

September 20, 2020

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A perspective of gratitude

Life is not easy right now — for some of us, things could not get any worse. Our frustrations and impatience get the better of us. We avoid confrontation for the most part, but we quietly seethe at being disrespected or dismissed or overlooked.

Gratitude is a much more difficult attitude to embrace — it demands a total recalibration of how we look at our life and world.

In his book **The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm**, Harold S. Kushner reflects on the importance — and blessings — of gratitude: “I read of a person who had formed the habit of writing Thank you on the lower left corner of every check he wrote. When he paid his electric bill or his phone bill, he would write Thank you to express his gratitude to the companies that made those services available to him at the press of a button. Even when he paid his taxes, he would write Thank you on the check as a way of reminding himself (he didn’t think the Internal Revenue Service would notice it) that his taxes were the price he willingly paid for living in the United States with all of its benefits. . . .

“Each night as I prepare for bed, I put drops in my eyes to fend off the threat of glaucoma that would rob me of my sight and take from me the pleasure of reading. Each morning at breakfast, I take a pill to control my blood pressure, and each evening at dinner I take another to lower my cholesterol level. But instead of lamenting the ailments that come with growing older, instead of wishing I were as young and fit as I once was, I take my medicine with a prayer of thanks that modern science has found ways to help me cope with these ailments. I think of all my ancestors who didn’t live long enough to develop the complications of old age, and did not have pills to take when they did.”

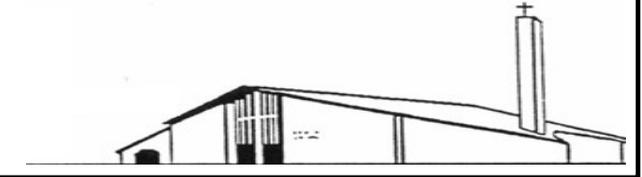
The kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims is centered in a spirit of gratitude for what we have received and the humility to seek to share those blessings with others — and in that spirit of gratitude, we discover the happiness that is centered in the Spirit of God. The workers in today’s Gospel feel cheated by the vineyard owner’s generosity — their resentment at their coworkers’ good fortune diminishes them and clouds any satisfaction in being able to provide for their families. Jesus calls us to a change in perspective: to look beyond what we do not have and realize and rejoice in all that we have been given, including the love of family and friends, good health, opportunities to learn and grow, the freedom and resources to live lives of fulfillment and meaning.

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St. Stephen’s Parish

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PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Warren Quinton

Rosa Dollard

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SECRETARY

Vacant

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

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

August 31 : \$3,315.05
September 8 : \$2,635.75
September 13 : \$2,348.85

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

A PANDEMIC COLLECTION: You are being

MASS INTENTIONS, Sept. 14-Sept. 18

MONDAY September 21, 10:30AM

For the late Herma Compagnon

TUESDAY September 15, 10:30AM

WEDNESDAY September 16, 10:30AM

THURSDAY September 17, 10:30AM

FRIDAY September 18, 10:30AM

For the late Bruce Pellerin

For the late Mary Dormier

asked to make this offering to assist the parish in its ongoing expenses especially during the Pandemic. It may be that you didn't get your normal offering made or you might consider a special offering for this purpose. We are earmarking the last Saturday/Sunday of the month, September 26 and 27th, as an appropriate time to do this. Simply drop it in the offerings in a special envelope with your envelope number for proper crediting. The Email Money Transfer for donations is also accepted. Many thanks for your generosity

Prayer Intention for weekend of September 26th – 27th:

Let us pray for the success of the ongoing collaboration of our Canadian Bishops and our willingness to be part of their work through our prayerful support. We pray to the Lord:
Fraternally in Christ,

CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE WEEK: October 4 –10. During this pandemic, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who are making a difference in the field of Health Care.

Your contribution to the level of care and love in our community is greatly appreciated. We recommend the daily spiritual reflections that are available on the CHAC website (www.chac.ca) for this week. It is a wonderful tool in reflecting on the Christ-like dimension of advocating for and ministering to the sick and those in need.

CHURCH DUES: The payment of dues has been a long standing practice in the Church. It was always a very important source of income. In effect, it is like a fee expected of a member of an organization or association. It is there to help support the work of the group (church) to which one belongs. The amount recommended for those earning an income is one day's pay for dues and one hour of pay for the Sunday Collection.

4 YOUTH: "What is a Patron Saint? Patron Saints are special protectors or guardians over any area of life that is important to us; such as occupations, illnesses, churches, countries, causes, etc. Patron Saints are named by popes, but can be chosen by individuals or groups as well. Patron Saints are often chosen because an interest, talent or event in their lives relates with a special area. Saint Francis of Assisi, for example, loved nature, so he is the Patron Saint of ecologists. We should all have a Patron Saint. Why? For one think, we can use that saint's life as an example for our own lives. For another, we can ask for that saint's intercessory prayers to God on our behalf— kind of like asking a friend to pray for us. It would be a good project to do some internet research on Catholic saints and find one that would be a good Patron Saint for you.

THE COMMUNION RITE AT MASS begins with the praying of the OUR FATHER. The proper posture for this rite is standing - until the presiding priest returns to the chair and sits. This is a further sign of our unity in Christ. After a pause, all stand for the prayer. Communion songs usually contain an easy refrain which everyone can sing as they come up to receive.

THE CONSECRATION OF THE BREAD AND WINE: Once the words of consecration are completed over the bread and as the priest genuflects, everyone bows. The same reverence is made when the wine has been consecrated. This communal gesture symbolizes the faith of the Christian community in the supreme presence of Christ now brought to bear in this celebration.

LONG TO DEPART: Have you ever wondered why God keeps you alive? Some elderly and infirm long for death. They may even think that the Lord is cruel "Not to take me". Paul faces this quandary—though for a different reason. He has already "been caught up to heaven – seen a vision of paradise." He longs to make it permanent. Paul realizes that God needs him on earth. He is a witness for Jesus. There are people who might not listen to God but could hear Paul. He accepts his fate waiting for the Lord to make the choice of the time of his death. If you are discouraged about life, remember that God still needs you here. He has a vital job that only you can accomplish. Be patient!

NOTE OF THANKS TO HANNAH

St. Stephen's Parish would like to thank Hannah Alexander for her hard work and dedication to our church these past few years. She went above and beyond the call of duty for our staff and parishioners. We would like to wish her well with her post-secondary studies and all future endeavors. God Bless you, Hannah!

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.

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 number in the comments section if you have one. If not, please include an address where a tax receipt may be sent. Thank you.

CANCELLED: BAPTISMAL PREPARATION COURSE has been cancelled. On a go forward basis, preparation for your child's Baptism will be done by appointment only due to COVID-19. This preparation is for parents and god parents. We offer an update on the meaning of this Sacrament together with a practical review of the liturgy .

BAPTISM REQUESTS FOR THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE THE PARISH: If you live outside the parish but would like to have your child baptized here, you should approach the Pastor or Director of Parish Life of the parish in which you reside and make your request known. It is necessary to take whatever pre-Baptism course is offered and obtain written permission for the Baptism to take place here.

NOTE OF THANKS: Thank you! We wish to thank all who have continued to make donations to the parish, via drop off or Interact transfers. It is greatly appreciated.