

September 27, 2020

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“Entering the kingdom of God . . . ”**

It’s been a long day. She sits in her dimly lit living room. It’s after 11 p.m.; her day started before six. At the office, it was once crisis after another; then the school called: her eight-year-old she is raising alone came down with a fever, so she had go and bring him home and arrange for her mother to come over so she could get back to the office. After getting him to bed, she took on the monthly challenge of making her salary cover all the bills (managed to make it again for another month!). She’s tired but can’t sleep just yet. She needs a few minutes just to be thankful for the beautiful boy snoring up a storm in the next room who makes her life as a mom more than worth it all.

He drives a truck for a package delivery service — and these are busy days. He takes a couple of extra shifts when he can because his family could use the money — the oldest is starting to look at colleges. But one night a week he manages to get home in time to gulp down some supper and head to the community center where he coaches a team of nine and ten-year-olds in the city’s youth basketball league. He first started coaching his son’s team played — and kept at it long after his son moved on. Yeah, there are other things he could be doing that, frankly, would make life a lot easier, but he knows that for some of these kids, this team is the best thing in their lives. So one night a week he continues to run, push and coach these kids for the good of his own soul.

He helps her with her coat and makes sure she has a good, steady grip on her cane. He then puts her arm in his and they walk the same path they walk every afternoon in the park across the street from their apartment. He points to a cardinal lighting on a tree branch overhead. He cheers a great catch made by a player in a pick-up football game. He talks about last night’s call from their son and the latest doings of the grandchildren. But none of it registers with her. She is lost in a fog of dementia. All she recognizes is him, her husband of 63 years. And that’s more than enough. He’s thankful that they can walk arm-in-arm together for another day.

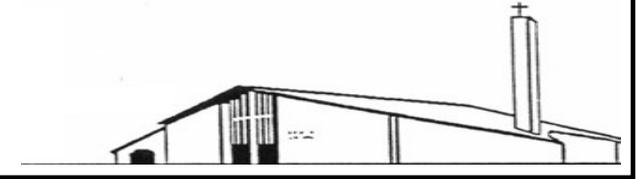
**Throughout the Gospels, Jesus upholds the sacred dignity of all men and women in the eyes of God: the struggling, the poor, the powerless, the ignored, the forgotten, the vulnerable, those pushed to the margins and peripheries of society. Every life is open to the “way of righteousness”: simple humility, faithfulness and gratitude are the entries to the kingdom of God. Our standing in demographic and marketing profiles, our net worth, whatever labels society applies to us do not determine the “holiness” of our lives or the measure of God’s love in our days. Christ invites us to realize the kingdom of God in our lives by our commitment to selfless generosity and faithful gratitude; God calls us to look beyond the designations and stereotypes like “tax collector” and “prostitute” and recognize, instead, the holiness that resides within the soul of every person — including ourselves.**

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# St. Stephen’s Parish

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

**Administrator:** Rev. Krishnarao Mekala (Chris)  
Email: [fatherchrisstsp78@gmail.com](mailto:fatherchrisstsp78@gmail.com)

**Associate:** Rev. A.H. White  
Email: [fatherahwhite@gmail.com](mailto:fatherahwhite@gmail.com)

### PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

Warren Quinton

### FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Rosa Dollard

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Vacant

### 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

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

ST. STEPHEN’S PARISH SCHEDULE	
<b>SUNDAY MASSES</b> Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Sunday Morning -10:30 A.M.	<b>REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES</b> Online Daily Due to COVID-19
<b>MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>SUNDAY MASSES</b> Saturday - 4:30 P.M. Sunday - 9:00 A.M.	<b>ROSARY</b> Saturdays at 11:00 am <b>RECONCILIATION</b> 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**

September 6th - \$2,635.75  
September 13th - \$2,348.85  
September 20th - \$1,912.50

**MASS INTENTIONS, Sept. 28-Oct. 2**

**MONDAY September 28, 10:30AM**

For the late Philomena Snow  
For the late Monica Brake  
For Klara Sankora

**TUESDAY September 29, 10:30AM**

For the late Herma Compagnon

**WEDNESDAY September 30, 10:30AM**

For the late Frank Judge

For the Grandchildren of Edna Hartnett

**THURSDAY October 1, 10:30AM**

For the late Alphonsus Hynes

**FRIDAY October 2, 10:30AM**

For the late Mary Furlong

**SCENT-FREE**

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

**HOLY FATHERS' INTENTION FOR OCTOBER**

The laity's Mission in the Church - we pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women may participate more in areas of responsibility in the church.

**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 God parents. We offer an update on the meaning of this Sacrament together with a practical walkthrough of the liturgy.

**OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY**

We are encouraged to have this prayer in our hearts and minds at all times. Punctuate your day with a rosary - or you might consider praying all four arrangements of the mysteries!

**WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS**

A world day of Migrants and Refugees is observed in many places in solidarity with the World Refugee Day promoted by the United Nations and observed since 2001 on June 20th. The January observance was instituted by St. Pius X in 1914. At the request of several conferences of Bishops, Pope Francis moved the observance to September in 2019. "The phenomenon of migration today is a providential opportunity for the proclamation of the Gospel in the contemporary world. Men and women from various regions of the earth who have not encouraged Jesus Christ or know him only partially, ask to be received in countries with an ancient Christian tradition. It is necessary to find adequate ways for them to meet and to become acquainted with Jesus Christ and to experience the invaluable gift of salvation.

**CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE WEEK**  
**OCTOBER 4th - 10th**

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.

**THE LORD'S WAY UNFAIR?**

Most human beings love a happy ending. This usually means that the good wins and the bad guy loses. This concludes everything with a neat, pat answer. But life is not that simple. Few people act out of pure motives - good or evil. Even those with sinister objectives may have had bad experiences behind their goals. Judgements are too often made insufficient understanding of why people act. God knows the whole person from birth to death. His judgement is based on all factors. Moreover, God sincerely loves each of us and wants us to change. If the most wicked person can alter the course of his or her life, the Lord is anxious to forgive. Too often, we only want revenge. God's way is more fair.

**EQUALITY WITH GOD**

Jesus of Nazareth is divine. He was born into this world over 2000 years ago, but He has always existed. He is immortal and infinitely powerful. He entered into time and space through the womb of Mary.

He gave up a lot in doing this. He surrendered the unlimited power, knowledge, and glory that is His by divine right. He did not put on a "human suit" and pretend to be one of us. That would have been a fraud and a cheat. Paul is telling us that Jesus did not greedily clutch His attributes. He did not fake humanity - He was truly "one of us in all things but sin." Jesus wasn't slumming. He showed that it is possible to reach heaven the same that He did: with the love of the Father. HE clung to equality with us.

**BELVEDERE ORPHANAGE FUND**

Each year the Board of Directors of the Belvedere Orphanage Fund offers assistance for the orphans/half orphans who are in need. Eligibility includes male and female.

The conditions are:

1. The recipient may be a female or male orphan or half orphan.
2. The recipient must be in need.
3. Need is to be interpreted broadly and not confined to education.
4. Persons 18 years and under are eligible. All applicants will be assessed before the final decision is made.
5. Applicants must be made through (a) a member of a religious congregation, or (b) a parish priest.
6. The party making the application for the recipient must verify that she/he is a needy orphan/half orphan.

Completed applications should be returned to: Secretary to Board of Directors, Belvedere Orphanage Fund, Sisters of Mercy Generalate, P.O. Box 1757, St. John's NL, A1C 5P5.

**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 stephenparish@gmail.com. Please 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.

**NOTE OF THANKS TO KELLY SAMMS**

We would like to offer special thanks to Kelly Samms for her gracious acceptance to work as Religious Educational Coordinator with our parish. Your dedication and commitment will not soon be forgotten. God bless!

**POSITION VACANCY**

There is an opening for anyone who is interested in the Religious Education Program Coordinator part-time position. If you are interested have questions regarding this position, please call the parish office at (709)-643-2523.

**NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL**

There is currently one vacancy on our parish council. If you would like to nominate somebody, please consult with them prior to nominating, To nominate an individual, please drop by the parish office and complete the nomination form. Deadline for applications is October 12, 2020

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEETING**

All parents of students enrolled in our Religious Education program are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the program and address any questions they may have. The meeting will be held on October 1st at St. Stephen's Church.

**BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING**

Dear Heavenly Father, for all the children returning to school, send your Holy Spirit as their guide and protector. Keep them free from unnecessary harm. Put our sons and daughters in the right place, at the right time, to receive your grace. Let them learn and grow strong. May the presence of your Spirit fill their hearts. Bless every family, oh Lord! We entrust our children to you, dear God. Since from the beginning, they are yours to keep. In the name of the greatest Son of all, Jesus Christ. Amen.