

March 4, 2018

3rd Sunday of Lent

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK:

Stations of the Cross /Reconciliation to follow, 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

Easter Sunday, April 1 - 10:30 am

Jesus found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area . . .

"Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a market place." John 2: 13-25

A church for Jake

It was a simple, quiet Christmas morning service planned for young families. After reading the Christmas gospel, the celebrant called up the children and let them share their excitement about Christmas morning in their homes.

But the homiletic moment took an ugly turn when a seven-year-old boy, Jake, stood up, clenched his fists and screamed, "I hate my dad!" The congregation gasped; his older brother tried to pull Jake down and shush him, but Jake violently pulled away. "He promised to come for Christmas," cried Jake, "but we woke up and he wasn't there. He made my mom cry, and I hate him. He is one big, fat liar!"

The pastor tells what happened next: "With some panic-inspired instinct of grace, I grabbed Jake and pulled him into my lap. He wailed, his small body shaking in spasms against my chest. I swallowed hard, wiping away my own tears with my free hand. Then, when I felt I could trust my voice again, I stammered, 'So you know what, Jake?' Then I realized that whatever I was going to say was for Jake alone . . . I whispered something about knowing Jake well and believing that he actually didn't hate his dad. He was angry, sure, and had every right to be, because his dad disappointed him and his mom and brother and hurt all their feelings and made a big mistake. 'But Jake, Jake, Jake,' I whispered fiercely, 'You're so upset because you love him so much.'

"Exactly at the word *love*, he became very still and I felt his muscles relax. His arms came free from hugging his chest and he held on to me. I mumbled something to the congregation about helping little boys disappointed by love's promise to still find some holy Christmas. Then his mom came to the altar to reclaim her son. The rest of us left the church haunted by a little boy's broken heart."

A broken-hearted little boy and his family find a moment of comfort and support in the midst of their worshipping community. Today's Gospel asks what kind of community or "temple" have we created here: Is our church truly "the Father's house" where the broken find healing, the lost find welcome, the despairing find consolation? Jesus' cleansing of the temple challenges us to take a look at our own parish "temple" with Lenten eyes: to realize that Christ has called this church, our church, to be place where the compassion, the healing, the justice, the peace of Christ is revealed to all who come through our doors.

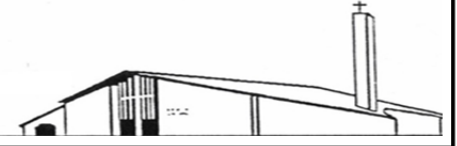
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

March 4, 2018

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

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

<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 FEB. 24-25:

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,229.55
Initial Offerings	\$ 30.00
Capital Repairs	\$ 15.00
Catholic Missions	\$ 77.00
New Years Day	\$ 5.00
Development & Peace	\$ 10.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: In the Memory of Damien Drake as requested by Dad & Mom.

PASTORAL DUES RECEIVED WITH

THANKS: From Fred & Anita Beaton, Anne Cluett, Hillard & Margaret Hynes, Clyde & Elsie Russell, Raymond & Ursula Schumph and Tom & Anita Shea.

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.

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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Friday, March 9th after Mass until 5 pm. At 3 pm we have the Devine Mercy Chaplet. Although you are not required to spend all day at Church during Exposition, we ask that you spend some time according to your convenience.

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

Yr 1 (Group A) Monday, **March 5** at 6:00 pm
Yr 1 (Group B) Tuesday, **March 6** at 6:00 pm
Kindergarten, Thursday, **March 8** at 6:00 pm

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!)

"24 HOURS FOR THE LORD": Is a Lenten initiative organized by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. It is to be observed on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent, which this year is March 9-10. The purpose of this initiative is to provide an opportunity for the faithful to encounter Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and in Eucharistic Adoration.

As Pope Francis stated in *Misericordiae Vultus (The Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee of Mercy)*: "*The initiative of "24 Hours for the Lord," to be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent, should be implemented in every diocese. So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace.*" Please check with your local parish for further details.

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

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: Our First Reading from the Old Testament Book of Exodus presents the Ten Commandments, as God gave them to Moses. The Commandments also appear in the Book of Deuteronomy (Chapter 5; verses 6-21). The Commandments are reaffirmed in the New Testament by Jesus Himself and especially in the Gospel of John. The Ten Commandments are also called the "Decalogue," which means literally "ten words." According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#2056) "God revealed these 'ten words' to His people on the holy mountain. They were written 'with the finger of God.' They are pre-eminently the words of God"

At another point the *Catechism* fortifies the Commandments by saying, "... from generation to generation... the 'deposit' of moral teaching has been handed on. Along with the Creed and the Our Father, the basis for catechesis has traditionally been the Decalogue, which sets out the principles of moral life valid for all people." (#2033)

The Commandments are considered essential for spiritual good health and growth. They serve as the basis for Catholic social justice. A review of the Ten Commandments is a common type of examination of conscience before receiving the sacrament of Penance.

As Lent draws to a close, it is important for each of us to go to confession and receive the sacrament of Penance. As part of that we may wish to look at our lives and how we live them through the holy words of the Ten Commandments.

THE WILD GOOSE IS LOOSE SERIES:

The theme of this session on March 7th is **The Spirit Convicts**. Synopsis: Pope Francis has stated that we must stop "masquerading before God" in relation to our sin. We must take seriously the reality and nature of sin and the impact that it has in our lives. It is not an exaggeration to say that our attitude towards sin has eternal consequence. Sin wounds and at times destroys our relationship with Christ. The Spirit of God convicts of our sin not to condemn us but to convert us. In this segment we will see how the Spirit draws us closer to Christ by

revealing to us our sin. Refreshments will be served. Newcomers are welcome. Sponsored by St. Stephen's Prayer group. **Please note: There will be no session on March 14th and no session on March 21 (Chrism Mass).**

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF THOSE SUFFERING FORCED EVICTIONS IN NIGERIA:

In Nigeria, forced evictions are carried out violently, without consulting those concerned, as well as without warning, compensation or providing alternative housing. Thanks to your support, the Social and Economic Rights Action Centre (a Development and Peace partner), can train community leaders who then work with some of the most marginalized communities so they can engage in effective dialogue with the government. This year, we invite you to join Development and Peace's monthly giving program Share Year-Round. You will find brochures about Development and Peace as you leave the church. You can also register online at devp.org/shareyearround.

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.

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.

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).

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." ~ Mother Teresa