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!

St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

September 8, 2019

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

WEARY AND STORM-TOSSLED,
WE CRY OUT TO YOU, O GOD,
IN OUR TIME OF ADVERSITY
AND ON BEHALF OF ALL IN NEED.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement,
who encourages us in our every affliction.
—2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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
maryregansssp@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
"Every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33)

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.
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 OF SPIRIT AND GRACE

This fall, we are introducing another Mass setting -- the Mass of Spirit and Grace, by Ricky Manalo, CSP. Our musicians and cantors will be leading the new pieces, which will be phased in over the next few weekends. If you would like to familiarize yourself with the new melodies, you can find the Mass on YouTube. The words and music are included in our Breaking Bread hymnals. We look forward to learning, singing, and celebrating together!

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 conveniently hosting a session on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019, at 7 p.m. Please 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 upcoming sessions at other times and places.

2020 GALA KICKOFF MEETING

The 2020 Gala is on! Save the date for Feb. 8, 2020. Want to know the theme? You’ll have to wait until the PTO Trivia Night on Oct. 19, 2019, so make a note to reserve your table. In the meantime, join us for our 2020 Gala Kick-Off Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall to see how you can help make this the best Gala yet! For more information, contact Jason and Gina Joly at 314-882-8762 or Chris and Sarah McGeehan at 713-859-5446.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

At the 4 p.m. Mass this weekend, we are honoring couples in our parish who are celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries in 2019. After Mass, they will continue the celebration with dinner and fellowship in the parish hall.

Beverly & Marion Gardner — August 14, 1954
Sandy & Gene Berviller — June 20, 1969
Carol & Jim Prag — November 22, 1974
Arlene & Paul Cooper — August 18, 1979
Janice & Mike Broekelmann — September 15, 1984
Sharon & Ted Hartzler — August 25, 1984
Michelle & Joe Rusch — October 26, 1984
Sue & Jeff Marsek — May 7, 1994

MASS SCHEDULE FOLLOW-UP SURVEY

Now that we have returned to our usual Mass times, the Liturgy Preparation Committee invites you to complete the survey below and return it to the parish office or in the collection basket. If you prefer, you can complete the survey online at http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07egk90r4pjzvghcy0/start. Thank you!

Which regularly-scheduled weekend Mass do you attend most often?

- [ ] 4:00 p.m., Saturdays
- [ ] 8:00 a.m., Sundays
- [ ] 10:30 a.m., Sundays

Which summer-schedule weekend Mass did you choose to attend?

- [ ] 4:00 p.m., Saturdays
- [ ] 9:30 a.m., Sundays
- [ ] I chose to go to Mass elsewhere.

You are welcome to share any thoughts or comments:
BEST WISHES TO MRS. BRUCE

Pamela Bruce, our school's eighth grade teacher and this summer's Vacation Bible School coordinator, has left St. Stephen to accept a position at the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Education. The search for her replacement has begun. We wish Pamela all the best in her new position and keep her in our prayers as she embarks on her new career.

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, 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.

STEPHEN JONES CONCERT

Our music director Stephen Jones will be performing a concert on piano at Peace Lutheran Church (737 Barracksview Rd.) on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019, at 3 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.
Just a few years ago, Libby Osgood was sitting in the control room at NASA’s Goddard Space Center in Greenbelt, Md., monitoring the launch of a new communications satellite. She was 25, the youngest systems engineer on the team.

She later went to work for a NASA contractor in Phoenix, but the slower pace made her restless. After two years in Phoenix, she decided to go Kenya to work with a nonprofit group providing medical, dental, and vision services to children. Libby fell in love with Kenya and its people. She was done staring at screens of unmoving, metal satellites — Libby wanted to work with people.

She returned from Kenya and started teaching engineering at the University of Prince Edward Island. She would go back to Kenya every February and bring students with her to show them how their skills could help people who were truly in need.

Libby also became more and more involved in church, especially a new diocesan young adult group. But she considered her religion and profession two distinct parts of her life, not an integrated whole.

That changed after a meeting a sister of the Congregation of Notre-Dame during a trip with the young adult group. Libby talked about her quandary and the sister explained that the Notre Dame Sisters are dedicated to what they call "liberating education": the sisters seek to empower and educate in any form that frees the human spirit.

Libby remembers: "For a few exhilarating seconds, I saw my whole life clearly integrated. I realized that I did not have to evangelize or mention God at work, as I was ministering to my students and coworkers simply by loving them as worthy, holy individuals."

"... the [Jesuit] paleontologist Teilhard de Chardin said, ‘God is at the tip of my spade, my brush, my needle — of my heart and of my thoughts.’ For me, I can now comfortable attest that God is the tip of my whiteboard marker, my space bar, my wrench, my headset — of my heart and always of my thoughts."

This summer, Sister Libby Osgood took her first vows as a Sister of the Congregation of Notre-Dame.

Whatever our skill set, whatever talents we possess, whatever we feel passionate about can become our “cross” — the means God has given us to bring resurrection and hope to our broken world. Whether ours is the world of the stars or actuary tables, whether our skills are in high tech or cookware, to follow Christ means to accept the gift of our crosses and use them, not for our own profit and benefit alone, but for the realization of the kingdom of God here and now.

From Connections, September 2019

The Box Tops for Education program is transitioning to a digital-only process. Participating brands are changing their packaging from the old Box Tops "clip" to the new Box Tops "label."

To continue to credit St. Stephen School for products with the new label, use the Box Tops app to scan your receipt within 14 days of purchase. Visit www.btfe.com for more information about this. If you buy a product with the old "clip," you can still send them to school as before.

Please contact Felicia Spencer at sspboxtops@gmail.com with any questions. (School families: You should have received a note from school regarding how you can track and submit your purchases so that your child gets credit for the traditional classroom competition.)

There is a neighborhood yard sale planned for Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019, from 8 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in participating, please contact Amy Koeln at HHSales2019@hotmail.com.

Looking ahead:

Sept. 21 — Mass in the Park
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
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 of the trip is $55 per person. Contact Diane Huck at 314-772-1525 or spvparishnurse@gmail.com with questions or to make a reservation.

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.

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.
MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 9
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, September 10
8:00 a.m.— Elmer & Rose Schuster

Wednesday, September 11
8:00 a.m.— Bill Jost

Thursday, September 12
8:00 a.m.— Marie Cain

Friday, September 13
8:00 a.m.— N. Edward Forti, Norvil Ulrich

Saturday, September 14
8:00 a.m.— John & Cecelia Hopmeir
4:00 p.m.— Jean Westrich, Letz Family

Sunday, September 15
8:00 a.m.— Our Parishioners
10:30 a.m.— Margaret Hoh

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

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.

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 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.