

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK:

Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Examination of Conscience will focus on The Stations of The Cross, Friday, March 23-6 pm
 Passion (Palm) Sunday, March 25 - 10:30 am
 Holy Thursday, March 29-Mass at 7:00 pm
 Good Friday, March 30-Service at 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross
 Holy Saturday, March 31-Easter Vigil at 9:00 pm

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "... whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."
 John 3: 14-21

Seeing yourself in better light

She has never seen herself as beautiful or pretty. When she thumbs through fashion magazines in waiting rooms, she feels like some alien being. She cannot look at pictures of herself; she recoils from what she sees as her crooked nose, her acne scars and scabs, her short stature and skinny figure.

But that's not what he sees. He was immediately captivated by her smile, a smile that lit up her entire face. The sound of her laugh and the kindness in her voice brought him a sense of peace and reassurance he had never experienced in another woman before. And the first time they kissed, she trembled and cried with embarrassment. But, as their relationship continued, she began to think that maybe she wasn't so ugly after all.

From the moment they met, he knew he was way out of her league. He worked hard - but his prospects were not what a woman of her background and education would find very promising. He found himself struggling to keep up with her. He had nothing to offer someone "like her."

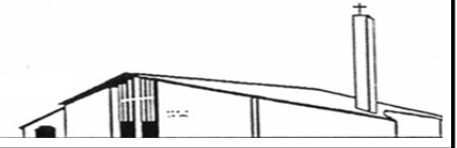
But that's not what she saw. She was taken by his sense of humor and humility, his generosity of spirit, his ability to listen patiently and support unconditionally. His easy way with his family and friends, particularly his younger siblings, was a delight to watch. His integrity and common sense were so unlike the other guys she had known. Oh, she knew how much he had to offer - and she felt like the luckiest woman in the world when he worked up the courage to propose.

In his late-night conversation with the Pharisee Nicodemus, Jesus presents a very different picture of God - and of ourselves. Jesus reveals to Nicodemus a God of life and restoration, a God who seeks not our punishment or humiliation but our healing and reconciliation with him and with one another. The God Jesus reveals is not the God of condemnation and destruction but the God of forgiveness, mercy and compassion. And that should help us re-imagine ourselves: that, created in God's love, we are more than the superficialities of appearance and assets, of wit and social graces. In the light of his Christ, we come to realize the good in ourselves that we often do not see; in that light, we find joy and reason to be grateful for the good that others bring to our lives. As Jesus explains to Nicodemus, God has created us as an extension of himself: from the moment of our creation, his life and love are part of our very being. In our embracing of his Spirit of justice and mercy, in our work to re-make our world in his dream of compassion and peace, the love in which we were created transforms our lives and the lives of those we love and who love us into the very light and love of God.

(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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

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	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.
SUNDAY MASSES Saturday - 4:30 P.M. Sunday - 9:00 A.M.	

MARRIAGES. Six months notice is required; a year's notice is recommended.

BAPTISM PREPARATION. Next Session - *March 26, 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 MAR. 3-4:

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,188.75
Initial Offerings	\$ 10.00
Capital Repairs	\$ 13.00
Catholic Missions	\$ 5.00
Shepherd's Fund	\$ 70.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: In the Memory of Catherine Duffney as requested by Loretta & Tom Burrell.

PASTORAL DUES RECEIVED WITH

THANKS: From Sandra Abbott, Reginald & Helen Bennett, Roger Bennett, Bridget Benoit, John & Genevieve Clark, Michelle Brenda Felix, Marjorie McKay, Warren & Lorraine Quinton and Peter Thibeau.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place **every Friday at 7 pm.**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: This month's regular monthly meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 14th after evening Mass instead of March 21st (Chrism Mass in Corner Brook).

MASS OF CHRISM: Holy Redeemer Cathedral Parish will host Bishop Hundt, Priests of the Diocese, Directors of Parish life and the entire Diocese for the **Mass of Chrism at 7:00 pm on Wed., March 21. A bus will be available if needed - please see sign up sheet in church. Deadline for sign up is March 18th.** Come and gather in our celebration.

MASS CANCELLATIONS: Mass scheduled on March 21 & 22 are cancelled due to the Chrism Mass taking place in Corner Brook on March 21st and all Priests' will not be available on March 22nd.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

St. Stephen's - Parish Meeting Room

Yr 2 (Group A) Monday, **March 12** at 6:00 pm

Yr 2 (Group B) Tuesday, **March 13** at 6:00 pm

Yr 4, Thursday, **March 15** at 6:00 pm

Yr 3 (Group A) Monday, **March 19** at 6:00 pm

Yrs 5 & 6, Thursday, **March 22** at 6:00 pm

Next Children's Mass: Easter Sunday, April 1st
(Please remember your streamers!)

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Do we really need a more powerful reminder of the importance of Lent and Easter than that?

That verse (from John 3:16) has become very popular in modern culture, to the point that we see it often at athletic events. When the University of Florida played for the national college football championship in 2009, quarterback Tim Tebow did not wear the regular eye black under his eyes. Under his right eye it said "John" and under his left eye it said "3:16." God sends us messages all the time, if we listen and are attentive.

Tebow did not have a remarkable professional career, but he was the quarterback of the Denver Broncos against the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 2012 playoffs. The Broncos won, and in that game Tebow passed for 316 yards; his completed passes averaged 31.6 yards; perhaps the key play in the game came on third down and 16; the TV ratings for the game were 31.6%.

That is not the important aspect, however. What is important is that the truth of that statement is so simple; nevertheless, it is difficult for us to completely grasp its significance. The truth is that God loves us, no matter what we are or what our attitude toward God is. The world that God gave His Son to save is our world. We are the children of God.

This Lenten season is a time to see that and accept it as truth.

4 YOUTH: Lent is more than half over – 22 days of the 40 are done. Many people may feel that time is passing too quickly and they haven't really made a good Lent. Well, the fourth Sunday of Lent, which we celebrate this week, is called Laetare Sunday. The word "laetare" means "rejoice" in Latin and the entrance antiphon today begins "Rejoice, O Jerusalem!" Today, the strictness of Lent is lessened a little bit. The purple vestments and altar cloths of Lent may be replaced by rose ones. Flowers, which we normally do not see in church during Lent, may be placed on the altar. The point of Laetare Sunday is to encourage us to continue our spiritual preparations for Easter (or to start them, it's not too late!). It's not easy to follow the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and alms-giving for forty days. Laetare Sunday is meant to encourage us to stay strong!!

SHARE LENT 2018: On the weekend of March 17-18, Canadian Catholics from coast to coast will join in the 50-year-old tradition of Solidarity Sunday. Parishes across the country will take up a collection to support *Development and Peace's* work as the official Humanitarian Aid and International Development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada. By supporting Development and Peace, Canadian Catholics have helped to create peace and justice in communities all over the world! Please continue to support this crucial ministry of the Church next week by giving generously to this special donation!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL STORE CLOSING: Effective immediately, the St. Vincent de Paul store (currently located in the St. Anne's Hall) is closed. The maintenance committee together with Father Chris, Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Cormier met and discussed the current condition of the room; all agreed it is an unhealthy environment because of flooding and the water damage is un-repairable. NO further donations will be accepted. We thank you for any donations you may have made in the past. St. Stephen's Parish is very grateful to Mrs. Burke for all her years of dedicated service.

POPE FRANCIS ON FASTING: Do you want to Fast this Lent? Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

OLD PALMS: There is a box in the back of the church to collect any old palms you may have.

THE WILD GOOSE IS LOOSE SERIES: There will be no session on March 14th and no session on March 21 (Chrism Mass).

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:
CHASE THE ACE: Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their 4th Chase the Ace fundraiser. This event takes place on Sunday at the Santa Maria Building. Ticket sales start at 1:00 pm. and end at 3:45 pm with the draw taking place at 4:00 pm.

TAX PREPARATION-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS: Reg Decker @ 649-3616 or Bernice Janes @ 643-3073

JOB OPPORTUNITY: CLEANER WANTED: 4 Days per week, \$50.00 per day, Starting April 2, 2018. You can drop off your resume at Debbie's Video Shoppe 76 A Main St. Stephenville.

STEWARDSHIP COFFEE TIME: The next coffee time will take place on Sunday, March 18th after Mass in the downstairs meeting room of the Church. Please join us for a tea or coffee, a sandwich or a cookie as we gather together in Fellowship following Sunday Service!