

<b><u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u></b>	February 3rd & 4th
Offertory	\$ 1659.10
Dues	\$ 275.00
Building Fund	\$ 323.00
Initial Offerings	\$ 23.00
Indian Residential Schools	\$ 10.00
Catholic Missions	\$ 20.00
New Years Day	\$ 5.00
Shepherd's Fund	\$ 80.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2390.60</b>

**E-TRANSFERS**

If you wish to e-transfer your donations, please use the following email address: [stephensparish@gmail.com](mailto:stephensparish@gmail.com). For tax receipt purposes, please include your envelope number (if applicable) or mailing address. Tax receipts are issued in the new year.

**ESTATE PLANNING & MEMORIAM REQUEST**

We encourage Parishioners in their Estate and Funeral Planning to consider donations to their Parish or the Shepherd's Fund Foundation in memory of a loved one. St. Stephen's In Memoriam cards are available at the back of the church, the Parish Office, or Russell's Funeral Home upon request.

**FRAGRANT-FREE PLACE OF WORSHIP**

**Please note** that our Parish is a fragrant-free place of worship as we have many parishioners who are asthmatic and/or have severe scent allergies. Thank you.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Tuesday, February 13th at 7:00 pm**  
 Late Sister Carmelita MacNeil req. by Sheila Bennett  
 Late Lorene Pittman req by Joan O'Neill  
 Late Millicent Penton req by Margaret Campbell  
**Wednesday, February 14th at 9:30 am—Ash Wednesday**  
**Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm - Ash**

**Wednesday**

Late Morgan Snook req. by Margaret Quann  
 Late Frank Gale req. by Bud & Marilyn Skinner  
 Loved Ones req. by Agnes Snook  
**Thursday, February 15th at 9:30 am**  
 Int. Jared Webb req. by donor  
 Late Aloysius Gaudet req. by Mom & Dad  
 Late Ivan White req. by Mary White  
**Friday, February 16h at 9:30 am Mass**  
 Int. Myra White req. by Winnie McLeod  
 Late Martie Tourout req. by Margaret Quann  
 Late William Hynes & Denise Power req. by Theresa Hynes

**STEWARDSHIP** Stewardship Priorities  
*"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31*

Do a quick check of your **Stewardship** priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "If I'm doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"

**CHURCH HMOUR** Kindergarten

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.  
 The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."  
 The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."  
 Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **World Day of Prayer celebration 2024 will be hosted by St. Stephen's Parish.** It is on Friday, March 1st at 7:00 pm with a social to follow in the downstairs area of the Knights of Columbus building. **All are Welcome and encouraged to attend.**
- **There is a basket** at the back of the church for those who wish to dispose of their palms from last year.
- **The Knights of Columbus** will be hosting the Community Café on Thursday, February 15th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- **The Knights of Columbus** 4th degree meeting will take place on Thursday, February 15th at 8:00 pm.
- **Ash Wednesday Mass**, February 14, will be at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm.
- **During Lent**, starting on **Monday, February 19th**, there will be a Mass on Monday at 7:00 pm. This will continue up to and including **Monday, March 25th.**

**Thank You to OLPH Knights of Columbus Council 1653**

The pastor and parishioners of St. Stephen's Parish extends a big thank you to all Sir Knights of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council for their very generous donation to our parish. Your support is exemplary and greatly appreciated.

**A Compassionate Heart**

Is there a difference between "sympathy" and "compassion?" If so, what is the difference? And which is more desirable? Sympathy simply means that we feel bad for another. It means, in a sense, that we pity them. But compassion goes much further. It means that we enter into their sufferings and carry their burden with them. It means we suffer with them just as

our Lord suffered with and for us. We must only seek to offer true compassion for others and to invite them to offer compassion to us.

How well do you do this? How well do you offer true compassion? Do you see the hurt of others and seek to be there for them, encouraging them in Christ? And when you suffer, do you allow the compassion of others to flood your soul? Do you allow the Mercy of God to reach out to you through them? Or do you seek only pity from others allowing yourself to fall into the trap of self-pity? Reflect upon the difference in these two qualities and ask our Lord to make your heart one of authentic compassion for all.

*Lord, please do give me a heart full of Mercy and compassion. Help me to be attentive to the needs of others and to reach out to them with Your own Divine Heart. May I long to bring Your healing grace to all those in need. And may I never soak in my own self-pity or seek that pity from others. But may I be open to the compassion Your Heart desires to offer me through the love of others. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**Thank You for your Dedication and Support**

I would like to say thank you to the parishioners of St. Stephen's Parish for your dedication and support of your Church and parish. It was an honor to return and spend these 16 months as your interim pastor. Let us remember to pray for each other and to hold fast to the practice of our faith in Christ. May God continue to guide you with his love and peace always. **Fr. G. Patry**

**February 11, 2024**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**World Day of the Sick**

Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> marks the 32<sup>nd</sup> World Day of the Sick. The Holy Father’s message for this year is entitled: “It is not good that man should be alone” – Caring for the sick by caring for relationships. Echoing the Holy Father’s message, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) renews its commitment to prayer and accompaniment of the sick. Pope Francis reminds us of the fundamental importance of human relationships in the process of healing and comforting the sick.

The Holy Father refers to the biblical passage from the Book of Genesis, emphasizing that God created man by endowing him with vital relationships, and that loneliness, the result of sin, can lead to suffering and isolation. Pope Francis’ message urges us to care for relationships with compassion and tenderness, while recalling the example of the Good Samaritan who approached his neighbor with deep compassion. The Holy Father also stresses that the sick, the fragile and the poor must be at the heart of the Church and at the center of our pastoral concerns.

The World Day of the Sick offers us another opportunity to pray for all those who suffer, and to reflect on our commitment to them. The CCCB invites all the faithful to adopt the compassionate gaze of Jesus towards those who suffer, are alone, marginalized or rejected. By working together to counter the culture of individualism and indifference, we can grow the culture of tenderness and compassion in our society. The CCCB encourages all members of the community to take concrete steps to accompany those who are ill and isolated, whether through prayer, visiting a loved one, offering gratitude to healthcare professionals and volunteers, or other acts of solidarity. Finally, the CCCB entrusts itself to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, that she may intercede on behalf of all and help us to be artisans of outreach and fraternal relationships.

**St. Valentine**

Legend states that Valentine, along with St. Marius, aided the Christian martyrs during the Claudian persecution. In addition to his other edicts against helping Christians, Claudius had also issued a decree forbidding marriage. In order to increase troops for his army, he forbade young men to marry, believing that single men made better soldiers than married men.

Valentine defied this decree and urged young lovers to come to him in secret so that he could join them in the sacrament of matrimony. Eventually he was discovered by the Emperor, who promptly had Valentine arrested and brought before him. Because he was so impressed with the young priest, Claudius attempted to convert him to Roman paganism rather than execute him. However, Valentine held steadfast and in turn attempted to convert Claudius to Christianity, at which point the Emperor condemned him to death.

While in prison, Valentine was tended by the jailer, Asterius, and his blind daughter. Asterius' daughter was very kind to Valentine and brought him food and messages. They developed a friendship and toward the end of his imprisonment Valentine was able to convert both father and daughter to Christianity. Legend has it that he also miraculously restored the sight of the jailer's daughter.

The night before his execution, the priest wrote a farewell message to the girl and signed it affectionately "From Your Valentine," a phrase that lives on even to today. He was executed on February 14th, 273 AD in Rome. The Martyrology says, "At Rome, on the Flaminian Way, the heavenly birthday of the blessed martyr Valentine, a priest. After performing many miraculous cures and giving much wise counsel he was beaten and beheaded under Claudius Caesar."

The church in which he is buried existed already in the fourth century and was the first sanctuary Roman pilgrims visited upon entering the Eternal City.

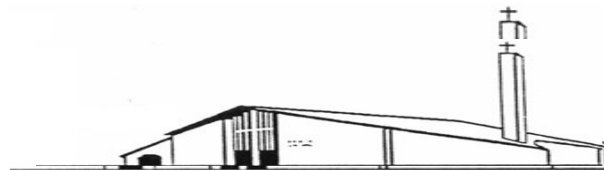
The valentine has become the universal symbol of friendship and affection shared each anniversary of the priest's execution -- St. Valentine's Day. Valentine has also become the patron of engaged couples.

***Happy Valentine's Day!***



**St. Stephen's Parish**

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**February 11, 2024**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Bishop of Corner Brook & Labrador.....	Most Rev. Bart Van Roijen
Pastor.....	Fr. Joseph Kizhakkekuruvidatathil CST
Associate Priest.....	Fr. Jaison Joseph Vizhukipara CST
Parish Council Chair.....	Debbie Wilton
Finance Committee Chair.....	Rosa Dollard
Administrative Assistant.....	Kim Ryan
St. Anne's Guild President.....	Vacant
Religious Education Coordinator.....	Michelle Hawco
Responsible Ministry Coordinator.....	Theresa Dollimont
Liturgy Coordinator.....	Bernice Maddock
Knights of Columbus.....	Grand Knight Conrad Benoit
4th Degree Assembly.....	Faithful Navigator Bob Miller

**SUNDAY MASSES**

Saturday Evening - 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday Morning - 10:30 a.m.

**REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday and Friday at 9:30 a.m.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday: 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.  
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

***Closed daily from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.***

**ROSARY GROUP**

Saturday at 2:00 pm

**MARRIAGES**

Six months notice required; a year's notice recommended

**RECONCILIATION**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 2:15 p.m. (or)

recommended.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION**

Please call parish office to register.

**MARIA REGINA PARISH MASS TIMES**

Saturdays: 4:30 p.m. & Sundays: 9:00 a.m.

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS TIMES**

Sunday 's at 10:30 am **EXCEPT** every second Sunday

**St. Stephens Prayer Group**

St. Stephen's prayer group meets on Tuesday's at 1:30 pm in the downstairs meeting room.

**WELCOME!**

**If you are new to the area, welcome to St. Stephen's Parish. If you would like to register as a new parishioner please reach out to the main office.**

Priest available 30 minutes before Mass