

September 16 2018

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

Mark 8: 27-35

How Frances Perkins found her vocation

It was one of the worst industrial disasters in American history. On March 25, 1911, a fire destroyed the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in Manhattan. Crowds watched in horror as the fire raced through the building, killing 145 workers, many of them jumping to their deaths from the eighth, ninth and tenth floors. Triangle was a sweatshop, employing young immigrant women who worked in a cramped space at lines of sewing machines; they worked 12 hours a day for a mere \$15 a week.

One of the onlookers that day was Frances Perkins, a 31-year-old wife and mother from an upper-class family. She was having tea with friends nearby when the fire broke out and Mrs. Perkins and company ran to the scene.

The fire and its aftershocks left a deep mark on Frances Perkins. David Brooks writes in his book

The Road to Character:

"Up until that point [Frances Perkins] had lobbied for worker rights and on behalf of the poor, but she had been on a conventional trajectory, toward a conventional marriage, perhaps, and a life of genteel good works. After the fire, what had been a career turned into a vocation. Moral indignation set her on a different course. Her own desires and her own self became less central and the cause itself became more central to the structure of her life. The niceties of her class fell away. She became impatient with the way genteel progressives went about serving the poor . . . She threw herself into the rough and tumble of politics. She was willing to take morally hazardous action if it would prevent another catastrophe like the one that befell the women at the Triangle factory. She was willing to compromise and work with corrupt officials if it would produce results. She pinioned herself to this cause for the rest of her life."

For the next 20 years, Frances Perkins devoted her life to securing workers' rights and safety. In 1931, she became Secretary of the Labor in President Franklin Roosevelt's administration - the first woman to serve as a U.S. cabinet secretary. Secretary Perkins went on to be a major force behind such initiatives as Social Security and the Fair Labor Standards Act, establishing the first minimum wage law and first over-time law.

The timid young woman, who lived in the insular world of New York society, who endured the hardship of the mental illnesses of her husband and daughter, who suffered the humiliations inherent in being a woman in the male-dominated politics of her time, lived a life of humble service to a vocation.

Frances Perkins heard the call of God in the plight of poor and abused workers and took on "her" cross in the spirit of Jesus' humble servant hood. Christ calls us to take up our own crosses in the everyday joys and sorrows we live in our homes, parishes, schools and communities. To put aside our own self-importance, needs and dreams to bring dignity, comfort and hope to another, to work to bring forth and affirm the gifts of others, to seek reconciliation before all else is to be the "servant" who gains life by "losing" it for the sake of God's kingdom.

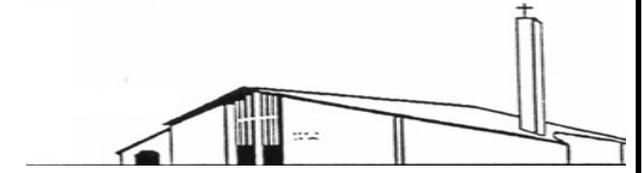
(www.connectionsmediaworks.com)

September 16, 2018

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Stephen's Parish

78 West Street, Stephenville, NL, A2N 1E4
Tel (709) 643-2523 - Fax (709) 643-9745
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

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

Warren Quinton

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Debbie Keough 643-6681

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Theresa Dollimont

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Vacant

SECRETARY

Carolyn O'Quinn

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

St. Anne's Guild - President Laura Rouzes

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.

ROSARY

Saturdays from 11:30 am until 12:30 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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION. Next Session - *September 24th, 2018 - Please call to register*

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 Sept 8 & 9:

Sunday Collection \$ 3155.45
Capital Repairs \$ 731.00

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

PLEASE BE ADVISED: If any parishioner knows of any senior or shut-in that are unable to attend Mass but who would like to receive Holy Communion, they are asked to submit the name and particulars to the parish office.

NOMINATIONS-PARISH COUNCIL: Each year we elect four members to our Parish Council for a three-year term. We will be accepting nominations during the first three weeks of September. If you wish to nominate someone, please make sure you have that person's consent, fill out the form provided at the back of the Church and drop it off at the parish office.

CHURCH MINISTRIES: September is always a good time to consider adding your services as ministers for our parish. We are always open to having more readers, communion ministers, ministers of hospitality, bereavement committee, Sacristan/ servers, musicians, leaders of song etc.... Now is the time to offer yourself in service to the church. Certainly there is a ministry that is right for you.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: There will a parish council meeting on September 19, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

HOSPITAL VISITS: Hospital visits are made on a regular basis, however, if someone is seriously ill, kindly let us know.

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM: Our next preparation program will take place Monday, September 24th at 7:30.

FAMILY MASS: St. Stephen's Parish will be having our first Family Mass it will take place on Sunday September 30th at 10:30 Mass. This is the formal opening of the Religious Education Program

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Kindergarten and Year 1 to 6 programs begin *with the first full week of October* and the schedule will follow the same format as other years (*Dates and times to follow*).

Registration for all programs from Year K to Year 8 which includes pre-confirmation and confirmation will be held on Thursday, September 20th in the parish meeting room from 6-7 pm

and connects our education to our faith practice. All families are encouraged to attend - Be sure to set this day aside.

TIME FOR CREATION: The five-week period between September 1 and October 4 is known as Time for Creation. September 1, the beginning of the Orthodox Church Year, is the date when, since 1989, the Orthodox Church commemorates God's Creation by observing a Day of Prayer for the Environment. In August 2015, Pope Francis announced the establishment of a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to be observed annually on September 1. October 4 was chosen to mark the end of the Time for Creation as it is the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology. We are encouraged during this time especially to pray, to organize practical initiatives to combat the environmental crisis facing our planet and to reflect on ways to reduce the impact of our lifestyles on the environment.

COMMUNION MINISTERS: There will be a meeting for the Communion Ministers LEADERS on September 26th after mass.

HUMOUR: Power Failure! The minister was holding an evening service and shortly after he began his sermon, the electricity in the church failed. The ushers found candles and placed them around the sanctuary. Then the minister re-entered the pulpit, shuffled his notes, and muttered, "Now, where was I?" A young boy's voice called out

from the back, "Right near the end!"

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS:

Sometimes the Sunday readings bring peace and consolation. Other times they come as a swift kick in the pants. Today's readings definitely fall in the latter category. In the Gospel from St. Mark, Jesus begins to instruct the Apostles in what was ahead for Him – and for them. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." In Peter's worldly way of thinking, Jesus should not have to suffer — and for that matter, neither should Peter.

But, rebuking Peter strongly, Jesus indicates He meant exactly what He said earlier. What's more, He was inviting Peter, and all of us, to join him in this way of life that is costly and self-sacrificing. Why? Isn't Jesus all about love? Of course He is. He is love. And Jesus shows us by His example that real love requires toughness as much as tenderness. Our second reading teaches that real faith in Him is displayed through service or "works." In fact, this passage goes so far as to state that "faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

These readings make it clear that faith and love are not alive in us until they are demonstrated through service to others for the sake of the Gospel. Service of any kind will involve some self-denial.

But when I embrace this way of life, I have the joy of knowing my faith and love are real. By laying down my life for Him, I gain a life that is really worth living.

READERS SCHEDULE: The new readers schedule is now available in the back of the Church.

CHURCH MINISTRIES: September is always a good time to consider adding your services as ministers for our parish. We are always open to having more readers, communion ministers, ministers of hospitality, bereavement committee, Sacristan/ servers, musicians, leaders of song etc.... Now is the time to offer yourself in service to the church. Certainly there is a ministry that is right for you.

ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:

ST. ANNE'S GUILD: There will be a meeting

on Monday September 17, 2018 following mass.

TERRY FOX RUN/WALK/BIKE: On September 16, 2018 YMCA registration at 12 noon, actual activity is from 1:00-4:00. Support Terry's dream to find a cure for cancer.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT: Will begin on September 21st at 7:30 pm starting at the Killick Cafe parking lot. Women-identified and children only for the march but all men who wish to support us can meet us at the Lions Club for the rally & BBQ! The Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network will be hosting the Faceless Doll Project at the rally. Please call 643-4444 for more information.

KNIGHTS OF COLOMBUS: There will be a 4th degree K of C executive meeting at 7 pm on Sept. 20th, at the Santa Maria followed by our regular meeting at 8 pm. Our regular meetings are on the third Thursday of each month at 8 pm on less otherwise noted. Looking forward to see all Sir Knights.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: Is seeking a Temporary Part-Time (17.5 hours/week) Animator at the InCanada Programs Department. Location: St-John's, Newfoundland Starting date: As soon as possible End date: August 31st, 2019 For the posting, please consult our website at: www.devp.org/jobs Those interested are requested to send a letter of application and a CV by 4:00PM on September 18, 2018 to rh.hr@devp.org.