

CONTRIBUTIONS

December 26, 31, 2023 & January 1, 2024

Offertory	\$2965.95
Dues	\$ 850.00
Building Fund	\$ 83.00
Initial Offerings	\$ 251.00
Shepherds Fund	\$ 45.00
St. Vincent De Paul	\$ 30.00
Needs of the Canadian Church	\$ 5.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 5.00
Advent Folders	\$ 240.00
Christmas Day	\$ 307.00
New Years Day	\$1020.00
Total	\$5801.95

E-TRANSFERS

If you wish to e-transfer your donations, please use the following email address:

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.

Our Condolences on the Death of Sister Carmelita MacNeil We extend our sincere condolences to the MacNeil family on the death of Sr. Carmelita MacNeil, PBVM, December 23rd. Sr. Carmelita ministered in a number of our parishes, most recently in Pasadena and Deer Lake. She retired to St. John's as a result of ail-

ing health. We pray for the repose of her soul, her family, her Presentation Sister Community and for the many people whose lives she impacted with her joy-filled ministry. May she rest in peace.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 8th at 9:30 am

Baptism of the Lord; the Liturgical end of the Christmas season.

Int. Jeanette Gaulton req. by Beverly

Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 pm Late Venna,

Myra, & Leslie White req. by donor

Late Annette Hynes req. by Dana, Pat, & Monica Hynes

Late Martie Tourout req. by donor

Wednesday, January 10th at 7:00 pm

Late Jack & Pearl Dover req. by Sis & Maurice Hynes

Late Frank & Theresa Crocker and Stan &

Margaret White req. by Madeline & George White.

Late Martha Tourout req. by Bob & Diane Howlette

Thursday, January 11th at 9:30 am

Late Scott Sheppard req. by Monica Sheppard

Late Jerry White req. by donor

Late Sister Carmelita MacNeil req. by donor

Friday, January 12th at 9:30 am

Healing Mass

Int. Cecelia Walsh req. by Madeline & George White

Late Jim Woodford req. by Betty Morey

Late Robert & Mildred White req. by donor

STEWARDSHIP

Stewards Worship

"They fell down and worshipped him.

Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

MATTHEW 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, as Christian **Stewards**, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

CHURCH HUMOUR *Three Wise Women*

While they were talking about the story of the three wise men, a woman asked her parish priest, this question, "Do you know why God gave the star to the wise men?" When he professed his ignorance, she told him: "God knows men are too proud to ask directions. If there had been three wise women instead of three wise men, they would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and given some practical gifts!"

OVERVIEW OF THE MONTH

The first eight days of January fall during the liturgical season known as Christmas which is represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remaining days of January are the beginning of liturgical season known as Ordinary Time (formerly Time After Epiphany), which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green is a symbol of hope, as it is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The liturgical color green is worn during prayer of Offices and Masses of Ordinary Time.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

In the first part of January we continue to rejoice and celebrate Christ's coming at Bethlehem and in our hearts. We have the wonderful feasts of Mary, Mother of God, where we honor Mary's highest title, and then we follow the Magi to the crib as they bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on Epiphany. Finally we reach the culmination of this season with the Baptism of Our Lord by St. John the Baptist. With a touch of sadness we take down our decorations and enter into the liturgical period known as Ordinary Time where we will devote ourselves to the mystery of Christ in its entirety.

This is a time of growth and an opportunity to allow the dignity of Sunday to shine forth pro-

longing the joy of Easter and Pentecost. Besides those previously mentioned the month's saint days include:

Mary Mother of God	January 1
Holy Name of Jesus	January 3
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	January 4
St. John Neumann	January 5
St. Andre Bessette	January 6
St. Marguerite Bourgeoys	January 12
St. Anthony, Abbot	January 17
Sts. Fabian and Sebastian	January 20
St. Francis de Sales	January 2
Conversion of St. Paul	January 25
Sts. Timothy and Titus	January 26
St. Angela Merici	January 27
St. Thomas Aquinas	January 28

The optional memorials of

St. Raymond of Penafort	January 7
St. Agnes, January 21, and St. John Bosco, January 31,	are superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Confirmation for those 18 years of age and older will be starting on January 11, 2024. It is approximately a six week program with Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. For those interested in joining please contact the Parish Office.

Parkinson's Group: The first meeting of the Bay St. George Parkinson's group will take place on Sunday, January 7th from 2:00pm-4:00 pm in the Knights of Columbus on West St., Stephenville. Coffee and tea will be served. Please contact Irving or Fran Campbell at 709 643 9172 or 709 649 5486. Clients with Parkinson's and their partners, family members, and Home Care Workers are welcome to attend.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje will take place May 17-27, 2024. Information is posted on the bulletin board.

January 7, 2024

Epiphany of The Lord

Jesus' Infancy and Hidden Life *From Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The Three Wise Men (528)

The Epiphany event (which includes the wise men, Jesus' Baptism, and the wedding feast of Cana) manifests Jesus as Israel's Messiah, the Son of God and Savior of the world. The Magi represent the pagan nations who will welcome the Gospel. By their coming to Jerusalem, they correctly seek in Israel the King of the nations. Only by turning toward the Jews can the pagans discover Jesus. All the nations are part of the "family of the patriarchs" and "worthy of the heritage of Israel" (St. Leo the Great).

Marriage of the Virgin

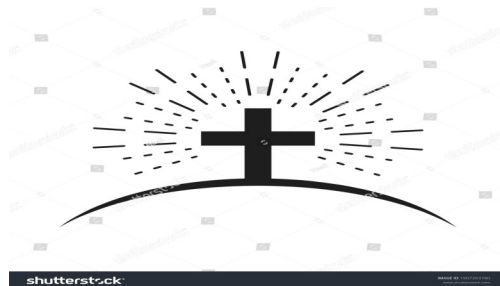
There is an ancient tradition that when the time came for the Virgin Mary to be betrothed her guardians ordered lots to be drawn, so that God himself might choose a worthy spouse for the ward of the Temple. The order was that the candidates for Mary's hand should each place a branch of an almond tree overnight in the Temple. When morning came and all were assembled at the appointed place, it was found that the smooth branch of Joseph, son of Jacob, had blossomed into a beautiful flower and leaf. This sign was held by all as a testimony of Joseph's worthiness.

The Incarnation and Birth

When the eternal Son of God took on flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, human nature was changed forever. By uniting Himself with humanity, God raised our dignity to a whole new level. The Incarnation established a new unity between God and man and this is an act of the utmost Mercy on God's part.

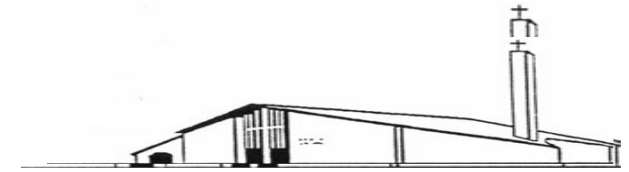
Ponder, today, the great miracle of new life. Think of the birth of a small child. And then try to imagine this little and helpless child being the Creator of the Universe and the Savior of the World. What a gift of God's Mercy!

Lord, I thank You with profound gratitude for uniting Your divine soul with fallen humanity. I thank You for uniting Yourself with me, a sinner. May I always be in awe of the Mercy bestowed upon me through Your Incarnation. Jesus, I trust in You.



St. Stephen's Parish

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Web: www.ststephensparish.com



January 7, 2024

Epiphany of The Lord

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

1st 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 Church basement.

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