St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 10, 2019

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
froron@saintstephenstl.org

Mrs. Mary Regan, Pastoral Associate
maryreganssp@gmail.com

Mr. Stephen Jones, Music Director
stephenjonesssp@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
marypaulesssp@gmail.com

Ms. Stephanie Oehler Wobbe, Communications Coordinator
stephaniewobbessp@gmail.com
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’ ‘Here I am,’ I said, ‘Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8)

Every day, in little ways and in big ways, God asks, “Whom shall I send?” Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger, or say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. The next time you hear God calling, have the courage to walk through the door and say, “Here I am, Lord.”

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>$ 6,653.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online giving</td>
<td>$ 1,541.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>R &amp; I</td>
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<td>Tuition Assistance</td>
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<td>The St. Louis Review</td>
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<td>First Offering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candlemas Day</td>
<td>$ 386.00</td>
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LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

Saturday, February 16
4:00 p.m. - E. Goedeker, C. Kveton

Sunday, February 17
8:00 a.m. - G. Joly, E. Joly
10:30 a.m. - C. McGeehan, B. McLain

SERVERS

Saturday, February 16
4:00 p.m. - Jack S., Aidan J.

Sunday, February 17
8:00 a.m. - Tommy G., Luke W.
10:30 a.m. - Zach M., Elijah S.

JANUARY MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Weekend</th>
<th>Break Even</th>
<th>Actual Collection</th>
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<td>January 5 / 6</td>
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<td>January 12 / 13</td>
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<td>January 26 / 27</td>
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<td>$3,730.00</td>
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<td>January Total</td>
<td>$34,017.72</td>
<td>$23,969.30,-$10,048.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year to Date Total</td>
<td>$263,132.85</td>
<td>$223,605.06,-$39,527.79</td>
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If you need a copy of your 2018 contribution statement, please contact June Tessin at junetessinssp@gmail.com or 314-481-1133 to arrange pickup at the rectory.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday: Gen 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-30; Mk 7:14-23
Thursday, Sts. Cyril and Methodius: Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128: 1-5; Mk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37
Saturday: Gen 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jer 17:5-8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>Liturgy of the Word</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>Mass 8 &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Holy Name Society 7:30 p.m.
Board of Education 7 p.m.
Adult Pickleball 7 p.m.
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.”

QUILT OF THE EVERY-OTHER-MONTH CLUB

The St. Stephen Quilters are sponsoring a drawing for a beautiful, hand-quilted quilt every other month from April 2019 through February 2020.

Chances are $1 each or six for $5.

Please see one of the quilters or purchase chances at the rectory.

For more information, please call 314-752-4827.

MONDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD

As you know, Mondays are Father Ron’s day off, and so we do not celebrate Mass here at St. Stephen. (There is a morning Mass at nearby Immaculate Heart of Mary.) In place of Morning Prayer, we will return to celebrating Liturgy of the Word With Distribution of Holy Communion each Monday at 8 a.m.

The sixth, seventh, and eighth grades will attend, and parishioners are, of course, welcome as well.

SSP PTO MOUSE RACES

Join us for the first SSP PTO Mouse Races on Feb. 23, 2019, in the Parish Center. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the first race starts at 7 p.m. There will be games between the races as well as 50/50 and Booze Barrel Raffles. Cost is $20 per person and includes beer, wine, and soda. Feel free to supplement with your own snacks or beverages — and bring cash for bets. Proceeds support enrichment activities.

Contact Amy Cervantes at 314-518-5735 or amycervantes31@gmail.com to make a reservation.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mark your calendars for the 26th annual St. Stephen Protomartyr Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Forest Park’s Norman K. Probststein Golf Course. The event begins with lunch at 12 p.m., tee-off at 1:30 p.m., and appetizers and dinner at the course after an afternoon of golf.

We hope to see you there for a fun day of golf. Flyers will be mailed in February. If you would like to receive a flyer and have not received one in the past, please send an email to sspgolf@sbcglobal.net.

(The committee is looking for new members. If you would like to help with this major parish fundraiser, please contact Mike Finney at 314-210-9229.)

SAVE THESE DATES — MORE INFO TO COME

SSP Night at the Ballpark

Mark your calendars for the evening of April 22, 2019, to enjoy another St. Stephen Night at Busch Stadium. All are invited to cheer on the Cardinals together in a block of seats in the right-field loge section. Tickets will be a discounted $20. Our Choral Club will be singing that evening inside the stadium.

Lenten Lecture Series

Fr. Sean Martin, New Testament scholar and president of Aquinas Institute, will once again be providing a series of talks this Lent at St. Stephen on Thursdays, March 14, 21, 28, and April 4. Stay tuned for more information about Fr. Martin’s topic this year.

LOOKING AHEAD

- February 19: Finance Committee Meeting
- February 21: 50+ Club Meeting
- February 23: PTO Mouse Races
- February 27: Pastoral Council Meeting
- March 1: Adult Pickleball
- March 2: Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet
- March 6: Ash Wednesday
- March 14-April 4: Thursdays with Fr. Sean Martin

STEPHEN JONES IN CONCERT

Our musical director Stephen Jones is performing a piano concert on Feb. 10, 2019, at 3 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church. The event is free and open to the public.
Theologian Father Ronald Rolheiser tells this story in his book *Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity*:

A couple was going through a difficult time in their marriage. There was talk of separation. The husband was unwilling to go to any counselling; his way of coping was to disappear, making himself scarce from the family. At one point, their 13-year-old daughter went to a mall and shoplifted an item that she neither wanted nor needed and was caught in the act. She was alone, so her little crime was not intended to impress friends. The store decided not to press charges but wanted to teach the young girl a lesson, so they had a police officer come in and talk to her. After lecturing her on the seriousness of what she had done, the officer asked her for her parents’ phone number so that he could call her mother to come and pick her up.

But the young teen had already prepared a different response: Reaching into her pocket, she pulled out a piece of paper with her father’s phone number at work, handed it to the officer, and said: “Here’s my dad’s phone number. I want him to come here and pick me up.”

When confronted by our failings and the possibilities of God’s grace to move beyond them, we react like the dad who disappears, unable to face our need for such grace, or we react like Peter, embarrassed by our unworthiness for such grace. But that is the mystery of God’s love: that nothing we do or have not done makes us deserving of God’s love; we can only embrace it with humility and gratitude. The daughter wants her dad to come home and work to save a family who loves him; Jesus assures Peter to put aside his fears of unworthiness and follow him. We often expect too little from our relationship with God; we’re convinced that we’re neither good enough nor wise enough in church protocol to consider ourselves “religious.” But that is exactly the “mystery” of God: that God loves us despite ourselves. Thomas Merton observed that “the root of Christian love is not the will to love but the faith that one is loved by God ... irrespective of one’s worth. ... The revelation of the mercy of God makes the problem of worthiness something almost laughable ... no one could ever, alone, be strictly worthy to be loved with such a love — [such a realization] is a true liberation of spirit.”

From *Connections*, February 2019

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**ALUMNI NEWS**

Congratulations to Mary Dorsey, Ada Laury, and Audrey Manalang, who earned Second Honors at Nerinx Hall!

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**STILL HERE!**

With the closing of the Little Sisters of the Poor and the relocation of the Good Shepherd Sisters, there has been some confusion. *Mother of Good Counsel Home* continues to operate, as it has for the past 85 years, at 6825 Natural Bridge Road, two blocks east of UMSL.

The Sisters invite you to come and tour their nursing home if you have a loved one who has need of skilled nursing care or may have need in the future. Please contact administrator *Sr. M. Christine* at 314-383-4765 or smchristine@mogch.org to set up a tour.

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**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

The Today & Tomorrow Educational Foundation’s application period is open. Scholarships are available for students in Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, all Catholic high schools, and any private elementary school in the City of St. Louis. The deadline for application is Feb. 28, 2019.

Visit [www.ttef-stl.org](http://www.ttef-stl.org) for more details.

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**PEREGRINE SOCIETY TRIVIA NIGHT**

The St. Louis Peregrine Society, which provides a variety of services to cancer patients in the area, is hosting a Trivia Night on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at 7 p.m. The event has a St. Patrick’s theme. Cost is $25 per person at tables of eight. Beer, wine, soft drinks, and snacks are included. Cash prizes will be awarded to the two highest-scoring tables. For reservations, call 314-781-6775.

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**CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP**

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019, Sanguis Christi Spirituality Center (204 N. Main St., O’Fallon, Mo.) is hosting a follow-up session to its recent Centering Prayer Workshop.

Speakers from Contemplative Outreach St. Louis will discuss the method and principles of centering prayer, present DVDs by Fr. Thomas Keating, and lead practice sessions. You do not need to have attended the initial workshop to benefit from this event. Cost is $35. To register, call *Sr. Carol Orf* at 314-560-1028.
A parishioner who recently sold her home shared with Fr. Ron her reflections on her time at St. Stephen. We are reprinting part of her letter with her permission.

Parishes are unique communities. May we remember and appreciate the extent to which we are called to be family to one another.

This note finds our family living in a new house just across town. We made a decision to move to be closer to my ailing parents and my business, and to enjoy a larger piece of property (which has been a goal of mine for quite a while.) We want to thank the St. Stephen parish family for all that you have done for us these past 20 years and share a couple of thoughts. We have found buyers for our home and it seems this chapter is coming to a close.

When we moved into the Holly Hills neighborhood, my faith life was something of a convenience for me. I went to church when it worked for me. As you can imagine, I was not getting a lot in return. Typical sheep, wondering why I wasn’t feeling more when I wasn’t putting much in.

As a child, my family did not have a parish relationship. We were “high holiday Catholics,” and that worked for my family. Well, along came my kids, and a decision had to be made as to how to raise them.

I settled on the only thing that I knew (but barely, now that I look back), and that was Catholicism. There was St. Stephen’s sitting so proudly on Wilmington, and you welcomed us with warmth and generosity of spirit.

At first it was slow to build. When it came time to enter the kids in school, I searched high and low in St. Louis for the “right” fit. I toured every private school and even took teaching assignments to see the inner workings and teaching methodology.

But every day, I would come home and watch the little ones in the neighborhood in their uniforms, tied by their bond of school and community. It became clear that for us, staying in the neighborhood and joining the school community was the answer. And so began our journey.

My son blossomed with the structure of a parochial education. My daughter was inspired by the depth of the art and music elements in preschool. Mom was very happy.

Not long after starting school, our family had a serious medical crisis. Father Chuck came to visit us in the hospital. It was then, with his visit, that it clicked. I realized that this was a relationship, worthy of the great give and take that is necessary in all relationships. I was so grateful for the support of the parish and school community that I vowed to do what I could to give back, to fully engage Catholic living, and to enter into relationship with St. Stephen’s and all the incredible people who bring this parish alive. And so that chapter began.

I became deeply involved in both parish and school activities. I cherished every moment spent because it allowed me to find my faith. I realized how amazing it felt to serve others -- to give of my time, talent, and treasure – and how it was me who was on the receiving end! So much joy, so much laughter, so many wonderful memories.

My heart grew to the point that I wanted to dig deeper in my faith. Realizing that I never had been confirmed, I was blessed to receive the Holy Spirit in 2015 with Steph Wobbe by my side. And then in 2016, with my heart wide open, I experienced a Moment of Grace (that’s my term, for lack of a better phrase.)

I know that my faith journey would not be where it is without St. Stephen’s and the people I have enjoyed along the way. I know that my children would not be where they are without the St. Stephen’s community.

I want to tell you that I am grateful and I feel blessed. Thank you for giving me my wings.

QUESTIONS ABOUT RECYCLING?
Not sure how to interpret the recycle codes on those plastic containers? Wondering how your recycling habits are affecting the environment? What happens to all the stuff that goes into the blue bins in the alley?

If you have asked yourself any of these questions, or have other curiosities about home recycling, come to the South Grand Senior Ministry Aging Wisely program “Recycle Responsibly.” Jean Ponzi from the Missouri Botanical Garden Earthway Center will answer these questions and more in this informative presentation.

The event will include “Recycling Trivia” with the chance of winning passes to the Botanical Garden. Lunch follows the presentation.

Date: **Tuesday, March 12**, 10:30 a.m.
Place: St. John the Baptist Parish Center
Cost: $5 for lunch

For reservations, contact Diane Huck at 314-353-1255 x106 or parishnurse@sjbstl.org before March 6. For more information, call 314-918-2258.
Tuesday - after 8 a.m. Mass: Perpetual Help Devotions

Wednesday - 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.: 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 a.m. Mass.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
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
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 Word
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 / RECESSION 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: 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.