

October 25, 2020

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Jazz vespers" in Brooklyn

It began in a Brooklyn neighborhood one afternoon during the darkest days of the pandemic. Roy Nathanson, an accomplished and honored jazz musician, came out on to his second-floor porch with his alto-saxophone and began to play "Amazing Grace."

Roy appeared again on his porch at 5 p.m. the next day. And the next day. And the next. Soon other musicians joined him. Bass, drums, guitar, melodica, and trumpet anchored the "socially distant sidewalk ensemble." In the days and weeks that followed, banjos, flutes, horns and the instruments indigenous to Brooklyn's myriad of cultures made appearances.

David Gibson, director of the Center on Religion and Culture at Fordham University, lives in the neighborhood. In **Commonweal** Magazine [August 12, 2020], he writes about his neighborhood's "jazz vespers":

"They played through rain and wind. Street life hummed along with the instruments. In the first weeks, ambulance sirens were a mournful counterpoint to almost every performance. The Q train rumbled along the track behind Roy's house, its horn blasting on occasion. Delivery vans and box trucks made their way up the block, sometimes slowing to catch a few bars of music. Pedro the postman weaved through it all to deliver the mail. Curious passersby stopped to listen. Some were strangers, some neighbors. There were skateboarders and cyclists, dog walkers and strollers. All the colors and creeds of the neighborhood would stop and listen. Some wept, all applauded, and of course everyone began taking cellphone videos. We had to capture this moment.

"As the weather improved, the onlookers increased; there were maybe twenty-five or thirty some days. In May, as the dogwood in front of Roy's house bloomed, lockdown life began to ease. Spirits lifted: the tunes grew more up-tempo, more diverse. It was never a jam session. Each day the music was posted online for the performers. All was intentional, planned . . ."

"Neighbors who knew each other by sight now knew each other by name; acquaintances became friends; friends introduced us to strangers . . . We began to collect money to help those without work and for local social-service groups . . ."

The 5 p.m. concerts continued for eighty-two days, ending with a final two-hour concert in late June, but as David Gibson writes, the 5 p.m. jazz vespers continues to bear fruit:

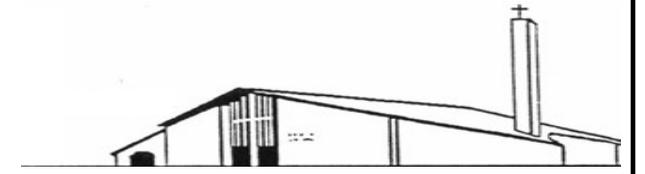
"The musicians created a website, **SPMPorchConcerts**, to raise money for community agencies helping the neighborhood recover from the pandemic. They set up a program to give music lessons on various front porches to any kid in the neighborhood, regardless of ability to pay. Other plans are in the offing. Faith and hope are wonderful, but charity is the best."

[Used with permission of **Commonweal** Magazine. To read the entire article: commonwealmagazine.org/jazz-vespers.]

Brooklyn's "jazz vespers" is the music of today's Gospel and Jesus' teachings on love: love that puts every talent and ability, every resource and gift we possess at the service of all God's daughters and sons. To love with our "whole heart and soul and mind" enables us to move beyond our own fears and hurts in order to comfort and support, to forgive, to seek out and welcome back. We often underestimate what we can accomplish when we act out of love — love that is centered in the needs of another, love that has no ulterior motive except the well-being of the beloved, love that is selfless and unconditional, love that is of God.

St. Stephen's Parish

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October 25, 2020

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Administrator: Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris)
Email: fatherchrisstp78@gmail.com

Associate: Rev. A.H. White
Email: fatherahwhite@gmail.com

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.

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

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

October 4 - \$3479.65
October 11 & 18 - \$5323.00



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, October 26th

Intentions for Ursula Lake
For the late Shane Gallant

Tuesday, October 27th

Intentions for Brendan Wheeler
For the late Shane Gallant

For the late Gloria Madore

Wednesday, October 28th

For the late Keith Wilton

Thursday, October 29th

Intentions for Mercedes Tourout

For the late Marion White

Friday, October 30th

For the late Herma Compagnon

NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to the families of Marion White, Keith Wilton, and Wendy Benoit, who have passed on and entered Heaven with God. Let us remember them in our prayers.

NO RENTALS

For your information, the rental of St. Stephen's Parish Hall and St. Anne's Hall has been discontinued, due to COVID-19.

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.

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

For those interested, we have a variety of items and religious articles available at our Parish office, such as St. Anne's oil and rosary beads, among others. If you would like to purchase such items, please visit our main office.

EMAIL MONEY TRANSFERS

Our parish still welcomes your financial support.

Donations can be dropped off at our office or via email money transfer. The email address for e-transfers only

is stephensparish@gmail.com. Please also include your envelope number in the comments section if you have one. If not, please include an address where a tax receipt may be sent. Thank you.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known and most popular forms of prayer that we have as Catholics. The purpose of the Rosary is to help us meditate on the great mysteries of our salvation.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ROSARY

In honour of the Holy Rosary, The Knights of Columbus are inviting us to join them in prayer. They will be conducting the rosary at 6:00 p.m. Sunday evenings at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 97 West Street. The Knights of Columbus will also be operating a curbside cafe from their building starting on October 29 and every Thursday of the month thereafter (the next one will be November 19). The Cafe will provide soup lunches from 11:00 a.m. To 1:00 p.m. on a pick-up basis only. Drive-thru and walk in patrons are welcome. Donations can be made on the day or dropped off anytime at the drop box at the Knights of Columbus building.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Clocks go back one hour at 2:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 31.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

This Sunday, during the annual disarmament week instituted by the United Nations, the assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops invites us to pray for world peace.

A SPECIAL REQUIEM MASS

A special Requiem Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bart at the Cathedral on Monday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. for all those who lost their lives due to the pandemic. For those who are not able to attend, please join him in praying the rosary at this time.

WHY DOES GOD COMMAND US TO LOVE HIM?

Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love God totally. If you stop and think about it, this seems a strange demand. Is God such an egotist that He has to order us to love Him? Or is it rather that love is essential to our Salvation? Human beings are born without knowing how to love. We have to learn this from others: parents, friends, relatives, etc. One of the results

of love is that we link with others in a personal relationship. Heaven is achieved through our bonding with God. It's nothing that we can earn or achieve. It can only come when we intimately know God on a personal level. Hence, love is necessary for our future survival. God commands us to love Him for our benefit, not His.

FLU SHOTS

Western Health is advising that the influenza vaccine is now available to residents at no cost. Appointments will be required in order to ensure physical distancing and to avoid long wait times. Appointments can be booked online through Health Myself or by calling 1-833-951-3904 (toll free). All appointments need to be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. Walk in appointments are not available. Significant efforts have been made to ensure that public health measures are in place for the protection of those receiving their flu shots as well as health care staff. Everyone will be screened for symptoms in the entrance and required to wear a mask. Due to the need for physical distancing, individuals are not able to enter the clinic waiting area until 10 minutes prior to their scheduled appointment. Individuals are asked to bring their MCP card and wear short sleeves when they go to get their flu shot.



CANCER SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

Cancer Support Group meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call Joan at 643-3425 or Joyce at 643-3021.

ADDRESS CHANGES

We are currently updating our parishioners' information in our records. If your address or phone number has changed, please let us know so we can ensure future correspondence is sent to the correct recipient. Thank you and God bless.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & COMMUNION

We would like to congratulate our Year 2 Religious Education children on the completion of their First Reconciliation held earlier this week. This is a big step in committing to your faith and you are now one step closer to becoming a Confirmed member of our Church community. The Sacrament of First Communion will be held on Thursday, October 29. God bless and congratulations!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION APPLICATIONS

We are now accepting applications for our upcoming Religious Education program. If you are interested in registering your child, application forms are accessible on our website, www.ststephensparish.com. If you have questions or concerns, you can call our office at 643-2523.



FAREWELL NOTICE

We would like to give Father White special thanks for his service and dedication to our Parish these past few years. Father White has been with us since January, 2019 and will continue with his ministries in Codroy Valley.

During his time here, Father White has always shown a high level of compassion and enthusiasm with his work. He is committed to sharing the teachings of God and helping those around him, both inside and outside of the parish. He never hesitates to assist those in need and remains calm and firm in the face of adversity. He has been a shoulder to cry on and someone you can trust and confide in. He has been a teacher, counselor, and leader to all who came to him for help.

Father White is an excellent spiritual leader and Codroy Valley is gaining a great priest by accepting him into their parish.

Farewell, Father White! We wish you the best of luck in your new Parish! You will be greatly missed!

