

St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



**Your ways, O Lord, make known to me;
teach me your paths.**

— Psalm 25:4

Image © Copyright Thinkstock.com

PARISH

3949 Wilmington Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63116
314 481-1133 ph
314 481-6036 fax
stephenpro@sbcglobal.net
www.saintstephenstl.org

Chapel of Sts. Mary and Joseph

6304 Minnesota
St. Louis, MO 63111

SCHOOL

3929 Wilmington Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63116
314 752-4700 ph
314 752-5165 fax
meghanbohacssp@gmail.com
fastdir.com/saintstephenstl

Reverend Ron Hopmeir, Pastor

Rev. Msgr. Richard Hanneke, In Residence
Ms. Pam Holmes, Director of Liturgical Music and Worship
Mrs. Mary Regan, Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Barb Schlanger, Office Manager
Mrs. Mary Ellen Holdenried, Office Assistant
Mrs. Leigh Manalang, Senior Ministry Coordinator
Mrs. Meghan Bohac, Principal
Mrs. Mary Paule, Child Safety Coordinator

Striking a balance

There is an old rabbinic story about a faithful Jew who every morning would write down on a piece of paper the words *I am but dust and ashes* and place the paper in his pocket. Throughout the day he would take out the paper and read it; the words, spoken by Abraham in the Book of Genesis (Genesis 18: 27), served as a prayerful reminder of his unworthiness and humility before God.

One day he showed the paper to his rabbi. The rabbi was moved by his congregant's reverence. But the rabbi took out a second piece of paper and wrote the Hebrew words *Bishvili Novra haslam* - "For my sake, the universe was created."

"Take these words, as well, and carry them too," the rabbi said. "Let there be balance in your life. Realize that of yourself, before God, you are nothing - but because you are created in God's image, out of love, you possess the greatest dignity imaginable: you are a child of God."

► *Our Lenten desert experience is a time for striking that balance between realizing our humility before God and our identity as God's beloved. When we are consumed by the notion that we are in total control of our lives, when we have arrogantly self-absorbed because of what we possess and what we have achieved, we should take out the first "paper" and remember: I am but dust and ashes. But when we feel abandoned, when hope seems far away, when we feel lost in the Lenten wilderness, we need to embrace the message of the second sheet: For my sake, God created the universe. I am God's beloved; I am created in God's image. May these next six weeks before Easter be a time for striking that balance in our lives: a balance between humility that leads to selflessness and joy in the ever-present love of God in our midst. ◀*

From [Connections: February 2012](#)

Leadership Councils

The **Parish Board of Education** members are: Gina Esswein, Colleen Hazelton, Jason Joly, Mary Beth Kuntz, Tim Mantych, Angie Peters, Bill Peters, Robin Venneman, Andy Vogel, Fr. Ron Hopmeir, Meghan Bohac and Mary Regan.



GALA: FINAL REPORT

After many months of planning, lots of work by many, and a great event by all accounts, we are pleased to share with you the financial success of the 2012 Gala.

REVENUE	\$48,276
Reservations	\$11,020
Auction	\$7,249
Signup Parties	\$5,915
Raffles/Party Pics	\$12,198
Cash Donations	\$2,352
Alumni Club	\$3,087
Fund-A-Need	\$6,455
EXPENSES	\$17,166
House	\$5,948
Dinner/Bar	\$2,218
Printing/Postage	\$3,973
Auction/Raffles	\$3,813
Administrative/Banking	\$1,214
PROFIT	\$31,110

Thanks to all for the gift of your time, talent, and treasure

Fondly,

Victoria Hatfield & Stephanie Wobbe

Online Giving

Don't forget to sign up for Online Giving! We are now offering an online option that complements our offering envelope use. By signing up to give your weekly offertory and special collections online, you will help the parish more accurately forecast our finances and plan more strategically. Online Giving is a safe, secure and dependable means of income for the parish. It cuts down on office "busy work" so we can focus more on the mission of the parish. Go to www.saintstephenstl.org for more information or to sign up. Click on Online Giving and follow the prompts. If you have any questions please talk to Barb in the parish office.

Texas Hold'Em Tournament

Immaculate Heart of Mary's Men's Club is sponsoring a Texas Hold'Em Tournament on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012 at Father Keaney Center. Men & Women Welcome! Donation \$40 (includes food, snacks & drinks) Must be 21 years old. Doors open at 6 pm - Play begins at 7 pm.

For more information and/or reservations contact
John 353-7121 Aaron 752-9340 Tim 351-0638
Proceeds to benefit IHM Youth Athletics!

St. Stephen Protomartyr

Fish Fries!

3929 Wilmington, St. Louis, MO.
63116



Friday's Feb. 29th, March 2nd, 9th, 16th,
23rd, 30th
4:00 to 7:00pm

(Dine in or Carry out)

Marianist Award

Lelis Djona and Billy Mahfood were recently presented with the 2012 Marianist Award. This award honors a select group of Griffins who exemplify the characteristics of Marianist education in their daily lives.

St. John Vianney High School challenges our students to the call of spirituality, scholarship, leadership and service. Through our partnership with St. Stephen's and the Marianist tradition of academic and personal excellence, these young men have exemplified this call through their accomplishments.

Tuition Assistance for the 2012/2013 School Year

St. Stephen Tuition Assistance Program: Families enrolling their children at St. Stephen Protomartyr for the 2012/2013 school year and plan on applying for tuition assistance must apply through FACTS Grant & Aid. Families can access applications on-line through www.factstuitionaid.com. **The due date for the application is April 1, 2012 and you must fax your 2011 Income Tax Return.**

When you apply through FACTS Grant & Aid you also apply for grants through the Archdiocese.

Any **Catholic** family wishing to apply for tuition assistance through the Archdiocese for the 2012-2013 school year must obtain a "FACTS" application from the rectory. Students must attend an Archdiocesan or Parochial Elementary School or an Archdiocesan or Parochial High School to be eligible. The due date for the application is **April 1, 2012** and **must** include a copy of your 2011 Income Tax Return.

The Catholic Education Office appreciates the support of the ACA and all of its donors.

Tuition Assistance funds are made available due to the generosity of Parishioners using the Tuition Assistance Envelope included in the monthly envelope packet, and donations from parish organizations.

February 26, 2012 First Sunday of Lent

STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE and PRAYER

This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand (MARK 1:12-15)

February 19 Stewardship	\$ 5,883.00
Budget goal to date	\$313,237.00
Actual Contribution to date	\$255,854.48
Difference to date	(\$ 57,382.52)
Renovations & Improvements	\$ 10.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 170.00
1st Offering	\$ 2.00
St. Louis Review	\$ 69.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 15.00
Eastern Europe	\$ 165.00

Liturgical Ministries
Lectors
Saturday, March 3
4:00 PM - K. & R. Thenhaus
Sunday, March 4
8:00 AM - B. & G. Stoff
10:30 AM - D. Ruzicka, A. Wunderlich
Servers
Saturday, March 3
4:00 PM -R. Roth, J. Dailey
Sunday, March 4
8:00 AM - N. Renick, J. Grindel
10:30 AM - D. Chirco, T. Moylan

One year ago I was diagnosed with cancer, now after all this time I am breathing a little easier because right now I am cancer free. As I look back I see mostly dark but there was also some very bright light. You as a parish are responsible for some of my light in that dark time. I feel you really came through for me with all your prayers, cards and with my trivia night. I think you all have the light of God in you and I thank you for all you did for me and my family.

Peggy Amsler

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
- Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
- Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
- Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
- Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

This Week at St. Stephen Protomartyr

Monday Feb. 27	Tuesday Feb. 28	Wednesday Feb. 29	Thursday March 1	Friday March 2	Saturday March 3	Sunday March 4
	Arthritis Exercise 9 AM	All School Mass	Arthritis Exercise 9 AM Catholicism #6 9AM	All School Mass Tai Chi		New Student Registration 11:30 - 1:00
Catholicism #4 7:00 PM	6:30 First Communion Meeting	Parish Council 7:00 PM	Stewardship Meeting 7:00 PM	Fish Fry		

Faithful Departed

In the charity of your prayers please remember the brother of Gayle Chancellor who died recently.

Give him eternal rest, O Lord. May light unending shine on him. Receive his soul, O holy ones; present him now to God, Most High.

SSP Athletic Association will be accepting baseball & softball registrations for the 2012 season on Sunday, Feb 26th from 11:30am-12:30pm & Wednesday, Feb 29th from 7pm-8pm in the Parish Center lobby. If you have any questions please call John O'Brien at 352-7322 or Trish Vogel at 481-4298.

White House Retreat

Men of the parish are invited to our annual White House retreat beginning with dinner on Thursday, March 22. The retreat will end after lunch on Sunday March 25.

God is calling all of us to "Come aside and rest a while." (Mk 6:31). Consider making a silent Lenten retreat on the beautiful bluffs of the Mississippi.

Access www.whretreat.org to see the White House facilities and learn more about this Ignatian retreat experience. A DVD is also available.

For more information contact:

Dennis Carosello - 351-6219

Larry Esswein - 351-1417

Ron Thenhaus - 832-8395

Registration of New Students

Registration for *all new students in grades Pre-K-8th* for the 2012/2013 school year will take place on Sunday, March 4th from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM in the first floor school hallway. Parents should bring:

- A copy of the child's birth certificate
- A copy of the child's Baptismal certificate (unless they were baptized at St. Stephen Protomartyr)
- The child's Social Security card
- The immunization record
- Registration fee \$100 for Pre-K, \$200 for K-8

We will be glad to make copies of these documents at the time of registration. Children entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old by July 31st, 2012. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 752-4700, or send an email to amandaquinnssp@gmail.com.

Extra Cash

Looking for extra cash? Bevo ACIC is looing for people for our home delivered meal routes. You must have a reliable vehicle. You will be asked to undergo a background check, as do all who work with the elderly. The pay is \$8.00 an hour plus .50 a mile. Routes are approximately 10 miles and take about 2 hours to complete. 5 days a week, week days only. Please contact Jennifer Bess at 352-0141 for further details.

Immigrant & Refugee Women's Program

5th Annual Irish Hoolie

At Maggie O'Brien's, 2000 Market Street.

Featuring the musical talents of Mitzi MacDonald and Keltic Reign

Sunday, March 11, 2012

Doors open at noon

Music 1 pm - 3:30 pm. This is a family friendly event.

Advance tickets only \$7.50 \$10 at the door (children under 10 free)

Call 314.771.1104 for tickets or other information.

St. Alexius Hospital, Peterson Hall

3933 South Broadway

St. Louis, MO 63118

Luncheon/socials are held on the second Thursday of the month, February through November. The doors open at 10:00 am lunch is served at noon. Cost \$8.00 - no reservations needed. For more information call Sister Suzanne at 314-865-7027.

Dates: March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, and November 13.

Theology on Tap - February 28, 2012

An Evening with the Archbishop

A Q & A Session for young adults. With Archbishop Robert Carlson

Young adults are invited to spend a convivial evening with St. Louis' Archbishop Robert Carlson. Come with your questions - he will be there to hear from you and to share his thoughts with you. Be sure to come early - seating is limited in the Schlafly Tap Room, 2100 Locust St., to 200 guests!

South Grand Senior Ministry

HOUSING FAIR COMING TO ST. JOHN'S

Save the date of **Saturday, March 31** for South Grand Senior Ministry's Housing Fair! We will have many facility representatives at St. John the Baptist, 4200 Delor, to talk with you about Independent, Assisted and Nursing Home care plus many more helpful agencies for our seniors. The fair is from 9:00 am to Noon in the Parish Center. It is much easier to gather information about these facilities when you are not in crisis and really needing one of them. Family members are also invited to come and gather information. When the time comes for your loved one to make a decision about moving, everyone has the same information and it is helpful in making an informed decision.

OUR ANNUAL DAY OF RETREAT

Set aside some time this Lent for renewal in mind and spirit. South Grand Senior Ministry will have our annual day of retreat on **Wednesday, March 7th**, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at St. Anthony of Padua's Parish Hall, 3135 Meramec (across the street from the doors of the church). Our presenter will be Sr. Anne Simms, O.P. who will speak to us about the "*Gifts Given along Life's Journey.*" Sr. Anne is a spiritual director in the St. Louis area. She brings with her years of experience in retreat work, spiritual direction, grief counseling and hospital ministry. Cost for the day is \$10. **Please send your reservation and check by Thursday, March 1st** to: Barb Salmo, St. Anthony of Padua, 3140 Meramec St., St. Louis, MO 63118. Call Barb at 314-655-0554 for more information.

MONEY MATTERS

Have you ever run into difficulty with balancing your checkbook, making ends meet from month to month, or dealing with debt collectors? Could you use a brush up on your basic budgeting skills? Then we've got the workshop for you!

On **Saturday, March 10th** please come to a special presentation by financial counselors, Mark & Melissa Hollander. The workshop will be held from 9:00-10:30 am in Union United Methodist's Fellowship Hall, 3543 Watson Road (at the corner of Pernod & Watson). Bring your family and friends to this event — all ages welcome, no fee to attend and light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Katie at 647-4591 by March 8th.

LIFELINE SCREENING – AVOID A STROKE

Life Line Screening will be at St. John the Baptist on **Thursday, March 29th** from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm in the Parish Center. This event is also being sponsored by Prairie Heart Institute. You can receive screening for 1) Stroke/Carotid 2) Artery, Heart Rhythm 3) Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm 4) Peripheral Arterial Disease and 5) Osteoporosis Risk Assessment. The first 4 tests are \$60 and the 5th one is \$35. You can have as many tests done as you feel will be beneficial for you. **Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-690-6313.** The sooner you call, the better your chances for getting the time slot that is good for you.

ENJOY DINNER OVERLOOKING THE MISSISSIPPI

The St. Louis Altenheim, a Life Care Community for Senior Living, has graciously extended an offer to senior parishioners of St. Stephen. Please call Leigh Manalang at the parish office 481-1133 if you are interested in having a complimentary dinner for 4 in the Altenheim's beautiful dining room overlooking the Mississippi River. Leigh has tickets for you to make a reservation at your convenience. The Altenheim would love to welcome you and show you all that they have to offer.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 27

8:00 AM - Hasson Family

Tuesday, February 28

8:00 AM - Members of Wuertz Family

Wednesday, February 29

8:00 AM - Members of Wuertz Family

Thursday, March 1

8:00 AM - Doris Jung

Friday, March 2

8:00 AM - George Andrew Eiler

Saturday, March 3

8:00 AM - Doris Jung

4:00 PM - Jamboretz Family

Sunday, March 4

8:00 AM - Our Parishioners

10:30 AM - William Rodosh

SAINT STEPHEN

Saint Stephen Protomartyr Parish

Parish Office Hours 314-481-1133

Monday through Wednesday 8:30 am—8:00 pm

Thursday 8:30 am—5:30 pm

Friday: 8:30 am—3:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Closed Sundays, Holidays and Holy Days

Bulletin Article Deadline

Monday by 4:00 pm

Sacramental Celebrations

Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Monday through Saturday

8:00 am

Saturday evening Vigil:

4:00 pm

Holy Day: 8:00 am and 7:00 pm

Infant and Child Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated at any weekend liturgy or on the last Sunday of the month following the 10:30 am.

Eucharist. Parents are asked to call the parish office to arrange a Baptism. Parents (and godparents, if they are able) are asked to attend a preparation meeting that will be arranged when the parents meet with the priest or pastoral associate.

Adult Initiation / Reception into the Catholic Church

Any adult who would like to know more about our Catholic faith, and/or who is interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please call the parish office.

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:30 PM

Marriage

Please contact one of the clergy at least six months prior to the planned date of marriage.

Anointing of the Sick

We have a communal celebration of this sacrament at the weekend liturgies in the fall and in the spring.

If you would like to be anointed before entering the hospital or if you are homebound, please call the parish office.

Parish School of Religion

Parish School of Religion formal classes in our Catholic Faith

Children: 4 yrs. through 8th grade and high school

Located on the campus of St. John the Baptist Parish.

Call, Father Leo Spezia, PSR Director at 314-353-1255.

PRAY...

for our sick and recovering

Peggy Amsler - Chris Campise - Ed Dosenbach
James Forgash - Gene Holdenried - Victoria Koziacki
Hubert Lamprecht - Mary Lopinot - Herb Herberts
Pat Hutchison - Dan Nichols - Lee Reed - Joey Renick
Margaret Ringkamp - Jim Ringenbach - Mary Toomey
Monica Woolridge

for our homebound

Dorothy Flippin - Jeanette Holmer - Rosemary Kobylinski
Frances Krafft - Lee Ann Teter - Ken Ulrich
Adelaide Vogel - Eve Wachtel

for those in nursing homes

Audrey Alles - Joan Forshee - Ellie Kearns - Jack Kelly-
Rose Hegger McBride - Waumeda Merritt - Louise Pidgeon
Ed Stamm - Margaret Wall - Mary Wosman

for family members serving in the military

Joel Bruce - Derek Hirtz - Brandon Johnson
Stephen Napier - Brian Schoellhorn - Mark Tisius
Bradley Westcott - Ryan Wolf - Kelly Michael

DEVOTIONS

Tuesdays, after 8 am Mass: Perpetual Help

Devotions

Wednesdays, 8:45 am—7:30 pm: Church is open for

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of the month, Holy Hour and Benediction

after the 8:00 AM Mass.