St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

July 28, 2019

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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
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St. Louis, MO 63116
314 481-1133
314 481-6036 fax
stephenprossp@gmail.com
www.saintstephensstl.org

Chapel of Sts. Mary and Joseph
6304 Minnesota
St. Louis, MO 63111

SCHOOL
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frron@saintstephensstl.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

“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:9)

Jesus assures us that if we ask, God will take care of what we need. The problem is that our culture often confuses what we really need with what we simply want. Many people need very little. However, we usually want so much more. A good steward only asks God for what he needs.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

| July 21 Contribution          | $2,244.00 |
| Online giving contribution   | $3,354.00 |
| Total weekly contribution    | $5,598.00 |
| R & I                        | $261.00   |
| Tuition Assistance           | $899.00   |
| Mission Co-op                | $131.00   |
| Flood Relief                 | $45.00    |

Special Collection for July is Peter’s Pence

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
Saturday, August 3
4:00 p.m.— G. Stoff & B. Stoff

Sunday, August 4
9:30 a.m.— C. Grindel, L. Driscoll

SERVERS
Saturday, August 3
4:00 p.m.— Hendrix F., Bridgette F.

Sunday, August 4
9:30 a.m.— Brian B., Luke W.

WEEDING DAY

WHEN: Saturday, August 10
TIME: 8 AM—10 AM
WHERE: Parish grounds
WHAT: Weeding the flower beds and gardens
WHO: 5 or 6 people willing to help make the parish grounds beautiful

High school students seeking service hours are most welcome!

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: St. Martha — Ex 32:15-24, 30-34
Ps 106:19-23 Lk 10:38-42

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5-9, 28 Ps 103:6-13
Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: St Ignatius of Loyola — Ex 34:29-35
Ps 99:5-7, 9 Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: St. Alphonsus Liguori — Ex 40:16-21, 34-38
Ps 84:3-6, 8, 11 Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37 Ps 81:3-6, 10-11
Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8 Mt 14:1-12

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23
Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17 Col 3:1-5, 9-11 Lk 12:13-21

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

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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 pray for Linda Stewart, the sister of Pam Holmes who died this week.

May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.

BLESSINGS OF BEING A STEPHEN MINISTER

Why become a Stephen Minister?

Consider these reasons from our current ministers:

“The idea that someone is happy to see you. You are accountable to someone again.”

“I am able to be spiritually present with someone.”

“It’s a call from God, and I feel privileged to be a part of this group.”

“I experience great satisfaction about being used by God to help others.”

Since 1975, more than 600,000 Christians from all walks of life have trained and served as Stephen Ministers. They became ministers as a way to help others who were hurting — but they quickly discovered that God blesses them in amazing ways as well.

Come find out for yourself! Join our next training class starting Aug. 20, 2019. Contact Leigh Manalang at 314-486-0717 or leighsgsm@gmail.com for more information.

BLESSING OF OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

At the 9:30 AM Mass on Aug. 4, 2019, there will be a blessing of all of the new and returning college students in our community.

Everyone is welcome to come to the Parish Hall after Mass for doughnuts and coffee and a final farewell.

Hope to see you there! Spread the word!

FREE BOOKS

At all entrances of the church you will find free copies of Bishop Robert Barron’s new book “Letter to a Suffering Church: A Bishop Speaks on the Sexual Abuse Crisis.”

This book is 101 pages. In the book Bishop Barron reflects on Scripture and Church History in relation to the sexual abuse crisis which he says: “is a rot, a disease, a threat to the great principles of the Church that we hold dear.”

He urges Catholics not to abandon the Church but to “stay and fight! Fight by raising your voice in protest; fight by writing a letter of complaint; fight by insisting that protocols be followed; fight by reporting offenders; fight by pursuing the guilty until they are punished; fight by refusing to be mollified by pathetic excuses.”

We ask that you only take one per family.

SOFTBALL / BASEBALL UNIFORM RETURN

There is a baseball / softball uniform return on Tuesday July 30 from 6:30—7:30 PM in the school cafeteria.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Aug. 11: Backpack Blessing / Ice Cream Social
- Aug 12: Back to School Night
- Aug. 14: First Day of School
- Aug. 15: Assumption Holyday
- Aug. 18: Sunday Masses at 8 AM and 10:30 AM
- Sept 21: Mass in the Park

SVDP STUDENT CONFERENCE

STLCC- Forest Park Students: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, one of the oldest and largest Catholic organizations for serving the needy in the world, is looking to establish a student chapter at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. The group will team with another St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter to visit the needy in the city, providing utility, rent, and resource referral assistance.

If you are interested in helping set up such an outreach, please contact Bryan Kirchoff at bryankirchoff@att.net.
The Prayer of “I don’t know”

She doesn’t remember the exact question she asked her father that night. Like many of the questions she asked him when she was a little girl, it had to be something about church or faith or God. But she never forgot his answer that particular evening.

As he sat on the edge of her bed, he listened intently, paused thoughtfully for a moment, and then responded: I don’t know.

What she still remembers, too, was her dad’s tone: It wasn’t I don’t know — leave me alone! or I don’t know — stop asking so many questions! Her dad’s tone that night was weightier and gentler: I don’t know. I’m only human. And then, as they did every night, father and daughter prayed together and read a story; and the next Sunday, as they always did, they went to church together.

Now an adult, she still remembers that night. She writes:

“I still chew on that moment now . . . What if my parents had never admitted I don’t know those few minutes before prayer? I would have learned that faith meant certainty, that faith didn’t leave room for what we don’t know.”

But I have also come to realize that the answer my father gave me was important only as part of something larger. That conversation happened before a nightly ritual of prayer, continuing to talk to God, day after day. Perhaps it is because of that foundation that I remember the words so clearly. The I don’t know didn’t mean we stopped praying. Nothing fell away with it; it simply existed alongside our daily practice. The practice, not only the conversation, is why I remember that conversation as one of the most significant in my life. With it, I learned that faith could have room for doubt. That sometimes we admit what we do not know, and then it is time for prayer.”

[From “My father’s words” by Laurna Strikwerda, U.S. Catholic, January 2019.]

Today’s Gospel is not simply a prayer text (although it has become one) or a formula for praying. It’s an invitation to engage God in an ongoing conversation — an invitation that comes with Jesus’ assurance that we can come to God with all our doubts and fears and questions, without feeling that we have failed God or that our faith is empty. All prayer begins with realizing the loving presence of God in our lives — a love that is a mystery in itself — and expressing gratitude for that presence. And all prayer is sustained by trust in that love, trust that enables us to “ask and seek and knock” with all our questions and doubts and wonders.

From Connections, July 2019
TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!!
Please join South Grand Senior Ministry as we cheer on the Cardinals on Monday, September 16th! We will depart from Immaculate Heart of Mary (4092 Blow St, 63116) at 5 p.m. and return after the game. The cost for parishioners of SGSM parishes is $25 which includes your ticket to the game and bus ride to and from the game. Others are welcome; the cost for others is $30. BONUS-It is monthly t-shirt giveaway night. Spaces are limited, so be sure to reserve your spot soon. You can reserve your spot by contacting Heather at 314-351-1318 ext. 201. Once you call and reserve your spot, you can make your check out to South Grand Senior Ministry and mail it to 5418 Louisiana Ave, St. Louis, MO 63111. Please include an emergency contact name and phone number. Let’s Go Cards!

ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH IS NEWEST MEMBER OF SGSM
SGSM welcomes St. Mary Magdalen Parish (4323 S. Kingshighway Blvd.) to our membership! St. Mary Magdalen’s senior minister Marilyn Muegge will serve as the contact for the parish. “We at St. Mary Magdalen are looking forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with South Grand Senior Ministry,” says Marilyn. “Besides taking part in the offerings of the organization, we have our unique ideas, ministries, and facilities to add to what has been in place for many years.”

MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEMS
Falls are a major cause of injury, hospitalization, and loss of independence for our elders. SGSM partners with Blue Star Seniortech to keep seniors safe, healthy, and connected with a medical alert system. Seniors of the SGSM parishes may be eligible for assistance in payment for the easy-to-use mobile system. For more information, contact St. John the Baptist senior minister Diane Huck at 314-353-1255, ext. 106.

ONGOING EVENTS
Game Day — Held the first Thursday of every month, 1 p.m.-4 p.m., at the rectory meeting room at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (4092 Blow St.). A variety of card and board games are available. Light refreshments are provided. Contact Debbie at 314-481-9385 for more details.

Chair Yoga — Non-stress yoga classes, every Wednesday, 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. at the school building at Immaculate Heart of Mary. Cost is $3 per person. Call Debbie at 314-481-9385 for more information.

Low-Impact Exercise — Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., held in the cafeteria at Immaculate Heart of Mary. A small fee is charged.

Balance Classes — Every Friday from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. in the St. Stephen Protomartyr parish hall.
GIRLFRIEND RETREAT
Ladies, gather your closest girlfriends for a very special event on Aug. 3-4, 2019. Girlfriends in Grace is a 28-hour overnight retreat designed just for you and those incredible women you’re blessed to call friends. Treat yourselves to this relaxing, prayerful, and fun getaway at the Marianist Retreat & Conference Center, with its 120 acres of rolling hills and trails on the banks of the Meramec River in Eureka, Mo.

The retreat will include some large group presentations, but each group of friends will function as its own small group for discussions. There will be a variety of activities and plenty of down time. Time for prayer will be available, and Mass will be celebrated on Sunday.

The retreat starts on Saturday at 1 p.m. and ends Sunday at 5 p.m. The cost is $111 per person and includes a private room with a bathroom and shower, linens, towels, three meals, and snacks.

For more information, email julie@mretreat.org or register online at www.mretreat.org.

WHEN MENTAL ILLNESS HITS HOME
The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows (442 S. Demazenod Dr., Belleville, Ill.) is presenting its 13th annual When Mental Illness Hits Home Conference on Friday, Aug. 23, 2019. The event is designed to help those journeying with people with mental illness (families, friends, and professionals). This year’s theme is “Resiliency: Bouncing Forward,” and the keynote speaker is Gary Behrman, Ph.D. For more information, contact Bette Meyer at bette.meyer@snows.org.

Our Lady’s Inn Maternity Homes Luncheon for Life
Our Lady’s Inn Maternity Homes are hosting our annual Luncheon for Life on Thursday, September 26th at 11 AM. The afternoon features a luncheon, one-of-kind silent auction items, and specialty jewelry designed as part of Our Lady’s Inn Pay It Forward Program. Tickets are $50 a person (increases to $60 after September 19th).

We hope you will join us at Defiance Ridge Vineyards to support a great cause. For more information or to register, visit www.ourladysinn.org or call Katrina at 314-736-1544.

ST. LOUIS JESUITS’ FINAL CONCERT
The St. Louis Jesuits — Coming Home is a fitting title for the final concert of the St. Louis Jesuits, the last time that Bob Dufford, S.J.; John Foley, S.J.; Tim Manion; Roc O’Connor, S.J.; and Dan Schutte will perform together.

Having first joined their talents in the early 1970s to release their landmark album “Neither Silver Nor Gold,” the members of the group have since gone on to write and record some of the most recognizable hymns that still today are sung in thousands of churches each Sunday in countries around the world.

The St. Louis Jesuits, backed by the College Church Choir, will perform many of their most beloved liturgical songs and hymns on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019, at 3 p.m., in the setting of St. Louis’s magnificent Powell Hall, a few blocks from Saint Louis University, St. Francis Xavier “College” Church, and the former Fusz Memorial (residence for Jesuit scholastics), where it all began nearly 50 years ago.

Ticket prices range from $15 to $65. There is a VIP pre-concert reception at 1 p.m. which is open to anyone paying an additional $50. Purchase tickets at www.powellhall.com or by calling 314-534-1700. All profits will benefit the Ignatian Spirituality Project.
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, July 29**
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, July 30**
8:00 a.m.— Audrey Dischert

**Wednesday, July 31**
8:00 a.m.— Peggy Welby

**Thursday, August 1**
8:00 a.m.— Robert Kaikbrenner

**Friday, August 2**
8:00 a.m.— Nancy Blankmann

**Saturday, August 3**
8:00 a.m.— The Neeley Family
Ron Thenhaus
4:00 p.m.— Matthew Kimsey

**Sunday, August 4**
9:30 a.m.— Richard Meisemann
Ron & Kathy Ulrich
Our Parishioners

**PLEASE PRAY**

**for our sick and recovering ...**
Florence Arcipowski  Paul Heidbrier  Grace Phillips
Dave Asinger  Wence Kveton  Vince Stehlin
Suzi Beck  Thomas Lorenz  Ron Thenhaus
Liz Bentrup  Lois McClellan  Alan Varga
Ann Dosenbach  Steve Moylan  Virginia Zenthoefer

**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  Jack Renick  Mitch Sollmann
Tristan Moylan  Brian Schoellhorn
Ryan O’Neil  Dylan Schulte

**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