St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

August 4, 2019

Eighteenth 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
marypaulessp@gmail.com

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

Luke 12:15
Take care to guard against greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions.
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“The take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

The Gospel message today is contrary to our modern culture where advertising continually tries to convince us that our value lies in the things we possess. Jesus showed us that our true value lies in the way we live our lives. He challenges us to not hoard material possessions, but rather to live a grateful and generous lifestyle and become more “other-centered” and less “self-centered.”

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

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<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 28 Contribution</td>
<td>$2,731.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online giving contribution</td>
<td>$1,216.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total weekly contribution</td>
<td>$3,947.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>R &amp; I</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition Assistance</td>
<td>$190.00</td>
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<td>Mission Co-op</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
- Saturday, August 10
  4:00 p.m.— P. Cooper, S. Gunter
- Sunday, August 11
  9:30 a.m.— S. Gaydos, E. Goedeker

SERVERS
- Saturday, August 10
  4:00 p.m.— Mary Kate C., Elsa Y.
- Sunday, August 11
  9:30 a.m.— Aaron V., Katie W.

STIPEND FOR MASS INTENTIONS

Some of you have heard of other parishes’ increasing their stipends for Mass intentions. It was suggested — but not mandated — by the archdiocese that stipends be increased to $10 per Mass. For the time being, the stipend amount at St. Stephen will continue to be $5 per Mass.

KICKBACK AT THE PUMP

You already know that when you purchase gift cards through our ACE program, our school gets a percentage of the dollar amount of the card. But wait — there’s more! When you pay at the pump with a Circle K gift card, your gas will be discounted 6 cents per gallon. We have $25 Circle K cards in stock but are happy to order $100 cards if you prefer. Thanks for your support!

UNFORESEEN EXPENSE

In the interest of keeping you apprised of our “household expenses” … It has come to our attention that the air compressor for the school’s fire-protection sprinkler system needs to be replaced. The cost of this repair is $2,382. Thank you, as always, for so generously sharing your treasure so that we can keep things running smoothly and safely.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

**Monday:** Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-17; Mt 14:13-21
**Tuesday, The Transfiguration of the Lord:** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; Lk 9:28b-3
**Wednesday:** Nm 13:1-2,25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Ps 106:6-7b, 13-14, 21-23; Mt 15:21-28
**Thursday:** Nm 20:1-13; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Mt 16:13-23
**Friday:** Dt 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-16, 21; Mt 16:24-28
**Saturday:** 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26
**Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** Is 18:6-9; Ps 33:1, 12, 18-22; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 12:32-48

This Week at St. Stephen Protomartyr

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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>August 5</td>
<td>August 6</td>
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<td>August 8</td>
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<td>NO LITURGY OF THE WORD</td>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>Mass 9:30 a.m. Backpack Blessing Ice Cream Social</td>
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<td>SVDP Meeting 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Staff Meeting 1 p.m.</td>
<td>SGS Exercise 9 a.m.</td>
<td>Grounds Cleanup 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Parish Center Cleanup 9 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 Florence Arcipowski and the father of Laura Bolt, who died recently.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

BACKPACK BLESSING

Our annual Backpack Blessing will take place at the 9:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, Aug. 11. The blessing is open to all elementary and high school students of the parish, whether they go to our school or to another school.

(Actual backpacks are welcome but not required!)

SAVE THE DATE — GALA

Mark your calendars now for our biannual Auction Gala, which is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2020. Plan to be there for fundraising, fellowship, and FUN! Stay tuned for more information.

PARISH CENTER CLEANUP

Calling all parishioners and school families! Join us for a morning of cleaning to get the Parish Center in tip-top shape for the start of a new school year. Meet at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019. Bring your cleaning supplies and elbow grease. Many hands make for quick work! All are welcome!

WEEDING DAY

WHEN: Saturday, Aug. 10, 8-10 a.m.
WHERE: Parish grounds
WHAT: Weeding the gardens
WHO: Five or six people willing to help make our campus beautiful

Students seeking service hours are most welcome!

SERVER PICNIC

Every year the parish provides a picnic as a thank you to our altar servers for their ministry during the past year. The picnic is for those servers who graduated this past May, our brand-new fifth-grade servers, and all grades in between.

This year's picnic is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 12, 2019, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Indian Hills Swim Club. This is a free event for all our servers and any adult chaperones. The day will include lunch and swimming.

Please RSVP to Mary Regan (314-481-1133 or maryreganssp@gmail.com) no later than Aug. 8.

PSR REGISTRATION

The South City Deanery Parish School of Religion (PSR) registration packets are available for the 2019-20 school year for students in grades PreK-8 who are not enrolled in a Catholic school.

All students who are preparing for sacraments must be in our program for two years before receiving the sacrament. That means that students must be enrolled in our first grade class to receive First Communion in second grade. Students must be in our Pre-Confirmation class before the Confirmation preparation class.

There will be two on-site registration opportunities at the St. John the Baptist Parish Center (4200 Delor) — Monday, Aug. 12, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please bring a copy of your child’s baptismal record with you for registration.

Contact the SCDPSR at 314-773-3070 or stl.scdpsr@gmail.com with any questions.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL — START TIME

PLEASE NOTE: This year, our first day of school will begin at the usual school-day start time of 7:50 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019. Fr. Ron will bless the students, who will then enter the school by grade level, as is our tradition.

(In years past, we have started the first day at 9 a.m.)
What would it take for the average American family to live the life of poverty experienced by so many families in the world?

Begin by stripping the family home of furniture. Beds, chairs, lamps, TV sets, silverware — everything. Leave a few blankets, a kitchen table, and a wooden chair. Take away the clothing bureaus and the clothes. Each family member can keep one article of clothing, and only the head of the household, the family’s principal bread-winner, is permitted a pair of shoes.

In the kitchen, take away all the appliances. Leave a small bag of flour, some sugar and salt, a few moldy potatoes, a handful of onions, and a dish of dried beans. The meat, the canned goods, the crackers, the candy all go.

Next, strip the bathroom, shut off the running water, and turn off the electricity in the house. Then, take away the house itself.

But this is just the start. There’s also the lack of telephone, newspapers, firefighters, hospitals, paved roads, or doctors. The nearest school is three miles away, reachable only by foot, and consists of two classrooms.

Finally, money. Allow every family member a cash hoard of five dollars, which will protect the breadwinner from tragedy like that of the Iranian peasant who went blind because he could not afford the $3.94 he mistakenly thought he needed to receive admission to a hospital where he could have been cured.

This is poverty in our world.

[Robert Heilbroner, cited in What Jesus Meant: The Beatitudes and a Meaningful Life by Erik Kolbell.]

If we stop to consider how many families live in poverty today, the very idea of building barns and storage units to store our possessions is obscene. In the parable of the rich man’s barns, Jesus is challenging us to realize the riches we possess and to embrace a spirit of gratitude to God for our many blessings that compels us not to store them away but share them with those who have little or nothing. The most tragic kind of poverty is the emptiness of a life filled with “things” but possessing nothing of God — love, forgiveness, compassion, gratitude. God has given us this precisely brief but wonderful life in order to discover how to love one another as God loves us: totally and completely, without condition nor limit.

From Connections, August 2019
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. (BONUS — It is the monthly t-shirt giveaway night!)

Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot soon. You can reserve your spot by contacting Heather at 314-351-1318, x201. After you’ve made a reservation, you can make your check out to “South Grand Senior Ministry” and mail it to 5418 Louisiana Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116. Please include an emergency contact name and phone number. Let’s go, Cards!

ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH IS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF SGSM

SGSM welcomes St. Mary Magdalene 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.
QUILT SOCIAL
Sacred Heart Parish in Ozora, in Ste. Genevieve County, will host its annual Quilt Social on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019. Chicken dinners with dressing, slaw, and green beans — and homemade desserts — will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The Quilt Social begins at 1:30 p.m. The winner of each game will receive one of 22 handmade quilts. There will also be available other refreshments, sandwiches, and a Country Store.

Sacred Heart is approximately 50 miles south of St. Louis on I-55. Exit at 143 and follow the road to the right for one mile. Please call 573-543-2997 with questions.

BBQ AND ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT
St. Matthias the Apostle Parish (800 Buckley Rd.) is hosting a barbecue on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dine-in, carry-out, or delivery within a five-mile radius. (Call 314-560-2792 to place your order on the day of the BBQ.)

From 8 a.m. to noon on the same day, Boy Scout Troop 824 is holding a metal and electronics-recycling fundraiser. They will accept anything that is metal or has a cord, including tube televisions, monitors, computer equipment, refrigerators, lawn mowers, and more. Call Gil at 314-910-3994 for more information.

CATHEDRAL BASILICA GALA
Maintaining, preserving, and restoring our magnificent Cathedral Basilica is an ongoing project. The art and the architecture of this great monument of our faith are true inspirations that must be preserved for generations to come. Archbishop Carlson has instituted a reception and dinner auction to benefit the Cathedral. It will be held at Old Warson Country Club (9841 Old Warson Rd.), beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019.

For more information, please contact Susie Irons at sirons@cathedralstl.org or call 314-373-8205.

FREE HOMEBUYER EDUCATION WORKSHOP
Consider taking advantage of a free Homebuyer Education Workshop, co-sponsored by St. Joseph Housing Initiative and Carrollton Bank, on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019, at 6:30 p.m., at the South City Excel Center (2828 Gravois Ave.). The program is presented by Terrence Rogers of Carrollton Bank.

Learn about: how to achieve affordable and successful homeownership; down payment assistance programs; how to get a free credit analysis; and what documentation you need to be approved for a loan.

Register online at prosperityconnection.org/class-registration. Seating is limited.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
St. Richard Parish (11223 Schuetz Rd., Creve Coeur) is hiring for four paid positions.

- Coordinator of PSR (part-time, 5-10 hours per week)
- Kindergarten & first grade catechist
- Fifth & sixth grade catechist
- Seventh & eighth grade confirmation catechist

PSR classes are on Tuesday evenings during the school year from 6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m. To apply, please send your resume to vtonsor@strichardstl.org. Call 314-432-6224 x1003 with any questions.

SEXUAL ABUSE SURVIVOR GROUPS
This ministry will be offered at no cost to the participant. The closed groups will meet at the Crestwood location of Saint Louis Counseling on Wednesday evenings beginning September 4.

Adult survivors of child sexual abuse who have previously participated in individual therapy may inquire at 314-544-3800.

SPONSORED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, August 5**
8:00 a.m.— No Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, August 6**
8:00 a.m.— Stephan Jamboretz

**Wednesday, August 7**
8:00 a.m.— Blendi Gjata

**Thursday, August 8**
8:00 a.m.— Jane & Martin Meyer

**Friday, August 9**
8:00 a.m.— John Bland Schnable

**Saturday, August 10**
8:00 a.m.— Tom & Doris Guntli
4:00 p.m.— Clementine Heaghney Neels

**Sunday, August 11**
9:30 a.m.— Our Parishioners, Frances Crimi

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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  Ron Thenhaus
Ann Dosenbach  Steve Moylan  Alan Varga
Paul Heidbrier  Doug Paule  Virginia Zenthoefe

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

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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

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**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:
9:30 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 9:30 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 9:30 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 9:30 a.m., excluding holidays.