

St. Stephen
Protomartyr Parish
Twenty-Third
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
September 9, 2018



Then will
the eyes
of the blind
be opened,
the ears of
the deaf
be cleared;
then will the
lame leap
like a stag,
then the
tongue of
the mute
will sing.

Isaiah 35:5-6

WELCOME!

If you are new to St. Stephen Protomartyr parish or just visiting, Welcome!!
Visitors please sign the Guest Book found near the main entrance to the Church.
If you would like to register in the parish, please call or email the parish office.
Welcome to the neighborhood and parish community!!

PARISH

3949 Wilmington Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63116
314 481-1133
314 481-6036 fax
stephenprossp@gmail.com
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
314 752-5165 fax
michelwendellssp@gmail.com

Father Ron Hopmeir, Pastor

frron@saintstephenstl.org

Mrs. Mary Regan, Pastoral Associate

maryreganssp@gmail.com

Mrs. June Tessin, Office Manager / Bookkeeper,

junetessinssp@gmail.com

Mrs. Michel Wendell, Principal

michelwendellssp@gmail.com

Mrs. Mary Paule, Child Safety Coordinator, Secretary,

marypaulessp@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE and PRAYER

“Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?” JAMES 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society teaches us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first in all things and realize that material things really don't matter and that it's more important to share with those who have less.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

September 2 Contribution	\$ 6,963.00
On-line Giving Contribution	\$ 1,626.00
Total weekly contribution	\$ 8,589.00
R & I	\$ 610.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 931.00
Latin America Apostolate	\$ 120.00
Catholic University	\$ 176.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 100.00

Special Collection for September is Catholic University of America

HELP NEEDED

Several of our "Heavenly Duster" volunteers have needed to retire from this ministry. We are in need of at least four persons to help as a Heavenly Duster.

Heavenly Dusters are volunteers who clean the chalices, patens and other liturgical vessels, fill the holy water fonts, and do light dusting etc. Time commitment is one Saturday morning a month for about an hour.

Both men and women are welcome to help.

If you would like to help us please contact Mary Regan in the parish office at 481-1133 or by email at maryreganssp@gmail.com.

Please consider volunteering for this important ministry.

Thank you.

Lectors

Saturday, September 15

4:00 PM - TBA

Sunday, September 16

8:00 AM - TBA

10:30 AM - TBA

Servers

Saturday, September 15

4:00 PM - Abigail S., Brian B.

Sunday, September 16

8:00 AM - Dayana N-M., Aaron V.

10:30 AM - Hendrix F., Luke W.



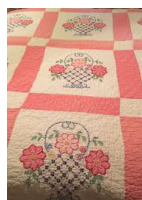
THANK YOU

This week we were blessed to receive generous checks from two of the parish organizations.

Thanks to the **Picnic** chairs, Dan and Jenny West, and ALL who made the picnic a success.



This past week the parish received a check for the profits from the picnic for \$47,677.15.

Thank you everyone.



The Quilters also presented the parish a check for \$600. These ladies spend hours every Monday hand quilting beautiful quilts to raffle for the benefit of the parish. Thank you ladies for your quilting ministry.

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

Monday September 10	Tuesday September 11	Wednesday September 12	Thursday September 13	Friday September 14	Saturday September 15	Sunday September 16
Liturgy of the Word 8 AM Quilters 9 AM - 2 PM 	Mass 8 AM Holy Name Society Mtg Prayer 7:30 PM Meeting 8 PM	All School Mass 8 AM	Mass 8 AM	All School Mass 8 AM SSP Night at the Cardinals 	Mass 8 AM Vigil Mass 4PM	Mass 8 & 10:30 AM Catechetical Sunday

Parish Mission Statement

"Following the example of our patron St. Stephen, we are called to be witnesses of God's love and to be a faith-filled, reconciling parish."

SVDP MONTHLY REPORT

We would like to inform our generous parishioners of how your donations are being put to good use. Thank you for your continuing support. Any questions ... contact Jim Prag (jp4121@sbcglobal.net)

August 2018 Report

Utility Assistance

31 helped with Electric (\$8,198.64 minus \$4,936.41 twinning and Council funds)

3 helped with Gas (\$500 minus \$250 Council funds)

Other

1 helped beds (\$442 Bed Program)

1 helped with household goods (\$650 credits used)

2 helped with rent (\$800)

1 helped with gas card (\$25)

1 helped with car repair (\$1,252.78; we \$382.78, Council \$850)

1 helped with a used A/C unit

1 helped with used mattress

2 helped with new box fans

2 helped with delivered pantry food

Food Pantry

Averaging 750 individuals in 340 families

Total: 49 individuals cases = **\$11,868.42 minus \$7,128.41** in credits, Council funds and twinning) = **\$4,740.01 from SSP SVDP Conference** for August.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Tickets are now on sale for SSP Night at the Ballgame. This will be the ending celebration of our 90th Anniversary year.

WHEN: Friday, September 14, 7:15 PM

WHERE: Infield pavilion seats on the third base side

COST: \$20 per ticket — these are \$49 seats

Our choral club will sing directly behind our seats at the pavilion.

Tickets are on sale at the school, at the rectory and after weekend Masses. Please make checks out to St. Stephen Protomartyr School. Cash also accepted.



HOLY NAME SOCIETY MEETING

St Stephen Protomartyr Holy Name Society is the parish's Men's organization, organized to grow in faith, development, and support of St Stephen Protomartyr Parish. The HNS has been in existence since 1928 and has been a supporter of the church, school and youth organizations.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month. Following every meeting, a light dinner is served.

September 11th Kick Off meeting Pretzel Boys

Please spread the word and consider inviting someone to attend. All are welcome.

Prayer Service - 7:30PM - A short service put on by the men of the HNS (optional)

Meeting - 8:00PM - A short meeting that acts as clearing house of information regarding Neighborhood, Parish and School. Meetings rarely last over 30 minutes

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1-6, 9; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday, The Most Holy Name of Mary:

1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday, St. John Chrysostom: 1 Cor 8:1-7, 11-13;

Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 23-24; Lk 6:27-38

Friday, The Exaltation of the Cross: Nm 21:4-9;

Ps 78:1-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Saturday, Our Lady of Sorrows: 1 Cor 10:14-22;

Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Jn 19:25-27

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Is 50:5-9;

Ps 116:1-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

BLUE MASS

First responders are invited to the 2018 Blue Mass to be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis on Sunday, September 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception at Boland Hall.

We invite all first responders to wear uniforms, gather ahead of time in front of the Cathedral Basilica and process into the Cathedral at the beginning of the Mass. Special prayers will be offered for our first responders, and they will be recognized during the Mass.

SAFETY OF OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN

During the morning drop-off (7:30 - 8:00 AM) and afternoon pick-up (3:15 - 3:30 PM) it is EXTREMELY important that all drivers be aware of the flow of traffic in and out of the parish parking lots.

All drivers MUST turn RIGHT into both the upper and lower parking lots.

All drivers MUST turn RIGHT to exit the lots.

This will not only help with the flow of traffic in and out of the lots but most importantly it will help to keep our children safe.

If you are a grandparent or neighbor dropping off or picking up children PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE observe these rules.

If you are a parishioner coming to 8:00 AM Mass PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE observe these rules.

The safety of our children is of paramount importance to us. Please help keep them safe.

Please note that anyone turning the wrong way will be caught on our secret cameras that go directly to the police and you will be led away in handcuffs.



Seriously this is very important and we ask your cooperation in this matter.

Peace,
Fr. Ron

AFTERCARE POSITION AVAILABLE



Aftercare is a really important service we provide for our families. We are still searching for older high school or college age students and/or adults who are looking for a part time job. The possibility of sharing the position is an option that is available. The Aftercare Program needs help from 3:15 PM to 6:00 PM.

Two years ago I met with the people from the Y regarding the possibility of the Y contracting to take over our Aftercare Program. We learned that the cost of After Care for our families would be increased if we contracted with the Y. So, we continue to keep it as is.

Call me if you are interested or if you know of someone who may be interested in the position. Thank you for your help.

WHAT IS A STEPHEN MINISTER

We all go through tough times in life. Times that are challenging and unsettling. It can be very helpful to have someone come alongside us to give us encouragement and understanding. That is what a Stephen Minister does—provide a listening ear, support, and God’s Word to help us through the challenges of life.

Stephen Ministers are compassionate individuals who are trained to help us when we encounter these troubles in life. They are not counselors or “fixers” when it comes to dealing with difficulties. They simply provide care and support when we need it and help us navigate our present situation.

Two years ago, our parishes involved in the SGSM network began the Stephen Ministry program. Since that time, 14 Stephen Ministers have provided more than 18 people with one-on-one care. If God is calling you to care and support others in this way, find out more by coming to an informational meeting happening in the next couple months. Watch the bulletin for details.

GUIDEBOOK ANNUAL DIRECTORY

Once again this year we will partner with Guide Book Publishing to provide the annual parish directory. This book is delivered directly to each parishioner at no cost to our parish. Local businesses are solicited to advertise in the book, but we want to make sure our parishioners have first access to prime locations in this directory.

Recent results of a survey taken by GBP show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize an advertiser over a non-advertiser and 70.9% consciously look to see who is advertising.

If you are interested in advertising the directory please call the office at 481-1133 and we will give your information to the Guide Book representative.

Do we have YOUR family membership record correct?
It’s time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in your family over the past year.

Have you changed your phone number? Deleted a landline? Do we have your cell phone number and email address?

Have you moved?

Are your children still at home?

Please contact the rectory office so your information will be correct in the directory and our database.

WHEN INJUSTICE GETS PERSONAL

Like most of us, they had seen and read about the undocumented immigrants being arrested in unlikely places all over the country. But in January it became real to them, when a member of their New Jersey Presbyterian parish was taken away. Roby was well-liked and well-known, a man of deep and sincere faith, a husband and father whose family had been in their church pews every Sunday. They changed from being a congregation of peaceful bystanders to becoming a community of active protesters. As the pastor writes, "our eyes were opened."

"We woke because Roby and his family grew up with us: in church, in school, in our town. They are part of our family. They have a place in our hearts. We support Roby as one of our own, in indignation at the injustice of it all."

Since Roby's arrest, the parish community has organized legal assistance for Roby and support for his family. Roby's plight has re-awakened the parish's tradition of assisting immigrants and refugees.

The experience has had an especially profound impact on the faith of the pastor.

"I wonder if I woke up from a deep spell of disbelief. Not about God, but about our ability to change anything. Or maybe it was about God. And my lack of faith was exactly that. Maybe I had never believed that God could change the heart of a legislator or a judge or a government agency, or that a protest in the rain could really make a kingdom-of-God kind of difference . . .

"We didn't know who these [immigrant] people were. It wasn't until they had children here and raised them up in our schools - where they became best friends with our kids, sharing sports and homework and marching band together - that they became real people for us. Then they became one of us. Now that we know who they are, we know that what's happening is not fair.

"Roby's future is still unknown. There is only one thing I can say for certain: the Spirit came to our community one cold winter day and opened our eyes and warmed our hearts."

[From "Injustice gets personal" by Ellen Clark Clemont, *The Christian Century*, August 1, 2018.]

† **Roby's arrest was an "Ephphatha" moment for this parish: a new awareness of the dignity and honor of the most vulnerable in their midst, a renewed appreciation that all men and women of every race and nationality and culture are made in the image and likeness of God. Throughout the Gospel, Jesus calls**

us to remain open - Ephphatha! - to the possibilities for transformation through selfless love, for re-creation enabled by humble generosity, for restoration brought about by perseverance and courage in the face of destruction. †

From: [Connections, September 2018](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

- ◆ September 14 - SSP Night at the Cardinals game
- ◆ September 22 - Mass in the Park
- ◆ October 20 - PTO Trivia Night

CARDINAL RITTER SENIOR SERVICES

Individuals, 60 years and older who are a resident of the city of St. Louis and earn up to \$18,210 in gross annual income or \$1,518 per month for a one-person household (increase based on the total number living in household), may be eligible to receive services through the Economic Security through Energy Resources (ESTER) program.

Utility payment assistance — assistance covering costs associated with outstanding gas or electric bills as well as utilities disconnection associated with missing back payments on accounts.

Minor home improvement assistance — equipment, including installation and / or contractor services to improve living conditions and / or reduce energy costs.

Major home improvement assistance — crucial repairs to existing heating / cooling equipment or installation of equipment designed to reduce energy costs. This category of service is only available to homeowners. **FREE**

For more information, call 314-918-2258

St. Louis Safety Group Meet-Up!!

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018

Place: Carpenter Branch Library [3309 S. Grand](#) [63118](#)

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Guest Speaker: St. Louis City Police Chief Colonel John W. Hayden will communicate his vision for decreased crime and improved safety then respond to questions.

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Circuit Court Judges Jason Sengheiser and Joseph Whyte will address issues specific to St. Louis City and answer questions/concerns.

7:30 PM - 8:00 PM Networking and Announcements. Bring information on Neighborhood Meetings and Events to share with neighbors.



BIG THINGS DAY TRIP

Let's hit the road to Casey, Illinois where we'll have the opportunity to see many "Big Things in a Small Town". Casey is home to numerous Guinness World Records' items including the World's Largest Wind Chime, Knitting Needle and Mailbox!



On **Thursday, September 13th** we'll depart from the Upper Parking Lot of Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlan, at 8:00 AM and make our first stop in Effingham, IL to stop in at their Visitor Center and view the giant *Cross at the Crossroads*. Then we'll continue on to Casey where we'll dine at Richards Farm Restaurant (home-style buffet with dessert) also the home of the World's Largest Pitchfork!



At lunch Jim Bolin, the creator of "Big Things in a Small Town" will speak and give time for Q & A. After lunch we'll head to the Casey Country Golf Club to see the World's Largest Golf Tee and then to downtown Casey where we'll have the opportunity to see many other World's Largest items and visit the unique shops that line Main Street.

We'll depart Casey at 3:00 PM and return to St. Louis around 5:30 PM. A day full of BIG fun! All-inclusive price is \$55 per person.

Reservations: Heather at 314-351-1318 ext. 201 or heather@stceciliaparishstl.org. Please mail a check (payable to South Grand Senior Ministry) to: St. Cecilia Parish, 5418 Louisiana Ave, 63111. Include your name, contact phone number and an emergency contact.

AGING WISELY: CHOOSING LONG-TERM CARE

While most of us hope to live out our lives in the familiar comfort of home with our families, there are times when this "aging in place" is not possible due to physical and functional needs. VOYCE, an organization in the St. Louis area that works to educate and enable seniors and their families for quality living across the long-term care continuum, will be offering a presentation to assist in the decision making that occurs with these life changes.

"When Facility Care Is Best: How To Choose A Long-Term Care Community" will be presented on **Wednesday, September 19**, at Immaculate Heart of Mary rectory meeting room, [4092 Blow Street](#), beginning at 10:30 AM. Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$5 per person, payable at the door. Seating is limited. For reservations, call Ann at 481-7543 by September 13.

CHAIR YOGA WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Have you thought you would like to try a Yoga class, but knew you didn't want to get down on the floor? We are offering you the opportunity to reap the many benefits of Yoga while sitting on a chair. Sessions are held on Wednesdays at 8:45-9:45 AM in the Immaculate Heart of Mary school building [4092 Blow Street](#). Cost is \$3.00 per session. Instructor will be Judy Hudson. Any questions please call Debbie Gartner 481-9385.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 10

8:00 AM - Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Tuesday, September 11

8:00 AM - Colleen Gormley

Georgia Buckowitz

Wednesday, September 12

8:00 AM - John & Cecelia Hopmeir

Thursday, September 13

8:00 AM - N. Edward Forti

Friday, September 14

8:00 AM - Brenda Hegger

Saturday, September 15

8:00 AM - Nancy Murphy

4:00 PM - Loretta Masters

LaVerne Gartner

Sunday, September 16

8:00 AM - Our Parishioners

10:30 AM - Charles Stough

Ed Villar Family



PLEASE PRAY

for our sick and recovering

Suzi Beck - Jerry Buchet - Fran Campbell -

Ann Dosenbach - Thomas Lorenz - Lois McClellan

Robert Morse - Steve Moylan - Marcella Mueth

for our homebound

Jeanette Holmer - Albertine Honious -

Rose Schuster

for those in nursing homes

Lorraine Burke - Ellie Kearns

for family members serving in the military

Derek Hirtz - Tristan Moylan - Ryan O'Neil -

Jack Renick - Brian Schoellhorn - Mitch Sollmann

DEVOTIONS

Tuesday - after 8 AM Mass: Perpetual Help Devotions

Wednesday - 8:45 AM - 4:00 PM: Church is available for Eucharistic Adoration. Stop by the rectory for entry

First Friday of the month Holy Hour and Benediction after the 8:00 AM Mass.

Christmas Novena - December 17 - December 23 at 7 PM

Parish Office Hours 314-481-1133

Monday through Thursday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

Bulletin Article Deadline

Monday at 12:00 PM. prior to the weekend bulletin.

Sacramental Celebrations

Eucharist

Saturday evening Vigil:

4:00 PM

Sunday:

8:00 AM

10:30 AM (nursery available)

Monday: Liturgy of the Word with Communion

8:00 AM

Tuesday through Saturday: Mass

8:00 AM

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.

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 the PSR Director at 314-773-3070.

Church Nursery

Located in the rectory basement during 10:30 AM Mass.

Enter by way of the alley. Staffed by parents.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children ages 4 through second grade are invited to participate and hear the scriptures in a way meaningful to their age. Held the first Sunday in September through Mother's Day excluding holidays.

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

St. Stephen Protomartyr #902450
3949 Wilmington Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63116

TELEPHONE

314 481-1133

CONTACT PERSON

Mary Regan

SOFTWARE

MSPublisher 2007
Adobe Acrobat X
Windows 7

PRINTER

HP Laserjet Pro400

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TRANSMISSION TIME

Wednesday 1315

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATON

September 9 2018

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

1 through 8

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS