

June 17, 2018

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"[The kingdom of God] is as if a man would scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how . . . "It is like a mustard seed . . . the smallest of all the seeds on earth [but] springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."
Mark 4: 26-34

Everyday miracles

You look up for a moment from whatever it is you're doing and you watch her changing your daughter's diaper. As she rubs the baby with powder, she wiggles her nose against the baby's, and both mom and baby giggle in delight. You file this image away in the place in your heart where you store such visions - visions of everyday "miracles."

Early on you realized that your favorite place on earth is . . . the earth. Whether a few oversize pots on the porch of your first apartment or the garden you sectioned off in the yard behind your present house, you find great fulfillment in making things grow - and the best part is sharing the bounty with those you love: flowers for her, corn for the kids, tomatoes and carrots for the parish food pantry. The good earth is filled with such miracles.

There are so many demands on your time. If nothing else, you could use those few hours to get a head start on the week's projects and maybe get an extra hour or two of sleep some night as a result. But you keep that afternoon or evening free to tutor struggling students at the community center or be part of the crew at the soup kitchen or coach your child's soccer team. To be sure, many people appreciate the time you give - but you know that it's good for you, now and then, to stretch your soul to work a miracle.

Today's Gospel is about those everyday miracles we can work if we possess "mustard seed" faith: the conviction that, in the smallest acts of compassion and generosity, we can transform the most barren stretches of our lives into great gardens of hope and possibility. We may have little or no expectation of a harvest; nurturing what we have planted may be a frustrating and futile undertaking - but Christ calls us to embrace the faith of the Gospel farmer and the hope of the mustard seed: to be willing to plant whatever "seeds" of Gospel hope and compassion that we possess, wherever and whenever we can, in the certain knowledge that it will, in some way, result in its own "miracle": the revelation of the Kingdom of God in the midst of the blessedness of our everyday lives.

(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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11TH 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 **FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**
Warren Quinton Vacant
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION **SECRETARY**
Debbie Keough 643-6681 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

<p>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Sunday Morning -10:30 A.M.</p>	<p>ROSARY Saturdays from 1:30 pm 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. Next Session - *June 25th, 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 9-10TH:

Sunday Collection	\$	2,910.60
Capital Repairs	\$	698.00
Vocations	\$	5.00
Insurance	\$	2.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the Deceased members of the Bruce and Cormier families as requested by Martina Cormier.

ANNUAL DUES: Received with thanks from Myra White.

SCENT-FREE : Please be aware that some people have allergic reactions to perfumes and other scents. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!

FUNERALS THIS WEEK: Condolences to the families of Raymond Coombs and Yve Lainey who's funerals we celebrated this week.

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.

PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING: There will be a Parish Council meeting on Wednesday, June 20th immediately following evening Mass.

4YOUTH: Today we celebrate Father's Day, a day set aside to honour our fathers for the special role that they play in our lives and for all of the things that they do for us. As we take time today to honour our earthly fathers, let's not forget to honour God, our Heavenly Father, the model for all parents, both mothers and fathers. There's an excellent video on the Internet called *Father's Love Letter*, which expresses in words taken from different books of the Bible - God's own words - how much God loves every one of His children. Watch it Father's Day!

THANK YOU!!!!!!

A special "Thank You" to our Religious Education Coordinator, Catechists and Parents for your guidance and support for all students who participated in this years Religious Education Program. May God Bless you all and may you have a safe, enjoyable Summer vacation! I look forward to seeing you all at Mass during this time !
~Father Chris

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: We have stated previously that St. Paul had a way with words. He was able to take a very complex concept and summarize it in a few words and phrases. In today's Second Reading from Second Corinthians, Paul says simply, "... we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5: 7) That statement by Paul has inspired hymns and treatises.

Yet, it is in reality what we are all about as Catholics and Christians. There is no question that it is one of the most difficult notions for us as Catholics and Christians to grasp and accept. The word translated as "walk" can also be translated as "live." Thus, we could say "We live by faith, and not by sight." This was a popular and consistent theme for St. Paul, his point being that we need to build our lives around the eternal prospects, not those of this world. In this society "things" seem so important to us. However, the truth is that they have no eternal significance. That is an ongoing message in the concept of stewardship — basically who we are and how we live is more important than what we own and what we may appear to be. That can be tough for us. The late Billy Graham, who died earlier this year, was fond of saying, "My home is in Heaven. I am just traveling through this world." St. Paul would agree with that attitude.

"I think this is truly the most wonderful experience we can have: to belong to a people walking, journeying through history together with our Lord, who walks among us! We are not alone; we do not walk alone. We are part of the one flock of Christ that walks together." ~ Pope Francis

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).

ST. VINCENT de PAUL: Just a reminder that the St. Vincent de Paul society is not accepting donations of clothing or other items at St. Anne's Hall.

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.

ASSUMPTION PARISH: On Sunday, June 24th at 7 pm, the National Youth Choir of Canada will be performing at Assumption Church in Stephenville Crossing. The National Youth Choir represents some of the top choral singers in Canada from all 10 provinces and 1 territory. Tickets are \$10 each available at the door or online at www.choralcanada.org.

"A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way."

~ Unknown

THESE TWO ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE FOR THOSE WHO WILL BE IN ST. JOHN'S ON JUNE 23RD:

1. CENTRE FOR LIFE WALK FOR LIFE AND FAMILY FUN DAY: Will take place on Saturday, June 23rd from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Walk around Mundy Pond and come back to the parish hall for fun and food. A great family event for all ages. Walkers can enter their names at the registration desk for a draw of gift cards valued at 100.00. The winner's name will be drawn on July 27th. Lace up your sneakers and come join us for a morning of music, face painting, barbecue, games and prizes for the children or have your caricature drawn by Julie! Sponsor sheets are available at the parish office, or by calling 579-1500 or email centreforlife@centreforlife.ca. Your support will be greatly appreciated for the work of the Centre for Life.

2. VARIETY CONCERT: Celebrate Family and Love is a variety concert in aid of the Centre for Life which will take place on Saturday evening June 23rd at St. Teresa's Hall. Entertainment by the Singing Legionaries, Madeline Thompson, Gus Connors, Alanna Fraize, The St. Teresa's Choir and more! Doors will open at 6 pm and the concert starts at 6:30. Tickets are \$10.00 and children under 12 accompanied by an adult are free! For tickets in advance call 709-579-1500.

CUTE SAYINGS FOR FATHER'S DAY:

- *When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry. - Jewish Proverb
- *A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child. - Knights of Pythagoras
- *It doesn't matter who my father was; it matters who I remember he was. - Anne Sexton
- *The greatest gift I ever had came from God, and I call him Dad! - Anonymous
- *It is a wise father that knows his own child. - William Shakespeare

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!