

September 6, 2020

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The killing silence

The silence is deafening.

Family members and friends must tiptoe around them. Spouses, parents, children are held hostage by the silence. *Not in our family, we insist. Better to hold our tongues than set them off, we fear. It may be alcoholism, drug addiction, physical abuse that tears the family apart; or a misunderstanding or conflict over finances, a divorce, a child's rejection of the family's culture or values that creates a tension that represses the family dynamic. It's a silence that kills.*

A student is struggling in school and doesn't know how to ask for help or is afraid to seek out a teacher for fear of being labeled.

A youngster is the target of bullying. He or she is miserable but is too scared to say anything to an adult.

The project is failing; the business is going down the drain. The company has many savvy, experienced people who know what to do — but nothing is said, no one is consulted. This is a tough market — and any appearance of trouble or vulnerability will sink everything.

The surviving spouse is lost. The grief is more than he or she can bear. But they don't want to be a burden — the children have enough going on in their lives. So the widow or widower becomes more and more isolated.

Regardless of the cause or circumstances, fear is the controlling agent.

Say nothing — it'll just make things worse.

He won't hear it.

She'll never change her mind.

You'll only get hurt.

Please, I can do this on my own. I'm fine.

And so, there is silence.

Silence — while hearts scream in agony and spirits shrivel and die.

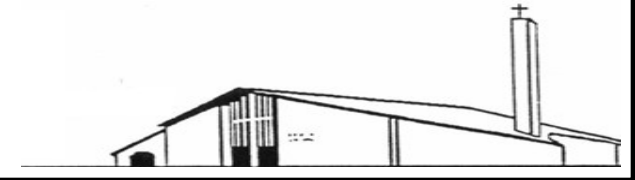
Jesus' challenges us in today's Gospel not to tolerate the dysfunction in our lives or allow our judgements and disappointments to isolate us from others, but to confront those problems, misunderstandings and issues that divide us, grieve us, embitter us. More challenging still, Jesus says, is to face those situations in which our demands and expectations are the cause of such turmoil and then managing to put aside those wants and needs of ours that are exacting such a heavy cost from those we love. Christ calls us to the hard work of reconciliation, to be committed to seeking solutions not out of indignation or self-righteousness but out of a commitment to imitate and bring into our lives the great love and mercy of God.

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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: fatherchrisstp78@gmail.com

Associate: Rev. A.H. White
Email: fatherahwhite@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Warren Quinton

Rosa Dollard

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SECRETARY

Kelly Samms

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**

MASS INTENTIONS, Sept. 7-Sept. 11

MONDAY September 7, 10:30AM

For the late John Hann
For the late Isabel and Robert Foley

TUESDAY September 8, 10:30AM

For the late Damien Drake
Special Intentions

WEDNESDAY September 9, 10:30AM

For the late Bruce Pellerin
For the late Fannie Young

THURSDAY September 10, 10:30AM

For the late Herma Compagnon

FRIDAY September 11, 10:30AM

For the late Fannie Young
For the late Fintan Gabriel

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 Beaupre 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.

EXTRA MASSES

St Stephen's Parish is returning to **two week-end Masses**, now that we have a 100 person capacity per Mass.

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.

FACE MASKS IN CHURCH

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: HOLY LAND

The **Good Friday** collection for the Holy Land could not be taken up as usual because of COVID.

On Sept 13th, we will be taking up a special collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land.

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 from Saturday evening to 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.

D&P: CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MEDIA

You can contact your local media to tell them about our appeal or if you are organizing a local fundraising initiative. If you need support, please contact Marie-Hélène Bachand, Communications Officer, at mhbachand@devp.org.

CRISIS IN LEBANON – DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE EMERGENCY FUND

The situation in Lebanon following August 4th explosion has been described as “beyond imagination.” Thousands of people have been

affected with over 159 people dying, over 6,000 injured, and over 300,000 people left homeless. The explosions have also worsened the country's social, economic, and political crisis.

Development and Peace's partner, Caritas Lebanon, is providing food, water, medical aid, and psychological and social support to those impacted by this crisis.

Please join in Pope Francis' invitation to pray for the victims, for their families, and for all of Lebanon. Please also consider joining the Pope in responding to this desperate cry for help by donating to the emergency relief effort at Development and Peace – Caritas Canada through the following link:

<https://www.devp.org/en/civicism/contribute/transact> or by calling 1 888 664-3387.

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.