

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER:
Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Examination of Conscious 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

PROCESSION WITH PALMS:

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna!"
 Mark 11: 1-10

Christ the clown

When he was in his early thirties, the French painter Georges Rouault was walking through town when he passed a circus caravan. An old clown sitting in a corner of the caravan mending his sparkling and gaudy costume caught his attention. Watching the clown, Rouault began to think about the contrast between the clown's eye-catching costume and props, all designed to amuse, and the clown's own marginal place in society: the man underneath the silly, gaudy costume was a poor, itinerant wayfarer.

"I saw quite clearly that the 'Clown' was me, was us, nearly all of us," wrote Rouault in a letter to a friend. "This rich and glittering costume, it is given to us by life itself; we are all more or less clowns, we all wear a glittering costume."

Rouault began to paint clowns - yellow clowns, wounded clowns, a clown with a drum, young clowns and old clowns. Rouault's contemporaries noticed resonances between his paintings of clowns and his paintings of Jesus; Rouault's depictions of costumed harlequins and of the Savior of the world began to resemble each other.

Rouault was taking up a long-standing, if quiet, tradition in the church: the idea of Jesus as clown. Arguably, the tradition goes back all the way back to Paul, who reminded the Corinthians that the world deemed "foolish" the things of Christ and that disciples were to indeed be fools for Christ.

Rouault's "clowning" Christs expressed two dimensions of the life of the Gospel Jesus: Jesus is the marginal wayfarer, and Jesus specializes, as clowns do, in interruptions, in behavior that violates etiquette and social norms, in impropriety, surprises, and mockery of conventions.

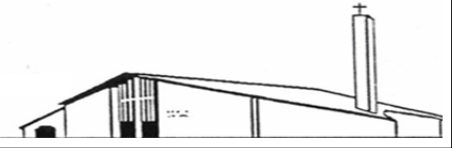
In his crucifixion, Christ the clown is unmasked; he is the object of humiliation and mockery. But humankind is revealed to be the fools.
 [Adapted from Wearing God by Lauren F. Winner.]

The events of Holy Week reveal as much about us as about Jesus. In the sacrifice of Jesus the "clown," we realize the foolishness of our own selfishness, the absurdity of our greed, the senselessness of the injustice and hurt we countenanced to maintain the illusion of our "circuses." May we see in the cross of Holy Week the very worst we fail to see in ourselves: that part of us we deftly justify in order to rationalize the crucifixions we execute. As we journey with Jesus this Holy Week, may we seek to wipe away the deceptive "greasepaint" from our faces and take off the fakery of our "glittery costumes" to put on the spirit of humble servanthood of the Christ of compassion and mercy.

(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	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	
<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>
MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE	REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES
<p>SUNDAY MASSES Saturday - 4:30 P.M. Sunday - 9:00 A.M.</p>	<p>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. 17-18:

Sunday Collection	\$	2,901.60
Catholic Missions	\$	5.00
Development & Peace	\$	1,311.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the Intentions of Shane Durkee as requested by his Mother.

PASTORAL DUES RECEIVED WITH

THANKS: From Larissa Bennett, Genevieve Boland, Dominic & Florence Boulos, Mary Cormier and William A. & Dorothy 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!

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Also known as Confession and the Sacrament of Penance, is a Sacrament of Healing in which we encounter and celebrate in a very special way the merciful love of God. While it is especially important that we bring to this sacrament mortal sins, it is a precept of our Church that we celebrate this sacrament at least once a year. Speaking of the beauty and benefits of this sacrament, even when we have no serious sins to confess, St. Francis de Sales, a patron saint of Confessors, said: "By confession, you not only receive absolution from the venial sins you confess, but likewise strength to avoid them, light to discern them well and grace to repair all the damage you may have sustained by them. You will also practice the virtues of humility, obedience, sincerity and charity: in a word, in this one act of confession, you shall exercise more virtues than in any other whatsoever." Lent is a wonderful time to celebrate this sacrament. Please check your parish's confession times and consider celebrating this sacrament soon.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Is available on March 29th, Holy Thursday, at 3 pm.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

St. Stephen's - Parish Meeting Room

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**
(Please remember your streamers!)

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: In his letter to the Philippians, our Second Reading on this Palm Sunday, St. Paul writes, "...he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Everything we hear today and during Holy Week relates to this statement.

For some 2,000 years scholars and theologians have debated what the phrase "emptied himself" means. As is sometimes the case, in the midst of these debates and discussions they lose focus of what is really Paul's point and teaching perhaps. One of the things Paul might be trying to get us to think about is emptying ourselves to a certain extent. If you have ever been a retreat or been part of a spiritual exercise, you may be encouraged to "empty yourself" so you are prepared to in reality add something. Jesus gave much up to be the Son of Man. At this point in our Lenten journey, we need to grasp that He gave up His life so that we might have life. That is what should be on our minds as we hear the Passion today and as we continue and complete our own preparation for Christ's resurrection on Easter. Have you ever heard someone say about someone else "He (or she) is so full of himself (or herself)?" Jesus was not "full of Himself." He emptied Himself, and that is something we, too, must strive to do to be His disciple.

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.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Just a reminder to please put your name and amount on your envelope before you place it in the collection. Thank you!

THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH IN THE HOLY

LAND: Each year on Good Friday, dioceses and parishes in Canada and around the world hold a collection for the needs of the Church in the Holy Land. In the celebration of the Lord's Passion, Catholics pray for the needs of all the world and they remember in a special way the Holy Land and its people. Christians living in the Holy Land today are descendants to those who first believed and lived the Christian faith. The funds collected are used to support the work of the Catholic Church - providing Christian formation and education, conducting parish ministry, offering housing and food to the poor and maintaining the shrines of the Holy Land.

4 YOUTH: This is Holy Week, the time when we remember the final days of Jesus' earthly life, beginning with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and ending with His resurrection at Easter. The last three days of this week are called the Triduum. The Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday. While the Triduum spans the three-day period that begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening, it is considered one celebration because the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus are considered one inseparable event. Busted Halo has a good video on YouTube for you to watch, called *Holy Week in 2 Minutes*.

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.

"Let your prayer be short. Love needs few words."

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP: Meetings take place at St. Anne's Hall the first Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. For more info. call Joan at 643-3425 or Joyce at 643-3021.

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 (after April 15th Amelia at 388-1048). www.celebratenl.ca

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST FOR GRADE 8-12 STUDENTS:

The Newfoundland and Labrador State Council of the Knights of Columbus is again this year sponsoring an essay writing contest. All Catholic students from Grade 8 to 12 are eligible to make entries. First Prize - \$200.00; Second Prize - \$100.00; Third Prize - \$50.00. The prizewinners will be announced at the State convention in April. This year's essay theme is: "Going to the Peripheries". Essays are to discuss the role of the Catholic Church in going to the peripheries and to describe the work of one widely known current or historical Catholic, or of someone personally known to the writer, who has helped alleviate human suffering. Essays are to be the writer's original work, 500 to 700 words in length and to be typed one sided, double spaced with one inch margins on 8 1/2" x 11" paper with the writer's name appearing only on the cover page. Essays must be submitted by April 15, 2018 to:

Mr. Gordon Lannon
3 Spruce Street
Pasadena, NL A0L 1K0