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!

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
stephaniewoebessp@gmail.com

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

St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish
Second Sunday of Lent
March 17, 2019

MASTER, IT IS GOOD THAT WE ARE HERE
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.” (Genesis 15:7)

Just as the Lord gave Abraham, Moses and the Israelites a land to possess, He has also given each of us a home. Whether your home is grand or humble, it is a gift from God. Abraham prepared a great sacrifice to the Lord in gratitude for the home God gave him. How do you show your gratitude to God for the home He has given you? Do you make a sacrifice of any kind? Do you return any of your finances to God, investing equally in your eternal home just as you invest in your earthly home?

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

| March 10 Contribution | $ 6,824.00 |
| Online giving contribution | $ 1,646.00 |
| Total weekly contribution | $ 8,470.00 |
| R & I | $ 163.00 |
| Tuition Assistance | $ 153.00 |
| Black and Indian Missions | $ 484.00 |
| Central/Eastern Europe | $ 135.00 |
| Society for the Propagation of the Faith | $ 188.00 |

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

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8-11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday, St. Joseph: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mt 7:14-18, 19-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Third Sunday of Lent: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103:1-4, 6-7, 8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

Saturday, March 23
4:00 p.m. - E. Kovac, C. McGeehan
Sunday, March 24
8:00 a.m. - B. McLain, Z. Mueller
10:30 a.m. - R. Moylan, P. O’Connell

SERVERS

Saturday, March 23
4:00 p.m. - Katie W., Colin M.
Sunday, March 24
8:00 a.m. - Hendrix F., Bridgette F.
10:30 a.m. - Ellen K., Tara J.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

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

ALUMNI NEWS

St. Mary’s High School senior Max Todd (‘15) was named the senior Dragon of the Month for best demonstrating the characteristic of Marianist education of service, justice, and peace. Way to go, Max!

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday March 18</th>
<th>Tuesday March 19</th>
<th>Wednesday March 20</th>
<th>Thursday March 21</th>
<th>Friday March 22</th>
<th>Saturday March 23</th>
<th>Sunday March 24</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO LITURGY OF WORD</td>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Perpetual Help Devotions</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Fish Fry 4 p.m.-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Stations of the Cross 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Finance Committee Meeting 7 p.m.</td>
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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.”

Parish Picnic Meeting

Please join us on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 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.

Pizza With the Easter Bunny

Hop on over to the park for Pizza With the Easter Bunny on Sunday, April 7, 2019, at Carondelet Park’s Pavilion #1. The event is sponsored by SSP Brownie Troop #248.

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

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. Contact Jill Pace at 314-413-1349 or myemail9314@gmail.com.

SSP Golf Tournament

The annual SSP Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Forest Park (Norman K. Probststein) 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 or sponsors: 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.

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.

See our Facebook page: 2019 SSP Golf Tournament

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, by March 25. Please complete the 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:
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 first lecture was March 14 in the St. Stephen parish hall. Remaining three are on Thursdays, March 21, 28, and April 4, at 7 p.m.

QUILT TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

Tickets are still available for St. Stephen’s Every-Other-Month Quilt Raffle. The first drawing is in April 2019. Five dollars gets you six chances for all six drawings.

Tickets are available after all Sunday Masses and at the rectory.

SHADOW A DRAGON

St. Mary’s High School (4701 S. Grand) invites seventh grade boys to shadow a current student on any Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. (This week’s spring break is the perfect opportunity to do so without missing school.)

Contact Sam Carel at 314-481-8400 or carels@stmaryshs.com to schedule a visit.

SUMMER AT SLUH

St. Louis University High School (4970 Oakland Ave.) offers a variety of summer programs that might be of interest to grade school students.

Visit www.sluh.org/summer for more information about robotics classes, athletic camps, and more.

PERFORMING ARTS YOUTH RETREAT

Current high school students are invited to apply for Youth Sing Praise, a unique musical theatre and retreat camp held June 15-23, 2019, at Our Lady of the Snows (Belleville, Ill.). Students audition, learn, and perform a faith-based musical. This year, the show is Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The performance is June 22.

Visit www.youthsingpraise.com to apply by April 15.
ANNUAL LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION

Please join us for the South Grand Senior Ministry’s annual Lenten Day of Reflection on Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

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.

SPIRITUALITY OF THE WISDOM YEARS

The Marianist Retreat Center (4000 Hwy. 109, Eureka, Mo.) is hosting a Day of Recollection on Thursday, April 25, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Like every stage of life, the “wisdom years” present their own unique challenges and blessings. They are a time of transition, of redefining who we are and who we’re called to be.

This Day of Recollection will look to our Blessed Mother, Mary, as our model in discerning God’s will and responding to it, learning to ponder in our hearts as she did. Through this process participants will learn to move through knowledge to wisdom, through uncertainty to acceptance and peace.

The day will include presentations, discussion, journaling, and time for quiet reflection and walking the grounds, culminating in a prayer service.

Cost is $45 per person and includes lunch and snacks. Visit www.mretreat.org to register or call 636-938-5390.

“A PRETTY GOOD KID…”

You’ll think it when you’re watching your son or daughter play on their school team. You’ll see their determination, the skill they have worked so hard to develop that gets better and sharper with every game, and their selflessness to pass the ball or the buck or throw the tough block or hit the sacrifice for the good of the team — and it will hit you.

Or you’ll realize it when you see your child run to the assistance of someone in need, bend down to help another kid up, or say just the right words to bring peace and healing to a difficult situation.

You may actually say it when you’re sitting next to the love of your life as your child makes the same promise to the love of their life that the two of you made to each other when you were their age. In that moment, you will see yourselves in them.

You will say it amid the joys and tears as you meet your first grandchild. As you caress the child, you will look over at the child’s mom and dad — still and always, your child. And you will look at your spouse and say, maybe without using words, “You know, we raised a pretty good kid.”

Our lives are filled with such moments of transfiguration: when the love of God bursts forth in our lives; when we are aware and assured that we are loved and cared for and about; when the light of the “holy” illuminates the ordinary and every day, breaking through the clouds of fear and darkness of despair that sometimes engulf us. In the event we have come to call Jesus’ “transfiguration,” the three disciples actually realize the divinity — the very life and love of God — that exists within the person of Jesus. That “divinity” exists within each one of us, as well, illuminating our perspective with the wisdom of God, inspiring us to embrace Jesus’ example of humility and selflessness in service to others, compelling us to realize God’s kingdom of justice and peace in this time and place of ours.

From Connections, March 2019

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 26: Parish Picnic Meeting
- April 7: Easter Egg Hunt
- April 22: Night at the Ballpark
- April 27: Fishpot Creek Band at 4 p.m. Mass
- May 4: Golf Tournament
- June 12: Parish Picnic
ST. JOSEPH ALTAR
The St. Joseph Altar will take place this Sunday, March 17, 2019. The event begins with Mass in Italian at St. Ambrose Church at 11:00 a.m. Following Mass, there will be a short procession to the school cafeteria, where there will be Italian food specialties for purchase, as well as a buffet provided by local restaurants.

Admission to the event is free, but donations are requested for the buffet. For more information, visit www.stambroseonthehill.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT AQUINAS INSTITUTE
On Tuesday evenings, March 19 through April 9, 2019, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fr. Sean Martin will lead an in-depth study of the Passion in the Gospel of Luke in his series “Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit: The Reconciling Passion of Jesus in Luke’s Gospel.” Cost is $25 per session or $80 for all four sessions.

On March 30, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fr. Dan Horan, OFM, professor at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, will examine Thomas Merton’s approach to the issues of violence. The program is co-sponsored by the Incarnate Word Foundation and the St. Louis Archdiocesan Peace & Justice Commission. Cost is $60, which includes lunch and parking.

Both events are held at Aquinas Institute (23 S. Spring Ave.). Contact 314-256-8804 or visit www.ai.edu for more information or to register.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT MERCY CENTER
On Tuesdays, March 19, 26, and April 2, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Sr. Kathleen Doyle presents “Challenged to Authenticity: Heeding the Voice of the Prophet,” a program which explores what the Hebrew prophets have to say to contemporary believers. Special focuses are on Hosea (March 19), Isaiah (March 26), and Isaiah/Jeremiah (April 2). Cost is $35 per session or $90 for the series.

On Saturday, March 23, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fr. Tom Santen presents “Stark Beauty: Lent and the Desert,” which explores the rich heritage of desert imagery and its association with the season of Lent. Cost is $60 and includes lunch.

Create your own time of personal prayer this Lent on one or all of Mercy Center’s Lenten Quiet Days from April 1 through April 3. There are no presentations or schedules outside of mealtimes, where a spirit of silence will be maintained. Cost is $30 for day only (includes lunch) or $65 for overnight (includes three meals).

To register for any of these events, please call 314-966-4686 or visit www.mercycenterstl.org.

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 on Thursday, March 21, 2019, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 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.

BREAKFAST AT ST. JAMES THE GREATER
St. James the Greater Parish (6401 Wade Ave.) is hosting an All You Care to Eat Breakfast on Sunday, March 24, 2019, from 9 a.m. to noon in the school cafeteria. There is no set cost; free-will offerings will be accepted.

These breakfasts are planned for the fourth Sunday of each month. Contact Patricia Whitmore at 314-645-0167 or pkwhitmore@stjamesthegreater.org with questions.

SCDC MEETING
The South County Separated, Divorced, Widowed and Remarried Catholics are meeting Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 7 p.m. at the St. Catherine Laboure parish cafeteria (9740 Sappington Rd.). After a short meeting, there will be refreshments and some words from guest speaker Barbara Kay.

For more information, call Pat Lynch at 314-537-5930.

ANNUAL LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION
Join Archbishop Robert Carlson for a day of reflection, recollection, and reconciliation, March 30, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

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.
MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 18
8:00 a.m. - No Liturgy

Tuesday, March 19
8:00 a.m. - Catherine Esser

Wednesday, March 20
8:00 a.m. - John & Cecelia Hopmeir

Thursday, March 21
8:00 a.m. - Edna Sullivan Stough

Friday, March 22
8:00 a.m. - Lu Sturm

Saturday, March 23
8:00 a.m. - Richard Meisemann
4:00 p.m. - Our Parishioners

Sunday, March 24
8:00 a.m. - Maggie Welby
10:30 a.m. - Michael Simon, Michael & Michelle Moore

PLEASE PRAY

for our sick and recovering ...
Dave Asinger   Thomas Lorenz   Grace Phillips
Suzi Beck      Lois McClellan  Vince Stehlin
Ann Dosenbach  Steve Moylan   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  Ryan O'Neil   Brian Schoellhorn
Tristan Moylan  Jack Renick  Mitch Sollmann

DEVOTIONS

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.

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
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.