St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

August 25, 2019

Twenty-First 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
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
michelwendellsssp@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
junetessinsssp@gmail.com

Mrs. Michel Wendell, Principal
michelwendellsssp@gmail.com

Mrs. Mary Paule, Child Safety Coordinator, Secretary
marypaulesssp@gmail.com

Ms. Stephanie Oehler Wobbe, Communications Coordinator
stephaniewobbesssp@gmail.com

Strengthen your drooping hands
and your weak knees.
Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame
may not be disjointed but healed. — Hebrews 12:12-13

Image © Copyright Thinkstock.com
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.” (Luke 13:30)

Our standards in society are different from God’s standards.
We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are.
Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards.
When God asks you, “What have you done with the gifts I have given you?” How will you respond?

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

| August 18 Contribution | $ 9,254.00 |
| Online giving contribution | $ 3,015.00 |
| Total weekly contribution | $ 12,269.00 |
| R & I | $ 328.00 |
| Tuition Assistance | $ 1,049.00 |
| Latin America Apostolate | $ 35.00 |

Special collection in August is for the Latin America Apostolate.

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

All volunteers, employees, religious, priests, and deacons working in our schools, parishes, and agencies of the Archdiocese of St. Louis are required to attend the Safe Environment Program "Protecting God's Children." If you have not already completed this program, SSP is conveniently hosting our own Protecting God’s Children training on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019, at 7 p.m.

Please RSVP to our PGC coordinator Mary Paule at 314-481-1133 or marypaulesssp@gmail.com. If you need to complete the training but cannot make this particular session, please visit www.archstl.org/child-and-youth-protection/safe-environment-program/protecting-gods-children for a list of upcoming sessions at other times and places.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

Saturday, August 31
4:00 p.m. — A. Rotermund, R. Rone

Sunday, September 1
8:00 a.m. — P. Cooper, B. Borgmeyer
10:30 a.m. — B. Stoff, G. Stoff

SERVERS

Saturday, August 31
4:00 p.m. — Tara J., Ellen K.

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8:00 a.m. — Zach M., Mary Kate C.
10:30 a.m. — Aaron V., Gabe S.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday, St. Monica: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-3, 4-6; Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday, St. Augustine: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday, Passion of St. John the Baptist:
1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14, 17; Mk 6:17-29
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1 & 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Mt 25:14-30
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

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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.

SPOTLIGHT ON ... THE PRAYER TREE

Many of our ministries are so behind-the-scenes that you may not be aware of their existence, but that certainly doesn’t diminish their significance.

The Prayer Tree is a network of individuals who are committed to including special requests in their own prayer practice. Members of the tree are notified of prayer request by email or phone call from Mary Regan. Requests for privacy are respected. The emails do not disclose the other members of the prayer tree, and the requests honor the wishes of the requester, which sometimes means anonymity.

If you would like to be notified of prayer requests — or, likewise, if you have a prayer request — please contact Mary at maryreganssp@gmail.com or 314-481-1133.

Prayer is being on terms of friendship with God, frequently conversing in secret with Him who, we know, loves us. — St. Teresa of Avila

PRAY FOR OUR NEW STEPHEN MINISTERS

This week, South Grand Senior Ministry began a new training class of Stephen Ministers.

Please pray for them as they begin their formation — Sandy & Gene Berviller, Katie Kummer, Lee Randall, and Carol Prag from SSP; Paul Clark from Immaculate Heart of Mary; Luz Giraldillo-Llanos from St. Cecilia; Vicki McGowan from St. John the Baptist; and Jim Klenke.

O God, we ask you to be with our Stephen Leaders as they prepare and teach caregiving topics each week. Be with our trainees as they read, learn, and discuss new concepts and practice new skills. Give them dedicated hearts and open minds. Bless the community they are forming so that they learn to care for, nurture, and support one another in ministry. Be with these servants now and throughout their ministry. Amen.

BORGMYEYERS RECEIVE SERVICE AWARD

The Cardinal Rigali Service Award recognizes exceptional dedication to the mission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The award is presented annually to archdiocesan employees and volunteers who exhibit selfless devotion to the Gospel in parishes, schools, and agencies throughout the Archdiocese.

We are proud to announce that Anne and David Borgmeyer are recipients of this year’s award, which will be officially presented in September at a Mass and ceremony at the Rigali Center. At the First Day of School Prayer Service, Fr. Ron announced the award and presented the invitation to the Borgmeyers in the presence of the student body and faculty.

Congratulations to Anne and Dave from a parish grateful for all you do!

QUILT RAFFLE WINNER

And the winner of the quilt drawing for August is .... Tammy Koles!

Chances are still available for the three remaining drawings in October, December, and February. You can purchase them at the rectory office — one for $1 or six for $5. Good luck!

LOOKING AHEAD

Sept. 7 — Anniversary dinner
Sept. 12 — Protecting God’s Children workshop
Sept. 21 — Mass in the Park
Oct. 19 — PTO Trivia Night
Oct. 26 — SSMJ Fall Festival
Nov. 8 — PTO Holiday Boutique
Nov. 22-24 — 8th grade play
Dec. 7 — Breakfast With Santa
Feb. 1 — Sports Trivia Night
Feb. 8 — Auction Gala
Every day the pastor of a busy Pittsburgh parish saw them walk by the church: a stooped-over woman with a scarf around her hair, shuffling alongside the man and their dog. But the pastor realized one day that he hadn’t seen her for a while. Now it was just the old man and the old black lab, both getting on in years.

All these years the pastor saw the old man, he would wave, and then get on to the next service or meeting. He never saw the man or woman in church.

One day the pastor was running late. Getting out of his car and rushing into the building, he found himself directly in the path of the man and his dog on their daily walk. He hustled past the old man with a quick, “Hi, how ya doing?” The old man stood there looking at the pastor with yellowed eyes and said nothing. The pastor had a choice: get to his important meeting or be a real minister who stops, turns around, introduces himself and asks this man about his missing wife. The pastor decided to keep moving — and felt terrible for the rest of the day.

A few weeks later, the pastor saw the man again. The pastor stopped and began an apology he had been rehearsing since that afternoon. But the old man interrupted him with a waving hand and said, “I know how busy you folks are ‘cause I see all the cars around this church all the time.”

The pastor couldn’t accept his kindness and continued to apologize for his rudeness. He apologized for not knowing his name after all these years and gently asked about the woman who used to walk with him. The old man smiled and glanced up at the bare winter tree limbs. “That was my wife. She died a while back. Now it’s just ol’ Sancho and me. But we’re getting along pretty well,” and jiggling the leash, added, “Aren’t we, boy?”

They continued to talk a bit, like neighbors. As they talked, the old man looked at the pastor with those yellow eyes and seemed to sense the clergyman’s quandary.

“I’ve never been a churchgoing kind of guy. It seems hypocritical to start now that I’m so close to being dead myself. Still, it’s a comfort knowing that I live near people who believe in stuff like heaven. I lean a lot these days ... if you know what I mean.”

The pastor understood. And he understood in a way he hadn’t before what it meant to “love your neighbor,” what it meant to be Jesus’ disciple, what it meant to be a pastor.

This pastor learned a powerful lesson about both being church and living the sabbath. Our very reason for being a church is centered in the compassion and peace of the Gospel Jesus who gathered us together as the people of God. And the sabbath — the day God sets aside as a day of thanksgiving — is most fittingly observed as a day to express such holy gratitude in works of generosity as well as words of praise. In today’s Gospel, Jesus’s healing of the woman does not undermine the holiness of the sabbath — on the contrary, Jesus’s action irrevocably links sabbath prayer and ritual to the unlimited and unconditional mercy of God; Jesus’s action underscores the call of the synagogue community to be more than a place of ritual observance but a place where the mercy and peace of God are found by all who come it its door. May our church be such a community of peace; may the sabbath spirit of grateful praise extend into every day of our busy week.

Connections, August 2019

The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store Truck will be stationed in our Livingston Lot on Saturday, Oct. 5 (noon to 4 p.m.) or Sunday, Oct. 6 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

Items will be either resold or recycled at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store on Kingshighway (next to Burlington Coat Factory). If you have very large furniture items or large appliances, call the Thrift Store (314-881-6006) for pickup at a later date.


Some Holly Hills residents are organizing a neighborhood yard sale to be held Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019, from 8 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in participating, please contact Amy Koeln at HHSales2019@hotmail.com so that she can include your address when she advertises the sale.
**NOTES OF GRATITUDE**

Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation gratefully acknowledges St. Stephen Protomartyr’s collection of $1,309 in support of SSM Health Cardinal Glennon’s vital programs and services, ensuring a healthy future for more than 200,000 children each year.

Many thanks for your continued commitment of Glennon Sunday, *Where Faith and Healing Unite*. Your kindness and leadership help us evangelize the hospital’s mission: *Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.*

*Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson*

*Sandy Koller, President, Cardinal Glennon*

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**CAN YOU PLAY CHECKERS OR CHESS?**

Peter & Paul Community Services is looking for volunteers to play checkers or chess with residents of the Biddle House homeless shelter (Tucker & Biddle), the Peter & Paul shelter (711 Allen), and Garfield Apartments (Jefferson & Wyoming). Contact Ed Rataj at 314-727-4827 or ratajfam@att.net to schedule a visit.

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**81ST DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETING**

Meet face-to-face with your state rep to discuss issues important to South St. Louisans.

Representative Steve Butz is hosting a town hall meeting for the 81st District of Missouri on Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2019, at 7 p.m., at Meramec Elementary School (2745 Meramec St., east of St. Anthony of Padua).

Call Steve at 314-250-1710 with any questions.

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**JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY MASS & DINNER**

We would like to invite all couples from our parish who have reached a milestone in marriage to celebrate at our Jubilee Anniversary Mass and Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019. We will be honoring those who are celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 years of marriage in 2019. We also welcome anyone who has been married more than 50 years to join us.

The celebration will start with 4 p.m. Mass and continue with dinner following in the Parish Hall. We hope you can join us in our celebration! Please complete this form and return it to the parish office by Aug. 30 to make your reservation. For more information, call Mary Paule at 314-481-1133.

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NAMING & COMMENDATION RITE

Incarnate Word Parish
(13416 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, Mo.) is hosting a Naming & Commendation Rite on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Jointly developed by the Archdiocesan Office of Worship and the Respect Life Apostolate, Naming & Commendation is designed to meet the needs of parents whose child(ren) died before birth for any reason — miscarriage, stillbirth, accident, or abortion.

For more information about the event, contact Cindy Reznikov at 314-265-4315 or Deacon Ron Reuther at 636-675-1364. To learn more about the program, visit www.archstl.org/respect-life-apostolate/programs/pastoral-care.

UPCOMING SSP 50+ CLUB ACTIVITIES

Sept. 18 — Carpool trip to casino in Cape Girardeau. Cost is $30, but you get $10 back for lunch.

Oct. 20 — Bingo at American Legion in Columbia, Ill. Cost is $31. Meet at SSP at 10 a.m. or call for a ride.

Nov. 5-7 — Bus trip to Branson, Mo. Cost is $375 for a double room, $425 for a single. Includes three shows and two dinners, plus bus fare.

Dec. 8 — Bus trip to see Christmas lights in the area. Cost is $55. Meet at St. John the Baptist at 5 p.m. Dinner at Dado’s on Hampton is included.

Please call Joyce Stockmann at 314-752-4827 for more information about these events.

The next 50+ Club meeting is Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019, at 11 a.m. Hope to see you there!

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Join South Grand Senior Ministry as we cheer on the Cardinals on Monday, Sept. 16, 2019. We will depart from Immaculate Heart of Mary (4092 Blow St.) 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. To reserve your spot call Heather at 314-351-1318, x201.

ONGOING EVENTS

Game Day — 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 and refreshments are available. Contact Debbie at 314-481-9385 for details.

Chair Yoga — Non-stress yoga, Wednesdays, 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., 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.

DRAGON FOR A DAY

St. Mary’s High School (4701 S. Grand Blvd.) is hosting its annual Dragon for a Day event on Friday, Oct. 4, 2019, for boys in 6th through 8th grades. The program runs from 8 a.m. to noon and includes breakfast, a tour of the school, class visits, video-game trucks, sports activities, and lunch.

Students interested in attending the event should RSVP to director of admissions Sam Carel at 314-481-8400 or carels@stmaryshs.com with student’s name, grade, and t-shirt size.

PART-TIME JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Missionaries of the Holy Family are looking for part-time help in their provincial office, located in the St. Wenceslaus Church rectory (3014 Oregon Ave.).

This is a paid position. Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel is required, along with clear and appealing handwriting skills. Must be a Catholic in good standing. Please send resume to msf@msf-america.org.

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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

Monday, August 26
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, August 27
8:00 a.m.— Bourisaw Family

Wednesday, August 28
8:00 a.m.— Elmer & Rose Schuster, Bill Jost

Thursday, August 29
8:00 a.m.— Magdalen Mike

Friday, August 30
8:00 a.m.— Mike Letz

Saturday, August 31
8:00 a.m.— Lu Sturm
4:00 p.m.— Gene Holdenried

Sunday, September 1
8:00 a.m.— Bill Jost
10:30 a.m.— Our Parishioners

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 a.m. 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. During our Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m., excluding holidays.