

November 8, 2020

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Dying right . . . ”

“I want to do this dying right,” he said.

In his book **Sacred Fire**, Father Ronald Rolheiser writes of visiting a man dying of cancer. Only in his fifties, he was already in palliative care. But “he was dying in the same way he had lived his life, without bitterness and without enemies.” He talked with Father Rolheiser about the loneliness of dying. His one wish for his family was this: “to get this dying thing right for them.” Father Rolheiser shares the dying man’s words:

“I’ve had a good life and I’ve no regrets. I don’t think I have an enemy, at least I don’t know of one. And I want to do this right. I want to die with dignity that makes my wife and kids proud of me. I want to do this right for them and for everyone else.”

He died a few days after Father Rolheiser’s visit, and his family and everyone who knew him were deeply saddened. But inside that sadness, there was something else, Father Rolheiser writes:

“After his funeral, as we walked out of church to a small reception, there was not one person who knew this man well, including his grieving wife and children who, at a deeper level than the sadness of the moment, did not feel freer, less guilty, and more open to life than ever before. He wanted to do his death right, and he did, and that reinforced everything good he had done in his life so that what he wanted to give to us came to us — the goodness of his life he showed in his death . . .

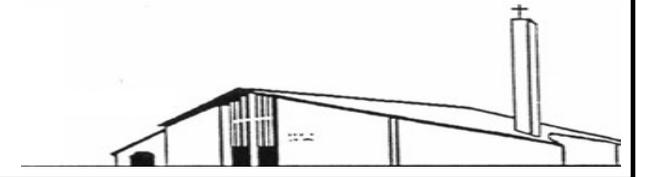
“How we live and how we die leaves behind a spirit, a blessing or a curse, after we are gone . . . The final human and Christian challenge of our lives is the struggle to give our deaths away.”

Time is a gift that God gives us through which we might come to discover God and the things of God. Too often we fall into the mindset of the five “foolish” bridesmaids of today’s Gospel: We carry on convinced that there will always be enough time “later” to make our lives what we want them to be and that there is an unlimited amount of “oil” in our lamps to make it all happen. Today’s Gospel calls us to see our lives as a wonderful gift from God — but a gift that is preciously short and fragile. Jesus calls us to realize that now is the time to seek the compassion and peace of God for ourselves and for those we love, while our lamps are filled with God’s wisdom and grace.



St. Stephen’s Parish

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

Administrator: Fr. Krishnarao Mekala (Kris) **Associate Priest:** Ft. Vanathuraj Rayappan (Ray)

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Warren Quinton

Rosa Dollard

St. Anne's Guild

SECRETARY

President Millicent Penton

Carolyn O’Quinn

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Theresa Dollimont

LITURGY COORDINATOR: Bernice Maddock

Knights of Columbus - Grand Knight Clyde Russell

4th Degree Assembly - Faithful Navigator Bob Miller

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION- *Please call to register.*

ST. STEPHEN’S PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

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

REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES

Online Daily Due to COVID-19

MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday - 4:30 P.M.
Sunday - 9:00 A.M.

ROSARY

Saturdays at 11:00 am
RECONCILIATION
By Appointment

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

October 25th - \$4132.00

November 1st - \$2506.00



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 9th

For the late Marion White

Tuesday, November 10th

For the late Herma Compagnon

Wednesday, November 11th

For the late Tom & Tony Rotchford

Thursday, November 12th

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

Friday, November 13th

For the late Violet Hall

NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Melba White and Carmelita Russell who died earlier this week and last week. Let us remember them at prayer.

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES AND MISSALS

We have a variety of items and religious articles available at our Parish office, such as St. Anne's oil, rosary beads, Sunday Missals, etc. If you would like to purchase such items, please visit our main office.

HOLY FATHERS INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER: UNIVERSAL

People who suffer from depression - We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

NOVEMBER - THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

This month we pray for deceased loved ones and for all the faithful departed. A visit to the cemetery this month also brings us special blessings. They benefit from our prayers.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

The month of November is dedicated to prayers for all departed souls. There will be a Mass of Remembrance on Monday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. In remembrance of family members who have passed away, the names of

those who have died in the past year will be printed on the program and read aloud at this special Mass. If you have family members who have passed away within the last year, you may call the Parish office at 643-2523 to register their names. Cards will not be available as in past years for the names of loved ones. However, you are welcome to compile a list of the names of loved ones who have died prior to November 2019 and drop it in a box available in our downstairs Chapel, or at the Church during weekend Masses. We invite prayers for all our beloved family and friends who have died, regardless of their religion in life. These names will be presented at the altar during this Mass. The offertory boxes will be available at the entrance of the Church for anyone who wishes to make a monetary contribution. Please note, as we are limited to 100 attendees at Mass to allow room for the close family members of those who have passed away in the last year, attendance will be by invitation only.



NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE FALL FAIR COMMITTEE

The phone-in appeal for monetary donations in lieu of an actual Fall Fair was very successful. Parishioners were very concerned for the welfare of their Parish. Not all parishioners could be contacted for various reasons; phone numbers were changed or no longer in service, etc. It is still not too late to respond. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish office in an envelope marked Fall Fair with your church envelope number or name with request for a receipt.

\$4,560.00 is the proceeds so far. A sincere thank you is extended to all those who donated. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated at a time when the need is so great. God bless you all! Winners of the Gift Certificates donated by Stephenville Businesses:

Nelson & Sarah White - \$100, Veronica White - \$75,

Magdalen Cochrane - \$50

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

The annual Development and Peace pledge usually held in March was not promoted this year as the pandemic caused a disruption to this appeal. This weekend November 7th and 8th we are asking you to donate to Development and Peace using the Blue envelope provided in your box of envelopes or use a regular envelope and put

your name and envelope number on it and drop it in the collection.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Tuesday, November 10th, Development and Peace will be hosting a zoom Youth Engagement Event. This is for youth in Newfoundland and Labrador. The aim is to reach out to youth and young adults who are interested in being involved in the Social Justice Movement. The session will be led by the National Youth Officer, Selina Hunt. Selina has been a Youth Programs Officer with Development and Peace since March 2019. She has been involved as a youth member since 2008 in multiple ways, including being the Youth Representative for Northern Ontario. She participated in the Youth Solidarity Tour to Zambia in 2014 with anglophone and francophone youth from across Canada. For more information, please register in advance for the meeting by clicking on the link below. You can also contact Patricia Walsh-Warren at pwalsh@devp.org or www.devp.org

4 YOUTH

This week we celebrate Remembrance Day, a time to remember and honor those who died in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War as well as in military operations and peacekeeping around the world. Our military actions have always been driven by a commitment to protect human rights, freedom and justice both at home and abroad. Sometimes a peaceful solution to a problem cannot be found. Evil must be resisted and the vulnerable protected by force if necessary. As we remember those who died so that we might live in freedom and peace, let's also make a commitment to try and bring peace to our own little corner of the world. If everyone tried to find a peaceful solution to their differences, there would be no need for war. As Jesus taught, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God". (Mt5:9)

EUTHANASIA LEGISLATION

The Government of Canada has introduced legislation to expand the criteria for euthanasia so that even more people will be eligible. This was triggered by a decision by a Quebec judge who decided that the requirement that death be "reasonably foreseeable" is not constitutional. If this clause is removed, persons with disabili-

ties will be eligible for euthanasia even in circumstances where death is not reasonably foreseeable. The disability community in Canada is very concerned that this change will only add to the public perception that certain people's lives are not worth living. To view art and videos visit www.humanflourishing.ca. Write your MP today to let them know what you think. You can also go to <http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/> federalgovernment with your concerns.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

After this year's interruptions, our Year 8 students will be completing the final step of their journey to be confirmed members of our Church. The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are looking to begin our Religious Education program within the next few weeks. Students registered for our Religious Education program last year will be moving ahead to the following year. Children who were in Year 8 last year do not need to register again. We ask that parents submit their child's application as soon as possible, preferable by November 11th so we can begin preparing for classes. If you have questions, please call our Parish office at 643-2523

REMEMBRANCE DAY: NOVEMBER 11TH

We pause today in silence to remember those who died in war and to pray for the victims of aggression and inhumanity through out the world. This is a day for reflection to consider what we are doing as individuals, as a community, and as a nation to bring God's peace into the world. This is a time when we need to rededicate ourselves by prayer and action to the ideals Jesus gives us in the Beatitudes.

