

November 4, 2018

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Building God's kingdom, house by house . . .

At a construction site outside of South Bend, Indiana, a group of volunteers are building a house. Working with them is Cleora Taylor, the 36-year-old single mother of four. This will be her house, a Habitat for Humanity project.

Working in a corner of the site, a 93-year-old carpenter is bent over a table saw, cutting lengths of wood for the patio. His 91-year-old wife works at a table nearby, painting finials for the porch posts. In his blue hard hat, the red bandana tied around his neck, and his skill working the machinery, you would not immediately recognize the 39th President of the United States.

Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter have been building Habitat for Humanity houses for 35 years. These projects have taken them to 14 countries and 21 states. His gait is a little stiff, his back a bit stooped; he doesn't swing a hammer as he once did, preferring to work the table saw. Jimmy Carter beat cancer in 2015, and Rosalynn Carter has walked with a cane since she had surgery earlier this year, but they say they'll keep doing this work as long as they can.

Home is a powerful thing to the former President and his wife. They still live in the two-bedroom ranch house they built in 1961 in Plains, Georgia. President Carter explains that their work on Habitat for Humanity houses like this one is an expression of their Christian faith.

"This gives us a chance to put our religious beliefs into practical projects," the former President says in his soft country drawl. "That's a very difficult thing for wealthy people to do, like we are — to cross the great barrier between us and people who have never had a place to live."

At lunch, the Carters eat with the other volunteers in the mess tent. They sit at a makeshift table, covered with a blue tarp. Mr. Carter looks around at these volunteers who are giving their time and toil for others, and is convinced that we are not as divided as we sometimes seem.

"I think Americans are inherently oriented toward equality and harmony. We'll change. I have great confidence in the future of our country . . .

He's asked what he would like his legacy to be.

"People ask me what I want to be remembered for, and I generally say peace and human rights. I think it's a basic right of a human being to have a home that's decent in which to raise children, and to have an adequate amount of health care and to have an adequate amount of education to take advantage of whatever talent God may have given them."

And then, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter go back to work, so that one more family will know the meaning of home.

For Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, the kingdom of God is not some theoretical, future existence. It is now. It is created one house at a time. It embraces every family of every race and creed and culture. God's kingdom, Jesus says, "is not far" — it's as close as our homes, it is lived in our love for our families and friends. God's kingdom is realized in every act of compassionate charity and selfless sacrifice, when our humanity most resembles God; it is built of the respect and honor we afford to all God's sons and daughters, for in our love and care for them, we most sincerely praise God. In the two-fold "great commandment," we discover a purpose to our lives much greater and larger than ourselves and our own needs, interests, prejudices and biases; in the loving embrace of God and our loving embrace of one another, we create, here and now, the kingdom of God.

(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

November 2018

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Email: fatherchrisstp78@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

Warren Quinton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Debbie Keough 643-6681

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Theresa Dollimont

LITURGY COORDINATOR: Bernice Maddock

Knights of Columbus - Grand Knight Bob Miller **4th Degree Assembly** - Faithful Navigator Clifford Osmond

St. Anne's Guild - President Millicent Penton

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Vacant

SECRETARY

Carolyn O'Quinn

ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M.

ROSARY

Saturdays from 1:30 am 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. Last Monday of every month from Sept - May *Please call to register*

MASS FOR THE SICK. Every First Friday of the month

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 OCT. 27-28:

Sunday Collection	\$	3195.75
Capital Repairs	\$	130.50
Needs of the Canadian Church	\$	57.00
World Mission Sunday	\$	137.00
All Souls	\$	20.00

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the intentions of Diane Lush as requested by Family.

SCENT-FREE : Please be aware that some people have allergic reactions to perfumes and other scents. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!

BOUQUET OF THANKS:

On behalf of St. Stephen's Parish I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who assisted in anyway in the Memorial Mass on November 1st, 2018. I know God is magnificent and he continues to show me his magnificence though people like you. You are a gift and a blessing to the parish. May God continue to bless you so that you can continue to do good work.

4YOUTH: November 3 is the feast day of St. Martin de Porres. Martin spent his life doing as Jesus taught - caring for the sick, the poor, and the slaves in Peru. His life provides us with an example of social justice. Catholic Social Teaching - rooted both in the Hebrew prophets who announced God's special love for the poor as well as in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ - helps us understand who we are and how we are called to live in community with one another. The Church's social doctrines touch upon seven core themes: life and dignity of the human person; call to family, community and participation; rights and responsibilities; option for the poor and vulnerable; the dignity of work and the rights of workers; solidarity; and care for God's creation. There's a good video on You Tube called *The Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching* that explains each theme. Why not think about what you can do to live each of these themes as you watch the video?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

November 2018

Kindergarten, November 8th at 6:00 pm
Yr 1 **November 5th and 6th** at 6:00 pm
Yr 2 **November 19th and 20th** at 6:00pm
Yr 3 **November 26th** at 6:00 pm
Yr 4 **November 22th** at 6:00 pm
Yr 5 & 6 **November 29th** at 6:00 pm

Pre- Confirmation Schedule Yr 7
November 4th, 2018 from 6:00 to 7:00

Confirmation Schedule Yr 8
November 14th, 2018 from 6:00 to 7:00

STEWARDSHIP COFFEE TIME: Will take place on Sunday, November 21st 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 REFLECTION: Today's Gospel presents Jesus' teachings on the two greatest commandments. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And, love your neighbor as yourself. Let's consider these "greatest commandments" as they relate to three aspects of a Christian steward's daily life — the giving of our time, talent and treasure. The use of time refers primarily to our relationship with the Lord — in other words, our prayer life. Since time is a gift to me from God, I show my love for Him and my gratitude for this gift by giving Him the best portion of my time. Of course it is vital to talk to God throughout the day, but if I really want to love Him with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, shouldn't I make time for God "first" on my agenda each day? Not as an afterthought, but as a time I have intentionally chosen to spend only with Him. The use of talents refers to the way I offer the abilities, skills, and interests the Lord has given me for the good of those around me. Doing so is a practical way to "love my neighbor as myself." At the same time it is also a way to love the Lord with all that I am and have, since He has told us that what-

ever we do for others we are also doing for Him. The use material gifts — or treasure — likewise demonstrates both love of God and of neighbor. When I trustingly offer a sacrificial gift to God through the offertory collection I am showing Him in a very tangible way that He comes before all else in my life and I am putting my material resources at the service of my neighbor in the parish community and beyond. When we live for God and others, we are living a stewardship way of life. And like the wise scribe in today's Gospel, we are moving closer to the Kingdom of God, our ultimate destination.

CANCELLATION OF DAILY MASS: With the winter approaching us we want to remind you, as is the practise throughout the diocese and in all parishes, including the cathedral parish, **daily mass will be cancelled on days when schools are closed.** If school is closed for the morning and morning mass has been scheduled, mass too is cancelled. If schools are closed for the afternoon, any evening masses scheduled are also cancelled.

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:

ST. ANNE'S GUILD: Will be having an afternoon tea, Christmas Craft and Bake sale on Sunday November 25 beginning at 2:00 pm, at St. Anne's Hall. Tickets are \$6.00 and can be purchased by calling 643-2695 or 643-2747 or from any member of the Guild. Donations from members of the Parish would be greatly appreciated.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP: Meetings take place at St. Anne's Hall the first Wed of each month, at 7:30 p.m. For more info. call Joan at 643-3425 or Joyce at 643-3021.

CHASE THE ACE: Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their Chase the Ace fundraiser. This event is held on Sunday with ticket sales starting at 1:00 pm and ending at 3:45 pm with the draw taking place at 4 pm.

LEADERSHIP APPLICATIONS 2019-2020:

Application Forms are now available for the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation Program for 2019 -20. The Certificate program runs from May 2019 to June 2020, and is both face to face and online. For more information visit www://cwlfcanada.ca. You may also call Rita Janes at 709-722-3860.

THE BAY ST. GEORGE WOMEN'S CENTRE:

We are now planning our Women's Night Out Christmas Social, which will be December 14th. Each year we try to give every participant a Christmas gift. Many of these women would not otherwise receive gifts, as they do not have family or they simply cannot afford it. Last year, the gifts that we received helped ensure that each woman who attended received a gift. The women were very excited and some would not even open their gift until Christmas morning as this was the only gift they would receive. We ask for the support of the Community again this year to ensure another successful Women's Night Out Christmas Social. If anyone has gently used items that can be used as gifts and would like to donate them, we would greatly appreciate it. Any help would be greatly appreciated. We would like to have these items by December 1st to allow us the time to match them with our expected guests. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Sheila at 709-643-4444.

OUR LADY OF MERCY COMPLEX COMMITTEE:

Invites you to their annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 1st, 8pm at the Gym. Tickets are \$15 in advance \$18 at the door and can be purchased at Debbie's Video and Elaine's Variety. This will be our final event of the year. Doors open at 6:30pm. We hope to see you there!