

**When injustice gets personal**

*Like most of us, they had seen and read about the undocumented immigrants being arrested in unlikely places all over the country. But in January it became real to them, when a member of their New Jersey Presbyterian parish was taken away. Roby was well-liked and well-known, a man of deep and sincere faith, a husband and father whose family had been in their church pews every Sunday. They changed from being a congregation of peaceful bystanders to becoming a community of active protesters. As the pastor writes, "our eyes were opened."*

"We woke because Roby and his family grew up with us: in church, in school, in our town. They are part of our family. They have a place in our hearts. We support Roby as one of our own, in indignation at the injustice of it all."

Since Roby's arrest, the parish community has organized legal assistance for Roby and support for his family. Roby's plight has re-awakened the parish's tradition of assisting immigrants and refugees.

The experience has had an especially profound impact on the faith of the pastor.

"I wonder if I woke up from a deep spell of disbelief. Not about God, but about our ability to change anything. Or maybe it was about God. And my lack of faith was exactly that. Maybe I had never believed that God could change the heart of a legislator or a judge or a government agency, or that a protest in the rain could really make a kingdom-of-God kind of difference . . .

"We didn't know who these [immigrant] people were. It wasn't until they had children here and raised them up in our schools - where they became best friends with our kids, sharing sports and homework and marching band together - that they became real people for us. Then they became one of us. Now that we know who they are, we know that what's happening is not fair.

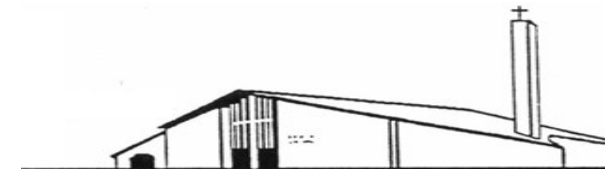
"Roby's future is still unknown. There is only one thing I can say for certain: the Spirit came to our community one cold winter day and opened our eyes and warmed our hearts."

**Roby's arrest was an "Ephphatha" moment for this parish: a new awareness of the dignity and honor of the most vulnerable in their midst, a renewed appreciation that all men and women of every race and nationality and culture are made in the image and likeness of God. Throughout the Gospel, Jesus calls us to remain open - Ephphatha! - to the possibilities for transformation through selfless love, for re-creation enabled by humble generosity, for restoration brought about by perseverance and courage in the face of destruction.**

([www.connectionsmediaworks.com](http://www.connectionsmediaworks.com))

**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](mailto:st.stephens.parish@nf.sympatico.ca)  
 Web: [www.ststephensparish.com](http://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**

<p><b>SUNDAY MASSES</b>                  Saturday Evening - 6:00 P.M.                  Sunday Morning - 10:30 A.M.</p>	<p><b>ROSARY</b>                  Saturdays from 11:30 am until 12:30 pm.  <b>RECONCILIATION</b>                  Saturdays at 3:00 P.M.; anytime by request</p>
<p><b>MARIA REGINA PARISH SCHEDULE</b></p> <p><b>SUNDAY MASSES</b>                  Saturday - 4:30 P.M.                  Sunday - 9:00 A.M.</p>	<p><b>REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES</b>                  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.</p>

**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 1 & 2:**

Sunday Collection	\$ 2568.50
Capital Repairs	\$ 40.00
Initial offering	\$ 10.00
Needs of Canadian Church	\$ 10.00

**SANCTUARY CANDLE:** In memory of Patrick as requested by Reg Hynes.

**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.

**CANCELLATION OF MASS:** There will be no mass on Wednesday September 12 2018 at St. Stephen's Parish. This is a study day for the priest.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS:**

In today's Gospel from Mark, Jesus instructs us in the best way we can honor Him, teaching us the meaning of true worship. Jesus reveals that the way

we truly worship Him is by giving Him our hearts. We also learn in this Gospel passage what our Lord does not want — the pious lip service that the scribes and Pharisees offer.

But how can we determine if we really are giving our hearts over to the Lord and not just paying Him lip service? We must examine our lives to see if they reflect a life lived out for

Him. Stewardship gives us a concrete means to examine our lives in three fundamental areas — the use of our time, our talents, and our material gifts.

A stewardship way of life invites and challenges us to make specific commitments in each of these areas on a regular basis, giving us a practical means to commit to the Lord. How well we are keeping these commitments can give us a kind of measuring stick to see if we are growing closer to Him, or perhaps need to put a little more effort into a particular area of our lives. When we all strive to give God true worship — putting Him first with all our hearts — what beauty we will find in our homes, our parish, and our world.

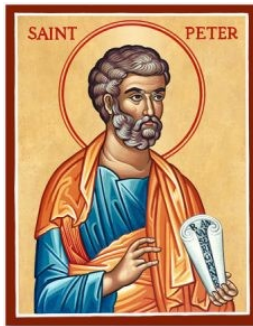
**HUMOUR:**

My husband's uncle thought he had conquered his problem of trying to remember his wife's birthday and, also, their anniversary. He opened an account with a florist, provided that florist with the dates and instructions to send flowers to his wife on these dates along with an appropriate note signed, "Your loving husband."

His wife was thrilled by this new display of attention and all went well until one day when he came home he saw a bouquet, kissed his wife and said offhandedly, "Nice flowers, honey. Where'd you get them?"

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

**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.

**4 YOUTH:** September 8 is United Nations' International Literacy Day. This is a global observance, not a public holiday, the point of which is to raise awareness of literacy issues around the world. Statistics from UNESCO show that approximately 774 million adults worldwide do not have minimum literacy skills (2/3 of them are women) and 75 million children are not attending school. Poverty and illiteracy go together. Without literacy skills, people cannot get decent jobs, they have difficulty accessing services and they are vulnerable to being cheated or taken advantage of. There is illiteracy in our own community as well as in developing countries overseas. As you begin another school year, be thankful for your opportunity to learn and the advantages it gives you. Why don't you try to find a way to help someone else: read with a younger child, join a study group, volunteer as a tutor or donate some of your books to a community literacy program?

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

**SAINT PETER CLAVER:** September 9 is the feast day of Saint Peter Claver. Born in Spain, Peter Claver went to be a missionary in Cartagena in what is now Columbia, which was one of the major entry points for slave ships on their way to America. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the slaves, bringing them whatever food and medicine he could afford

and assuring them of their human dignity and God's saving love. It is estimated that he baptized approximately 300,000 slaves in his 40 years of ministry. He is the patron saint of slaves, the Republic of Columbia and ministry to African Americans.

**ASKED TO ANNOUNCE:**

**CHASE THE ACE:** Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their 11th Chase the Ace fundraiser. This event is held on Sunday with ticket sales starting at 1:00 pm and ending at 3:45 pm with the draw taking place at 4 pm.

**CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY AT MUN:** If you are going to MUN this fall, be sure to visit the Catholic Chaplaincy. The office is at UC 3006. In addition, there is also a facebook page at MUN Catholic Community. If you wish to contact Fr. Joe Mroz, his email is ej\_mroz@yahoo.ca.

**WEST ST. CEMETERY COMMITTEE:** The Committee have opened an account at the Recycling Depot on the Hansen Highway. If anyone would like to donate their recyclables please let a staff member know at the time of drop-off. If you are unable to bring your recyclables to the Depot and wish to donate them, please call 643-5910 to arrange for pickup.

**STEPHENVILLE FOOD BANK:** With the Moose season approaching you might like to clean out your freezer. We would gladly accept moose meat or any other meat. Please come to the food bank at the Anglican Church Hall on Fri. morning from 9-12:45.