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

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

St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 24, 2019
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend without expecting anything back.” (Luke 6:35)

Easier said than done, right?

But, if we are to imitate Christ, most of us need to practice mercy and compassion more frequently.

Start with the little daily annoyances that we experience, the unkind word or hateful glance we receive. Instead of plotting revenge, try saying a quick prayer for that person. Mercy and compassion will put us on the path to holiness.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

February 17 Contribution $ 4,278.62
Online giving contribution $ 1,896.00
Total weekly contribution $ 6,174.62
R & I $ 269.00
Tuition Assistance $ 931.00
The St. Louis Review $ 35.00
First Offering $ 5.00
Candlemas Day $ 25.00

R & I $ 269.00
Tuition Assistance $ 931.00
The St. Louis Review $ 35.00
First Offering $ 5.00
Candlemas Day $ 25.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
Saturday, March 2
4:00 p.m. - G. Stoff, B. Stoff
Sunday, March 3
8:00 a.m. - P. Cooper, A. Rotermund
10:30 a.m. - R. Rone, B. Borgmeyer

SERVERS
Saturday, March 2
4:00 p.m. - Meggie G., Elijah S.
Sunday, March 3
8:00 a.m. - Gabriel S., Jovie M.
10:30 a.m. - Elsa Y., Colin M.

RENOVATION & IMPROVEMENT NEWS

Another repair has been made possible by your contributions to our Renovation & Improvement Fund.

There was some water damage to the roof and wall of the back of our school building, near the stairwell leading to the teachers’ lounge (the choir loft of the old church, for you old-timers). The work included repairing some brickwork, replacing some roof decking, and reinstalling the slate roof tiles, for a total of $2,200.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

PALMS FOR ASHES

You are welcome to bring last year’s palms to church next weekend (March 2-3) so they can be burned for ashes. Leave them in the back of church after any of the Masses.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19; Ps 119:165, 168, 171-175; Mk 9:38-40
Thursday: Sir 5:1-8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mk 9:41-50
Friday: Sir 6:5-17; Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35; Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: Sir 17:1-15; Ps 103:13-18; Mk 10:13-16
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sir 27:4-7; Ps 92:2-3, 13-16; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday February 25</th>
<th>Tuesday February 26</th>
<th>Wednesday February 27</th>
<th>Thursday February 28</th>
<th>Friday March 1</th>
<th>Saturday March 2</th>
<th>Sunday March 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy of the Word 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Perpetual Help Devotions</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m. Holy Hour</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>Pastoral Council 7 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Pickleball 7 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>DONUT SUNDAY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. There is urgent need for servers for the 3:45 p.m. shift, especially March 6 and 8. Kids seeking service hours are more than welcome to help with bussing tables and selling raffle tickets.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 26th annual St. Stephen Protomartyr Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Forest Park’s Norman K. Probstein 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.)

WHAT’S THAT ALL ABOUT?

Q: Those of us who have been here for a while shouldn’t assume newcomers know our shorthand or why we do the things we do.

Q: Why are there five posted hymn numbers if we only sing four of them?

A: Great question! At Masses where there are enough people in attendance that one song is not enough at the distribution of communion, we will sing a second communion hymn. At more lightly attended Masses (such as 8 a.m. on Sundays), this second hymn is not usually necessary.

IN SEARCH OF A SPECIAL SOMEONE OR TWO

We looking for a volunteer — or team of volunteers — who would be interested in coordinating the week-long Vacation Bible School this summer. There are established curricula to use as guides and always plenty of worker bees to help during the week.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Mary Regan at 314-481-1133 or maryreganssp@gmail.com.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In the charity of your prayers, please remember Shirley Weathers; the sister of Tim Bolt; and Sister Marie Charles Buford (former executive director of the Carondelet Community Betterment Federation), who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 5: Mission Carnival
- 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
The young chaplain was not prepared for what she experienced the first weeks at the hospital. First, there was the Vietnam vet whose kidneys were failing him. He routinely insulted and demeaned the nurses assigned to his care with cruel and crude jokes. At first, the inexperienced chaplain was appalled at the man’s behavior but, in time, came to understand why he acted as he did: Once powerful and vital, he was losing his easy strength and control over his body. He was suddenly vulnerable before women young enough to be his daughters, so grasped at whatever control he could find. The chaplain began to see him “doubly,” as the boor and the beggar — and against her best instincts, the chaplain was moved by his plight.

As the months passed, the chaplain began to see more people “doubly.” Patients were routinely racist, sexist, demanding, aggressive, or cruel with the nurses and staff — and they were afraid, exhausted, in pain, helpless. In the hospital, the illusion of control — over the function of a limb or organ, the strength of hands, the length of life — is shoved in the little closet alongside shoes and street clothes, and most people clutch at anything that might give a taste of it back.

The chaplain writes of those first days: “I would have preferred not to return to the rooms whose occupants turned their suffering on everyone around them, but duty and my supervisor’s insistence sent me back. I would have preferred to find excuses for the transgressions confessed to or committed in front of me, but responsibility to the transgressor stilled my tongue. I still would prefer those options. But my role demands a persistent and sharp-edged compassion, a capacity to behold both the sin and the sinner, to understand that humans do bad things that cause real harm and yet remain human. The best service a chaplain provides for a patient is treating them not as a symptom or a saint but as a whole person, complete with the pack of small evils all of us contain alongside our better angels. Even after years of practicing this double vision, some days it is more than I can manage .... ”

It’s a struggle. Sometimes we can find a way to overlook or get past someone’s bad behavior; at other times, the only thing we can do is walk away, to punish them by our silence or ostracism. But the now-veteran chaplain has learned compassion, “compassion I have had to discover [that] requires effort and a willingness to hold onto tension, but it is not complicated to practice. It is as simple as completing the sentence: They are young, and they cause harm in their thoughtlessness. They desire acceptance, and they act cruelly to get it. They are vulnerable, and they are punishing others to feel stronger. They are hurting, and they hurt others. Always and. Always stay long enough for the and.”

[From “A chaplain’s compassion,” by Bailey Pickens, The University of Chicago Magazine, Winter 2018.]

Over time, an inexperienced hospital chaplain develops the compassion urged by Jesus in today’s Gospel. Jesus’s hard teaching on loving one’s “enemies” challenges us to understand and acknowledge the hurt and pain in the lives of those we find difficult to tolerate, let alone “love.” In every relationship, in every set of circumstances, the faithful disciple of Jesus seeks to break that destructive rut of hatred and distrust by doing the hard work of seeing the “and” in everyone’s life, that we are all more than just our failings and sins — we are also our vulnerabilities and hurts. Always, always, Jesus says, “stay along enough for the ‘and.’”

From Connections, February 2019

SSP has revived the Liturgy Planning Committee. The purpose of the committee is to plan the elements of the upcoming liturgical season — music, special devotions, Mass ministers — and to ensure the prayer and worship needs of parishioners are being met.

Members are Anne Borgmeyer, Dave Borgmeyer, Sandy Gaydos, Steve Gaydos, Katie Holley, Stephen Jones, Cathy Kveton, Peggy McGuire, Gary Stoff, Stephanie Wobbe, Mary Regan, and Father Ron.

Congratuations to Officer Joe Carr (’10), who was named the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department’s Third District Officer of the Year for 2018.

Officer Carr distinguished himself by his attitude, professionalism, interactions with residents and visitors of the district, and his measured productivity for 2018.

Way to go!
The Internet is a fabulous thing. We can stay in touch with faraway family and friends easily and inexpensively. A staggering amount of information is just a click or two away. Unfortunately, sometimes things go south.

Many of you may have received an email (or two) in recent days that appeared to be from Father Ron. Your Spidey sense may have told you that there was something “off” about this message. But what was it, exactly? What’s the deal with these kinds of messages?

Spam is the electronic equivalent of the “junk mail” that clogs your real-life mailbox. It’s essentially harmless but unwanted and annoying.

Spam is broad. (Like sending out 10,000 cheaply produced postcards in the hope that two people will respond. Or calling 10,000 strangers during the dinner hour to offer them a deal on life insurance.) Spam links are usually legitimate, even if the item being sold is falsely advertised.

Spam gets complicated when “spoofing” is involved. That’s when a message looks like it’s coming from someone you know or do business with, but it really isn’t.

Phishing is the digital sport of luring naïve recipients to give up valuable data, such as credit card or banking information. Phishing is targeted. Any hyperlinks are usually malicious and designed to acquire information or harm your computer.

This particular message which only appears to be from Father Ron qualifies as low-tech phishing. There is no link directing you to a site asking for personal information. There is no attachment which could do harm if downloaded. However, if you were to reply, you would be sending a message to whomever created the email address frronaldhopmeir1@gmail.com, which is not Father Ron’s actual address.

And what would this accomplish? One, it would alert the sender that he/she has essentially caught a live one. You took the bait and your address is worthy of being traded or sold. Secondly, if the phisher has you convinced that he/she is your dear pastor, you might be inclined to do “him” this favor, perhaps providing “him” with financial information that “he” may need for, say, “stewardship purposes.”

Technology evolves so fast, it’s hard for most of us beyond our teen years to keep up. Nefarious opportunists are banking on this.

How can you protect yourself?

In this case, you’ve probably heard Father Ron state on more than one occasion that while he does answer emails he receives, he would never use email to make an initial contact with anyone. He prefers the phone for that. Similarly, consider your friends’ habits. If something smells fishy ... it might be “phishy.”

Likewise, your bank, your credit card company, and other businesses with whom you have relationships have also probably told you at some point that they will never ask you for sensitive information via an unsolicited email or phone call.

If you aren’t expecting photos from Cousin Suzy, you probably shouldn’t click on the attachments to her email message before giving her a ring or inquiring via a new email message (as opposed to replying to the one you received). And if your suspicions are unfounded, no one will blame you!

Silver Lining: Father Ron received several kind phone calls as a result of this phishing scam and now knows exactly who to call if he ever does need a favor.
AROUND TOWN

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.

RUMMAGE SALE
St. John the Baptist Parish (5021 Adkins) is holding its annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, March 2, 2019, from 7 a.m. until 12 p.m. Who knows what treasures you may find?

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 and presented by Tom Bushlack, Ph.D. The event is at II Monastero Banquet Center (3050 Olive St., 63103) on March 5, 2019, from 11:30 a.m. to 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.

WOMEN’S INTERFAITH CONFERENCE
This conference is held to educate and inform attendees about faith groups of which they may have little or no knowledge and also to dispel myths and misinformation.

The event is at the St. Stanislaus Polish Heritage Center (1413 N. 20th St.) on March 28, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is $12. Lunch is included. For more information or to register (by March 18), please visit www.womeninterfaithstl.org or contact Jerri Livingston at 314-469-3553.

BIRTHRIGHT RUN FOR LIFE
The 18th Annual Run for Life and Learning, benefiting Birthright STL, is March 30, 2019, at Creve Coeur Lake.

Register for the 6K Run/Walk, 1 Mile Fun Run, or Quarter-Mile Kids Run — with Fredbird — at run4lifeandlearning.eventbrite.com.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact us at run4lifeandlearning@gmail.com.

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.

TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: LAST CHANCE
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 1098T’s, 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.
Date: March 2, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, February 25**
8:00 a.m. - Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, February 26**
8:00 a.m. - Magdalen Mike

**Wednesday, February 27**
8:00 a.m. - Jim Oehler

**Thursday, February 28**
8:00 a.m. - Joseph Heaghney

**Friday, March 1**
8:00 a.m. - Jane & George McKenna

**Saturday, March 2**
8:00 a.m. - Ralph Holmes, Clare A. Cribbin
4:00 p.m. - Fran Crimi

**Sunday, March 3**
8:00 a.m. - Our Parishioners
10:30 a.m. - Cathy & Ron Ulrich

---

**PLEASE PRAY**

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

**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  Ryan O’Neil  Brian Schoellhorn
Tristan Moylan  Jack Renick  Mitch Sollmann

---

**DEVOTIONS**

**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.

---

**S A I N T  S T E P H E N**
Saint Stephen Protomartyr Parish

**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 a.m. 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.