

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shone." (Isaiah 9:2 NRSV). At no time, in many of our lives, have these words taken on so much meaning and given us reason for hope.

Advent is a time of hope. Each week we light another candle, another light to pierce the darkness. Each week we reflect on the promises of God and their fulfilment in the events leading to Jesus' birth.

This Advent I encourage you to light a solitary candle, during the evening hours, and place it on your window sill. You may also want to decorate your living room window with words like: kindness, compassion, service, generosity, and forgiveness, as an outward display of what hope looks like. May it serve as a reminder to you each day and as a sign of hope for the world to see.

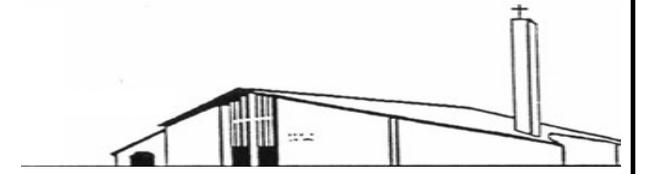
Christ is our hope. Born in our darkness and rejected from his birth, may he find room in your heart this Advent and take centre stage in your home at Christmas.

Fraternally in Christ,

+Bishop Bart van Roijen

## St. Stephen's Parish

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### BISHOP OF CORNER BROOK & LABRADOR: Most Rev. Bart Van Roijen

**Administrator:** Fr. Krishnarao Mekala (Kris)

Email: [frmariamf@yahoo.in](mailto:frmariamf@yahoo.in)

**PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR**

Debbie Wilton

**St. Anne's Guild**

President, Millicent Penton

**RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR:** Theresa Dollimont

**LITURGY COORDINATOR:** Bernice Maddock

**Knights of Columbus** - Grand Knight Clyde Russell

**4th Degree Assembly** - Faithful Navigator Bob Miller

**Associate Priest:** Ft. Vanathuraj Rayappan (Ray)

Email: [frvanathuraj@gmail.com](mailto:frvanathuraj@gmail.com)

**FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Rosa Dollard

**SECRETARY**

Carolyn O'Quinn

**MARRIAGES.** Six months notice is required; a year's notice is recommended.

#### ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE

<p><b>SUNDAY MASSES</b> Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p><b>REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES</b> Online Daily Due to COVID-19</p>
<p><b>MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE</b></p> <p><b>SUNDAY MASSES</b> Saturday - 4:30 P.M. Sunday - 9:00 A.M.</p>	<p><b>ROSARY</b> Saturdays at 11:00 am <b>RECONCILIATION</b> By Appointment</p>

**BAPTISM PREPARATION-** *Please call to register.*

#### 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**

November 15<sup>th</sup> - \$2381.50  
November 22<sup>nd</sup> - \$1966.50  
Shepherd's Fund - \$1670.00



## **SCENT-FREE**

**Please be aware that some people have allergic reactions to perfumes and other scents. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.**

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

### **Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

For the late Marjorie Ann Shelley  
For the late Theresa Cashin

### **Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

For the late Herma Compagnon

### **Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

For the late Ronald Young

### **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

For the late deceased members of the J.V. and Mary Ellen O'Quinn Family

### **Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

For the late David Cashin

## **BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**

If you wish to have your child Baptized, please call the office at 643-2523 to register. Baptisms will be done **by appointment only** due to COVID-19. This preparation is for parents and Godparents. We offer an update on the meaning of this Sacrament together with a practical walk-through of the liturgy.

## **SHEPHERDS' FUND FOUNDATION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2020**

Thank you to all who donated to this fund. Donations will be accepted at any time. The Board of the Shepherd's Fund Foundation extends sincere appreciation for your kind support and wishes you God's blessing for personal safety in these times of Covid-19.

## **U-TUBE REFLECTION**

The Bishops of Canada are providing a short U-Tube reflection on the Sunday Advent Readings. They will be available beginning this upcoming Sunday and then every Monday of the week on the

CCCB Webpage ([www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)). Bishop Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton, is the presenter.

## **4 YOUTH**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year for the Catholic Church. The word Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus", which means "coming" or "arrival". The season of Advent, which begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve, is the time when we prepare to celebrate Christmas. For a really quick, cool explanation of Advent, check out the video "Advent in 2 minutes" on YouTube.

## **ADVENT: A TIME OF HOPE**

It is said that while there is life there is hope. This has an even deeper meaning in reverse. While there is hope there is life. Hope is strength. Hope sheds light into despairing hearts. It inspires the will to live. It is the doctor's most powerful ally. It is a shield against defeat and failure. It revives ideals and renews dreams. As long as there is hope, no situation is impossible. Advent summons us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. In the final analysis, He is our hope. *(Taken from: Flor McCarthy, New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies: Year B, Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, pp15-16).*



## **HOW CAN WE HELP YOU IN PRAYER THIS WEEK?**

Let us pray: O God our loving and merciful Father keep us faithful to building Your kingdom, alert to Your presence in those around us. Make us blameless in our witness until the dawning of the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, your Son who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

Amen. *(Taken from: Resurrection Ministries of the Congregation of the Resurrection Ontario-Kentucky Province, Waterloo (Ontario), p6).*

## **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

This weekend's Gospel is about our Christian journey. Its message is: Be ready, be watchful, be attentive all the way. What will we need?

**Commitment:** This may be the hardest part, but Christ's Church provides the sacraments to "get us going" and to sustain us.

**Wisdom:** The help of a guide and leader. We have Jesus and His Gospel to provide guidance on a journey that will have much joy in it. But Advent is a time to remind us that our lives cannot be all feeling good - but rather doing and being good.

**Fortitude:** This virtue is not talked about very much, but it is essential on many a journey. Fortitude is what Jesus is referring to in today's Gospel. It is about making readiness, preparedness and strength a part of "our natural state." This comes only with practice, prayer and repetition. Having fortitude means seeing a mountain in your way and saying to God: "I've seen and climbed many of these before - with your help."

**Teamwork:** We Christians, of course, have the entire Communion of Saints to offer help - not to mention our own faith community and our family. Sometimes we get to be the helper; other times we need to be the one helped.

*(Taken from: Franciscan Media, Sunday Homily Helps, 1st Sunday of Advent, November 29th, 2020, Series B Readings, Lectionary #2, p.9.)*

## **WEEK 1 OF ADVENT: HOPE**

Dear Jesus,

You are the hope in our busy world. As we begin this Advent, help us to slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. May you find us watching and waiting in joy when you come. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

### **CANCELLED**

Due to the current situation with COVID-19, we are cancelling our annual Advent Wreath Lighting that is normally held at Santa Maria Club (Knights of Columbus Hall). You are encouraged to light

your candles at home and say the weekly Advent prayers we will be including in our bulletins throughout Advent.

## **SUNDAY MISSALS**

Our new Sunday missals are now available. They can be purchased for \$5 at our Parish office during weekday hours.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BOOKS**

If your child has not received their Religious Education books, they can be picked up at the Parish office during regular office hours. Along with the books, a copy of the Religious Education schedule will also be provided.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID spread at this time, we ask that if you need to see the priest, you call in advance.

## **WEEKEND MASS**

Our weekend Masses are held on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Because of COVID-19 attendance restrictions, our total capacity per service is 100 people. To ensure that all of our Parishioners have the opportunity to attend, one Mass meets our Catholic obligations.

## **ST. ANNE'S GUILD CHRISTMAS CAKES & LOAVES SALE**

St. Anne's Guild will be holding a Christmas Cakes and Loaves sale on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The sale will be held at St. Anne's Hall. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

"Buy a Cake - No Need to Bake!"

