

October 7, 2018

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Because of the hardness of your hearts" . . .
Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."

Mark 10: 2-16

The heart that fixes and mends

An adult - now a spouse and parent himself - remembers his mom and dad:

"I grew up in the '50s with very practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen, before they had a name for it. My father was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now: Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat, with screwdrivers and wrenches going from one project to the next; and Mom in a house dress, a dish towel or some cooking utensil always in her hand.

"It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, the screen door, the oven door, the hem of a dress. Things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, re-heating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

"But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away . . . never to return. So, while we have it . . . it's best we love it . . . and care for it . . . and fix it when it's broken . . . and heal it when it's sick.

"This is true for marriage . . . and old cars . . . and children with bad report cards . . . and dogs with bad hips . . . and aging parents . . . and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it."

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of marriage as the joining of two hearts into one by God, a single heart that loves, that lifts up, that mends other broken hearts - including, when necessary, each other's. That is the mystery and wonder of the marriage covenant. A couple's life together and their generous response to the vocation of parenthood model the unfathomable and profound love of God. Marriage demands not perfection but commitment; it requires the hard work of patience, understanding and humility; despite disappointment and failed expectations, marriage centered in the love of God always moves beyond "hardness of heart" to embrace a spirit of generosity and selflessness. In the life a couple creates together, Christ is the ever-present Wedding Guest, who makes a couple's simple, everyday life together a miraculous sacrament in which the love of God is revealed to all.

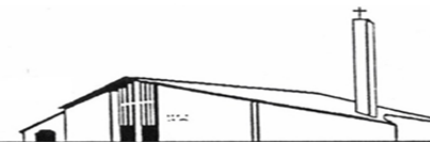
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

October 7, 2018

27h SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Stephen's Parish

78 West Street, Stephenville, NL, A2N 1E4
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Email: st.stephens.parish@nf.sympatico.ca
Web: www.ststephensparish.com



BISHOP OF CORNER BROOK & LABRADOR: Most Rev. Peter Hundt

Administrator: Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris) **Associate:** Rev. Vitus Echedo

Email: fatherchristsp78@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 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 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 29&30:

Sunday Collection	\$	2943.40
Capital Repairs	\$	40.25
Needs of the Canadian Church	\$	880.00
Insurance	\$	2.00

THANKSGIVING: "O Heavenly Father: We thank you for food and remember the hungry. We thank you for health and remember the sick. We thank you for friends and remember the lonely. We thank you for freedom and remember the enslaved. May these remembrances stir us to service.

That your gifts to us may be used for others. Amen!"

SANCTUARY CANDLE: For the intentions of Diane Lush as requested by her 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!

THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS AND PETS: In the last number of years, we have celebrated a liturgy for the blessing of pets to commemorate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This service will take place, Sunday October 7th at 2 pm.

SANCTUARY CANDLES: In thanksgiving for the friendship and memory of Mary Dawson from colleagues and friends: Kathleen Bourgeois, Deborah Butt, Marina Cormier, Rosemary Foley, Margaret Lee, Maureen MacWhirter, Genevieve Parsons, Millicent Penton, Gertrude Pittman, Bernadine White and Maria Wilton.

OFFICE CLOSED: The office will be closed on Monday October 8, 2018 due to Statutory Holiday.

FINANCE MEETING: There is a Finance meeting on Oct 11, 2018. All are encouraged to attend.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 2018

Yr 2 (Group A) Monday, **October 22** at 6:00 pm

Yr 2 (Group B) Tuesday, **October 23**at 6:00 pm

Yr 4 Thursday **October 18** at 6:00 pm

Yr 3 (Group A) Monday, **October 29** at 6:00 pm

Yr 5 & 6 Thursday **October 25** at 6:00 pm

Pastors message for living a Peaceful, Happy and Steady Life:

A man was jogging one morning and he noticed another jogger about half a km ahead of him who was running a little slower than him. That made him feel good, So he decided to try catch up with him. He started running faster and faster. Every block, he was gaining on him a little bit. After just a few minutes he was closing the gap between them so He really picked up the pace and pushed himself. He was determined to catch up with him. Finally, he did it! He caught up with and passed him. Inwardly He felt very good. "He beat him".

Of course, the other jogger didn't even know they were racing. After passing him, he realized he had been so focused on competing against him that He had missed the turn off to his house, he lost his focus the inner peace he experienced when jogging , he missed the beauty of the scenery around him, he missed his inner soul searching his meditation, and in his needless hurry he stumbled a couple of times and could have fallen and broken a limb. Then it dawned on him, isn't this what happens when we focus on competing with others; our co-workers, neighbours, friends, family, trying to outdo them or trying to prove that we are more successful, or more important than they are. In the bargain we miss out on the happiness of our own lives. We spend our time and energy chasing after them and their dreams trying to be better than them and in the process we miss out on our own paths to our destination. The problem with unhealthy competition is that it's a never ending cycle. There will always be somebody ahead of you, someone with a better job, nicer car, more money in

the bank, more education, a prettier wife, a more handsome husband, better behaved children, better circumstances and better conditions etc. But one important realization is that you can be the best that you can be, when you are not competing with anyone. Some people are insecure because they pay too much attention to who others are, where others are going, what others are wearing or driving and what they are saying. Accept whatever you have been given your height, your weight, your personality, your gifts, your talents accept them and realize, that you are blessed. Stay focused and live a healthy life.

There is no competition in Destiny. We all have our own. Comparison AND Competition is the thief of our JOY. It kills the Joy of Living our Own Life. Run your own Race that will lead to a Peaceful, Happy and Steady Life.

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.

PRIEST'S RETREAT: Bishop Hundt and the priests of the Diocese will be on spiritual retreat from Monday, October 22nd to Friday, October 26th. Please join in praying for God's blessings upon them in their annual journey of spiritual renewal.

CHURCH HOURS : Please note that for the week of October 22-26 the Church hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thanks for your understanding.

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:

OUR LADY OF MERCY COMPLEX: The Committee is very excited to announce another fantastic

evening of music. With a group of phenomenal local singers/musicians and several sold out shows earlier this year, Voices of Fleetwood Mac will be performing at Our Lady of Mercy Gym in Port au Port on Saturday, October 27 at 8 PM. Tickets are \$20 and are available at Debbie's Video and Elaine's Variety. Doors open at 7pm, see you there.

ACCOUNTING CLERK JOB POSITION:

The Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador currently requires an Accounting Clerk. This part-time position is located in Corner Brook and reports directly to the Financial Administrator. For more information please go to the Diocesan website at <http://rcchurch.com/>

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: October being the month of the Holy rosary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 3742 Knights of Columbus will be reciting the Holy Rosary each Sunday evening at 7:00p.m. for the month of October. All Brother Knights and Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

AL-ANON: If anyone is interested in Al-Anon (family and friends of problems drinkers) you may call 646-5503 or 643-3059 for time and place of meetings. Please phone before meeting during winter months to confirm during winter months due to possible weather.

STEPHENVILLE FOOD BANK: Would like to thank everyone for there generosity. October Suggested item is "CEREALS". All donations of any food is welcome.

