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
stephenprosssp@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
michelwendellsssp@gmail.com

Father Ron Hopmeir, Pastor
frron@saintstephenstl.org

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

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

Mrs. June Tessin, Office Manager / Bookkeeper
junetessinsssp@gmail.com

Mrs. Michel Wendell, Principal
michelwendellsssp@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

“Blessed are you when people hate you ... exclude and insult you, and denounce your name ... on account of the Son of Man.” (Luke 6:22)

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn’t want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time, the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth.

Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 10 Contribution</td>
<td>$ 4,021.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online giving contribution</td>
<td>$ 1,596.00</td>
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<td>Total weekly contribution</td>
<td>$ 5,617.00</td>
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<td>R &amp; I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition Assistance</td>
<td>$ 70.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>The St. Louis Review</td>
<td>$ 53.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Offering</td>
<td>$ 10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candlemas Day</td>
<td>$ 10.00</td>
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</tbody>
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LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
Saturday, February 23
4:00 p.m. - P. O’Connell, R. Moylan

Sunday, February 24
8:00 a.m. - L. Rahn, E. Kovac
10:30 a.m. - Z. Mueller, T. Jenney

SERVERS
Saturday, February 23
4:00 p.m. - Jake L., Maureen M.

Sunday, February 24
8:00 a.m. - Ben W., Connor H.
10:30 a.m. - Sam C., Hendrix F.

LENTEN LITURGIES

Our Ash Wednesday Masses will be celebrated on March 6 at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m. (all school Mass), and 7 p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be observed on Wednesday evenings (beginning March 13) at 7 p.m. and on Friday afternoons at 2 p.m. (with the schoolchildren).

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5,10; Ps 29:1-4, 9-10; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26

Thursday: Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-18, 19-23, 29; Mk 8:27-33

Friday, Chair of St. Peter the Apostle: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 16:13-19

Saturday: Heb 11:1-7, Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>February 18</th>
<th>February 19</th>
<th>February 20</th>
<th>February 21</th>
<th>February 22</th>
<th>February 23</th>
<th>February 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO LIT OF WORD</td>
<td>Quilters</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td></td>
<td>Finance Meeting</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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</table>

Mass 8 a.m.

Perpetual Help Devotions

All School Mass 8 a.m.
Baptismal Service

Mass 8 a.m.
50+ Club Meeting 11 a.m.
School Monthly Canned Good Drive

Mass 8 a.m.

All School Mass 8 a.m.

Mass 8 a.m.

Mass 4 p.m.

Mouse Races 7 p.m.

Mass 8 & 10:30 a.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.”

FISH FRY SEASON IS UPON US

Who’s hungry?

Our world-famous fish fries begin their 15th season on Ash Wednesday, March 6, and continue every Friday during Lent, except for Good Friday. Dinner is served from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The menu includes signature dishes, the ever-popular fish tacos, a catch of the day, succulent side dishes, delicious desserts, and beverages (soda, tea, lemonade, coffee, beer, and wine).

Dine in or carry out. Handicap-accessible. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

HELP WANTED: If you are able to help out during the fries — or if you can’t be there but would like to provide a dessert, or help with setup or cleanup — please contact Greg Venneman at grvenneman@sbcglobal.net. All help is appreciated, whether it be for one fry or all seven.

Serving shifts begin at 3:45 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. Kids seeking service hours are more than welcome to help with bussing tables and selling raffle tickets.

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 on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. 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. 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.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 26th annual St. Stephen Protomartyr Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Forest Park’s Norman K. Probst Golf Course. Lunch is at 12 p.m., tee-off at 1:30 p.m., and appetizers and dinner at the course after golf.

We hope to see you there for a fun day. Flyers will be mailed this month. 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.)

LOOKING AHEAD

• February 27: Pastoral Council Meeting
• March 1: Adult Pickleball
• March 2: Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet
• March 6: Ash Wednesday / Fish Fries Begin
• March 13-April 17: Stations of the Cross, Wednesdays
• March 14-April 4: Thursdays with Fr. Sean Martin
• April 22: SSP Night at the Ballpark
• May 4: SSP Golf Tournament

CONSIDER QUILTING!

You may have wondered — who are the talented ladies who make the magic?

Dolores Buescher, Trudy Jung, Sandy Majneric, Madge Potrzeboski, Laura Rueve, and Joyce Stockmann meet in the school basement every Monday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They welcome anyone who’d like to join them.

Also — the group is looking for someone who could help with embroidering quilt blocks.

Quilt of the Every Other Month Club: The 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.

Questions? Please call Joyce at 314-752-4827.
HOPE ISN’T ONLY ABOUT THE FUTURE

She once saw her life as an uninterrupted line from birth to decline. She had married and given birth to a wonderful little boy, Zach, and was teaching at the divinity school of a major university. The next part of the plan was to achieve tenure, master the Russian language, and watch Zach grow up. She called it “pragmatic determinism.”

But after being diagnosed with stage IV cancer at the age of 35, time no longer pointed to the future. Time was a “loop”: start treatment, manage side effects, recover, start treatment again. She now lived “in the present.” The sicker she became, the more “hope” was a word that pointed to the unbearable: a husband and child left behind, an end without an ending.

Kate Bowler is an associate professor at Duke Divinity School. She tells the story of her sudden and unexpected confrontation with her mortality in her best-selling book *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I’ve Loved*. In a New Year’s essay in *The New York Times* [December 30, 2018], she writes of her struggle to find tangible reasons to hope:

“Approaching the new year, I wondered how I might renew hope for a future I can no longer see. So I rummaged around for inspiration in well-used daily planners and to-do lists, only to discover a stack of cards I had intended to mail long ago.

“Thank you for reintroducing me to tuna casserole. Thank you for inviting Zach to make a maze out of boxes. Yes, my dog often licks the television and thank you so much for taking him.

“There were photos that friends had hung by my bed of our last (surprisingly violent) round of Mennonite board games and of my misguided attempt to take my cello Christmas caroling. Someone had framed an image of Zach, grinning on my lap, my chemotherapy fluids hidden by a series of elaborate sock puppets we had created.

“The terrible gift of a terrible illness is that it has in fact taught me to live in the moment. But when I look at these mementos, I realize that I am learning more than to seize the day. In losing my future, the mundane began to sparkle. The things I love — the things I should love — become clearer, brighter. This is transcendence, the past and the future experienced together in moments where I can see a flicker of eternity.

“So instead of New Year’s resolutions, I drew up a list for 2019 of experiences that had already passed: a record not of self-mastery but of genuine surprise. 1. My oncology nurse became a dear friend. 2. Even in the hospital I felt the love of God. 3. Zach is under the impression that I never get tired. These are my small miracles scattered like bread crumbs, the way forward dotting the path behind me.”

Kate Bowler’s perspective of time and the direction of her life have been turned upside down. Life’s meaning is not something to be fulfilled at some future point but is realized now; hope is to be found in the present, in everyday joys that suddenly become miracles. In today’s Gospel, Luke’s version of the Beatitudes, Jesus turns upside down our own understanding of power and wealth, of joy and fulfillment. Jesus challenges everything our me-first, bottom-line-centered culture holds dear. Jesus’ Sermon on the Plain articulates a new vision, a new attitude in approaching life, a vision and attitude Kate Bowler has come embrace: the treasure of life and time itself, the hope that can be realized in compassion and generosity, the fulfillment that is experienced in freeing ourselves from the pursuit of the things of this world so as to embrace the small but lasting “miracles” of the kingdom of God.

From *Connections*, February 2019

THE MANY FACES OF JESUS

Jesus of Nazareth is esteemed in religious traditions besides Christianity. Examining how these other religions understand Jesus highlights both the similarities and the differences among the great world religions.

Please join Fr. Sean Charles Martin, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and President of Aquinas Institute of Theology, to see how Jesus is understood in Judaism and in Islam, and how these understandings can deepen our own commitment to Jesus.

The lectures will be held in the St. Stephen parish hall on Thursdays, **March 14, 21, 28, and April 4**, at 7 p.m.

“SHOW ME LIFE” PRO-LIFE ACTION DAY

Join pro-lifers in Jefferson City on Tuesday, **March 12**, at the State Capitol. Registration begins at 10 a.m. in the first-floor rotunda, and the rally starts at noon. Register for a bus at http://www.easternregionmrl.org/events, call 314-434-4900, or email mrl.eastern@yahoo.com.

Registration deadline for bus transportation is March 4. Donations toward the cost of buses can be made online or on the day of the trip.
SCHOOL NEWS

WHAT’S NEXT?
Our eighth graders received their letters of acceptance from the high schools of their choice:

- **Bishop DuBourg High School**: McKenna S.
- **Cor Jesu Academy**: Molly B., Jazmin Z.
- **Grand Center Arts**: Audrey L.
- **Nerinx Hall**: Lily M., Anna M., Madison S., Charlotte W.
- **Notre Dame High School**: Minh N., Natalie O., Caroline S., Maya W.
- **Rosati-Kain High School**: Camille B.
- **St. Louis University High School**: Alberto V.
- **St. Mary’s High School**: Tim H., Aiden J., Jonathan K., James L., Gavin M., Tommy N., TJ S.

SPEECH MEET
Our Bellarmine Speech Team competed very well in its recent meet at St. Mary Margaret Alacoque:

- **Duet**: Meggie G. & Caroline D. (blue ribbon); Tommy G. & Seth M. (red ribbon)
- **Humorous**: Lily R. (gold ribbon); Maureen M. (blue ribbon); Zach M. (red ribbon)
- **Serious**: Ceci H. (gold ribbon); Lucy B. (blue ribbon); Helena S. (blue ribbon)

HONORS BAND
Sixth-grade flutist Kathryn L. skillfully represented SSP in the annual Middle School Honor Band at Chaminade.

BOY SCOUTS NEWS

THE LONG-AWAITED DOG-SLEDDING TRIP
Thanks in part to your generous support of our fundraisers, Boy Scout Troop 104 traveled to Ely, Minn., for some unforgettable outdoor adventures.

Seven Scouts and three chaperones (Scoutmaster Michael Lohff, his wife, Julie, and Scout mom/trip photographer Tara Ohler-Jenney) left St. Louis on Jan. 31 for the 800-mile drive. The boys learned how to harness the dogs, how to drive their own sleds, and the proper commands that the dogs understand. They covered about 50 miles of trail over three days under the direction of White Wilderness Sled Dog Adventures. This was the Troop’s sixth dog-sledding trip in the past 18 years.

The Scouts on the trip included Brian B., Jack D., Caleb D., Aidan J., Henry R., Luke W., and Alex Y.

OUR NEWEST EAGLE SCOUT
Zachary Mueller joins the ranks of Troop 104’s impressive roster of Eagle Scouts.

Zach’s Eagle Scout project was completed at Woerner Elementary School. He installed UV-protection shades in the school’s two-story library, touched up paint on the doors and windows, and installed brass kickplates.

The court of honor was celebrated with Zach’s family and the troop on Saturday, Feb. 9.
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

ST. STEPHEN 50+ CLUB
The St. Stephen 50+ Club has its monthly meeting this Thursday, Feb. 21, at 11 a.m. in the parish hall.

Meetings begin with a bit of business, followed by lunch, socializing, and playing bingo. Members are asked to bring $5 to cover lunch and an attendance drawing. There is also a Pot of Gold raffle. Bingo cards are just 50 cents each for 20 or so games.

In addition to monthly meetings, the group arranges periodic bus trips to area events and attractions.

Come and give it a try! All are welcome!

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.

MINDFUL DISCERNMENT
“Mindful Discernment: Contemplative Prayer for Developing Practical Wisdom” is the second in a series of three lunchtime Spring Dialogues sponsored by The Aquinas Institute is presented by Tom Bushlack, Ph.D. The event is at Il Monastero Banquet Center (3050 Olive St., 63103) on March 5, 2019, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is $25, which includes lunch. For more information, contact Diane Henderson at 314-256-8856 or henderson@ai.edu.

The next dialogue is “Straight Talk Today About the Real God” on April 9.

MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST
The Archdiocesan Lay Formation Committee is sponsoring “Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist,” a three-part series exploring the truth and beauty of Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist and invites attendees to an intimate union with God. The 30-minute DVD presentation and discussion guide are presented by Augustine Institute.

In the South City Deanery, the program is being held at Our Lady of Sorrows on March 5, 12, and 19, at 1 p.m. or 7 p.m. To register, contact Connie at 314-799-1858 or cmanderson6416@yahoo.com by Feb. 26.

Cost is $6 per person.

ALUMNI NEWS
Congratulations to our alumni who are among last semester’s Renaissance Award winners at St. Mary’s High School. Gold Awards (3.6 GPA or higher) — Zachary Mueller, Jacob Weingart, Caleb Dill, Zachary Shipp; Silver Award (3.3 or higher) — Henry Wobbe.

Way to go, gentlemen!
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.

**Please Pray**

for our sick and recovering ...
- Dave Asinger
- Suzi Beck
- Jerry Buchet
- Fran Campbell
- Ann Dosenbach
- Thomas Lorenz
- Lois McClellan
- Steve Moylan
- Grace Phillips
- Vince Stehlin
- Virginia Zenthoefer

for our homebound ...
- Jeanette Holmer
- Albertine Honious
- Rose Schuster

for those in nursing homes ...
- Al Eckert
- Ellie Kearns
- Dolores Meisemann

for family members serving in the military ...
- Derek Hirtz
- Tristan Moylan
- Ryan O’Neil
- Jack Renick
- Brian Schoellhorn
- Mitch Sollmann

**Devotions**

**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 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 / 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**
- 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.