

June 24, 2018

Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

"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.

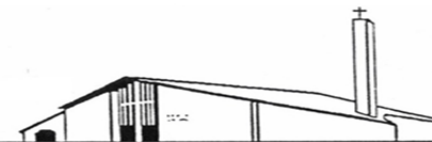
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

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 1:30 pm until 2:30 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 - *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 16-17TH:

Sunday Collection	\$	2,521.35
Capital Repairs	\$	95.00
Insurance	\$	565.25

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the Priests of our Diocese as requested by Martina Cormier.

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.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL: June 29th is celebrated as the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. We celebrate these two saints together because they are considered the founders of the Church of Rome through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there. Saint Peter led the Apostles as the first Pope and he made sure that the true faith was kept alive. Although Saint Paul started out as a Jewish Pharisee who actively persecuted early followers of Christ, he had a conversion encounter with Jesus that caused him to spend the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world. His letters are included in the New Testament and it is because of these writings that he is the patron saint of writers and public relations.

"Faith: Without it,
nothing is possible.
With it, everything is
possible."

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: Today is the Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (the Feast Day of the birth of John the Baptist). To say John the Baptist and Jesus were closely related and connected is an understatement.

Both were foretold by prophets, especially Isaiah. The only record of the birth of John the Baptist appears in the Gospel of Luke and it is at the heart of our Gospel Reading today. A key player in this event is, of course, John the Baptist's father Zechariah.

Zechariah was a Jewish priest, but when the Archangel Gabriel revealed to him that he would father a child, Zechariah refused to believe it. As a result he was rendered speechless until John was born. Zechariah had total trust in the Lord, however. Although it was traditional at that time to name the first son after the father, he and Elizabeth had been told that they were to name him John. As reported in the Gospel, Elizabeth said "He will be called John." The family protested at which time Zechariah wrote "His name is John." When he did that, Zechariah could speak once more. He did not say "should be"; he said "is."

The trust shown by Zechariah is an example to us that we must trust in God, not just when it is convenient, but all the time. Those of advanced generations know who Lawrence Welk was. Born and raised Catholic, Welk practiced his faith throughout his life. He once said, "Never trust anyone completely but God. Love people, but put your full trust only in God."

4YOUTH: June 24th is the feast day of Saint John the Baptist. John the Baptist is the patron saint of Newfoundland and the city of St. John's was named in his honor. John the Baptist lived at the same time as Jesus. He lived in the desert as a hermit but, at the age of thirty, he began to preach against the evils of the time and to challenge people to turn away from sin and to be baptized. He baptized hundreds of people, including Jesus himself. John's preaching was meant to prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah. He is a model for how we too should point others toward Jesus by how we live our lives and show our faith in Him.

CELEBRATE: Is a dynamic Catholic faith-filled weekend for the whole family or for individuals. Inspiring talks, children's age appropriate streams, Mass, worship, and a variety of workshops. Fun and faith for the whole family. To be held at All Hallows Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary School on Humber Road in Corner Brook. The Celebrate Weekend is July 14th and 15th and the theme is *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*. Celebrate Conferences originated in the UK and have been running successfully there for many years. Speakers are Jenny Baker from UK and Fr. James Fleming. For information please call Margaret 681-2353, or Amelia at 388-1048.
www.celebratenl.ca

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.

WORKSHOP: The Bay St. George Status of Women Council will be hosting a Garden Safety, Container Gardening & Composting Workshop on June 28th from 1:30-3:30 pm. Due to limited space registration is required. For more information or to register please call 643-4444.

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.

HUMOR: Early one Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake up her son. 'Wake up, son. It's time to go to Church!'
'But why, Mother? I don't want to go.'
'Give me two reasons why you don't want to go.'
'Well, one they all hate me at Church, and two the sermons are boring!'
'Those are not good reason for not to going to Church. Get up and get ready.'
'Give me two reasons why I should go to Church.'
'Well, for one, you're 55 years old. And for another, you're the Pastor!'

SAINT JEAN-BAPTISTE DAY: Is a holiday celebrated on June 24 in the Canadian Province of Quebec and by French Canadians across Canada and the United States. It was brought to Canada by French settlers celebrating the traditional feast day of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. It has been declared a public holiday in Quebec with publicly financed events organized province-wide by a Comité Organisateur de la fête Nationale du Québec.