St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 3, 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

Every tree is known by its own fruit

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
"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." (Luke 6:43)

Are you using your God-given gifts in the way God intended? Do you compare yourself to others and complain about what you don't have instead of being thankful for what you do have? God gives each of us unique gifts and a unique plan. Listen to how God is calling you to use your gifts, to bear good fruit, for the glory of God’s name.

**February 24 Contribution**

- Online giving contribution: $1,658.00
- Total weekly contribution: $5,704.00
- R & I: $70.00
- Tuition Assistance: $150.00
- Candlemas Day: $5.00

**Online giving contribution**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
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**February Total**

- Total: $34,017.72
- Collection: $25,689.62
- Deficit: $8,328.10

**Fiscal Year to Date Total**

- Total: $297,150.57
- Collection: $249,294.68
- Deficit: $47,855.89

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

- **Monday:** Sir 17:20-24; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 10:17-27
- **Tuesday:** Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23; Mk 10:28-31
- **Ash Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6; 16-18
- **Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
- **Friday:** Is 58:1-9; Ps 51:3-6, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
- **Saturday:** Is 58:9-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32
- **First Sunday of Lent:** Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

**THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Liturgy of the Word 8 a.m.</th>
<th>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</th>
<th>Mass 8 a.m. Perpetual Help Devotions</th>
<th>Mission Carnival</th>
<th>ASH WEDNESDAY Mass 6:30 a.m.</th>
<th>All School Mass 8 a.m.</th>
<th>Fish Fry 4 p.m.-7 p.m.</th>
<th>Stations of the Cross 2 p.m.</th>
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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.”

FROM THE PASTOR’S GARDEN

What are you giving up for Lent?

At this time in the Church year, many of us recall making Lenten promises as children. Usually, these involved giving something up, like soda or candy. Perhaps we are still thinking of Lent in these terms. But “giving something up” is only a part of our Lenten mission.

During this season, we are asked to fast, to pray, and to give. This year, I encourage you to continue your practice of fasting (giving up), but challenge you let your fast serve as a reminder to act positively (give).

When you get a desire for a soda, let that be your prompt to schedule a visit with a lonely neighbor or offer a prayer or say a kind word to a stranger.

God has blessed us with so much. The Spirit works through us when we share that abundance with others.

As to the Lenten focus on prayer, I would invite you to not only join us for Mass on Ash Wednesday but to also consider taking some time for Stations of the Cross, which we are celebrating during Lent on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 2 p.m.

Peace,

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY

Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our parish family, Megan Karius and her son, River, who registered this month.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Born to a new life in Christ and joined to our faith community through the waters of baptism, we congratulate and welcome River William Karius, son of Megan Karius, who was baptized on Feb. 17, 2019.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In the charity of your prayers, please remember Barb Saito; Fran Campbell; and the nephew of Ann Rotermund, who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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.

For more information, please contact Mary Regan at 314-481-1133 or maryreganssp@gmail.com.

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 8-April 12: Friday Fish Fries
- March 12: Holy Name Society
- March 13-April 17: Stations of the Cross, Wednesdays
- March 14-April 4: Thursdays with Fr. Sean Martin
- March 15: Adult Pickleball
- April 7: Easter Egg Hunt
- April 22: SSP Night at the Ballpark
- May 4: SSP Golf Tournament

FISH FRY SEASON IS UPON US

Fish fries begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6, and continue every Lenten Friday, except for Good Friday. Dinner is served from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Menu includes signature dishes, fish tacos, a catch of the day, side dishes, desserts, and beverages (soda, tea, lemonade, coffee, beer, 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.

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.
Semon Frank Thompson served as superintendent of the Oregon State Penitentiary from 1994 until 1998. As superintendent, Thompson carried out two executions — Ohio's only two executions in the last half-century. Thompson supervised the medical technicians who strapped the inmate to the gurney and hooked up the intravenous lines and trained the executioner who depressed the plunger of the syringe injecting the lethal chemicals into the condemned's veins. And it was Thompson who asked the condemned if he had any last words.

And then he watched as the man died. Sometimes the condemned died quietly and quickly; sometimes the condemned writhed and gasped in pain.

Frank Thompson once supported capital punishment, but, he says, "being involved in the taking of two lives forced me to reckon, on a moral level, with the reality of capital punishment."

So Thompson offers this challenge: "If politicians refuse to outlaw state-sponsored killing, then a minimum condition of their public service should be their inclusion in a lottery where they are randomly selected and trained to provide hands-on assistance in an execution ... a sort of jury service for executions."

Despite its legality and the clinical conditions in which it is carried out, Thompson points out that assisting at an execution "does not insulate a person from having to deal psychologically with killing another person. ... The results of participating in an execution are exactly what you'd expect: post-traumatic stress disorder, with all its related maladies — substance abuse, suicide, depression."

Thompson concludes: "Capital punishment in the United States is cloaked in a cloud of indifference and moral passivity. Requiring Americans who are responsible for its continuation to bear more of its costs is the only way to ensure that it is soon abolished altogether."

["Support the death penalty? Then assist with an execution" by Semon Frank Thompson, The Boston Globe, September 2, 2018.]

Often the “splinter” in our own “eye” is our indifference and passivity to the pain and hurt suffered by those around us. Warden Thompson challenges lawmakers — and we who elect them — to realize the consequences of our ignorance and obliviousness to the impact of such policies and practices as the death penalty. Jesus challenges all who would be his followers to dare to remove from our own eyes the “wooden beam” of self-centeredness that prevents us from seeing the obstacles we lay in the road to the kingdom of God.

From Connections, March 2019

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., tees-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

SAVE THE DATE: EASTER EGG HUNT

SSP Brownie Troop 248 is planning an Easter egg hunt on Sunday, April 7, from 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m. in Carondelet Park for kids and families.

Stay tuned for more information!
Five of our seventh grade Boy Scouts received the Ad Altare Dei Catholic Scouting religious emblem at 10:30 a.m. Mass on Feb. 24. The purpose of the program is to help Catholic youth develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community through a study of the sacraments. Many congratulations to Brian B., Julian D., Aidan J., Luke W., and Alex Y., and thanks to Tara Ohler-Jenney for coordinating.
GAME DAY
The monthly Game Day in the rectory basement at Immaculate Heart of Mary is Thursday, March 7, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bring a friend! Call Debbie at 314-481-9385 with questions.

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.

FREE INCOME TAX HELP
Until April 13, 2019, AARP Tax-Aide will help individuals prepare tax forms 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, Circuit Breakers, and other standard schedules. Call 1-888-AARP-NOW for locations near you. Listed below are a few of the neighboring AARP sites — call 314-525-1660 for an appointment.

• Carondelet Library, 6800 Michigan, Mondays 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
• Carpenter Library, 3309 S. Grand, Mondays 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
• Buder Library, 4401 Hampton, Mondays and Thursdays 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

AROUND TOWN

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. 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 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.

BOX TOPS RESULTS
Thank you to everyone who participated! The school will receive about $770 from our collection.

Second grade was the big winner and will be enjoying a pizza day, 6th grade will get ice cream, and 5th grade gets chips and a drink.

A big thanks to Felicia Spencer for coordinating and to Liz Elder Lehmuth for trimming and counting.

ALUMNI ON STAGE
Check out Rosati-Kain’s production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, featuring Zachary Mueller (’15) as Oberon and Francine Haefner (’15) on the set crew.

Performances are at Rosati-Kain (4389 Lindell) on March 7, 8, and 9 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 at the door.

Best of luck to Zach and Frankie!
Monday, March 4
8:00 a.m. - Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, March 5
8:00 a.m. - Catherine Esser

Wednesday, March 6
6:30 a.m. - Fran Campbell
8:00 a.m. - Thomas Rotermund
7:00 p.m. - Barbara Saito

Thursday, March 7
8:00 a.m. - Joseph Nahlik

Friday, March 8
8:00 a.m. - Rev. David Walter

Saturday, March 9
8:00 a.m. - Jean Westrich
4:00 p.m. - Jane Piccolo

Sunday, March 10
8:00 a.m. - Clare A. Cribbin
10:30 a.m. - Our Parishioners

PLEASE PRAY

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

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.