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!
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming … He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit … ’” (Luke 3:16)

The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him, and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

**SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION**

**December 25 Christmas Contribution**
- $5,421.50
- Total weekly contribution: $5,421.50
- R & I: $100.00
- Tuition Assistance: $50.00
- Seminary: $666.00
- *The St. Louis Review*: $35.00
- First Offering: $10.00

**December 30 Contribution**
- $9,740.34
- Online Giving Contribution: $1,372.00
- Total weekly contribution: $11,112.34
- R & I: $400.00
- Tuition Assistance: $25.00
- Seminary: $150.00
- *The St. Louis Review*: $35.00

**January 6 Contribution**
- $5,003.00
- Online Giving Contribution: $3,025.00
- Total weekly contribution: $8,028.00
- R & I: $522.00
- Tuition Assistance: $596.00
- Seminary: $60.00
- *The St. Louis Review*: $250.00
- First Offering: $60.00

Special collection for January is for *The St. Louis Review*.

**DECEMBER MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekend</th>
<th>Break Even Target</th>
<th>Actual Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1 / 2</td>
<td>$8,504.43</td>
<td>$11,827.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8 / 9</td>
<td>$8,504.43</td>
<td>$5,368.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15 / 16</td>
<td>$8,504.43</td>
<td>$15,777.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 22 / 23</td>
<td>$8,504.43</td>
<td>$5,994.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 29 / 30 (includes Christmas)</td>
<td>$8,504.43</td>
<td>$16,533.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December Total</td>
<td>$42,522.15</td>
<td>$55,499.84 +12,977.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fiscal Year to Date Total**
- $229,619.56
- $199,635.76
- -$29,983.80

Anyone needing a copy of their contribution statement for 2018 is asked to contact June Tessin at junetessinssp@gmail.com or 314-481-1133. Unless you request to have it mailed, you can pick up your statement at the rectory during regular business hours anytime after Jan. 27.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday January 14</th>
<th>Tuesday January 15</th>
<th>Wednesday January 16</th>
<th>Thursday January 17</th>
<th>Friday January 18</th>
<th>Saturday January 19</th>
<th>Sunday January 20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning Prayer 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Finance Mtg 7 p.m.</td>
<td>50+ Meeting 9 a.m.</td>
<td>Adult Pickleball 7 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mass 4 p.m.
BOY SCOUTS: DINE TO DONATE

Help support SSP's Boy Scout Troop 104 as it raises funds to send the boys dog sledding in northern Minnesota in February.

Enjoy a great meal at Cecil Whittaker's on Tuesday, Jan. 15. Mention "Troop 104," and the restaurant will donate 15% of all sales to the troop. All day, dine-in or carryout, at any of these three locations:

- St. Louis City -- 6018 S. Grand, 314-351-7277
- Affton/Lemay -- 9040 Gravois, 314-544-2900
- St. Louis Hills -- 3429 Watson, 314-644-0515

On Sunday, Jan. 20, the Boy Scouts are serving up a tasty spaghetti lunch after 10:30 a.m. Mass in the parish hall.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is $7 for adults and kids aged 11 and up, $5 for kids 4-10, free for kids under 3. The plate includes spaghetti with meatballs, salad, bread, and a beverage. Dessert is available for an extra charge. There will be gluten-free options for pasta, salad dressing, bread, and desserts.

MEN'S ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE RETREAT

All men of the parish are invited to attend our annual retreat at White House. This will be a silent, guided retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. It’s a peaceful break from the chaos and confusion of everyday life. It’s like a three-day vacation with Christ on a beautiful 80-acre campus high on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. All meals and private lodging are provided.

Our retreat begins the evening of March 21 and concludes March 24. There is no set fee to attend a retreat at White House. White House operates on a free-will offering basis, asking those in attendance to simply give what they feel they can at the conclusion of the retreat. To register, contact Ron Thenhaus at ronthenhaus@gmail.com or 314-609-2565. Visit www.whretreat.org to find out more.

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.”

MASS MINISTERS

Lectors
Saturday, January 19
4:00 p.m. - A. Rotermund, R. Rone
Sunday, January 20
8:00 a.m. - R. Moylan, C. Kveton
10:30 a.m. - T. Jenney, P. O'Connell

Servers
Saturday, January 19
4:00 p.m. - Tommy G., Ben W.
Sunday, January 20
8:00 a.m. - Brian B., Jake L.
10:30 a.m. - TJ S., Elijah S.

HELP WANTED: PACKING UP CHRISTMAS

It’s already time to take down our Christmas decorations! Please consider staying a few minutes after 10:30 a.m. Mass on Jan. 13 to restore our worship space to its beautiful "ordinary." Thank you!

PICNIC NEWS

Parish Picnic chairs Matt & Ann Marie Guntli welcome Eric and Angie McMahon as their co-chairs! The committee will be contacting former booth chairs soon to confirm a reprise of their roles this June. A date will soon be set for the first planning meeting.

TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The St. Louis Tax Assistance Program offers FREE electronic income tax return preparation and tax information for a family with income below $55,000. Must bring W-2s, 1099s, and 1098Ts, if applicable. The program benefits working families who are eligible for the earned income credit and child-care credit.

Location: St. Mary’s High School, 4701 S. Grand Blvd.
Dates: Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar. 2, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
THE COLOR OF WATER

*And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”*


_The Color of Water: A Black Man’s Tribute to His White Mother_ is author James McBride’s best-selling memoir of growing up in a family of twelve brothers and sisters, raised by a white Jewish mother who was evasive about her Jewish ethnicity but steadfast in her love for her children.

As a boy in Brooklyn’s Red Hook projects, James knew his “light skinned” mother Ruth was different — and wondered if he was black or white. When he asked his mother one day if he was black or white, she snapped “You’re a human being. Educate yourself or you’ll be a nobody!” For Ruth, education, not race or culture, was the realization of one’s full identity.

But young James wasn’t satisfied. So he asked his mother, a very religious woman, whether God is black or white.

Mother Ruth sighed, “Oh, boy ... God’s not black. He’s not white. He’s a spirit.”

“Does he like black or white people better?”

“He loves all people. He’s a spirit.”

“What’s a spirit?”

“A spirit’s a spirit.”

“What color is God’s spirit?”

“It doesn’t have a color,” his mother said. “God is the color of water. Water doesn’t have a color.”

James writes that he “could buy that” and, as he got older, continued to appreciate more deeply and profoundly the many dimensions of his racial and cultural identity.

On this feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we see in the clear, life-sustaining waters of our own baptisms the “color” of our identity as the “beloved” of God, the God who loves us, who cries with us and for us, who knows the pain and despair and anger we experience because he has experienced it all himself by becoming one of us. In the waters of baptism, we embrace the Spirit of God and that Spirit embraces us, as well: God the Creator and Father is present to us in all our tears and laughter, in all our struggles and triumphs, in our every grief and joy.

From _Connections_, January 2019

---

**FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

In the charity of your prayers, please remember the grandmother of Ellen Kunkelmann and the uncle of Elise Aasgaard, who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

---

**CHURCH NURSERY FOR TODDLERS**

There are loving church members available to watch your active toddlers and preschoolers during the **10:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays**.

The nursery is located in the rectory basement, which can be reached from the alley door at the west transept of the church. A parent or high school student volunteer watches one- to four-year-olds during the hour of Mass. **Call Leigh Manalang** at 314-486-0717 for more information or to volunteer your time in this ministry.

---

**OUR ALUMNI SHINE**

Clarisse Aasgaard (SSP ’18) was nominated for the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists Award of Excellence for outstanding academic achievement, leadership potential, and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine. She has been invited to attend a workshop in Boston this summer, where she will meet Nobel Prize winners and leaders in the medical field. Clarisse is a freshman at Metro Academic and Classical High School. Well done!

---

**LOOKING AHEAD**

♦ January 20: Spaghetti Lunch
♦ January 26: Sports Trivia
♦ January 27-February 1: Catholic Schools Week
♦ January 30: Pastoral Council Meeting
Prayer for Christian Unity
Join Christians from many traditions in prayer for unity and justice in a service at St. Monica Catholic Church (12140 Olive Blvd., 63141) on Sunday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m.
Rooted in the Catholic Church’s commitment to ecumenical unity and interreligious engagement, the Archdiocesan Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs reaches out to Christians and to peoples of other religious traditions and people of good will to promote greater understanding, respect, dialogue, and friendship.
For more information about this event, contact James Fowlkes-Comninellis at 314-792-7177.

Trivia Night to Benefit Our Lady’s Inn
Our Lady’s Inn Maternity Homes is having its annual Trivia Night on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, at Chaminade College Prep School (425 S. Lindbergh). Doors open at 6 p.m., and trivia begins at 7 p.m. Cost is $25 per person or $200 for a full table of 10. For more information or to register, visit www.ourladysinn.org or call Katrina at 314-736-1544.
Our Lady’s Inn provides shelter to pregnant women and their children.

Trivia Party to Benefit St. Patrick Center
Join in the fun at the St. Patrick Center Trivia Party on Friday, Feb. 8, 2019, at Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark.
Gather your team for eight rounds of trivia. Register your table of eight for $500 and enjoy a super-sized party that includes food, beer, wine, soda, and parking.
Visit www.stpatrickcenter.org/triviaparty for more information.
St. Patrick Center provides opportunities for self-sufficiency and dignity to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Individuals and families build permanent, positive change in their lives through safe and affordable housing, sound mental and physical health, and employment and financial stability.

Violence Prevention: The Role of the Faith Community
The Department of Psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine and the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri have developed an ecumenical program to educate interested people on the prevention of violence and the care of victims in our community. The approach is practical, evidence-based, and pastoral. Presenters are Barry Hong, Ph.D., of Washington U. and Fr. Marc D. Smith, Ph.D.
Programs run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Aquinas Institute of Theology (23 S. Spring Ave.) on these dates:
Feb. 5: Violence in Scripture
Violence in American Culture
Feb. 12: Bullying and Suicide
Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
Feb. 19: Transmission of Violence in Families, Peer Groups, and Communities
Gun Violence as a Public Health Concern
Feb. 26: The Nature of Evil
Reconciliation and Forgiveness
Aquinas Institute is pleased to offer this series free of charge to all. Call 314-256-8804 to reserve a place.

KIDS’ INDOOR SOCCER
There will be an indoor soccer program for boys and girls of the parish aged 5 to 12. The program will be conducted at Vetta Concord’s indoor soccer facility in South County and will begin in early February.
For more information, call Marty at 314-393-1164.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS
Monday: Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday, St. Anthony, Abbot: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9; 10-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-7, 8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11
GAME DAY

Game day has become a real success!

For seven months, people from various parishes have been gathering together on the first Thursday of each month from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the rectory basement of Immaculate Heart of Mary (4092 Blow St.). It’s the building connected to the back of the church; please go in the door next to the garage doors.

We break up into various groups and enjoy the afternoon playing a variety of games, enjoy snacks, talk, and laugh. What’s not to love?

Feel free to bring a friend or relative. Any questions — call IHM pastoral associate Debbie Gartner at 314-481-9385.

(In the event of snow or ice, game day will be cancelled. Otherwise, even if it is cold outside, we will be there!)

ASSISTANCE WITH UTILITIES AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS

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 (EASTER) 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.

For more information, call 314-918-2258.

STEPHEN MINISTRY: DO IT ALL IN JESUS’S NAME

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They use both words and deeds to express Christ’s care for others — listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received, and employing the tools of faith. If this job description fits your personal goals for ministry, consider becoming a Stephen Minister. A training class is starting in January 2019.
Monday, January 14
8:00 a.m. - Liturgy of the Hours, Morning Prayer

Tuesday, January 15
8:00 a.m. - Jane and Martin Meyer

Wednesday, January 16
8:00 a.m. - Laverne Gartner

Thursday, January 17
8:00 a.m. - Magdalena Mike

Friday, January 18
8:00 a.m. - Msgr. Charles Forest

Saturday, January 19
8:00 a.m. - Rev. Donald Dalton
4:00 p.m. - Richard Meisemann

Sunday, January 20
8:00 a.m. - Maggie Welby
10:30 a.m. - Our Parishioners

Parish Office Hours          314-481-1133
Monday through Thursday:  8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

Bulletin Article Deadline
Monday at 12:00 p.m. prior to the weekend bulletin.

Sacramental Celebrations
Eucharist
Saturday evening vigil:
   4:00 p.m.
Sunday:
   8:00 a.m.
   10:30 a.m. (nursery available)
Monday: Liturgy of the Hours, Morning Prayer
   8:00 a.m.
Tuesday through Saturday: Mass
   8:00 a.m.
Holy Day:
   8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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 p.m.

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.