

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

What can barren fig trees tell us about the kingdom of God? Fig trees were a common and important source of food for the Jews. Bad figs or a decaying fig tree was linked with evil deeds and spiritual decay. The unfruitful fig tree symbolized the outcome of Israel's unresponsiveness to the word of God. The prophets depicted the languishing fig tree as signifying the desolation and calamity of Israel due to her unfaithfulness to God (see Joel 1:7,12; Habakuk 3:17; and Jeremiah 8:13). Jeremiah said that evil people are like rotten figs (Jeremiah 24:2-8). This parable of Jesus depicts the patience of God, but it also contains a warning that we should not presume upon it. God gives us time to get right with him, but that time is now. We must not assume that there is no hurry. A sudden and unexpected death leaves one no time to prepare to settle one's accounts when he or she must stand before the Lord on the day of judgment. Jesus warns us that we must be ready at all times. Tolerating sinful habits and excusing unrepentant sin will result in bad fruit and eventual destruction. The Lord in his mercy gives us both grace and time to turn away from sin and from worldliness, but that time is right now. If we delay, even for a day, we may discover that grace has passed us by and our time is up. Do you hunger for the Lord's righteousness and holiness?

"Lord, increase my hunger for your righteousness and holiness. May I not squander the grace of the present moment to say "yes" to you, to your will, and to your way of holiness."
Rc.net

Parish of St. Stephen the Martyr Corp.

10 Pearl Place, Mount Pearl, NL

Office Address

Suite #2
131 McNamara Drive, Paradise, NL

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 4025
Mount Pearl, NL
A1N 0A1

Office Hours Number

10 - 1 PM
Monday to Friday

Telephone

(709)- 781-5631

Website

ststephenthemartyr.ca

Email Address

secretary@ststephenthemartyr.ca

Archbishop & Primate

The Most Rev'd Foley Beach

Diocesan Bishop

The Rt. Rev'd Charles Masters

Honourary Associate

The Rev'd Marilyn Flower

Rector

The Rev'd Howard Hynes

Parish Secretary-Treasurer

Lois Drover

Rector's Warden

Wayne Drover

Peoples' Warden

Ed Noseworthy

Synod Delegate

ARDFC Ambassador

Eleanor Muise

Parish Council

Robert Batten Ed Noseworthy

Eleanor Muise Gil Pritchett

Greeter Coordinator

Gloria Chafe

Prayer Coordinator

Ruby Chapman

Altar Care / Eucharistic Assistant Coordinators

Rita & Herman Russell

Band "Joyful Noise"

Robert Batten

Nina O'Brien

Ruth Stanley

Owen Brown

Rick Stanley

Selby Mesher

Pianist

Trudy Harvey

Projection / Sound

Darlene Chafe

Safe Church Coordinators

Ed & Daphne Noseworthy

Committee on Constitution & By-Laws

Wayne Drover Hayward Keats

Ed Noseworthy Gil Pritchett

Bethel Series Instructor

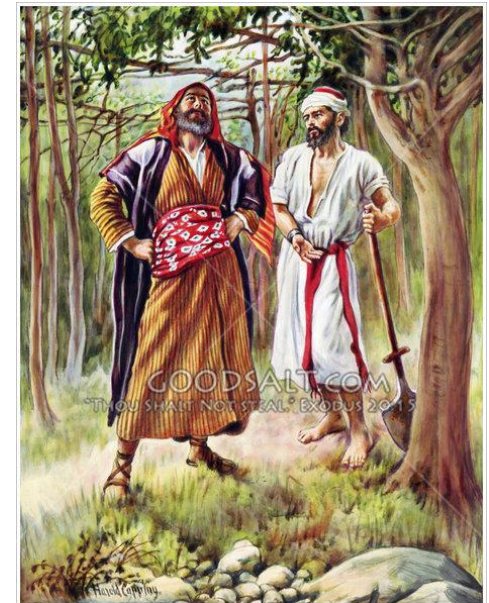
The Rev'd Marilyn Flower

ANiC Parish of

St. Stephen The Martyr

The Third Sunday of Lent

February 28th, 2016



THE MARTYR'S CROWN

Peoples' worship is disrupted when cell phones ring. As a gift to each other, we turn *off our* cell phone ringers during worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Services

Today

Service followed by AGM

Next Week (March 6)

Holy Eucharist BAS

Musicians

Today

Trudy Harvey

Next Sunday

Joyful Noise

Greeters /Gift Bearers

Today Hayward & Phyllis Keats

Next Sunday Gloria & Darlene Chafe

Altar Care / Eucharistic Assistants

Today Gloria Chafe & Nina Brown

Next Sunday Wayne Drover & Winnie Ollerhead

Prayer Room

Today Eleanor Muise & Trudy Harvey

Next Sunday Daphne Pritchett & Ruby Chapman

Hall Monitor

Today

Gil Pritchett

Next Sunday

Hayward Keats

Welcome



Welcome to the Parish of St.

Stephen the Martyr. Whether a member or visitor, may you experience the presence of God in our worship today. If you have any concerns, please make them known to the Rector or one of the Wardens. (Refer to the back of the bulletin for names.) Should you desire prayer for yourself or someone else, there are individuals ready to pray with you.

St. Stephen the Martyr is a parish within the diocese of the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC). ANiC spans the whole nation, from sea to sea to sea, and is a diocese within the ecclesiastical province of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). ACNA includes Canada and the USA. While ACNA is not officially recognized by the Archbishop of Canterbury as part of the world wide Anglican Communion, it is recognized by the majority of Anglicans in the world, most of whom live in the global south.

Reminder: If you miss a service and are looking for information, check out our bulletin on our website under resources, or our calendar under news and events. It is posted each Monday morning.

Office Fund: A reminder to use your office fund envelopes that were passed out recently. If you would like more envelopes, just ask Lois.

Our Daily Bread for March, April and May are available at the back of the church.

Wednesday Night Prayer: will change to Thursdays during Lent (February 10 to March 25th) 7:30 - 8:30 PM, at the parish office. We meet every **Thursday** night. No one need be an expert in prayer to attend! In fact, when it comes to prayer, there are no experts. God invites us to pray as we can, not as we 'ought'.

Wednesday Night Lenten Program: This Wednesday at 6:30 PM. More than 65 people were present last week from both congregations.

First Friday Call To Prayer: Just an advance reminder that you are invited to the parish office for The First Friday Call To Prayer- March 11 at 2 PM.

Good Samaritan Women's Mission Dinner:

MAGIC WOK, Water St. West on March 15th at 6:30pm. We will have a private room with a set menu of 8 dishes per table of 8-10 people, sort of like a buffet at each table. Cost \$23.00 pp (not including tea/coffee). Signup sheet will be available at Wednesday evening service or call Maxeline at 739-7535.

Centre for Life is offering support to seniors in our community with :
Computer Classes For Seniors . If you would like to learn more about social media communications to stay in touch with family and friends please contact the office.
Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. Seniors 65+ looking to have their 2015 income tax prepared starting March 1 can call to make an appointment . For more information on the volunteer income tax clinic visit <http://www.cra.gc.ca/volunteer> or Centre for Life at 579-1500 .



Healing- Art & Jessie, Owen, Bruce, Ruth, Mark, Robin and family, Selby

Church: Diocese (ANiC), Ecclesiastical Province (ACNA), Diocesan Bishop, The Right Reverend Charlie Masters, Archbishop, The Most Reverend Foley Beach. Pray for those newly elected to the Parish Council today.

Canada: for Prime Minister Trudeau and our Canadian Government, that they may be diligent in their duties to the people of Canada.

Our Province: Premier Ball and the Gov't of NL, the Mayors and councilors of our cities and towns.

The World: Syrian Refugees, persecuted Christians, the unrest in Israel, Iraq and Afghanistan and all victims of Isis worldwide. The people of Burundi, Africa and the efforts by ARDFC to help them.