

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Offertory	\$1873.70
Dues	\$ 495.00
Building Fund	\$ 429.50
Initial Offerings	\$ 151.00
St. Vincent De Paul	\$ 5.00
Advent Folders	\$ 65.00
Christmas Day	\$ 50.00
New Years Day	\$ 210.00
Indian Residential Schools	\$ 45.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3334..20</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, January 16th at 7:00 pm**

Rowena Webb req. by donor

Late Monica Burke req. by Betty Morey

Late Leo Dunphy req. by Bernice & Shawn Dunphy

### **Wednesday, January 17th at 7:00 pm**

Int. Olivera White req. by donor

Late Betty Bruce req. by Marg & Wayne Lee

Late Norman & Betty Besaw req. by Gerard Besaw

### **Thursday, January 18th at 9:30 am**

Int. Millicent Penton req. by Madeline & George White

Late Lonnie White req. by donor

Late Betty Bruce req. by Loretta Nurse

### **Friday, January 12th at 9:30 am**

Int. Michelle White req. by donor

Late George Hynes req. by Sis & Maurice Hynes

Late Lorene Pittman req. by Joan O'Neill

## STEWARDSHIP      **Stewards Search**

*"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'"*

*JOHN 1:38*

When we recognize ourselves as Christian **Stewards**, it's easier to find what we are looking for. Once we see ourselves and others as children of God, we spend less time looking for the material comforts of the world. Instead, our hearts long for something deeper that can only be filled by God. Ask God daily how He wants you to live the life He intended for you.

## CHURCH HUMOUR      **Sanctuary Lamp**

A little boy was listening to a long and excessively boring sermon in Church on vocation to priesthood and religious life. Suddenly the red sanctuary lamp caught his eye. Tugging his father's sleeve, he said, "Daddy, when the light turns green can we go home?"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Knights of Columbus** in Stephenville will be hosting the monthly Community Café on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- **The 4<sup>th</sup> degree meeting** of the Knights of Columbus will be on Thursday evening, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm.
- **The Parish Council** meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.
- **Pilgrimage to Medjugorje** will take place May 17-27, 2024. Information is posted on the bulletin board at the back of the Church.

## **Man's Capacity for God** (*From the Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

### **I Believe (26)**

Understanding what "to believe" means:

Man's search for God (Chapter One)

God coming to man by Revelation (Chapter Two)

Man responding in faith (Chapter Three)

### **Called to Search for God (27-28)**

God has placed a desire for himself in every person. He draws man to himself and facilitates man's search. Man is called to speak with God and be in communion with him (Second Vatican Council).

Historically, man's religious beliefs have been expressed in diverse ways. These religious expressions show that man is a "religious being." "God made all peoples that they would search for him" (Acts 17:26-27).

### **Inhibiting Factors (29-30)**

Many factors (ignorance, evil, desire for riches, bad example, teachings hostile to religion) lead man to reject his "vital bond to God." Out of fear, man hides himself (Gen 3:8-10).

God still calls man to seek him, and every person must search for God with his intellect, will and "an upright heart." "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you" (St. Augustine).

### **Hearing the Voice of God**

It's true that, throughout your day, God is speaking to you. He is constantly communicating His truth and His direction for your life, and He is constantly bestowing His Mercy. The problem is that His voice is ever so gentle and silent. Why? Because He wants all of your attention. He will not attempt to compete with the many distractions of your day. He will not impose Himself upon you. Rather, He waits for you to turn to Him, to set aside all distractions, and to be attentive to His quiet but clear voice (See *Diary* #130).

Do you hear God speak? Are you attentive to His gentle interior promptings? Do you let the many distractions of your day drown out God's voice or do you habitually set those aside, diligently seeking Him all the more? Seek His interior promptings this day. Know that these promptings are signs of His unfathomable love for you. And know, that through them, God is seeking your

full attention.

*Lord, I love You and desire to seek You in all things. Help me to be aware of the ways in which You speak to me day and night. Help me to be attentive to Your voice and to be led by Your gentle hand. I give myself to You completely my Lord. I love You and wish to know You more fully. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## **The Winter Seasons**

The opening days of January may be cold and nature bleak, but the domestic church still glows warm with the peace and joy of Christmas. We dedicate the New Year to Mary on the January 1st Solemnity honoring her as Mother of God; and on January 7, the Solemnity of Epiphany, we rejoice with her, as her Son is adored by the three Wise Men.

Herald John, who ushered in the Advent season, is present once again to close Christmastide on the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord (The First Luminous Mystery), and to open the Season of Ordinary Time. He points to Jesus, the Lamb of God who unites time and eternity in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, and even January's diminishing darkness seems to echo St. John's prayer: "He must increase and I must decrease."

In this liturgical season the Church eagerly follows Our Lord as he gathers his apostles and announces his mission. At Cana's wedding feast (The Second Luminous Mystery) he performs his first public miracle at the request of his Mother, and his disciples saw his glory and believed in him.

We, his present-day disciples pray for a like faith as we contemplate the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb and the unique role of the Blessed Mother in the plan of salvation. May we wholeheartedly obey her words of counsel: "Do whatever he tells you."

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador

January 5th, 2024

Dear Priests and Parishioners:

With the expected arrival of Father Jaison, CST, on January 25th, 2024 there will be a slight shuffle and a slow return to normal in regards to pastoral appointments.

**As of February 1st, 2024:**

Fr. Joseph, CST, presently serving as Pastor in the parishes of Lourdes, Mainland and Cape St. George, will move to Stephenville to assume responsibility as Pastor of Stephenville, Port au Port East and St. Fintan's, with pastoral responsibilities to the parish in Piccadilly.

Fr. Jaison, CST, arriving on January 25th, 2024 will be assigned as his assistant. (It is hoped that the Congregation of St. Theresa will take responsibility for this cluster of parishes from here on in, providing the stability that Stephenville requires).

**As of February 14th, 2024 (Ash Wednesday):**

Fr. Gerard Patry, presently serving as the temporary Pastor of Stephenville, Port au Port East and St. Fintan's, will remain in Stephenville for two weeks, making sure there is a smooth transition, after which he will return to Holy Rosary Parish in Pasadena to resume his responsibilities as Pastor of that parish.

Fr. Anthony Anh, presently serving as Pastor of Deer Lake and temporary Pastor of Pasadena, will relinquish his responsibility of the parish in Pasadena and resume his responsibilities over the mission parishes of Norris Point and St. Paul's.

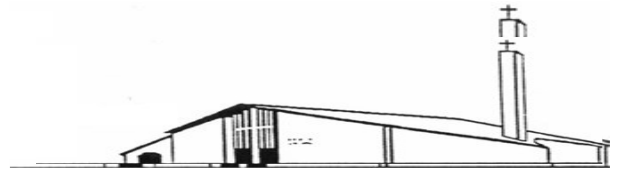
Fraternally in Christ,

Bishop Bart van Roijen



# St. Stephen's Parish

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Web: www.ststephensparish.com



January 14, 2024

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bishop of Corner Brook & Labrador.....	Most Rev. Bart Van Roijen
Administrator.....	Fr. Gerard Patry
Associate Priest.....	Fr. Assiongbon Loko
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