

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

"Amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit . . .

" . . . what should I say, 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

John 12: 20-33

"The Post"

In 1966, the United States was deep in the quagmire of the war in Vietnam. The Secretary of the Defense, Robert McNamara, sent a Marine-turned-researcher named Daniel Ellsberg in-country to assess the war and the chances for success. After accompanying American units fighting and dying in the jungle, he realized that the war was all but lost. Privately, McNamara concurred with Ellsberg's assessment - but, publicly, the secretary continued to grossly mischaracterize American progress. Ellsberg was so appalled at the carnage taking place because of such dishonesty that he secretly turned over to The New York Times the official reports he and other analysts had compiled - what became known as "The Pentagon Papers." The 4,000 pages were a detailed history of America's ill-conceived and disastrously managed war in Southeast Asia over 23 years. The Nixon Administration obtained a court injunction stopping the publication of the documents by The Times.

The editor of The Washington Post, Ben Bradlee, and one of his reporters, Ben Bagdikian, then came into possession of the papers. They desperately wanted to publish them. To do so could lead to imprisonment - and, in all likelihood, the end of The Post. Bradlee went to the publisher, Katharine Graham, for permission to publish.

The story of what happens next is told in Steven Spielberg's acclaimed movie The Post. The timing could not have been worse for Mrs. Graham. She had just become publisher of the paper, following the death of her husband, and was in the midst of taking the Post Company public in order to guarantee the paper's financial survival. She knew she was out of her depth; she was patronized by her executives and bankers - all men - who considered her a wealthy society matron not to be taken seriously. Publishing the Pentagon Papers could kill the stock offering.

And further complicating the matter was her long-time friendship with Robert McNamara, who served on the Post company board. A particularly moving scene in the film is Katharine's meeting with McNamara himself, when Katharine confronts him not as a newspaper publisher but as the mother of a son who served in Vietnam. How could the government - how could McNamara - lie to her and the mothers and fathers of sons who fought and died in a land so far away, for a cause that they all knew was doomed?

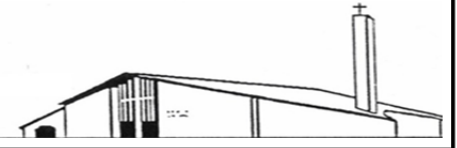
Katharine Graham overruled her lawyers and accountants and gave her editors and reporters the go - and took the fight to publish all the way to the Supreme Court. In her courageous stand, Katharine Graham had become one of the major figures in American journalism and in advocating for the freedom of the press.

At a moment of great financial stress and constitutional crisis, Katherine Graham meets her "hour." She takes on the unique challenge confronting her and her newspaper with clear determination and conviction, despite the potentially disastrous consequences for her, personally and professionally. Like Mrs. Graham - like Jesus - every one of us will, at some time, face our own "hour," when our faith must become more than words, when we must profess our convictions in actions that could have devastating consequences. Our "hour" may not mean the death of democracy, but our "hour" may require us to put on the line our safety, our security, our comfort for what is right and just. To follow Jesus in his hour is to trust in the grace of God to find the courage and conviction to meet ours.

(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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
 Web: 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

<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 - *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. 10-11:

Sunday Collection	\$	3,465.85
Initial Offerings	\$	68.00
Capital Repairs	\$	43.00
Catholic Missions	\$	25.00
Good Friday	\$	5.00
Papal Charities	\$	3.00
Development & Peace	\$	25.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: In the Memory of Sam Retieffe as requested by Loretta & Tom Burrell.

PASTORAL DUES RECEIVED WITH

THANKS: From Austin Alexander, Kenneth & Margaret Alexander, Marie Alexander, Doreen Doucette, Henry Gaudet, Edna Gaudet, Francis Joy & Kathleen King, Mary Sue Lambe, Verna Muise, Paul & Lorraine Pederson and Odelle Young.

MASS OF CHRISM: The Chrism Mass is celebrated annually by the bishop and priests of a diocese in communion with their people. It is meant to publicly express the unity of the diocese and the unity of the priests with their bishop, as well as to celebrate the institution of the priesthood and priestly service. It is at this Mass that the sacred oils used in the celebration of sacraments are blessed: the Oil of Catechumens, which is used in Baptism, the Oil of the Sick, which is used in the Anointing of the Sick, and the Oil of Chrism, which is used in Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination. The Chrism Mass will take place at the **Cathedral of the Most Holy Redeemer and of the Immaculate Conception, 15 Mount Bernard Avenue, Corner Brook, on Wednesday, March 21 at 7pm.**

OFFICE CLOSED: Office will be closed on Monday, March 19, 2018 for the Feast of St. Patrick.

MASS CANCELLATION: Mass is cancelled on Wednesday, March 21 & Thursday, March 22.

COMMUNION IN THE PEWS: The Holy Communion will be served to those who are unable to go to the altar at the end of Communion.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**St. Stephen's - Parish Meeting Room**

Yr 4, Thursday, **March 15** at 6:00 pm
 Yr 3 (Group A) Monday, **March 19** at 6:00 pm
 Yr. 8 Confirmation, Tuesday, **March 20** at 6:00 pm
 Yrs 5 & 6, Thursday, **March 22** at 6:00 pm

Next Children's Mass: Easter Sunday, April 1st

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During Lent, Stations of the Cross will take place every Friday at 7 pm. Please note that **on Friday, March 23,** Stations of the Cross **will start at 6 pm.**

THE WILD GOOSE IS LOOSE SERIES: There will be no session on March 21 (Chrism Mass in Corner Brook).

LAUDATO SI': The encyclical letter from Pope Francis addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. It is written with both hope and resolve, looking to our common future with candor and humility. This book is available at the Parish office for \$8.00 each.

SHARE LENT 2018: Through their prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent, Christians express their desire to turn toward God and to all God's children in preparation for Easter. The Bishops of Canada have reserved the Season of Lent for a collection to assist the Global South. This collection is being taken up in all parishes this weekend. Founded and mandated in 1967 by the Bishops of Canada, and now a member of *Caritas International* network of Catholic agencies, the *Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace* financially supports development and aid projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and informs Canadian Catholics on international social justice questions. Please give as generously as you can!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: Easter Sunday is but two weeks away (April 1). In our First Reading from the prophet Jeremiah, we hear God tell us, "I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more." To affirm that forgiveness, St. Paul has this to say in the Second Reading: "He (Jesus) became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." There is a connection between these two statements which present forgiveness as the way to salvation.

The Lenten season is one of penance, reflection, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting, perhaps even in that order, so we can better prepare ourselves for Easter Sunday and beyond. Lent reminds us that God is gracious and merciful. God's divine mercy is a central theme of Lent.

One might say that the priceless gift of God's mercy is highlighted and celebrated in the Church in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession). That should be a key part of our Lenten journey. As mentioned only two weeks remain on that journey so getting to reconciliation is important if we have not done so already.

Sacramental confession allows God's loving mercy and His grace-filled absolution to be confirmed to us through a priest. God sees us with love, mercy, and an abundance of forgiveness. Christ, through the priest, helps us to let go of anything that gets in the way of our relationship to God. St. Isidore wrote, "Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin. All hope consists in confession. In confession there is a chance for mercy."

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.

4 YOUTH: For many Roman Catholics, the Stations of the Cross are closely associated with Lent, especially Holy Week and Good Friday. This devotion commemorates 14 key events on the day of Christ's crucifixion, from the time He was condemned to His burial. The Stations originated in the Middle Ages, when wars prevented pilgrims from visiting the Holy Land. Sculptures or paintings depicting scenes of Jesus' journey to Calvary were placed along a procession route, so that pilgrims could walk the route and stop to pray at each station. Today the Stations can be found in almost all Catholic churches. This devotion allows us to pray and meditate on Christ's sacrifice for us. Most parishes will have the Stations of the Cross during Lent or you can make the Stations online. This is a good Lenten devotion to try!

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 at 4:00 pm.

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

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!

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

AL-ANON: Is a program that offers information, support and fellowship to family & friends of problem drinkers. For information on local meetings, call 643-6153 or 709-638-8311.