St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

September 15, 2019

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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!
**STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER**

"Everything I have is yours." (Luke 15:31)

Our Heavenly Father gives us everything, including the chance to share in His eternal kingdom. Yet, like the Prodigal Son, we are often lured away by the materialism of our society. Do we really want to turn our backs on all that God offers in exchange for a material wealth that has no lasting value?

**SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION**

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<tr>
<td>September 8 Contribution</td>
<td>$ 3,657.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online giving contribution</td>
<td>$ 1,636.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total weekly contribution</td>
<td>$ 5,293.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>R &amp; I</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition Assistance</td>
<td>$ 145.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic University</td>
<td>$ 176.00</td>
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*Special collection in September is for Catholic University.*

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PICNIC**

Ann Marie & Matt Guntli and Angie & Eric McMahon have presented to the parish a check in the amount of $39,548.08 on behalf of the Parish Picnic Committee. Many thanks to everyone for all of your hard work on June 12!

**PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN WORKSHOP**

All volunteers working in the schools, parishes, and agencies of the archdiocese are required to attend the "Protecting God's Children" workshop. If you have not already completed this program, SSP is hosting a session on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019, at 7 p.m. RSVP to Mary Paule at 314-481-1133 or marypaulessp@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 other options.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**LECTORS**

Saturday, September 21
4:00 p.m. — P. O’Connell, C. Kveton

Sunday, September 22
8:00 a.m. — L. Rahn, T. Jenney
10:30 a.m. — W. Kveton, B. McLain

**SERVERS**

Saturday, September 21
4:00 p.m. — Jack S., Brody Z.

Sunday, September 22
8:00 a.m. — Tommy G., Abigail S.
10:30 a.m. — Colin M., Reagan M.

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

**Monday:**
1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9; Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday:**
1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6; Lk 7:11-17

**Wednesday:**
1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 7:31-35

**Thursday:**
1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10; Lk 7:36-50

**Friday:**
1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20; Lk 8:1-3

**Saturday, St. Matthew:**
1 Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Mt 9:9-13

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time:**
1 Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-6, 6-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

**THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td>September 16</td>
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<td>September 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgy of the Word 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Baptismal Service</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Mass 8 &amp; 10:30 a.m.</strong></td>
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<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Finance Council Mtg. 7 p.m.</td>
<td>50+ Club Meeting 11 a.m.</td>
<td>SGSM Exercise 9:15 a.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Mass in the Park 4 p.m.</strong> (NO MASS AT SSP)</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.

MASS IN THE PARK

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019, is our 19th annual Mass in the Park. We will celebrate our 4 p.m. Mass outdoors near the Carondelet Park Boathouse, followed by a meal and beverages courtesy of our Holy Name Society. Please bring a dessert to share.

We would welcome any help at the following times: Friday at 7 p.m. at school, to load chairs; Saturday at noon at the park boathouse to unload and set up chairs; and Saturday at 7:10 p.m. to return the chairs to school.

NOTE: There will be no confessions nor 4 p.m. Mass at our church on this day.

ANNIVERSARY MASS

At the 4 p.m. Mass on Sept. 7, 2019, we recognized couples in our parish who are celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries in 2019. As a feature of the printed program, they were invited to offer advice to those beginning their journey of marriage.

Beverly & Harley Gardner (65 years): The main thing is to be true to your vows. Be faithful, and always respect one another.

Sandy & Gene Berviller (50 years): Make it a “threesome” — remember to include God always! Don’t be so serious all the time. Pray, love, and laugh!

Carol & Jim Prag (45 years): Love is a decision, not a feeling. Feelings change quickly; not so decisions.

Arlene & Paul Cooper (40 years): Matrimony is a vocation. If you don’t enter it that way, you’re already in trouble.

Janice & Mike Broekelmann (35 years): Always keep your faith because you will need it. Try to put your marriage first.

Sharon & Ted Hartzler (35 years): Determine who is better with certain decision, and let that person handle it. Compromise on everything else.

Sue & Jeff Marsek (25 years): Don’t compare your marriage to anyone else’s. Try to compromise as much as possible, and keep your sense of humor. Love, trust, and honor each other.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In the charity of your prayers, please remember Mary Ann Schoemehl, the daughter of the late Jeanette Schoemehl, who died recently.

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

SSMJ FELLOWSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

Sts. Mary & Joseph Chapel’s operating expenses are not paid out of the St. Stephen budget but from an account restricted for SSMJ. That account is subsidized by weddings at the chapel as well as the annual Fall Festival. The second annual Fall Festival at the Chapel is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019. St. Stephen’s regular Saturday Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. at the chapel (6304 Minnesota). Festivities begin immediately after Mass, with music from The Faithful Strays, food, beer, wine, soda, and more.

And this fall, we are introducing an Alphabet Club Raffle, the proceeds of which will also fund the chapel account. For $20, you can pick your favorite letter/number combination (A-Z/1-10). Then, on the 15th of every month in 2020, we will draw a letter/number combo. That winning combo wins $100, and the numbers on either side of the winner each win $25. Only 260 tickets will be sold, for 36 chances to win! We will soon be selling tickets after Masses, but if you have questions or want to purchase now, please contact Michelle Rusch at 314-306-1707 or michelleruschssp@gmail.com.
YOUNG CATHOLIC MUSICIANS AUDITIONS

The choir and orchestra of The Young Catholic Musicians will hold auditions for singers during August and September in preparation for its 46th year of service to the church. These young people (aged 10-17) represent more than 40 parishes and schools in the St. Louis area. They learn quality liturgical music and lead the music for Mass once each month at different parishes. Contact Fr. Bruce Forman at 314-231-7464 or revycm@charter.net to schedule an audition. For more information, visit www.archstl.org/musicians.

PROUD GRADUATE

Congratulations to parishioner and school parent Josh Mohr, who recently graduated from the St. Louis Police Academy.

We wish Josh all the best in his new career!

LOOKING AHEAD

Sept. 26 — Protecting God’s Children workshop
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

PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Our Pastoral Council is a committee which fosters communication among individuals, organizations, the pastor, and the staff, and advises the pastor about the needs and concerns of the parish. The Council is seeking nominations to replace three members whose terms are expiring. Members serve terms of three years. The Council meets monthly on the last Wednesday of the month. If you or someone you know is at least 19 years of age; a registered, active parishioner; and supports by word and example the teachings of the Church, please nominate them below. All nominees will be contacted to ensure they are willing and able to serve. Return this form to the parish office by Oct. 13, 2019. Three names will be selected by lottery from the total group of nominees at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Oct. 20, 2019.

I nominate __________________________
for Pastoral Council because __________________________
________________________
________________________
________________________
________________________
________________________
Signed __________________________
When I was a senior in high school, my family took an international vacation, but I slept through my 3 a.m. alarm on the day of departure. When I finally awoke, there was a frenzied panic as I tried to troubleshoot as many possible options to get me to the airport two hours away to meet my family on time for the flight. Hope was slim, but it was there after a few hours of looking through phone books (remember those?) to find an available shuttle ride. But even as I stepped onto the shuttle, I wasn’t sure that this plan was going to work out. My panic increased because now I was at the mercy of time. There was nothing else that I could do but to see how things would play out.

We’ve all had moments like this in our lives, moments when our throat sinks into our belly, and paralyzing apprehension takes over. It happens to us when we realize that we didn’t show up for that scheduled appointment, when we forgot to pick up our son from school, when we left that report at home, or when we lock our keys in the car. It’s a realization that we lost something of significance, and there’s going to be a consequence following. We go into a panic mode of sorts, often acting uncharacteristically or erratically, like we’re kinda going crazy!

Maybe this feeling is what the shepherd, woman, and Prodigal Son felt. What they had lost was of utmost value to them, and there was a heightened awareness of the aftermath if their lost item was not found. A desperate search ensues.

I remember sitting in that shuttle utterly disappointed that I didn’t wake up in time and ashamed that I had put myself through those panicked few hours. I was terrified of missing my flight and afraid of my family’s reaction were I to miss our vacation abroad. The interior dialogue was deafening during that two-hour ride to the airport. Things didn’t get any better when I arrived. Everything heightened as I had to check my luggage and go through security. “What if something else goes wrong?”

In our Gospel text, the word rejoice (and its derivative, joy) appears five times. But note where in the context of the stories it appears … after a period of turmoil. In other words, joy always follows the anguish. I like what Jean Vanier had to say about this: “Tensions or difficulty can signal the approach of a new grace of God.” This new grace can come to us in many and varied ways, but so often, our hearts are not ready to receive that new grace, and the opportunity slips by unnoticed.

I did get to the airport just in the nick of time, and my family was waiting for me at the gate. I was still a little anxious as I waited with them to board the plane. It was only when I took my seat and my father, seated next to me, said, “I’m glad you’re here” that a sudden flood of relief and joy came into my heart.

Today, this very familiar Gospel passage speaks to me of joy, and it poses a few very simple questions: “Do I really encounter it?” “What am I willing to endure in order to experience it more deeply?” And “How do I foster joy in others?”

Br. John-Marmion Villa, BSC
From LPI Connect! Sunday Reflection

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!

COLLINSVILLE DAY TRIP

South Grand Senior Ministry is joining **Lindenwood Area Senior Ministry** on a voyage over the river to Collinsville, Ill., on Thursday, **Oct. 24, 2019**. The day begins with a visit to Cahokia Mounds, followed by lunch at Ravanelli’s and a guided tour of Willoughby Heritage Farm. The bus departs at 9:15 a.m. from Southwest Baptist Church (6401 Scanlan) and returns by 4 p.m. Cost is $55 per person. Contact **Diane Huck** at 314-772-1525 or spvparishnurse@gmail.com with questions or to make a reservation.
Sponsored by
Crawford-Butz
Insurance Agency

Pumpkin Spice
St. Stephen Protomartyr PTO

Trivia
and
Scrumiddlyumptious
Silent Auction

2019
Always in good taste

Silent Auction - Raffles - Games Between Rounds
Beer, Wine, Soda, Snacks and Prizes

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish Center
3929 Wilmington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116

$25/PERSON 6:00 pm – Doors Open 7:00 pm – Trivia Starts

TABLES OF 8

Contact Chad and Janet Wilcox at 314-776-4268 or sspptotrivia@gmail.com
Reserve your table by September 30th and receive 8 bonus 50/50 tickets!
**Please Pray**

for our sick and recovering...
- Dave Asinger
- Suzi Beck
- Liz Bentrup
- Ann Dosenbach
- Erin Goedeker
- Art & Jan Haffer
- Paul Heidbrier
- Wence Kveton
- Thomas Lorenz
- Lois McClellan
- Steve Moylan
- Dianne Neels
- Grace Phillips
- Vince Stehlin
- Ron Thenhaus
- Virginia Zenthoefer

for our homebound...
- Jeanette Holmer
- Albertine Honious
- Art Petersen
- Rose Schuster

for those in nursing homes...
- Al Eckert
- Dolores Meisemann

for family members serving in the military...
- Derek Hirtz
- Tristan Moylan
- Ryan O’Neil
- Jack Renick
- Brian Schoellhorn
- Dianne Schulte
- Mitch Sollmann

**DEVOTIONS**

- **Tuesdays**, after 8 a.m. Mass: Perpetual Help Devotions
- **First Friday of the Month**, after 8 a.m. Mass: Holy Hour and Benediction
- **Weekdays**, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m.: Church is available for prayer. Stop by the rectory for entry.

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, September 16**
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, September 17**
8:00 a.m.— Charles Stough, Magdalen Mike, LaVerne Gartner

**Wednesday, September 18**
8:00 a.m.— Bill Jost

**Thursday, September 19**
8:00 a.m.— Lucille Ogar

**Friday, September 20**
8:00 a.m.— Helen Keeton

**Saturday, September 21**
8:00 a.m.— Polo & Karmela Vushaj
4:00 p.m.— Frances Crimi, Mary Schweiger

**Sunday, September 22**
8:00 a.m.— Linda Stewart
10:30 a.m.— Our Parishioners

**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 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.