

July 29 2018

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"17th Sunday of the Year

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"

John 6: 1-15 (16-21)



Maria

Maria is a white woman in her late 50s. She cleans toilets at a major sports arena. Every day she comes to work lugging through the security line three duffel bags bursting with plastic Tupperware. She says little; she never smiles; she is dressed in whatever she can find at the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store.

On this particular day, a new security guard is on duty when Maria comes to work. He gives Maria and her duffel bag of Tupperware the "all clear" and waves her through. After several days, the security guard asks, "Excuse me, ma'am, I'm just curious . . . what are these containers for?"

Maria's scowl quickly turns to a smile and begins to tell her story:

Maria was homeless three years ago. For years, she lived under a highway overpass just a few miles from the arena. She spends her time outside of work caring for a sick friend who can barely move on his own. After every game, Maria fills the Tupperware in her duffel bags with leftover chicken fillets, burgers, and other uneaten treats. She brings it all to the homeless shelter where she used to stay.

"The reason I took this cleaning job was so I could have access to all this leftover food," Maria explains. "Usually arenas just throw it away, but I know people would really enjoy it."

The security guard is moved by Maria's story - and generosity. "Maria, what keeps you going? What sustains you?" he asks.

"The goodness of people," Maria says simply. "It's like a shade went up on my window."

When I was homeless, all I could see was how bad I was inside and that I didn't deserve a good life. When the shade lifted, I could look outside myself. I saw goodness that I never saw before . . . [I] just believe in a loving God and I'm doing my part to share the good news."

*Like the boy in today's Gospel who gives the little he has, Maria makes use of the opportunities she has been given for the good of those who live in even harder circumstances. The multiplication of the loaves and fish did not start with nothing; Jesus was able to feed the crowds because one boy was willing to share what little he had; from his gift, small though it was, Jesus worked a miracle. Eucharist is possible only when self defers to community, only when serving others is exalted over being served, only when differences dissolve and the common and shared are honored above all else.*

(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

July 29, 2018

17TH 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 JULY 21& 22:**

Sunday Collection	\$	2,574.55
Capital Repairs	\$	40.00
Sheperds Fund	\$	4.00

**CONDOLENCES:** To the Families of AnnMarie Miller and Myra White 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!

**SPECIAL MASS:** Our Lady of Mercy Church, Port au Port West, will be celebrating the Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Wednesday, August 15th at 6pm with His Excellency Bishop Hundt officiating. We will be reciting the rosary at 5:30. All are welcome. There will be a special collection at this mass following communion in aid of Our Lady of Mercy Church Restoration for those wishing to donate to this cause.

**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.

**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:**

Today's Gospel reading recounts Jesus' miracle of feeding the multitude. In a miracle that anticipated Jesus' miracle of feeding the multitude, as reported in today's Gospel, Elisha commanded that a small amount of bread be served to 100 men, and Jesus promised that all would indeed be fed. Elisha trusted that promise, acted upon it, and saw the promise miraculously fulfilled. We, like most people, tend to forget the miracles our Lord can work in everyday life. If we trust in God and live as good stewards, what we accomplish is, in its own way, a miracle. St. Paul beautifully sums up how our approach to living as Catholics and Christians should be. In today's Second Reading from his letter to the Ephesians, Paul urges us to live "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit." Does that describe our parish community?

This cannot happen unless we have the same kind of trust that Elisha had, and which St. Paul had, as well. Paul also says in today's Second Reading, "I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received." This is stewardship at its core. We should not give of our time, talent and treasure because we want to earn God's love. He already loves us unconditionally.

Jesus knew full well what miracle He was about to perform, but He also saw this as a chance to teach His Apostles, and also show us the way. Philip and the others had already seen Jesus perform many miracles, and there should have been no question in his mind about the divine resources Jesus had at His disposal. Yet Philip hesitated. It is human nature to be doubtful. Yet, as with Elisha, they all ate, and there was much left over. Through this miracle, Jesus is teaching us to trust Him and to do the same in our lives. And, by committing ourselves to a stewardship way of life, we can see our own gifts multiplied. And perhaps even perform our own modern-day miracles.

**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!

**50th Anniversary of the Encyclical *Humanae Vitae*:**

The CCCB's statement marking the 50th anniversary of the Encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which falls on the 25 July 2018 is available at [www.rcchurch.com](http://www.rcchurch.com) The text, titled *The Joy of Married Love*, presents the teaching of *Humanae Vitae* in an accessible and uplifting style aimed at inspiring and providing encouragement to married couples. It was developed jointly between the CCCB's Commission for Doctrine and The Catholic Organization for Life and Family (COLF)

**HUMOR: Stalled Car**

A woman's car was stalled at a four-way stop, and try as she might, she couldn't coax it to start. Confusion in direction was the result, and cars were back up. The man driving the car directly behind hers honked his horn mercilessly, and the other drivers joined in. At length the woman got out of her car and walked back to the car behind her. "Would you care to exchanges places?" she asked innocently. "You go up there an try to start my car, and I'll stay back here and blow your horn at you".

**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 7th 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.

**TOWN OF STEPHENVILLE & REGIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE:** Will be hosting a FREE swim in aid of Canadian Mental Health Association, on August 18th from 4:00pm to 4:55pm. There will be a reception to follow. Space is limited, registration is required. Please call CMHA at 643-5553 by Wednesday August 15th to register.

**Out of the mouths of God's kids**  
A small boy told a Sunday school teacher: "When you die, God takes care of you like your parents did when you were alive — only God doesn't yell at you all the time."  
— *via Rev. Dennis R. Fakes Lodi, CA*

A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"  
"I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied.  
"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the mother said.  
The little girl bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"  
— *via Charles Laine Franklin, TN*

A pastor was speaking to a group of second-graders about the resurrection of Jesus when one student asked, "What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?"  
The pastor explained that the Gospels do not tell us what He said.  
The hand of one little girl shot up. "I know what He said: He said, 'Tah-dah!'"  
— *via Andy Fisher Denville, NJ*