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!

St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 31, 2019

My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours.
Luke 15:31

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
marypaulesssp@gmail.com

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

“No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.” (Joshua 5:12)

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land, the manna ceased. Likewise, God’s blessings to us may change over the years, but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 24 Contribution</th>
<th>$ 2,891.50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online giving contribution</td>
<td>$ 1,678.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total weekly contribution</td>
<td>$ 4,569.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R &amp; I</td>
<td>$ 115.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Assistance</td>
<td>$ 80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society for the Propagation of the Faith</td>
<td>$ 10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis Review</td>
<td>$ 17.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

We promised to keep you apprised of some of our bigger expenses. Last week, we replaced one of the fryers in the cafeteria kitchen at a cost of $2,500. Our fish fry crew is grateful for this high-functioning equipment during their busy season. This week, we will be making some repairs to the piano used for school events. These are unforeseen expenses. If you are able to help cover these particular costs, please place an envelope marked “Piano” or “Fryer” in the collection basket.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13-14; 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 2; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9-10, 11-12; Jn 7:40-53

Fifth Sunday of Lent: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

Saturday, April 6
4:00 p.m. - B. Borgmeyer, P. Cooper

Sunday, April 7
8:00 a.m. - C. Aasgaard, E. Aasgaard
10:30 a.m. - B. Stoff, G. Stoff

SERVERS

Saturday, April 6
4:00 p.m. - Mary Kate C., Gregory F.

Sunday, April 7
8:00 a.m. - Luke W., Katie W.
10:30 a.m. - Tommy G., Sam C.

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday April 1</th>
<th>Tuesday April 2</th>
<th>Wednesday April 3</th>
<th>Thursday April 4</th>
<th>Friday April 5</th>
<th>Saturday April 6</th>
<th>Sunday April 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NO LITURGY OF THE WORD</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Perpetual Help Devotions</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m. Grandparents Day</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m. Grandparents Day</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 &amp; 10:30 a.m. Anointing of Sick Donut Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO SCHOOL Faculty Meeting</td>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Lenten Series: Fr. Sean Martin 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Fish Fry 4 p.m.-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Choir Practice 11:30 a.m.</td>
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</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.”

ANointing of the Sick

At all Masses during the weekend of April 6-7, 2019, we will offer the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick in the prayerful presence of the parish community.

In this sacrament we pray that the sick be healed in body and mind, in soul and spirit. Anointing is not a sacrament for only those who are at the point of death.

So who can be anointed?
The answer is basically anyone who feels the need for Christ’s healing touch — those with physical illness, mental illness, or addictions; those undergoing surgery; those struggling with anxiety or fears.

Ssp Fish Fry to Honor Armed Forces

The next fish fry — April 5, 2019 — is our annual dedicated night to veterans and active service members of the Armed Forces, as well as police, firefighters, and EMS. They will be our honored guests for the evening.
The hall will be decorated with many photos of loved ones who have served in any of these capacities.

Do you know some? Invite them!
The committee welcomes any relevant photos or memorabilia, which will be on display during dinner along with other decorations. Please contact Greg Venneman at grvenneman@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Your support of this popular community event is appreciated.

Razzle Dazzle — Save the Date

Save the date for our upcoming Razzle Dazzle musical extravaganza scheduled for June 21-23, 2019.

Stay tuned for more information about participating. The show is open to parishioners of all ages.

Faithful Departed

In the charity of your prayers, please remember Bill Jost, who died recently. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Easter Flowers

We are accepting donations for Easter flowers for the church in honor of living and deceased members of the parish or your family.

Mark your donation “Easter Flowers” and list the names of those you wish to remember. At the end of the season, the flowers may be taken home by those who made a donation.

In memory / honor of: _______________________
_____________________
_____________________

Donated by: _______________________

Last Lenten Lecture 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.

This is a series of four lectures, but you do not need to have attended the first three to enjoy the last. The final discussion is on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 7 p.m. in our parish hall.

Parish Day of Reconciliation

As a part of our parish Lenten observance, we will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, April 6, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Therefore, there will be no confessions at 3 p.m. this Saturday only.
**FROM THE PASTOR’S GARDEN**

Many thanks to the more than 120 of you who took the time to respond to our survey regarding your preferred single Sunday Mass time during the summer months. As 56 percent of respondents preferred the 9:30 a.m. option, we will go with that Sunday Mass time beginning on June 2.

The vast majority of your comments were positive. Several of you expressed a desire to make the single Sunday Mass a permanent change, citing greater fellowship, cost savings, and a fuller church.

While a few of you simply said you preferred there be no adjustment in the schedule, others expressed concern that the change sends a negative message and lamented that more parishioners do not attend Mass regularly.

Please be assured that Mass attendance — and participation in the life of the parish in general — are always top of mind for me and for our leadership committees. Unfortunately, worship communities across denominations are experiencing declines in membership and attendance; it is not a concern for us alone.

I always welcome your feedback and suggestions for how we can continue to meet the spiritual needs of the parish and encourage participation at all levels.

Peace,

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**SSP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

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

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**PIZZA WITH THE EASTER BUNNY**

Brownie Troop #248 is sponsoring Pizza With the Easter Bunny on Sunday, April 7, 2019, at Carondelet Park’s Pavilion #1.

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 bring a basket and your own camera.

Tickets are $5 per person in advance ($20 max per family) or $8 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.

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**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.

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**CAMP CAVALIER**

Bishop DuBourg High School (5850 Eichelberger St.) invites grade school and high school students to any of its summer camps. There are several sports to choose from as well as cooking and art. Visit www.campcavalier.org for more information.

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**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.

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

- April 6: Parish Reconciliation Service
- April 9: Holy Name Society Meeting
- April 10: Board of Education Meeting
- April 22: Night at the Ballpark
- May 5: First Communion
A FOOL’S AWAKENING

In every life there are defining moments when we (finally) grow up. The witty and wise Brian Doyle recalls one such moment in an essay in *The Christian Century* [February 19, 2014].

It was a summer afternoon. His father announced that cousins were coming from Connecticut for dinner the following Sunday to their New York home. Young Brian had plans and made clear his unhappiness at having to change them. His dad said something calm and reasonable; Brian responded rudely. His mother responded quietly but sharply; Brian said something “breathtakingly selfish.” His sister said something gentle and kind; Brian said something cutting and sneering and angry. And in that moment, facing his dad, mom, and sister, young Brian “realized I was being a fool.”

The middle-aged, more mature and considerably wiser Brian remembers:

“It wasn’t that I was embarrassed, though I was embarrassed later. It was more like for a second I saw who I actually was rather than who I thought I was, or wanted to be, or wanted other people to think I was. I understood, dimly, for an instant — I believe for the first time in my life — that I was being a fool.

“I kept on being a fool, of course. You cannot escape yourself that quickly, not as a teenager, or later either, it turns out. Often you keep playing a bad hand even when you know it’s a terrible hand and you should laugh and throw down your cards and say something self-deprecating and apologize and tiptoe into the next moment. Often you stay inside the prison of your confidence and ostensible dignity even as you peer through the bars, mortified.

“As I remember I stormed off and the world spun on relentlessly through the stars and the cousins came over and we all grew much older,” he writes. His family moved from their New York house a long time ago. But Brian Doyle imagines that there may be living in their old house, “at this very moment, a seething teenager, sitting at [our old table], facing the yew hedge, seeing a hint of who he might grow up to be, if he can stop being a fool. With all my heart, I wish him well.”

For the young Brian Doyle, that moment of recognition of his selfishness and rudeness is his moment in the “pig sty.” The prodigal (probably no older than Brian) finally realizes how irresponsible and foolish he has been when he’s finally reduced to feeding another man’s pigs. We all have those “pig sty” epiphanies when we finally face the mess our selfishness, our insensitivity, our dishonesty have made of our lives and the lives of those we love. Lent calls us to embrace God’s grace — grace that enables us to lift ourselves out of the mud of our sins to reconnect again with family and friends, grace that empowers us to jettison our selfishness and deceptions and re-create our broken lives in the healing peace of the Risen Christ.

From *Connections*, March 2019

AROUND TOWN

TRIVIA NIGHT

The Mother of Good Counsel Home Auxiliary is hosting a trivia night on April 6, 2019, at JFK Center (315 Howdershell Rd.) Doors open at 6 p.m. Cost is $200 per table of eight and includes popcorn, beer, and soda. Contact Dave Barnhart at barnharts2000@msn.com.

AQUINAS INSTITUTE’S SPRING DIALOGUE

Sr. Carla Mae Streeter, OP, presents “Straight Talk Today About the Real God,” on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Il Monastero Banquet Center (3050 Olive St.). Cost is $25, which includes lunch. Contact Diane Henderson at 314-256-8856 or henderson@ai.edu.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS AT MERCY CENTER

Mercy Center (2039 N. Geyer Rd.) presents “Navigating White Water,” a series of three workshops on enhancing resilience at home and work, facilitated by therapist Tom Wagner, Ph.D. Attend any of all of the events on April 7, May 5, and May 19 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Cost is $20 per session. Call 314-966-4686 or visit www.mercycenterstl.org to register or to find more information about the workshop topics.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend to deepen your faith and improve your relationship with your spouse on April 12-14, 2019, in St. Peters, Mo. For more information, call 314-649-7317 or visit https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php.

SAUSAGE DINNER

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (Hwy Z & Hwy D, New Melle, Mo.) is hosting a sausage dinner on April 28, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adult dinners are $12, kids are $6 (under five eat free). Handicap parking available.
GAME DAY THIS THURSDAY
Join us for Game Day Thursday, April 4, 2019, in the Immaculate Heart of Mary rectory meeting room from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Lots of fun and laughter! All are welcome! Contact Debbie at 314-481-9385 with questions.

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 for more information. Call Immaculate Heart of Mary’s pastoral associate Debbie at 314-481-9385 about reservations and carpooling.

TV MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND
Is someone you love unable to join us at church during this holy time of Lent and Easter? For the faithful at home or in healthcare settings, the Heart of the Nation Sunday TV Mass can bring spiritual comfort. Broadcast television airings are Sundays at 8:30 a.m. on KPLR (The CW) or KTVI (2.2 on AntennaTV). Check your cable or satellite provider for other options. The Mass is also available for online streaming at www.heartofthenation.org/online-mass/sunday-mass.

IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS
The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) invites faith-motivated volunteers to serve with the poor and marginalized. Volunteers are aged 50 and better, retired or semi-retired. Volunteers reflect and pray in the Ignatian tradition on their service, meet monthly with other IVC volunteers and with a spiritual reflector. Visit the IVC website at www.ivcusa.org for more information. Find “St. Louis” under the locations tab.

If service, prayer, and reflection interest you, contact Sr. Amy Diesen, OSF, at 314-758-7147 or ivcstl@jesuits.org. Or come to an information session with current volunteers at 10 a.m. on April 11, 2019, at the Il Monastero Banquet Center (3050 Olive St.). Please RSVP to Sr. Amy.
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, April 1**
8:00 a.m. - NO LITURGY

**Tuesday, April 2**
8:00 a.m. - Jane & Martin Meyer, Richard Potrzboski

**Wednesday, April 3**
8:00 a.m. - Richard Meisemann

**Thursday, April 4**
8:00 a.m. - Nancy Marty, Cathy & Ron Ulrich

**Friday, April 5**
8:00 a.m. - Leo Esswein

**Saturday, April 6**
8:00 a.m. - Jim Hieger
4:00 p.m. - Our Parishioners

**Sunday, April 7**
8:00 a.m. - Ollie & Jean Rusch
10:30 a.m. - Carroll & Marie Simon Anniversary

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**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**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:
8:00 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.