St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

September 22, 2019
Twenty-Fifth 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
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
jumentessinssp@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**

"No servant can serve two masters. He will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (wealth)." (Luke 16:13)

Is money a “god” that you put before God? Giving money to support the Church and other charity is a pillar of our faith, just like attending Mass every Sunday and participating in parish ministry. Giving money frees us from being a slave to money. It increases our dependence on God and our trust that God will provide all that we need.

**SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 15 Contribution</td>
<td>$ 5,260.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online giving contribution</td>
<td>$ 1,922.00</td>
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<td>Total weekly contribution</td>
<td>$ 7,182.00</td>
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<td>R &amp; I</td>
<td>$ 91.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition Assistance</td>
<td>$ 854.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic University</td>
<td>$ 30.00</td>
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<td>Hurricane Relief</td>
<td>$ 15.00</td>
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Special collection in September is for Catholic University.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**LECTORS**

Saturday, September 28
4:00 p.m. — G. Stoff, B. Stoff

Sunday, September 29
8:00 a.m. — R. Rone, A. Rotermund
10:30 a.m. — B. Borgmeyer, C. Prag

**SERVERS**

Saturday, September 28
4:00 p.m. — Dayana N., Hendrix F.

Sunday, September 29
8:00 a.m. — Brody Z., Abigail S.
10:30 a.m. — Ben W., Elsa Y.

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL FINAL REPORT**

Archbishop Carlson commends our parish for exceeding our goal in regards to the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal campaign.

St. Stephen’s goal was $27,390, and our to-date contributions are $39,435. Of our 509 registered families, 152 (30 percent) returned a pledge card, including 21 new donors. Many thanks to all who supported the campaign and particularly to Will & Meghan Hartzler for coordinating our parish’s contributions.

Looking forward, the Appeal’s theme for 2020, Because We Are Catholic, is intended to remind us of the immense good accomplished by the Church in the Archdiocese of St. Louis every day. The Archbishop reminds us that we don’t serve others because they are Catholic, we serve them because we are.

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

**Monday:** 1 Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Lk 8:16-18

**Tuesday:** 1 Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Lk 8:19-21

**Wednesday:** 1 Ezr 9:5-9; Tobit 13:2, 34-a, 4befghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday:** 1 Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9

**Friday, St. Vincent de Paul:** 1 Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4; Lk 9:18-22

**Saturday, St. Matthew:** 1 Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 1 Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

**THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>September 23</th>
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<th>September 29</th>
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<td>Liturgy of the Word</td>
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<td>Quilters</td>
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<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>Pastoral Council</td>
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<td>Canned Goods Drive</td>
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<td>Meeting 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Protecting God’s Children 7 p.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.

SPOTLIGHT ON ... ACE CARD PROGRAM

Most of you are familiar with our ACE (Aiding Catholic Education) Cards program, whereby our parish acts as a broker for gift cards and receives a percentage of the face value of each card sold.

This program is run entirely by volunteers, most of whom can be seen taking a shift after Masses to sell cards we keep on hand. The masterminds behind the scenes are Nancy Grimaud and Larry Driscoll, who come together on Monday mornings to process orders from the past week, replenish our card supply, and do general record-keeping.

Nancy sees the program as a fundraising effort in which everyone in the parish community can participate. “Maybe you can’t work at the picnic or fish fries, and maybe you don’t have an income that allows for regular donations,” says Nancy. “But everyone — even those who are homebound — can purchase ACE cards for items they are already buying anyway.”

Nancy and Larry are both retired school teachers — “with the same sort of brain,” says Nancy — who enjoy serving the parish in this role. “My time spent is my way of donating,” says Nancy. “Everybody has a role to play.”

To learn more about volunteering in this ministry, contact Mary Regan at 314-481-1133.

The cards are available for purchase after all weekend Masses or at the rectory during office hours. Larger quantities or cards we don’t keep on hand can be ordered using this form: http://saintstephenstl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ACE-Form-07.15.2019.pdf.

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 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 other options.

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 ________________________________
**WELCOME, MRS. MARINARO!**

We are pleased to welcome Carol Marinaro as our new middle school teacher. (She fills the position left by Pamela Bruce, who took a position with UMSL earlier this month.) Carol teaches 7th and 8th grade religion, 6th-8th language arts, and 8th grade literature and also serves as the 7th grade homeroom teacher. She is a native St. Louisian with degrees from Saint Louis University and the University of Arizona and more than 20 years’ teaching experience, from elementary through high school.

**ST. JOSEPH HOUSING INITIATIVE**

The St. Joseph Housing Initiative is hosting its second annual Raise the Roof Benefit Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2019, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s High School (4701 S. Grand). Various levels of support are available. For more information or to reserve a seat, please visit www.stjosephhousing.org or contact Annie Purcell at apurcell@stjosephhousing.org.

**BASEMENT CLEANUP**

One parish’s trash is another family’s treasure! Come join us on Saturday, October 5, 2019, from 8 a.m. to noon to help clean out the church basement and stage area in order to use our space more efficiently. We will need help bringing items from the basement into the Parish Hall and then eventually to the rented dumpster if no one would like them. Come help move the items, and anything we no longer need is yours to take! Monetary donations for items taken are always welcome. Questions? Contact Ann Marie Guntli at amguntli@hotmail.com or 314-283-1536.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- 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

**PTO TRIVIA NIGHT**

Mark your calendars for the PTO Pumpkin Spice Trivia Night on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, in our Parish Center. Doors open at 6 p.m.; play starts at 7 p.m. Cost is $25 per person; tables seat eight.

The evening will feature several rounds of trivia questions with games in between, silent auction items, and raffles. Beer, wine, soda, and light snacks will be provided. You are also welcome to bring your own snacks and beverages.

Contact Chad and Janet Wilcox at 314-776-4268 or sspptotrivia@gmail.com to reserve a table. Reserve by Sept. 30 and receive eight bonus 50/50 raffle tickets!

**FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

In the charity of your prayers, please remember Art Haffer, who died recently. May his 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.
There is a helpful rule of thumb for managing our spending: “Mind the pennies, and the dollars will take care of themselves.” In other words, if we are careful with our smaller purchases, we will have money in hand for big ticket items or emergencies.

However, it’s easy for us to do just the opposite. We see something we’d like to have and tell ourselves, “It’s only five dollars. I can afford that.” Then we see something else and something else. Before we realize it, our wallets are empty. The purchases which seemed small and insignificant at the time turned out to be very expensive indeed when added all together.

The same principle is true in our spiritual lives. Jesus puts it this way in this Sunday’s gospel: “The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones.” In other words, if we make good choices in the details of our daily lives, it can add up to a good and holy life. On the other hand, if we fail to do good when we have the opportunity, or if we make bad choices because our sins seem small and insignificant, it will add up to a sinful life. Like those small purchases that turn out to be very costly, those sins which seem insignificant can have a deep, corrupting influence on our consciences and souls in the long run.

The good news is that just as cutting corners can get us into a rut, small steps in the right direction can get us out. It is not always necessary to make big changes in our lives to get ourselves back on the path to reconciliation with God. We can fundamentally redirect our course by committing ourselves to making good choices every day. It could be as simple as making time to call a friend who is struggling or going out of our way to give money to a panhandler. It could mean getting up a little earlier to spend time in prayer. These are small gestures that don’t require much time or effort. But they can go a long way toward training us to be more concerned with others and more aware of God’s presence and action in our lives.

A good example of this spiritual principle is the “little way” of St. Therese of Lisieux. She teaches us that no talent or gift is as pleasing to God as the ability to love. Like holiness, love is the universal calling of the Christian. When done with love, the smallest works become great in the eyes of God.

Heading into the 2020 presidential election, we will hear a lot about what is wrong with our country and how to fix it. The candidates will lay out grand schemes and make lavish promises. However, if things are to change, it will take ordinary people making small choices every day to move things in the right direction. It will require each of us using less of our planet’s resources. It will mean being kind and compassionate with each person we meet. If we were all to commit to daily acts of charity, no matter how small, it would likely benefit our country more than any government program.

Douglas Sousa, S.T.L.
From LPI Connect! Sunday Reflection

“AGING MY WAY” RESOURCE FAIR
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish (4900 Ringer Rd.) is hosting a fair to connect older adults with community resources on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019, from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be 60-plus booths of information for seniors and caregivers, including elder law; Medicare and insurance; home health services; home repair companies; counseling services; housing (retirement communities, assisted living, and long-term care); health and wellness; veterans benefits; and caregiver support. Free coffee and donuts will be provided. Gift cards will be raffled.

RENEW MOVIE DAY: “HACKSAW RIDGE”
“Hacksaw Ridge” is the true story of Desmond Doss, an American pacifist combat medic during World War II. Join us for a viewing of the movie on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019, at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary’s rectory meeting room. Afterward, there will be discussion. All are welcome. Feel free to bring a guest! Treats, coffee, and tea provided.

UPCOMING SSP 50+ CLUB ACTIVITIES
Oct. 20 — Bingo at American Legion in Columbia, Ill.
Nov. 5-7 — Bus trip to Branson, Mo.
Dec. 8 — Bus trip to see Christmas lights in the area
Please call Joyce Stockmann at 314-752-4827 for more information about these events.

COLLINSVILLE DAY TRIP
South Grand Senior Ministry is joining Lindenwood Area Senior Ministry on a trip to Collinsville, Ill., on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019. The day includes a visit to Cahokia Mounds, lunch at Ravanelli’s, and a tour of Willoughby Heritage Farm. 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 at 314-772-1525 or spvparishnurse@gmail.com.
**CSJ TRIVIA NIGHT**

The Associates of the *Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet*, St. Louis Province, present *Trick or Treat Trivia* on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2019, at Immaculate Heart of Mary (4092 Blow St.).

Doors open at 6:15 p.m.; trivia begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are $20 per person; tables seat eight. Register and pay online at www.csjsl.org. Contact Kay Komotos at kkomotos@csjsl.org or 314-678-0317 with questions.

**WHO LOVES CORNHOLE (A.K.A. BAGS)?**

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish (816 Allen Ave.) is hosting its inaugural cornhole tournament on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019. The event is part of the parish’s Fall Festival, which includes live music, food, games, raffles, and a silent auction.

Register your cornhole team of two at www.eventbrite.com. Cost is $20 per team (or $10 for an individual, who will be assigned a partner) and includes all the beer, soda, and water you can drink during the tournament and a two-game guarantee. Cash prize for the winning team.

The Dads of Rosati-Kain Students (D.O.R.K.S.) are hosting a one-day-only cornhole tournament on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019, at 4 p.m. in the Rosati-Kain High School gym. Cost is $50 per team of two or $15 per spectator. All are entitled to buffet and drinks. To register or for more info, call or text Joe Greco at 314-517-2416 or visit https://rosati-kain.org/blog/fathers-club-bags-tournament.

**J.O.E.: REENVISIONING PUBLIC SAFETY**

J.O.E. Talks are a series of presentations sponsored by the Racial and Cultural Justice Committee of the *Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet* (6400 Minnesota) aimed at education and action for racial and cultural justice issues.

Join us on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., for “Reenvisioning Public Safety,” a conversation with Blake Strode. Blake is the executive director of ArchCity Defenders, a nonprofit civil rights law firm in St. Louis, providing holistic legal advocacy and combating the criminalization of poverty and state violence against poor people and people of color.

The event includes continental breakfast. There is a suggested donation of $10 at the door. RSVP online at www.csjsl.org/events or call 314-481-8800 to register. Responses are requested by Sept. 14.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT MERCY CENTER**

Creative Spirit: Exploring the Inner Movement of God Through Creativity, Friday, Oct. 11-Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019 — Join spiritual director, writer, and musician Steve Givens for an exploration of what happens at the intersection of spirituality and creativity. Talks, prayer, music, and opportunities for creating will engage participants with the inner movement of the Spirit in their lives and in their art.

Go Gently Into That Good Night, Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. — Guardians of deep feeling, great poets have provided us a bridge of light at the most inarticulate of moments: grief. Join facilitator Noeli Lytton and other eager poetry lovers in an appreciation of great poets who reveal the nuances of feeling around death, dying, loss, and grief.

Accepting Hardship as a Pathway to Peace, Sunday, Oct. 27, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. — Painful life events will happen for each of us. Join us as we explore key questions that will help us embrace life’s challenges and uncertainties with faith, grace, and acceptance. An afternoon of reflection and discussion led by Paul Kraus, a lifelong teacher, retreat director, and service moderator for middle/high school and adults.

All programs are held at the Mercy Conference & Retreat Center (2039 N. Geyer). For more information or to register, visit www.mercycenterstl.org.

**ECONOMIC ETHICS AT AQUINAS INSTITUTE**


The featured speaker is Albino Barrera, O.P., Ph.D.. This event is free and open to the public.
Mass Intentions

Monday, September 23
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, September 24
8:00 a.m.— Leo Esswein

Wednesday, September 25
8:00 a.m.— Bill Jost

Thursday, September 26
8:00 a.m.— Adolph & Margaret Hoh

Friday, September 27
8:00 a.m.— Mark Benz

Saturday, September 28
8:00 a.m.— Joan Ahrens
4:00 p.m.— Our Parishioners

Sunday, September 29
8:00 a.m.— Bill Jost
10:30 a.m.— Florence Arcipowski, Mike Letz

Please Pray

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

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

for those in nursing homes ...
Al Eckert  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
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.