

October 2, 2011 Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Stephen's Church	Rev. Tom Kuffel	207 N. Union Ave.	Exeter, NE 68351
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Date	Time	Place	Intention	By	Feast Day
Mon. Oct 3	7:30 AM	Exeter	Jeremy Aden	Gary & Carol Aden	
Mon. Oct 3	7:00 PM	Exeter	Confirmation		
Tues. Oct 4	7:30 AM	Exeter	Shelly Billerbeck	Marge Bonta	
Wed. Oct 5	6:30 PM	McCool			
Thu. Oct 6	10:30 AM	Care Center	Shelly Billerbeck	Marion Geiger	
Fri. Oct 7	7:30 AM	McCool	Gene Ruhl Family		
Sat. Oct 8	8:00 AM	No Mass Here	Connie White	Scott & Cathy Norquest	
Sat. Oct 8	9:00 AM	Exeter Church Hall		Altar Society	
Sat. Oct 8	5:00 PM	Exeter	Ollie & Minnie Dumpert	Joan Dumpert	
Sun. Oct 9	8:30 AM	Exeter	Adolph Kreinert	Joe & Sharla Dinneen	
Sun. Oct 9	10:00 AM	McCool	For the Parish		

October Ministers

Sat 8	A-Mark	L-Children	S-Kirby & Jack	U & G – Children's Mass	Children will be assigned
Sun 9	A-Brad	L-Children	S-Stephen & James	U & G – Children's Mass	Children will be assigned
Sat 15	A-Gerry	L-Rick	S-Elliot & Mitchell	U-Peg Becker	G-Bob & Kate Harre
Sun 16	A-Roger	L-Denice	S-Cameron & Eli	U-Agnes	G-Tim & Barb Schepers
Sat 22	A-Ron	L-LCCW	S-Evan & Theron	U & G – LCCW Women	will be Assigned
Sun 23	A-Rusty	L-LCCW	S-Spencer & Caleb	U & G – LCCW Women	will be Assigned

Prayer Intentions: Dawn Welch, Kelley Champion, Bernard & Lorene Zeleny, Joan Dumpert, J.J. Dinneen, Taylor Thomas, Marleene Gallup, Dick Manning, Steve Lawson, Tim Becker, Joe Huber Jr., Judy Geiger, Patrick Hoarty, Carol Smith, Cindy Hogman, Zach Johnson, Lauren Dick, Stephanie Salyer, Mark Thomsen, Noah Lambrecht, & Military Personnel Jason A. & Lacey Hood, Rob Coffey, Jacque Erks, Zac Hartmann, Anthony & Alex Due.

St. Stephen's Church Support 9-25-2011

Adult Envelopes	\$1233.00	Loose Plate	\$49.00	Children	\$1.00	Total	\$1283.00
Number of Envelops	\$1 - \$5 [1]	\$6 – 10 [7]	\$11 - \$20 [12]	\$21 - \$40 [13]	\$41 & Up [9]		
Vocations Total:	\$620.00	Mission Co-op Total:	\$421.80				

** The actual budget for collections is \$85,305 for this fiscal year. It includes envelopes, loose plate, children, and special collections (i.e. Christmas, Easter, etc). On average, we need to collect \$1640 weekly in order to balance our budget. Check here weekly to see the actual collections compared to the budget. **Fiscal Year-to-Date we are at \$17,770 and we should be at \$21,320.**

Announcements

Birthdays: Kayla Becker – Oct 2nd, Emilie Krienert – Oct 3rd, Kathy Erdkamp – Oct 5th, Jeanette Franzen – Oct 8th

Anniversaries: Norm & Monica Bristol – September 26th (Sorry this was missed last week)

Happy Birthday to Father Kuffel on October 2nd! Thanks for all you do for us Father Kuffel!

CCD: Oct 2nd – Regular Class. Youth Choir Practice after class at the church. **Oct 9th** – Regular Class.

- CCD Children will be collecting money for the Holy Childhood in October. There will be buckets in the back of the church during the month. Please drop your change for the children of the world!

Confirmation: Oct. 3rd at 7PM. Congratulations to the following students: James Becker, Quinton Behrens, Ashley Benorden, Janey Erdkamp, Kellan Green, Evan Harre, Hannah Horne, Samantha Horne, Mitchell Manning, Lucy Murphy, Theron Odvody, Stephen Ruhl, Cameron White, and Katherine White .

CYO: Oct 5th – Mass at 6:30PM. Class to follow in McCool.

Altar Society: Samantha Horne won the September Basket. The October basket is called "Thanks for a bountiful harvest". It was donated by Pat Rocolo.

- Oct 1-2 we will have job assignments and raffle tickets for the salad luncheon. Please pick up your packet. Luncheon tickets will be available at the bank or you can get tickets from Kathy at 266-4621.
- Circle 1 is in charge of serving cookies for Confirmation. (Oct 3rd at 7PM).
- We will have no meeting in the month of October.

Diaper Drive: The Altar Society is collecting diapers in October. They may be left in the back of church. Thank you!

October 2nd at 5PM Holy Hour: Sun in Exeter & Sun., October 2nd in McCool after the 10AM Mass.

October 2nd from 2-3PM Life Chain: Sun., in Friend on Hwy 6 & Maple. As Catholics we are obliged to pray and promote the value of each human person from the beginning of life to natural death.

Sat., Oct. 8th Crete Deanery Fall Breakfast: Hall in Exeter. Meeting from 8:45-12. Mass at 9 (at the Hall). Circle 3 coffee & rolls.

Sun, Oct 9th Outdoor Sunday Mass at Camp Kateri: at 3PM. Barbeque to follow. In appreciation for God's bountiful harvest and all the supporters of Camp Kateri. Come and enjoy the Fall Season with God in this outdoor Mass.

TEC (Dec 3 – 5) and Quest Retreat Freshman & Sophomores: Nov 19 – 20 (www.dioceseoflincoln.org/green/flo/quest.htm)

Think on These Things

The goal of the parish as outlined in 1993 by John Paul II, tells us that the focal point of the parish is the sacramental life of the Church as well as Catholic Formation and Charitable Works along with Social Activities. In essence the parish is your home.

The most important activities take place in your homes and so too the most important spiritual activities take place in the parish. For many, the Church is merely a building for Sunday Worship. But a house is a building with bedrooms, it takes a family to make it a home. This is also true in the parish. The building is just a place, and for many it is a museum of sorts, but the parishioners make the parish come alive. Healthy parishes celebrate life. They celebrate the joys, sorrows, and struggles that people face by giving them a place to pray, a place to emote, a place to learn, a place to do works of charity, and a place to socialize. We need people to invest in their church just as we need members to invest in their family. If people do not engage in family life, the family dies. If people do not engage in parish life the parish dies also. To have a vibrant parish, we must see our faith as critical to our happiness. If faith does not promote love, joy, happiness, and holiness, then the parish will die. That is why we need people not just to come to parish activities, but to enjoy them as a great celebration. Nothing inspires others to become involved as does joy. Today, we see many Christians who grieve over life. They become embittered, angry, and critical. This sabotages the work and mission of the Church. We are to be a charitable group who reaches out to others in need for we, full of joy, have received from God all our needs.

Pope Benedict

If the international community is to be truly “united” against hunger, then poverty must be overcome through *authentic human development*, based on the idea of the person as a unity of body, soul and spirit. Today, though, there is a tendency to limit the vision of development to one that satisfies the material needs of the person, especially through access to technology; yet authentic development is not simply a function of what a person “has”, it must also embrace higher values of fraternity, solidarity and the common good.

In order to sustain levels of food security in the short term, adequate funding must be provided so as to make it possible for agriculture to reactivate production cycles, despite the deterioration of climatic and environmental conditions. These conditions, it must be said, have a markedly negative impact on rural populations, crop systems and working patterns, especially in countries that are already afflicted with food shortages. Developed countries have to be aware that the world’s growing needs require consistent levels of aid from them. They cannot simply remain closed towards others: such an attitude would not help to resolve the crisis.

Indeed, the nations of the world are called to give and to receive in proportion to their effective needs, by reason of that “*pressing moral need for renewed solidarity*, especially in relationships between developing countries and those that are highly industrialized” ([*Caritas in Veritate*](#), 49).

The recent worthy campaign “*1 Billion Hungry*”, by which the United Nations raises awareness of the urgency of the fight against hunger, has highlighted the need for an adequate response both from individual countries and from the international community, even when the response is limited to assistance or emergency aid. This is why a reform of international institutions according to the principle of subsidiarity is essential, since “institutions by themselves are not enough, because integral human development is primarily a vocation, and therefore it involves a free assumption of responsibility in solidarity on the part of everyone” (*ibid.*, 11).

In order to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, obstacles of self-interest must be overcome so as to make room for a fruitful *gratuitousness*, manifested in international cooperation as an expression of genuine fraternity. In addition to whatever plans for intervention and programs of action may prove necessary, individuals, peoples and countries must be allowed to shape their own development, taking advantage of external assistance in accordance with priorities and concepts rooted in their traditional techniques, in their culture, in their religious patrimony and in the wisdom passed on from generation to generation within the family.

The Church is always ready to work for the defeat of hunger. Indeed, she is constantly at work, through her own structures, to alleviate the poverty and deprivation afflicting large parts of the world’s population, and she is fully conscious that her own engagement in this field forms part of a common international effort to promote unity and peace among the community of peoples.

Section 38 – The 7th & 10th Commandments

Possession or Obsessions: You Shall Not Steal or Covet Your Neighbors Goods

Every commandment that God gives us is concise, but the implications are multifaceted. You shall not steal and do not covet your neighbors goods are full of various meanings. But the simplest explanation for these two commandments is St. Paul’s definition about money: “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs” (1 Tim 6:10).

Stealing is wrong and coveting your neighbor’s goods creates turmoil, but the root of stealing and coveting is greed. The Seventh and Tenth Commandments are not simple admonitions telling us to not take something that belongs to another, or not to be jealous and envious of another person’s wealth, but protects our hearts from being obsessed with material things. Christians are called to live a simple lifestyle. We are to invest our time, talent, and treasure in works of mercy. These commandments teach us to detach from worldly powers, pleasures, and possessions.

Our society is full of greed; it is called consumerism and consumption. We live in a possessive world. We want and once we have we want more. We are never satisfied when it comes to possessions for we know that we can have more. Just like any addiction, greed keeps us wanting to have more, be more, and create more thinking more is better.

Power, pleasures, and possessions are the three great temptations in our life. Love of money stimulates these temptations. Money creates new opportunities for us to sin for we have greater access to these temptations. In fact, money creates more problems in our lives for we have more responsibility. That is why advertisers create ads to stimulate our desires to possess. Stimulated by advertisements, social standards, and status symbols, we use money to achieve worldly happiness. We have bought the lie: Happiness comes with possessions.

The statistics of the rich show us that money cannot buy happiness.” Psychological studies show that the wealthier people are the more intense negative emotions they experience. These studies do not link wealth with greater experienced happiness” (Louis Chang WebMd 6/2006). In fact, the love of money and the power it brings corrupts us. St. Paul wrote many years ago. “People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction” (1 Tim 6:9).

These two commandments tell us not to steal and covet material things. This frees us to seek what will please us and create for us true happiness. Simplicity of life is what brings happiness. Being detached from our personal possessions safeguards our hearts from being possessive. Detachment allows us to follow the advice of Tobit: “Through all your days, son, keep the Lord in mind, and do not seek to sin or to transgress the commandments. Perform righteous deeds all the days of your life, and do not tread the paths of wickedness. For those who act with fidelity, all who practice righteousness will prosper in their affairs. Give alms from your possessions. Do not turn your face away from any of the poor, so that God’s face will not be turned away from you. Give in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, do not be afraid to give alms even of that little. You will be storing up a goodly treasure for yourself against the day of adversity. For almsgiving delivers from death and keeps one from entering into Darkness. Almsgiving is a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who practice it. Be on your guard, son, against every kind of fornication, and above all, marry a woman of your own ancestral family” Tobit 4:6 -10)

True freedom begins with using the things of this world for the glory of God not for our self-glorification. We are the caretakers of creation not the owners and the better we care for creation and the created things we can make or purchase, the better our lives will be.

Malachi wrote long ago that we should not rob God (Malachi 3:8). We rob God when we fail to offer our tithes and time. More importantly, we rob God when we start to covet and crave for earthly goods over heavenly joy. The tithe that God demands of us is not for Him, but for us. We are asked to tithe to free us from becoming greedy and possessive. Charitable donations force us to give away what we naturally want to control.

To break ourselves from consumerism, the root being greed, we need charity. Instead of hoarding and spending, we should donate and serve others. The seventh and tenth commandments tell us what not to do, Tobit tells us what to do. Live a simple lifestyle so that our treasure is serving God in heaven – not serving Satan on earth!

Prayer: Lord, I come before you today in need of your healing hand. In you all things are possible. Hold my heart within yours, and renew my mind, body, and soul. I am lost, but I am singing. You gave us life, and you also give us the gift of infinite joy. Give me the strength to move forward on the path you’ve laid out for me. Guide me towards better health, and give me the wisdom to identify those you’ve placed around me to help me get better. In your name I pray, Amen.

Quote: “As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.” — Pope John Paul II

