St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

First Sunday of Lent

March 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
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
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
marypaulessp@gmail.com

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

“I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me.” (Deuteronomy 26:10)

This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your “first fruits,” the best that you have to offer, or do you give from what is left over? Second, do you recognize that everything you have has been given to you by God? Ask God for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

March 3 Contribution $11,022.57
Online giving contribution $ 1,631.00
Total weekly contribution $12,653.57
R & I $ 265.00
Tuition Assistance $ 775.00
Black and Indian Missions $ 15.00
Catholic Relief Services $ 15.00
Central/Eastern Europe $ 15.00
First Offering $ 5.00
Society for the Propagation of the Faith $ 30.00

Special collections in March are for Black and Indian Missions and Catholic Relief Services.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
Saturday, March 16
4:00 p.m. - S. Gaydos, C. Aasgaard
Sunday, March 17
8:00 a.m. - S. Gunter, L. Driscoll
10:30 a.m. - E. Joly, G. Joly

SERVERS
Saturday, March 16
4:00 p.m. - Gabriel S., Meggie G.
Sunday, March 17
8:00 a.m. - Mark W., Stephanie W.
10:30 a.m. - Elsa Y., Elijah S.

What a nice Valentine surprise of chocolates I received from the SSP Girl Scouts! Thank you for your thoughtfulness. You helped make my day. God bless you all.

Mrs. Ann Dosenbach

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19;
Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7-8;
Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-4, 5-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Second Sunday of Lent: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1,
7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17—4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

CHOIR PRACTICE IS STARTING

The choir is starting to practice for Holy Week and Easter. We will begin on Sunday, March 10, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
New choir members are always welcome!

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday March 11</th>
<th>Tuesday March 12</th>
<th>Wednesday March 13</th>
<th>Thursday March 14</th>
<th>Friday March 15</th>
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<th>Sunday March 17</th>
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<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.</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Fish Fry 4 p.m.-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Lenten Series: Fr. Sean Martin 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fish Fry 4 p.m.-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Pickleball 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Holy Name Society 7:30 p.m.</td>
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Thank you for your generosity and for your continued support of our parish and our mission. May God continue to bless you.

Mr. Ron Givens
Deacon
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.”

PIZZA WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Hop on over to Carondelet Park for the first-ever Pizza With the Easter Bunny on Sunday, April 7. The festivities will take place at Carondelet Park’s Pavilion #1 (the big covered pavilion, not the boathouse).

From noon to 1 p.m., enjoy pizza, crafts, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. (Bring your own camera.) The Easter egg hunt — for kids 12 and younger — begins at 1 p.m. Please don’t forget to bring a basket.

Tickets are $5 per person in advance ($20 max per family) or $8 per person on the day of the event ($25 max per family). Price includes two pieces of Cecil Whittaker’s pizza per person, photos with the Easter Bunny (taken with your own camera), crafts, and the egg hunt. Hunts will be divided by age. Eggs will be filled with candy and prizes.

Questions? Contact Jill Pace at 314-413-1349 or myemail9314@gmail.com. The event is sponsored by St. Stephen’s Brownie Troop #248.

SUNDAY SURVEY

The parish Liturgy Committee suggested that during the summer months — June, July, and August — we change our weekend Mass schedule. The suggestion is to have the Saturday afternoon Mass at 4 p.m. and one Sunday morning Mass. The suggested Sunday time would be a “middle of the road” time between the normal 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Mass times. The Pastoral Council agreed with this suggestion.

In the past, parishes had many Masses on Sunday because of the large number of people that belonged to the parish. All of the parishioners simply would not fit in the church at the same time. As parish populations have decreased, the number of Masses on a weekend has also changed. During the summer, many people are either on vacation, at the lake, or gone for the weekend.

Last August we had a “Fellowship Sunday” with one Mass. The feedback we received was positive. Parishioners like worshipping and visiting with others whom they don’t usually see because they attend another Mass. We also heard that parishioners liked the vibrant energy of a full church.

We would like your input as to the preferred time of this single Sunday Mass during the summer, including any comments. Please fill out the anonymous survey below and return it to the rectory or in the collection basket. If you prefer, you can fill out the survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCNPHC5.

Thank you for your participation!

Which Sunday morning Mass time would you prefer during the summer months?

☐ 9:00 a.m.
☐ 9:30 a.m.

You are welcome to share any thoughts or comments:

PARISH PICNIC MEETING

We are busy working on the picnic details, even though our temperatures feel far away from summer! Please join us on Tuesday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in the parish hall for our first picnic meeting.

We currently have several large holes to fill as some of our previous volunteers have retired from their roles. Come to see how you can support the parish’s largest fundraiser of the year!

Any questions, contact Matt (314-368-9704) or Ann Marie Guntli (314-283-1536) at ssppicnic@gmail.com.

QUILT TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

Tickets are still available for St. Stephen’s Every-Other-Month Quilt Raffle. The first drawing is in April 2019. The quilts are hand-embroidered and quilted by our very own quilters. A five-dollar bill gets you six chances for all six drawings. Now that’s a deal!

Tickets are available after all Sunday Masses and at the rectory.
PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

The members of the committee began the **Feb. 27** meeting with prayer.

The committee learned about the latest periodic walk-through of the campus with the maintenance staff to identify projects in need of attention, which will be prioritized.

One of the upcoming projects is relocating the main school entrance to the west “trophy-case door” for greater security. This will involve reconfiguring the school office.

The committee was in favor of the Liturgy Committee’s suggestion to move to a single Sunday Mass (in addition to the Saturday vigil Mass).

Given the popularity of the chicken dinners, there was discussion about offering a monthly fellowship lunch after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass. Help from various organizations would be requested.

The committee clarified some policies pertaining to the funeral luncheon program.

The next meeting of the Pastoral Council is planned for March 27.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In the charity of your prayers, please remember the sister of Dee Brown, who died recently. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

LENTEN LECTURES WITH FR. MARTIN

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.

ARCHDIOCESAN SONG FESTIVAL

Our third and fourth graders will sing at the Archdiocesan Elementary Song Festival on Thursday, **March 14**, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Bishop DuBourg High School’s gymnasium.

Everyone is invited!

SSP GOLF TOURNAMENT

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending the SSP Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held on Saturday, **May 4, 2019**, at Forest Park (Norman K. Probstein) Golf Course.

The day begins with lunch at 12 p.m., tee-off at 1:30 p.m., and appetizers and dinner at the golf course after an afternoon of golf.

**Players:** Please consider playing in the tournament this year. It is always a fun time and a great way to support the school and parish.

**Sponsors:** We are in need of sponsors. Any donations would be deeply appreciated. To ensure the success of the tournament, please consider being a hole sponsor or donating an auction item.

**Volunteers:** If you are available to help that day, please contact Mike Finney (314-210-9229) or Ted Hartzler (314-752-3631). There are many opportunities, even if you can only help for an hour or two. Volunteers are always needed on tournament day.

**Contact person:** If you would like a flyer mailed / emailed to you or if you would like any information about the tournament, please email sspgolf@sbcglobal.net.

See our **Facebook page:** 2019 SSP Golf Tournament

SCHOOL SOFTWARE UPGRADE

Our school is moving to a new educational data system next year.

**FACTS SIS** (formerly RenWeb Student Information System) is a suite of services including tuition management, student information, family data, online admissions / enrollment, and grading. This will improve our school management through service and technology.

This system is paid for by funds that were raised in our 90th Anniversary campaign and with a donation from our PTO.

Parents were introduced to the system on Jan. 22 and had the opportunity to hear about the advantages of FACTS and a chance to ask questions. June Tessin, Michel Wendell, and Amanda Quinn have begun training; the faculty will have professional development during the week of May 27.
**ANNUAL LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION**

Please join us for the South Grand Senior Ministry’s annual Lenten Day of Reflection on Tuesday, **April 9**.

The event is taking place at the White House Retreat Center (7400 Christopher) in Oakville, Mo. We will gather at 8:30 a.m. for registration and welcome.

The day will include three conferences led by Fr. **Ralph Huse, S.J.** There will be time for the sacrament of reconciliation. We will conclude with Mass at 1:45 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Thanks to the generosity of The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O’Fallon, there is no charge for this event.

Please contact **Heather** at 314-351-1318, x201, to make reservations by April 3.

If you are interested in carpooling to this event, please let Heather know when you make your reservation.

**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.

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**“CALL THE MIDWIFE”**

“Call the Midwife” is the acclaimed PBS series about a community of Anglican nuns and the young nurses who work with them in serving the working poor in post-war London.

In a recent episode, a young nun, Sister Winifred, is torn between her assignment working as a midwife in London and her desire to work with young children. Her sisters caution her that they all must obediently go where their superiors assign them, but Sister Winifred passionately argues that there is a difference between “going where we are called by God and doing what we are told by human beings.”

Sister Winifred apologizes for the “quarrel” she has agitated among the sisters — but Sister Mildred, from the wisdom of her experience, points to the real nature of the sisters’ “quarrel.”

“The quarrel is not between ourselves. It is within us. The quarrel is between one’s own desires and that which is demanded. The quarrel is between the body and its longings, the soul and its terrors, and the mind yearning to be free. The quarrel defines us. It drives us forward, upwards, to our knees in prayer. You must embrace the quarrel. The quarrel will lead us to the answer. [The quarrel] is everything we are.”

Every Lent calls us to take up that same “quarrel”: determining what God is calling us to do against expectations of the world, realizing the meaning and purpose of these lives God has breathed into us when we are overwhelmed with the responsibilities of family and profession. This Lenten spring is a time for taking up our life-long “quarrel” between cynicism and hope, between our self-centered wants and the common good, between the “dust” of worldly things and the permanence of the kingdom of God.

From **Connections**, March 2019

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

- March 21-24: Men’s White House Retreat
- March 26: Parish Picnic Meeting
- April 7: Easter Egg Hunt
- April 22: Night at the Ballpark
- May 4: Golf Tournament
- June 12: Parish Picnic
AROUND TOWN

RICK THUM IN CONCERT
Dulcimer player Rick Thum will be in concert on March 17, 2019, at 2 p.m. at the Marianist Retreat & Conference Center (4000 Highway 109, Eureka, Mo.). The show will feature traditional, bluegrass, folk, and old-time music and includes Bob Born on guitar.

Tickets are $20 for adults, $5 for kids over seven. Proceeds support MRCC’s family ministry program. Contact Julie at 636-938-5390 or julie@mretreat.org with questions.

THEOLOGY FOR LIFE AT AQUINAS INSTITUTE
On Palm Sunday, the story of Christ’s Passion will be proclaimed from the gospel of Luke. Fr. Sean Charles Martin will guide us through an in-depth study of those specific passages, comparing and contrasting them to last year’s Passion account by Mark, in his series “Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit: The Reconciling Passion of Jesus in Luke’s Gospel.”

The lectures — held on Tuesday evenings, March 19 through April 9, 2019, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Aquinas Institute (23 S. Spring Ave.) — will serve as an excellent Lenten preparation for commemorating Christ’s death and resurrection during Holy Week and Easter.

Cost is $25 per session or $80 for all four sessions. Attend as many as you wish. Contact 314-256-8804 or visit www.ai.edu for more information or to register.

FIAT WOMEN’S GROUP
All women are invited to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary (5200 Glennon Drive) on the third Thursday of each month for prayer and a talk.

The next meeting is March 21, 2019. The speaker will be Dr. Shawn Welch, Associate Professor of Moral Theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Dr. Welch’s talk is entitled “Mother Teresa: Our Sister in Christ.” The rosary will be prayed at 8 a.m., and Dr. Welch will speak from 8:15 a.m. until 9 a.m. Coffee will be offered afterward in the Fireside Lounge until 9:30 a.m.

For more information or to watch videos from past Fiat talks, visit www.kenrick.edu/ fiat.

EVENING FOR THE DIVORCED / SEPARATED
“An Evening for the Separated/Divorced: A Reflection on God’s Mercy” led by Father Aaron Nord, adjutant judicial vicar with the archdiocese’s Marriage Tribunal, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21, 2019, at the Rigali Center (20 Archbishop May Drive).

The program is sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life. For information or to reserve a spot, call Julie Bostick at 314-792-7180.

WOMEN’S INTERFAITH CONFERENCE
This annual conference brings together hundreds of St. Louis women each spring to learn about the beliefs, values, customs, and practices of religions, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Baha’i.

The event, sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office of Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs, takes place on March 28, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Stanislaus Polish Heritage Center (1413 N. 20th St.). Cost is $12. Visit www.womeninterfaithstl.org to register.

THOMAS MERTON ON VIOLENCE & RACISM
On March 30, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Aquinas Institute (23 S. Spring Ave.), Fr. Dan Horan, OFM, professor at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, will examine Thomas Merton’s approach to one of the most pressing issues currently troubling our region and the nation.

Cost is $60 and includes lunch and parking. To register, call 314-256-8804 or visit www.ai.edu. The program is co-sponsored by the Incarnate Word Foundation and the St. Louis Archdiocesan Peace & Justice Commission.

ANNUAL LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION
All are invited to join Archbishop Robert Carlson for this special day of reflection, recollection, and reconciliation, March 30, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. The day includes two conferences with the Archbishop, the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, praying of the rosary, Stations of the Cross, Holy Hour, and Evening Prayer, and concludes with vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

A good will offering will be accepted to offset the cost of lunch. Advance registration is requested. Contact Mary Ann Fox at 314-373-8208.
Tuesdays, after 8 a.m. Mass: Perpetual Help Devotions

Wednesdays, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m.: Church is available for Eucharistic Adoration. Stop by the rectory for entry.

First Friday of the Month, after 8 a.m. Mass: Holy Hour and Benediction

Stations of the Cross: Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Fridays at 2 p.m.