

"This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you."

John 15: 9-17

Creamer and sugar bowl on a blue table cloth

For some time, Mother and Daughter lived at an affectionate arm's length, a kind of truce after a long siege of parent-teenage conflict. Part of their differences were temperamental: Mother loved designer clothes, keeping a perfect house, loving the grand gesture; Daughter preferred walking on the beach in her khakis, a table for two, the intimate chat. But the times each grew up in also defined their different perspectives: the elder woman sacrificed her dream of a career in music to raise a family; the younger woman headed off to graduate school to write about the social ills her mother's generation had created - or failed to solve.

Then one day, Daughter was passing through a crafts shop. She saw a creamer and sugar bowl she knew her mother would love. Call it a delayed epiphany. She bought them and sent them to her mother. She can still hear the joy in her mother's voice when she called to thank her. A week later, a package arrived from her mother: a beautiful table cloth, a simple cotton print in blue, her daughter's favorite color.

After this exchange of gifts, Mother and Daughter found a new ease. Mother offered her matchless color sense for sweaters Daughter was knitting for her toddler. Daughter consulted her mother for recipes. The two began attending plays and concerts together - their favorite: Beethoven. The daughter came to see that, despite all that divided them, her mother simply loved being with her. And they didn't need the best table in the house.

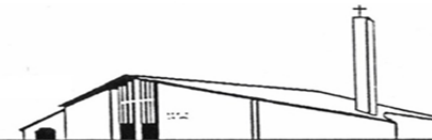
After her mother died, she found a folder in which her mother kept every article her daughter had ever written. She had never mentioned it. But by now her daughter understood. It wasn't her achievements that her mother cherished, any more than the ornaments of her own ambitions. What mattered all along was very simple. They just had to stop wanting what they thought the other *should* want and be, and, instead, honoring and appreciating who the other actually *is* and wants her life to be.

Sometimes the hardest love to express is our love for those who matter most to us. A daughter re-imagines her relationship with her mother through a simple gift meant only to bring her joy - a generational divide is bridged by grace and gratitude for the gifts each woman is able to give to the other. The love that Jesus asks us to embrace - "commands" us to embrace - is centered in the happiness of the other, not what we think their happiness should be. Such love is possible only when we put aside our own expectations, demands and interests in order to realize the joys and dreams of those we love. Jesus asks us to love one another as he has loved us: to put others before ourselves, to seek our joy in bringing joy to those we love and who love us, to honor and cherish one another simply because we are all sons and daughters of the God of mercy and compassion.

(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

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 APRIL 28-29:

Sunday Collection	\$	3,563.20
Development & Peace	\$	20.00
Capital Repairs	\$	30.00
Vocation Sunday	\$	105.00
Holy Lands	\$	40.00
Pope's Pastoral Work	\$	25.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the Intentions of Lorrain Quinton as requested by Warren Quinton.

ANNUAL DUES: Received with thanks from Kay Benton, Aloysius & Sandra Gaudet, Gary & Rhonda White and Ryan 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!

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.

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.

POPE'S PASTORAL WORKS: On the weekend of May 5th - 6th, there will be a special collection taken up for the Pope's Pastoral Works. Whenever disaster strikes around the world, the Holy See always responds with food, water, medicine, blankets and trained personnel. The proceeds of this special collection are used to help finance those relief efforts. We would encourage you to be as generous as possible as we never know where or when a need will arise.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

St. Stephen's - Parish Meeting Room

Kindergarten, Thursday, **May 10th** at 6:00 pm
Year 1 (Group A), Monday, **May 7th** at 6:00 pm
Year 1 (Group B), Tuesday, **May 8th** at 6:00 pm

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!

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:

Mya Butler	Joseph Canning
Griffin Chaisson	Brady Fleming
Javier Guilarte	Reid Hann
Jayden Hinks	Aaron Hovey
Matthew Hovey	Logan Madore
Skylor Marche	Lachlan McCombs
Emily Mercer	Jack Mercer
Callen Pangatungan	Charlie Pangatungann
Nathan Rouzes	Evan Tobin
George White	

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

STEWARDSHIP COFFEE TIME: The next coffee time will take place on Sunday, May 13th 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!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS: The First Reading from Acts begins with Cornelius falling at Peter's feet. Peter lifts him up and says, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." Cornelius was likely the inspiration for that statement. St. Cornelius is a significant person in the Acts of the Apostles. A documented centurion in the *Cohors Italia*, he is considered by most Bible researchers as being one of the first Gentiles converted to Christianity. The message, however, applies to all of us, as most of us are indeed Gentiles. It is made clear that Cornelius was a holy and generous man. However, he did not receive the Holy Spirit until he had heard the Gospel from Peter and responded to it. That is what each of us is called to do as well. If we allow the Lord to be an important part of our lives, God will do everything for those who are willing to receive Him. This reading then reports, "While Peter was still speaking these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word." St. Peter is later criticized for entering the house of a Gentile, eating, and then baptizing Cornelius, but in Acts 11 Peter responds, "If then God gave them the same gift he gave to us when we came to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to be able to hinder God?" God is there for all of us, but we must receive Him and open our lives to Him.

4YOUTH: The month of May is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Catholics have a long tradition of approaching Mary through a variety of devotions, the most popular of which is the Rosary, in which 50 Hail Marys are recited while meditating on the mysteries of the life of Christ. There are many other prayers that we use to ask Mary to intercede on our behalf, such as the Angelus, which recalls the Annunciation and the Incarnation of the Son of God in Mary's womb. Many devotions have developed over the centuries in honor of Mary under different titles, such as Our Lady of Lourdes or Perpetual Help. There are also many different feast days in the liturgical year devoted to Mary. To learn more about Mary, try watching the video *Mary in 2 minutes* by Busted Halo.

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.

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:

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

ST. ANNE'S GUILD: Father Guy Desrochers from Saint Anne de Beaupre will be here at St. Stephen's Parish 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. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. There is no charge for breakfast but a donation box will be set up. This is a full breakfast including eggs, sausage, bologna, bacon, toast, tea, coffee, and juice.

ROSE SUNDAY: Mothers Day, also known as Rose Sunday, will be celebrated Sunday May 13. The Knights of Columbus will be handing out free lapel roses after Mass on May 12th and May 13th. These roses are a symbol of the Right to Life. Members of the Knights of Columbus will be at all exits of the Church on that weekend.

EXEMPLIFICATION OF THE FIRST

DEGREE: The Knights of Columbus will be conducting an Exemplification of the First Degree on Thursday, May 10th, starting at 8:00 pm. Any Brother Knights who have an application out is asked to bring it to Bob Miller at 8 Maxwell Avenue. If you are a member of our Parish and would like more information on the Knights of Columbus, please contact Bob Miller at 643 2632.