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
juletessinssp@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

“The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 13:52)

The disciples heard Our Lord’s call and were able to spread the Gospel message with strength and vitality. We, too, can experience that same joy if we make room for the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts. When we use our gifts in the way that God intends, He fills us with supernatural joy. A joy that others notice and are attracted to.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

May 5 Contribution $ 4951.00
Online giving contribution $ 1176.00
Total weekly contribution $ 6127.00
R & I $ 340.00
Tuition Assistance $ 601.00
Catholic Relief Services $ 100.00
Propagation of Faith $ 10.00

Special collection in May is for the Catholic Communication Campaign.

AN INVITATION TO BELIEVE

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see those who were given the opportunity to believe St. Paul’s witness to Jesus. While many rejected Paul’s preaching of the Word, many Gentiles who were “destined for eternal life, came to believe” (Acts 13:48).

Faith is a gift, freely given by God and lovingly accepted by believers. God gives us many opportunities every day to respond. The Annual Catholic Appeal is an invitation to say I believe — to acknowledge the blessings of God in our lives and to share them with others.

We don’t often think of giving as a way to choose eternal life. Certainly, we cannot buy salvation with money. Giving, however, is a reflection of who we are — followers of Jesus. Giving demonstrates how we love, and how convincingly we care.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
Saturday, May 18
4:00 p.m.— S. Gaydos, B. Dowd
Sunday, May 19
8:00 a.m.— C. Grindel, E. Goedeker
10:30 a.m.— E. Joly, G. Joly

SERVERS
Saturday, May 18
4:00 p.m.— Aaron V., Katie W.
Sunday, May 19
8:00 a.m.— Brian B., TJ S.
10:30 a.m.— Colin M., Ben W.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday in the Fourth Week of Easter: Acts 11:1-18,
Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday in the Fourth Week of Easter: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26;
Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Jn 15:9-17
Wednesday in the Fourth Week of Easter: Acts 12:24,
13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50
Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
Friday in the Fourth Week of Easter: Acts 13:26-33;
Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday in the Fourth Week of Easter: Acts 13:44-52;
Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 14:7-14
Fifth Sunday of Easter: Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:9-11,
10-11, 12-13; Rev 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33, 34-35

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday May 13</th>
<th>Tuesday May 14</th>
<th>Wednesday May 15</th>
<th>Thursday May 16</th>
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<th>Sunday May 19</th>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgy of the Word 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>50+ Club Mtg.</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Music Sharing 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Picnic Meeting 7 p.m.</td>
<td>SGSM Exercise 9 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 4 p.m.</td>
<td>AED/CPR Training 11:30 a.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.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In the charity of your prayers, please remember Harold Schlegel, who died May 2, 2019 and Shirley Winfrey, who died May 7, 2019. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Born to a new life in Christ and joined to our faith community through the waters of baptism, we congratulate Maxwell Lawrence Bess, son of Zachary and Emily Bess, who was baptized on May 5, 2019.

OH, THE PLACES THEY’LL GO ...

We’d love to acknowledge those parishioners who are graduating from high school or college, or have achieved other educational milestones. Please share your good news with Stephanie at stephaniewobbessp@gmail.com.

UPCOMING AED / CPR CERTIFICATION

We have scheduled a certification and recertification class for AED and CPR for coaches, scout leaders, parishioners, ushers, and any others who are interested on Sunday, May 19, 2019, after 10:30 a.m. Mass. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no charge to participate.

Please contact Mary Regan at 314-481-1133 or maryreganssp@gmail.com to register.

If you are already certified through work or otherwise, please send us a copy of your card or bring it to the rectory for copying for our records.

LOOKING AHEAD

- May 22: 8th Grade Graduation
- May 24: Last Day of School
- June 2: Summer Sunday Mass Schedule Begins
- June 12: Parish Picnic
- June 21-23: Razzle Dazzle Musical Revue

RAZZLE DAZZLE MEETING & SIGN-UP

The SSP Razzle Dazzle Musical Revue is holding a kickoff, sign-up, and audition meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Anyone interested in singing, dancing, and acting in a musical revue should come for information.

Rehearsals will be Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings during May and early June. The performances will be June 21, 22, and 23 and will include music from Shrek: The Musical, Little Shop of Horrors, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and Newsies.

Contact Will Borgmeyer at wbentertain@yahoo.com for more information.

50+ CLUB MEETING

The 50+ Club Meeting is this Thursday, May 16 at 11:00 AM.

Come join us for lunch and Bingo! New members are always welcome.

On Tuesday, June 25 we will be taking a trip to Fairmont Park to watch the ponies run and enjoy the buffet lunch. Cost is $16 and that includes the buffet lunch and admission to Fairmont. Reservations are required. Please sign up at the May 16 meeting so we know how many tickets we need. We will carpool from St. Stephen Protomartyr at 10:30 AM.

QUILT RAFFLE

Winner of the April Quilt Raffle was Mary Ann Simon. There are 5 month drawings this year. Chances are still available for the remaining drawings.
A priest was asked to conduct the funeral of a woman he did not know very well but whose family lived in the parish. The woman, who was in her seventies, suffered from a particularly painful wasting disease. The pain became so great that one night she stepped out of bed, put on slippers and a dressing gown, let herself into the back garden, climbed the fence, walked into the local lake, and drowned herself.

The priest listened to her husband tell the story. At the funeral the priest talked about the things “we knew and the things we didn’t know. We didn’t know what anguish was going through her mind, but we did know how deeply she was loved and will be missed. We didn’t know what could bring her such despair, but we did know that her life was beautiful and that those who knew her loved her and would cherish what she meant to them.”

A week after the funeral, the priest visited the widower to see how he was doing. The priest expected the usual conversation about the funeral and how the family appreciated what he and the parish had done for the family — maybe even say how well the priest had spoken, given the circumstances.

But that’s not how the conversation went. The widower looked straight at the priest, head still and eyes unblinking, and said, “What you said was completely wrong. You said, ‘We don’t know what was going through her head when she got out of bed and walked down to the lake.’ That’s not true. I know exactly what she was thinking. She’d tried before, and afterwards she told me what it was like. I know exactly what she was thinking. I told you that when you came to see me last time. But you weren’t listening, were you? Maybe you didn’t want to listen.”

The man’s tone was more weary than angry, as if the priest was just one of a series of people who hadn’t really listened, either to her or to him. What the pastor learned that day has stayed with him for the rest of his ministry. He writes:

“My role is not to make things better, because that leaves the person more isolated than before. Instead, my role is to stand beside them as they face the hardest things in their life, one of which may be their fear that they could get to such an isolated place that they might consider something awful and destructive. If it’s awful, I don’t say, ‘Maybe it’s not so bad’; I say, ‘It seems very painful. I wonder which is the hardest part. Maybe you can put it into words so I can share the thing that’s giving you so much pain to be thinking about on your own.’

“If you have a choice between giving someone false hope and giving them the truth, always give them the truth. Once they realize the hope is false, they’ll be worse off than before. But if they can name and face the truth — and find that they’re still here and they haven’t scared you away — then they may learn the path to life: if we stay with the truth and walk through it, then we can come out the other side and find we’re still alive. If they do that, they’re on the other side of hell, and hell can’t hurt them in the same way as before.”


That’s the role of “shepherding” that Jesus calls each one of us to take on: to walk and lead one another through the steep paths and dangerous ridges we all must walk, not diminishing the danger or pain but helping one another make our way through it. The challenge of taking up the Good Shepherd’s staff is to face the truth despite our own fears, to search for God’s light (if only a flicker) in the midst of overwhelming darkness, to reach out to grab another despite our own tenuous grasp. In our own acts of generosity, love and forgiveness, we echo and give voice to the Risen Christ and the good news of hope and grace that is Easter resurrection.

From Connections, May 2019
UPCOMING AT AQUINAS INSTITUTE

The Aquinas Institute of Theology (23 S. Spring Ave.) presents **Mother, Sisters, Daughters: Standing on Their Shoulders**, a two-day conference led by writer **Edwina Gately**, on **May 31 and June 1, 2019**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Focus is on the contribution of women needed by today’s world; similar situations in history; being faithful to our own callings; and lives of women who are working to make a lasting impact in the world. Cost is $120, which includes lunch and parking both days.

The Institute is also hosting **How God Speaks to Us:** **A Workshop for Spiritual Directors and Seekers** on **June 8, 2019**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The presenter is spiritual director, writer, and international speaker **Bill Huebsch**. Topics are: The Art of Accompaniment (in the morning) and Recognizing Grace in Oneself and Others (in the afternoon). Cost is $50, which includes lunch and parking.

To register for either program, call 314-256-8804 or visit www.ai.edu.

RETREAT FOR MID-LIFE SINGLES

Mid-life singles (mid-30s to 50s): Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose and belonging?

Register for a life-changing **REFLECT weekend** retreat at King’s House Retreat Center (Belleville, Ill.), **May 31-June 2, 2019**. Cost is $195 for meals and a single room. Visit www.reflectretreat.com, email reflect.stlouis@gmail.com, or call 314-283-0044 for details.

BORDER CRISIS

You are invited to join the **Sisters of the Most Precious Blood** and their Partners in Mission for a gathering to consider **The Border Crisis: An Historical Perspective**, presented by **Marilyn Lorenz-Weinkauff** on **May 25, 2019**, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Joseph Chapel Meeting Area (204 N. Main St., O’Fallon, Mo.).

Mrs. Lorenz-Weinkauff has traveled extensively to Central America, is a former theology teacher and campus minster, and was co-founder of Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America.

To register, please contact **Sr. Rosemary Russell** at 314-265-3685.

PARISH PICNIC UPDATE

The second and final SSP picnic meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 16, 2019**, at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. If you have an agenda item for the upcoming meeting, please contact Matt or Ann Marie Guntli at 314-283-1536 or ssppicnic@gmail.com.

If you have last year’s picnic yard sign, there will be stickers with the correct date available at the May 16 meeting to place on signs leftover from last year. New signs are also available.

Two of our popular booths are collecting items again! Hopefully, your spring cleaning has turned up some goodies to donate to our **Ring-A-Bottle Booth**! This booth accepts toys, books, small household items (no glass, please). Contact **Bridgette Fyvie** at 314-477-9008 with questions. The Plant Booth is now the **Garden Booth** and is collecting plant startings, small garden tools and gloves (new), backyard ornaments, etc. Pick up an extra six-pack of annuals while you’re getting your own garden started! Contact **Ginny Wunderlich** at 314-481-1643 with questions.

The committee has put together an envelope full of picnic goodies — detailed information, raffle tickets, volunteer opportunities, contacts — for each parish and school family. School families will receive their envelopes through school. Parishioners, please save us the cost of mailing to you by **picking up your envelopes**, which are in the back of church.

Thanks to our generous SSP Picnic Booth Sponsors who contributed more than $5,000 last year to help underwrite the cost of the picnic! If your family or business would like to be a **picnic sponsor**, please pick up a flyer located near all church doors. Complete the form on the back and return to the rectory. Contact **Gina Joly** at 314-882-8762 or jolygg@gmail.com for more information.
FIRST COMMUNION — MAY 5, 2019

Alice Borgmeyer
Oliver Borgmeyer
Lhotse Carrera
Madelynn Cunniff
Nicholas Darden
Remi Dawson
Alexander Edwards
Clementine Foizey
Elise Goedeker
Cosette Immer
Samus Keith
Helen Kim
Micheal Kop
Adalyn Lehmuth
Tylan Mattingly
Alondra Nieto-Morales
Mia Pace
Cole Schellert
Finn Seher
Brendan Sellers
Emmanuel Tomas
Logan Williams
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, May 13**
8:00 a.m. — Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, May 14**
8:00 a.m. — N. Edward Forti

**Wednesday, May 15**
8:00 a.m. — Bill Jost

**Thursday, May 16**
8:00 a.m. — Marty McLafferty

**Friday, May 17**
8:00 a.m. — John & Cecelia Hopmeir

**Saturday, May 18**
8:00 a.m. — Jean Rusch
4:00 p.m. — Our Parishioners

**Sunday, May 19**
8:00 a.m. — Frances Crimi
10:30 a.m. — Dave Munsell

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**PLEASE PRAY**

for our sick and recovering ...

Dave Asinger  Wence Kveton  Grace Phillips
Suzi Beck  Thomas Lorenz  Vince Stehlin
Liz Bentrup  Lois McClellan  Virginia Zenthoefer
Ann Dosenbach  Steve Moylan

for our homebound ...

Jeanette Holmer  Art Petersen
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

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**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