

May 20, 2018

Pentecost Sunday

"Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language . . . ? We hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." Acts 2: 1-11

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." John 20: 19-23

It's us against a particle of death . . .

Will and Maggie have a secret language. It's a language that has evolved over time. It's a language that transcends the couple's everyday squabbles, distractions and differences in personality and perspective. It's a language grown out of desperation and love. Maggie explains how this "language" works:

"We were on a bus recently with our three children. It was late, it was snowing, everyone was tired and the bus was crowded. I was squeezed on one seat with my two youngest children. Will and our eldest were strap-hanging in the aisle.

"From behind us came a noise: a crackling, rustling, splitting, then a specific crunch-crunch-crunch. My head spun around my neck, as did Will's. We took in our fellow passenger and his snack for a split second before I shot from my seat, hustling my daughters ahead of me, locking eyes with Will.

"And so began our wordless conversation. "He tilted his head, meaning, *Is that person eating nuts in the same airspace as our daughter?*" I narrowed my eyes, which meant, *Yes, I'm afraid so.*" He frowned, to say, *Don't let her breathe in until we get off the bus.*" I shrugged, implying, *Don't worry, I won't.*

"We ushered our baffled, uncomprehending children off the bus and into the snow, miles from home. "I realize this sounds like a deranged thing to do, so let me explain. When our middle daughter was quite young, we learned that she had an immune disorder . . . Just the inhalation of a single particle of nut dust could kill her within 10 minutes. Life, for her, is a series of dangers, strung together, one after another, like beads on a thread . . .

"Will and I must constantly be thinking about how best to protect her - as well as trying to minimize the impact of her condition on her siblings . . . There is a sense of solidarity between us on this one issue. We never argue about how best to take care of our daughter, not because we always agree - far from it - but because we know we need to channel every atom of energy into protecting her and her siblings.

"When it counts - when it's a situation of life or death - all that stuff and strife is forgotten. The secret code kicks in, and I know one thing: He and I will stand, teeth bared, between death and our daughter, unquestionably united, saying, *Get back, get away. You're not having her. Not today. Not tomorrow. Not any time soon.*"

Maggie and Will "speak" the language of the Spirit of God, the "language" that collapses disagreements and dissolves self-interests for the sake of a loved one. In their fierce protection of the daughter, God's Spirit enables them to "speak" to one another in the "language" of compassion and care for the good of their children. As the Spirit overcomes the barriers of language and perception to open up the hearts and minds of Peter's listeners on that first Pentecost, that same Spirit "blows" through our own homes and families enabling us to speak and hear God's language of mercy and forgiveness in our love and care for one another. The gift of Pentecost faith enables us to hear the voice of God speaking in the midst of the clamor and busyness, the pain and despair of our everyday lives, inviting us to embrace the life and love of God in our homes and hearts.

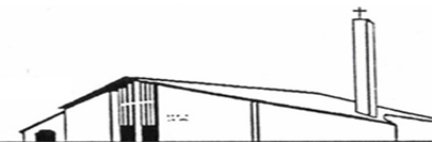
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

May 20, 2018

Pentecost Sunday

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

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 - *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 12 & 13:

Sunday Collection	\$	3,937.10
Capital Repairs	\$	660.00
Vocation Sunday	\$	27.00
Pope's Pastoral Work	\$	110.00
Initial Offering	\$	8.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the intentions of Arlene & Tom Wiggins as requested by the family.

ANNUAL DUES: Received with thanks from Tim & Della Harnett and Linda Wheeler.

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.

VOLUNTEERS: We are looking for volunteers for our Bereavement Team (funeral service planning) and Hospitality Ministry (greeters). If you would like to participate or get more information, please contact the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE: The next Marriage Preparation Course will take place on Saturday, May 26th starting at 9 am. For more information or to register, please call the Parish Office.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 21, for the Victoria Day Statutory holiday. We will re-open on Tuesday, May 22, at 8:30 am.

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

Year 1 Celebration (Remembering Our Baptism) Tuesday, **May 29**, at 6:00 pm in the Church

Year 3 (Group A) Monday, **May 28th** 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

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: Today is Pentecost Sunday, the 50th day after Easter (counting both Easter Sunday and today). Pentecost is often called "the birthday of the Church." As we hear in Holy Scripture, today is the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus' followers, and with that Jesus' mission on earth was completed.

Jesus calls His followers and literally all of us to be missionaries. The Latin root word for "missionary" is derived from the original Greek word *apostolos*, which meant "one sent forth." Obviously, we get the word "apostle" from that as well. It is further defined as one who attempts to persuade or convert. It involves the "apostle" or "disciple" working outside of the community.

When Jesus spoke these words, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." That includes each and every one of us. We, too, are sent. Many times we have reiterated that being sent means that we live out our Catholic faith in everything we do. That is the best way to evangelize, to let those around us know what it means to be a Christian and a follower of Christ and His disciple.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops made the following statement about what it means to evangelize: "Here, there are two elements of evangelization at work: 1. Witness, which is the simple living out of the faith; 2. Sharing, which is spreading the Good News of Jesus." Do we follow the admonitions given us by the Lord? Are we examples of what it means to be a Catholic and Christian? Do we truly share the Good News?

4YOUTH: Today is the Feast of Pentecost, which marks the end of the Easter Season. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and gave them the courage and the abilities needed to preach the Gospel of Jesus and to baptize those who believed. On that first Pentecost Sunday, "about three thousand were added" (Acts 2:41). These people went on to share their new faith in Christ with others. That is why this Feast is often referred to as the birthday of the Catholic Church. On Pentecost Sunday, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, they were granted the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which helped them to fulfill their mission to preach the Gospel to all nations. Those gifts—which we receive in the sacrament of Confirmation – also help us to live a Christian life. To find out a little bit more about Pentecost, check out "Pentecost in 2 Minutes" on YouTube.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH IN CHINA:

In May 2007, Pope Benedict XVI asked that May 24 be observed as a day of prayer for the Church in China. He chose this day since it is the traditional Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, venerated at the Shrine of Sheshan in Shanghai. The Church in China exists in difficult circumstances. The Communist government attempts to control all religion practiced in the country through a religious bureaucracy and subjects those who choose to worship outside that official system to periodic crackdowns and religious persecution. The government-appointed bishop of Leshan is not accepted by the Vatican. The government closure of seminaries has resulted in a priest shortage. Let us remember to pray for all Christians in China, and in all areas of the world where Christians are persecuted.

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!

MEMORIAL OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH:

The Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church, has become a new fixed celebration in the Roman Catholic calendar. In a decree published by the Vatican on Saturday, March 3, 2018, Pope Francis declared that the Mary "Mother of the Church" feast would be celebrated on the Monday following Pentecost, which this year falls on May 21. The decree said Pope Francis wanted the devotion to "encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety."

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:

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.

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).

WEST ST. CEMETERY COMMITTEE: The West Street Cemetery Committee have opened an account at the Recycling Depot on the Hansen Highway. If anyone would like to donate their recyclables please let a staff member know at the time of drop-off. If you are unable to bring your recyclables to the Depot and wish to donate them, please call 643-5910 to arrange for pickup.

WEST ST. TICKET WINNER: The winning ticket for the \$500.00 draw on Sunday, May 13th, was Jerry MacNeil-ticket number 694. Thank you to all who supported this fundraising event.

CHASE THE ACE: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 3742 Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their 5th Chase the Ace fundraiser. This event will be starting on Sunday June 3rd. Ticket sales start at 1:00 pm. Ticket sales end at 3:45 pm with the draw taking place at 4:00 pm. This will start out as an elimination jackpot of \$1500.00. Proceeds in aid of K of C Charities.