

September 13, 2020
Time

24th Sunday in Ordinary

The once and future hoarder

If you've been to a grocery store since March, chances are you had this experience, or something similar to it:

You were looking for a particular brand or product that the store just could not keep in stock: staples like milk, eggs, tuna fish, soap — and who will ever forget the Great Toilet Paper Crisis of 2020? Part of the problem was the supply chain could not keep up with the new demands of so many people suddenly being home all day — but a big part of the problem were the “hoarders”: people who stockpiled many of these staples, managing to snap them up as soon as clerks could re-stock the shelves.

So you complained — too loudly and angrily, perhaps — to the manager of the store. You went through the entire litany: how you have been a loyal customer of this store for years, that this pandemic has been difficult for you and your family, that it's unfair that a few people should be able to snap up everything, etc. The manager listened politely and apologized profusely. Maybe he or she would save you a roll of TP or a dozen eggs.

Then, the next time you shopped, you found a product that had been out of stock for weeks. Your heart leapt for joy! Never could you imagine that hand sanitizer could be the cause of such elation; you grabbed the tomato soup as if you had found the Holy Grail. You resolved that you would not do without this again, so you filled your cart with as many cans or boxes or bags of the product as you could push.

Did it ever dawn on you that someone else would now do without because of your “stocking up”?

Or you may have experienced this: You're at the bank to conduct some business and the customer ahead of you seems to be renegotiating the debt of a small European country; he or she has managed to tie up not just one but several tellers and an assistant manager while you and others wait. It's finally your turn and, without realizing it, you take up more than your fair share of their time with One more thing, Before I forget, and As long as I'm here . . .

Or you're looking for help at the hardware store or home center and you wait and wait while another customer has collared a clerk in search of the right nut and bolt. Finally — finally! — it's your turn. And you found that you had more questions about your project than you thought — as other customers waited. You had become the kind of shopper you had complained about, the would-be do-it-yourselfer who needed more help than you realized.

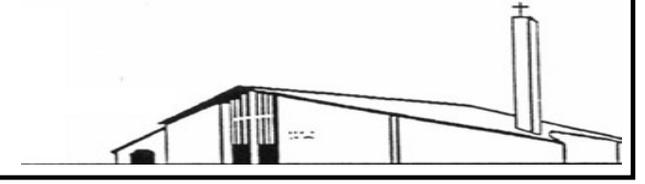
It's not much of a leap from being the forgiver to the forgiven. The servant's cruel treatment of his fellow servant begins with his forgetting that he was once indebted and forgiven. Such forgiveness does not come easily: it requires overcoming our own anger and outrage at the hurt we have **suffered and re-focusing our concern, instead, on the person who wronged us; it means possessing the humility to face the hurt we have inflicted on others as a result of our insensitivity and self-centeredness. But only in such forgiving and seeking forgiveness are we able to realize the possibility of bringing healing and new life to a pained and grieving situation. Christ calls us to create within our families and communities that kind of environment in which forgiveness is joyfully offered and humbly but confidently sought. It begins by recognizing our own indebtedness, our own failings that divide and hurt — often without our realizing it.**

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St. Stephen's Parish

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PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

Warren Quinton

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Rosa Dollard

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kelly Samms

SECRETARY

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

St. Anne's Guild - President Millicent Penton

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

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

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**

MASS INTENTIONS, Sept. 14-Sept. 18

MONDAY September 14, 10:30AM

For the late Odelle Marche

For the late Gerald Jordan

TUESDAY September 15, 10:30AM

For the intentions of the Walsh Family

For the late Pat Muise

For the late Tom Hull

WEDNESDAY September 16, 10:30AM

For the late Herma Compangon

For the late Fannie Young

THURSDAY September 17, 10:30AM

For the late Fannie Young

For the late Tony Rodriguez

FRIDAY September 18, 10:30AM

For the late Veronica Gillis

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

NOTE OF THANKS

Thank You! We wish to thank those who have continued to make their donations to the Parish, via drop off, Interact transfers. It is greatly appreciated!

ST. ANNE'S OIL

Our parish has available small bottles of St. Anne's oil, from the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaufort in Quebec.

This oil is often used to bless people who are seeking protection from harm or are looking for relief from sickness or injury. Bottles cost \$5.

MASS REGISTRATION

With the move to 100 people at each Mass, we have decided as a community to eliminate pre-registration. We still need to maintain contact tracing.

Upon arriving at the church, simply fill out a small information ballot and place it in the

spot provided. These will be destroyed in fourteen days.

As well, with the 100 person capacity per mass, St Stephen's Parish is returning to **two weekend Masses.**

MASS ETTIQUETTE DURING PAN-DEMIC

Government regulations are requiring Face Masks in all public buildings, including churches.

You **do not** need to wear a mask:

- While seated
- People with medical conditions
- Children 4 and under
- Receiving Holy Communion

But you will need to wear one while moving about: Entering, exiting, using the bathroom, and coming up to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

If you are sick, or if you have a cough, sniffles, or other symptoms, please stay home and recover. Please practice good hand hygiene and physical distancing. Note that we are asked to leave Church immediately at the end of the Mass so that our volunteers can begin disinfecting the pews. Anyone who would like to assist in this task, please call to the Parish.

Thank you for wearing a face mask and understanding the situation.

BINGO

Bingo will be held Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS AT MASS

100 people may now attend Mass in our St. Stephen's Parish. While we will still need to register, this will allow many more people to worship God.

Please, share this news to everyone. Many people have been struggling to attend, and we are very anxious to have our brothers and

sisters return.

EMAIL MONEY TRANSFERS

Our parish still welcomes your financial support. Many people have dropped off their envelopes in the mailbox and we appreciate that. Now you also have the option to make donations via email money transfer. The email address for e-transfers only is stephensparish@gmail.com, also include your envelope # in the comments section if you have one. If not please include an address where a tax receipt may be sent. Thank you.

VOUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

We need volunteers for ushering/check in duties and sanitizing the church and after every Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning and evening. As a faith community we will need to abide by the procedures stated by Western Health Authority to keep our church and safe and clean so we can continue to have Mass offered to the public. You can call 643-2523 if you are available to help.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Beginning the weekend of September 13th, the Diocese has developed a weekly resource to help families share the Faith at home. "Family Connections" includes a weekly conversation starter for mealtime, a bed time story, a family activity, seasonal traditions and short prayers. Especially developed for this time of pandemic, "Family Connections" is easy to integrate into the day to day of family life and will help families connect with God, their Faith and one another. "Family Connections" is available on the Diocesan webpage (rcchurch.com) and on most parish websites.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BART VAN ROIJEN

It has come to my attention that emails have gone out in my name (the Bishop's) asking for people to go out and buy e-cards in my name

and send the numbers to a return email address. It is good to remind everyone that church personnel are not allowed to make any personal solicitations of this type and that any personal solicitation, for any reason and under any guise, should either be seen as a scam or a serious breach of professional protocol. Whichever one it is, the activity is to be ignored or soundly rebuffed.

FORGIVE 77 TIMES

Peter asks Jesus a question about the limits of reconciliation. He asks whether seven times is enough. Christ recommends seventy-seven times. The numbers are symbolic. Seven represent a perfect number. The ancients noted that the background of stars moved in a regular cycle, but that seven objects in the sky moved independently. These were the Sun, Moon, and five planets visible to the naked eye. Hence, seven seemed to have a Divine significance. This explains why there are seven days in a week, seven sacraments, etc. Luke's version of the story goes even further. In it Jesus demands "seventy times seven" or 490 acts of forgiveness. The point is the same; our mercy must be unlimited.

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.

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONFOR SEPTEMBER

Universal: Respect for the Planet's Resources - We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

September Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7 pm at St. Anne's Hall.