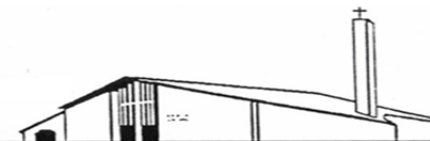
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Stephen's Parish

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BISHOP OF CORNER BROOK & LABRADOR: Most Rev. Peter Hundt
Administrator: Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris) Associate: Rev. Vitus Echedo

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR: Warren Quinton
FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR: Vacant
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Debbie Keough 643-6681
SECRETARY: Carolyn O'Quinn
RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Theresa Dollimont

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

Table with 2 columns: 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 JULY 14 & 15:**

Sunday Collection	\$	2,570.00
Capital Repairs	\$	90.00
Insurance	\$	10.00

**CONDOLENCES:** To the Family of Clifton Aucoin whose funeral we celebrated this 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!

**COMMUNION IN THE PEWS:** Holy Communion will be served to those who are unable to go to the altar at the end of Communion.

**SUNDAY MASS:** Parents are encouraged to attend Sunday Mass with their children as a way to develop a closer relationship with God together.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** St. Stephen's Church is looking for volunteer singers for this summer. We are also looking for volunteers for our Bereavement Team. If you would like to volunteer your time for either of these worthwhile causes, please contact the Parish office.

**CHANGE IN TIME FOR CONFESSION:** As there is a wedding scheduled for 3pm on Saturday, July 28th, confessions on that day will be heard at 1pm. We apologize for any inconvenience.

**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:** Most are familiar with the scriptural quote from Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd. There is nothing I shall want." This passage serves as the Responsorial Psalm on this 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time because it supports the other readings with two key ideas: that we must place our trust in the Lord, and that we inherit life from our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

At the time St. Paul was writing his Letter to the Ephesians (our Second Reading), Paul was under house arrest in Rome and awaiting trial. He was allegedly accused by the Jews of taking a Gentile into a temple. Therefore, part of Paul's statement, "For he (Christ) is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims," is saying essentially the Lordship of Jesus is not greater than any difference you may feel you have with others — that Jesus is our Savior and our Shepherd.

In the Gospel Reading from Mark, the idea of shepherding lies at the heart. "When he (Jesus) disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things." In other words, He began to feed them with the Word of God. That is what we do during this part of our Mass; we hear Holy Scripture. These are the Words of the Lord. He is our shepherd. We are His sheep.

As always, Jesus teaches us a valuable lesson about stewardship through today's readings. To the Lord, the needs of others were more important than His own. When we share our time, our talents, and our treasure, we are not only following our Good Shepherd, we are also living His Gospel call to shepherd others by giving of ourselves.

***TO PRAY IS TO BREATHE. DO IT DEEPLY AND YOU WILL BE FILLED WITH LIFE***

**4YOUTH:** July 22 is the feast day of Saint Mary Magdalene. We are told in both Mark's and Luke's Gospels that Jesus cast out seven demons from her, by which we know that she had severe physical and/or emotional illnesses. She became one of the women who travelled with Jesus. A woman of courage, she remained at the foot of the cross after most of Jesus' male followers had run away. Early Easter morning, Mary went to anoint Jesus' body with spices and discovered the empty tomb. It was to Mary that Jesus first appeared after His resurrection and He sent her to tell the Good News to the others. For this reason, she is called "the apostle to the apostles".

The feast day of Saint James the Apostle is July 25. Saint James was one of the first disciples of Jesus. He and his brother John, who also became a disciple, were called by Jesus as they were fishing with their father in the Sea of Galilee. James was one of the three Apostles present at the Transfiguration. Following Christ's Ascension, James spread the Gospel across Israel and the Roman Empire, and he spread the Word for nearly forty years in Spain. He later returned to Jerusalem where he was martyred for his faith by King Herod, who decapitated him. He is known as the first apostle to die. His remains were taken to Compostela, Spain, and buried there. In the ninth century his remains were discovered and moved to a tomb in Santiago de Compostela, where they still lie in the Cathedral of Santiago. Many people make a pilgrimage to his burial site, walking what is known as the Way of Saint James. He is the patron saint of pilgrims and of Spain.

**OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH AND MUSEUM:** Now open daily (Monday-Sunday) 10 am to 5 pm until mid August. After your tour, stop by our Tea Room for tea/coffee and sample our homemade baked goods and preserves. We look forward to your visit!

**ST ANNE'S GUILD:** St. Anne's Triduum will be on Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25 and Thursday July 26. Mass is at 9:30 each day. Please join us for this special time.

**HUMOR: BIRD LEGS**

A young college student had stayed up all night studying for his zoology text the next day. As he entered the classroom, he saw ten stands with ten birds on them with a sack over each bird and only the legs showing. He sat right on the front row because he wanted to do the best job possible. The professor announced that the test would be to look at each set of bird legs and give the common name, habitat, genus, species, etc.

The student looked at each set of bird legs. They all looked the same to him. He began to get upset. He had stayed up all night studying, and now had to identify birds by their legs. The more he thought about it, the madder he got. Finally, he could stand it no longer. He went up to the professor's desk and said, "What a weird test! How could anyone tell the difference between birds by looking at their legs?" With that the student threw his test on the professor's desk and walked out the door.

The professor was surprised. The class was so big that he didn't know every student's name, so as the student reached the door the professor called, "Mister, what is your name?" The enraged student pulled up his pant legs and said, "You guess, buddy! You guess!"

**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.

**CHASE THE ACE:** Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their 6th Chase the Ace fundraiser. This event is held on Sunday with ticket sales starting at 1:00 pm and ending at 3:45 pm with the draw taking place at 4 pm.