

July 8, 2018

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house."  
Mark 6: 1-6

### A jihad of peace

In April 2002, Shifa al-Qudsi was hours away from death.

A Palestinian living on the occupied West Bank, Shifa was the 25-year-old single mother of a six-year-old daughter. She worked as a hairdresser; she had little interest in politics. But after the *intifada* - the "uprising" - she found herself in the midst of the conflict. Family members and friends were shot; the mother of her daughter's best friend was killed; the constant sound of explosions gave her young daughter nightmares. Finally, she could take no more of it and volunteered to be a suicide bomber. She didn't care that she would die and leave her daughter without a parent; she had no sense that her death would only continue the cycle of violence. She just wanted to kill Israeli soldiers. But Israeli security forces, tipped to the plan, burst into her house the night before the attack and arrested her. She was convicted of conspiracy.

While in prison, Shifa rethought her life, especially her anger and response to that anger. She began reading the writings of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. But what turned her around was a female Israeli prison guard who treated her with respect.

Today, after six years in an Israeli prison, Shifa is now part of a group called Combatants for Peace, a group of Palestinians and Israelis who have come together to work for an end to hostilities among the two peoples.

"That's what made me feel that not every Israeli is the same," she remembers. "Now my *jihad* is to send out a message to the world . . . We are a people who want peace, just peace."

**The guard whom Shifa met in prison possessed an authority that was centered not in her position but in the virtue of her character. Authentic authority is not invested by virtue of office or title or economic power, but by the wisdom that comes from experience and a commitment to do what is right and just that transcends expectations. Such is the "authority" of the Rabbi Jesus of the Gospels and all who speak to our consciences and hearts through the integrity of their lives and example of their service.**

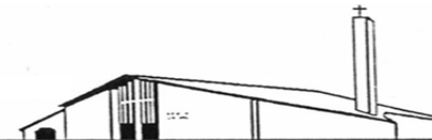
([www.connectionsmediaworks.com](http://www.connectionsmediaworks.com))

July 8, 2018

14TH 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

**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 30-JULY 1:**

Sunday Collection	\$	2,670.25
Capital Repairs	\$	60.00
Insurance	\$	70.00
Shepherds Fund	\$	95.00

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** In memory of Kenneth White as requested by Emily McCormick.

**CONDOLENCES:** To the Family of Regina Elizabeth Mullett 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.

**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:** The First Reading from the prophet Ezekiel tells of how Ezekiel was called by God. The Lord speaks to him and says, "Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you." God knew He was not giving Ezekiel an easy task, but that is part of what being called by the Lord sometimes involves. Being called is something to which we often make reference, as each of us is called in Baptism. St. Paul once wrote that we are "called to belong to Jesus Christ." The United States Bishops issued a document a few years ago titled *Disciples Called to Witness*. That is what we are all to do as baptized Catholics.

In that treatise the Bishops say, "To create a culture of witness, we must live explicit lives of discipleship. Being a disciple is a challenge. Fortunately, one does not become a disciple of Christ on his or her own initiative. The work of the Holy Spirit within the Christian community forms the person as a disciple of Christ."

God does not forsake us when we are called, just as He did not abandon Ezekiel. He is with us through the Holy Spirit to strengthen us and assist us. We must allow the Lord to help us. At the same time, we must strive to be disciples of the Lord. We are called to spread the light of the Gospel in everything we do.

**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!

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."  
~ Jeremiah 29:11

**PATRON SAINTS:** What is a patron saint? Patron saints are special protectors or guardians over any area of life that is important to us, such as occupations, illnesses, churches, countries, causes, etc. Patron saints are named by popes but can be chosen by individuals or groups as well. Patron saints are often chosen because an interest, talent or event in their lives relates with a special area. Saint Francis of Assisi, for example, loved nature, so he is the patron saint of ecologists. We should all have a patron saint. Why? For one thing, we can use that saint's life as an example for our own lives. For another, we can ask for that saint's intercessory prayers to God on our behalf, kind of like asking a friend to pray for us. It would be a good summer project to do some internet research on Catholic saints and find one who would be a good patron saint for you.

**SAINT BENEDICT:** July 11 is the feast day of Saint Benedict. When Benedict went to Rome as a young man to finish his education, he was shocked by the sinful pleasures in which his fellow students engaged. Benedict decided that he preferred to live alone in silence and prayer. However, many people moved to be near him because they wanted him to teach them how to become holy. Benedict knew that a group of people living together would function better with a plan, so he created a plan which is known as the Rule of Saint Benedict. This plan, which includes a balance of prayer, study, work, and rest, was unique at that time in history and was adopted by most religious communities founded during the Middle Ages. For this reason, Benedict is often considered the founder of monasticism. He is the patron saint of students and of Europe.

"Let us make one point, that we meet each other with a smile, when it is difficult to smile. Smile at each other, make time for each other in your family." ~ Mother Teresa

**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.

**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. Free-will offering accepted at the door.

**CHASE THE ACE:** 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 pm.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** There will be a meeting of the 4th Degree, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Assembly 1653, on Thursday, July 12th at 8:00 pm at the Santa Maria Club. There will be a meeting of the Executive at 7:00 pm. All Sir Knights are encouraged to attend.

**THE FACEBOOK METHOD:** I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I go down on the street and tell the passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel, what I have done the night before and what I will do tomorrow night. Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog and me gardening and spending time in my pool. I also listen to their conversations and I tell them I love them. And it works! I already have 3 persons following me: 2 police officers and a psychiatrist!