

May 13, 2018

Ascension Of The Lord

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."
"Consecrate them in the truth."

Mark 16: 15-20
John 17: 11b-19

Mr. Phil still feeds the children . . .

It was a tragedy that ripped St. Paul, Minnesota, apart: On a summer evening in 2016, 32-year old Philando Castile was pulled over by a police officer for a broken tail light. When Castile reached into his pocket for his license, the officer thought Castile was going for a gun and fatally shot Castile. You may remember the video that was shot by his girlfriend who was in the car with Castile. The episode ignited a storm of angry protests around the country.

But the story does not end there. No one was more devastated by Castile's death than the students at the J.J. Hill Elementary School in St. Paul. Castile, known as "Mr. Phil," supervised the food services program. Castile didn't just work in the cafeteria; he tutored and mentored students, as well. He knew every student's name; he was beloved by the students and staff at J.J. Hill.

Castile saw to it that every child had lunch every day, including poorer kids who couldn't afford it. Castile covered many lunches out of his own pocket. So a local university professor and her students created a charity to pay off J.J. Hill's entire student lunch debt. Since September, students in Prof. Pamela Fergus' Diversity and Ethics Class at Montgomery State University launched *Philando Feeds the Children*. The students have raised more than \$130,000 - enough not only to wipe out the lunch room deficit at J.J. Hill but all student lunch debt across St. Paul's 56 public schools.

Some 70 percent of St. Paul students qualify for free lunches, but many parents aren't aware of the program or struggle to complete the application; many families earn too much to qualify but still have difficulty paying for their children's lunches. Typically, more than 2,000 students end up owing money for lunch at the end of the school year. The students at Montgomery State would now like to raise enough funds to extend the program beyond St. Paul. The program has the blessing of Philando Castile's mother, Valerie. "No child should go hungry," she says. "And this project helps keep my son alive."

The generosity and compassion that Philando Castile inspired continues, even after his tragic death. On this Solemnity of the Lord's Ascension, Jesus calls his disciples - including us - to continue the work of compassion, mercy and reconciliation that he inspired, the work that has been vindicated and perfected in God's raising him from the dead. We who have seen and heard the story of Jesus are now called to bring that hope into the lives of others and into the life we share as families, as the Church, as the human community. In every kindness we offer, in every word of encouragement and comfort we utter, in every moment we spend listening and supporting, we proclaim the Gospel of the Risen Jesus; every good work - however small or hidden - is a spark of the light of the Risen Christ in our midst.

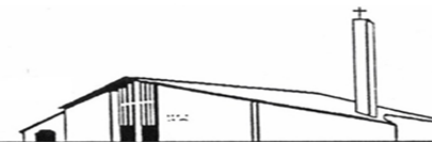
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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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 - *May 28th, 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 MAY 5TH-6TH:

Sunday Collection	\$	2,784.50
Capital Repairs	\$	43.00
Vocation Sunday	\$	20.00
New Year's Day	\$	20.00
Pope's Pastoral Work	\$	1,145.65
Insurance	\$	5.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the Intentions of Reginald Russell as requested by Martina Cormier.

ANNUAL DUES: Received with thanks from Amos Chaisson and Fredrick Flynn.

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.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION: Sunday, May 20th, the Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place from 2 to 4 pm.

FIRST EUCHARIST: Our children and their families are ready to celebrate First Eucharist. This weekend we welcome them to the Lord's Table for the first time:

Seanpaul Benoit	Jackson Blanchard
Emily Brumsey	Jarett Jr. Brumsey
Carter Bullen	Jamie French
Charity Hollett	Liberty Hollett
Liam King	David Walsh.

We also congratulate these children on receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on April 24th and May 9th. May God continue to Bless them and their families.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

St. Stephen's - Parish Meeting Room

- Year 2 (Group A), Monday, **May 14th** at 6:00 pm
 - Year 2 (Group B), Tuesday, **May 15th** at 6:00 pm
 - Year 3 (Group A) Monday, **May 28th** at 6:00 pm

 - Year 4, Thursday, **May 17th** at 6:00 pm
 - Yrs 5 & 6, Thursday, **May 31** at 6:00 pm
 - Yr.7 Pre-Confirmation, Sunday, **May 27th** at 6:00 pm

 - Yr. 8 Confirmation, Tuesday, **May 29th** at 6:00 pm
 - Yr. 9 & 10 Confirmation, Wednesday, **May 9th** at 6:00 pm at St. Anne's Hall
- Confirmation Celebration May 12th!**

4YOUTH: Today we celebrate Mother's Day, a day set aside to thank our mothers for giving us life, for raising us, for being our constant support and for the many things they do for us. It is appropriate that Mother's Day is celebrated in May, since this is the month dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of us all. As we take time today to honour our earthly mothers, let's not forget to honour our Mother Mary, the epitome of motherhood. There are some beautiful prayers to Mary that you could say this month, such as the Hail Holy Queen (also called the Salve Regina) and the Memorare (a prayer seeking help). You can find these prayers on the Internet or you can listen to them on YouTube. Two beautiful hymns in praise of Mary that you could also watch on You Tube are Magnificat by David Haas or Hail Mary-Gentle Woman by Michael O'Brien. (Maybe you could watch these today with Mom!)

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATIONS: We would like to welcome the Most Reverent Bishop Peter Hundt to our Parish on Saturday, May 12th to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with 61 Candidates. May these Candidates and their families be continually renewed in the Holy Spirit.

HOLY ROSARY FOR MAY: the Knights of Columbus will be reciting the Rosary each Sunday in May at 7:00 pm. All are encouraged to attend.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: We often cite Jesus' quote from today's Gospel of Mark: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." This was not a suggestion from the Lord. It was quite frankly a command, and it is one which still holds for each of us. Being an evangelist, being a disciple, being a steward is not a matter of choice for those of us who are Catholic and Christian. It is something the Lord expects of us.

Often we may like to spend time debating how to do that, but that does not lessen the fact that it is something we are supposed to do. We need to acknowledge that even the original Apostles and followers of Jesus did not do that immediately. We learn that they stayed in Jerusalem for some time, and it seemed to be only when the Church and its followers were persecuted that they began to reach out and truly share the "Good News."

Once Christians accepted that charge from the Lord, they did indeed take the Word of God to all corners of the earth. Look at the Church today. It is incredible how this Church has grown from one Man/God and a small group into what it is today. That does not, however, get us "off the hook." As much as we may argue about how to carry out this command from Jesus, the fact remains that our very lives need to stand as a representation of what it means to be a Christian, what it means to "love one another," what it means to live and to work as a disciple of Christ.

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION: On Sunday, May 13th, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Ascension – the day that Jesus, in the presence of the apostles, ascended bodily into Heaven. The Bible tells us that Jesus' Ascension occurred on the 40th day after the Resurrection, so the Ascension falls on the Thursday of the sixth week of Easter. However, in Canada, as in a number of other countries, the observance of this feast day has been transferred to the following Sunday, the seventh week of Easter. To learn more about the Feast of the Ascension and what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, go to www.rcchurch.com

CORRECTION TO DATE OF STEWARDSHIP COFFEE TIME: The next Stewardship Coffee time will take place on **Sunday, May 20th** 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!

NATIONAL WEEK FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY: The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has designated the week of May 13-20, 2018 as the sixth National Week for Life and the Family. The theme of this year's Week is "Love: Encountering the Other". As Bishop Lionel Gendron, President of the CCCB, states in his message for this National Week, "Love is first meant to be discovered and experienced in the family. According to the divine plan for humanity, the family is the sacred place where, through loving encounters with others—parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles—the child makes room in his or her heart for an encounter with the Other who is Love (see 1 Jn 4:8). Pope Francis reminds us that "time is greater than space". Let us take time to encounter the others in our lives who are most important to us." To read Bishop Gendron's complete letter, go to www.rcchurch.com

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE: **ST. ANNE'S GUILD:** Father Guy Desrochers from Saint Anne de Beupre will be at St. Stephen's Church to celebrate an evening of devotion in honor of St. Anne on Monday, May 14th at 7:00 pm. Please join us for this evening of special devotion.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST: The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Mother's Day Family Breakfast on Sunday May 13th served from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. There is no charge but a donation box will be set up. Breakfast including eggs, sausage, bologna, bacon, toast, tea, coffee, and juice.

ROSE SUNDAY: The Knights of Columbus will be distributing free lapel roses after Mass this weekend. These roses symbolize the Right to Life.