St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

October 13, 2019

Twenty-Eighth 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
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
junetessinssp@gmail.com

Mrs. Michel Wendell, Principal
michelwendellssp@gmail.com

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

Ms. Stephanie Oehler Wobbe, Communications Coordinator
stephaniewobbessp@gmail.com
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?” (Luke 17:18)

Most of us live “easy” lives. We have food, shelter, and clothing. We go on vacation every year and own a car or two. Most of us take this all for granted. Did you ever notice that people with the least possessions are usually the most grateful? Shouldn’t this be the other way around? Take time every day and thank God for all He has given you.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

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Special collections in October are for the Formation of Permanent Deacons and World Mission Sunday.

SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE FOLLOW-UP

Many thanks to the 103 of you who participated in the Liturgy Committee’s follow-up survey about the summer Mass schedule. Fr. Ron and the committee will review the results of the poll and will take them into consideration in planning future summer schedules.

FEAST OF ALL SOULS

At our 8 a.m. Mass on Nov. 2, 2019, we will celebrate the Feast of All Souls by naming those from our parish who have died in the past year. A candle with their name on it will be placed in the sanctuary. Family members are invited to take the candle home with them after the Mass. If you have a family member who died this past year who is not being remembered at an All Souls celebration at another parish, please contact Mary Regan at 314-481-1133 or maryreganssp@gmail.com, and we will include them in our remembrance.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

Saturday, October 19
4:00 p.m. — B. McLain, C. McGeehan

Sunday, October 20
8:00 a.m. — C. Kveton, W. Kveton
10:30 a.m. — T. Jenney, P. O’Connell

SERVERS

Saturday, October 19
4:00 p.m. — Nolan G., Hendrix F.

Sunday, October 20
8:00 a.m. — Aiden J., Anya J.
10:30 a.m. — Luke W., Ella C.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: 1 Rom 1:1-7; Ps 98:1bcde, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday: 1 Rom 1:16-25; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday: 1 Rom 2:1-11; Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 9; Lk 11:42-46
Thursday, St. Ignatius of Antioch: 1 Rom 3:21-30; Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab; Lk 11:47-54
Friday, St. Luke, Evangelist: 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Lk 10:1-9
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Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 1 Ex 17:8-13; Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; 2 Tm 3:14—4:2; Lk 18:1-8

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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.

LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP CARLSON

September 19, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year, Oct. 20 marks a very special World Mission Sunday, our annual worldwide Eucharistic celebration of our shared call to mission. It takes place during an Extraordinary Missionary Month called for by Pope Francis in honor of the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV’s Apostolic Letter Maximum Illud, which emphasized the missionary call to proclaim the Gospel.

During this month of October, Pope Francis invites us — all baptized Christians — to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and pilgrimage. We move beyond the typical “heroic vision” of missionaries and reinforce the transforming relationship between faith and the world to which we are all called. Pope Francis reminds us that we are each “Baptized and Sent”; we are all the “Church of Christ on Mission in the World.”

I invite all in the Archdiocese of St. Louis to take this opportunity to revitalize our ardor, passion, and zeal for the faith with loving missionary hearts. We can respond to our missionary call through charity, giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday. Our gifts support and sustain priests, religious, and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor.

We can also respond to this call through mirroring the loving witness exemplified by great missionaries, like Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN. She is a model for missionary witness to our faith and the Gospel, as she was martyred for her passionate advocacy for care of our common home and outreach to indigenous communities.

As I thank you for your continuous commitment to mission, I share my personal gratitude for your generous response on this day, and throughout the Extraordinary Missionary Month, as you are able. Let us join our hearts in the prayer of our Holy Father for this special moment for the Missions: “May the love for the Church’s Mission, which is a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people, grow ever stronger!”

Invoking every blessing upon you, I remain,
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis

PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The Pastoral Council is seeking nominations to replace three members whose terms are expiring. Members serve terms of three years. Meetings are monthly on the last Wednesday. 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, or email Mary Regan at maryreganssp@gmail.com. Three names will be selected by lottery from the group of nominees at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Oct. 20, 2019.

I nominate ________________________________ for Pastoral Council because ________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Signed _________________________________
CLEAN SWEEP WEEKEND

Thanks to everyone who made last weekend’s collection for the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store a success — those who donated and those who loaded the truck. Pictured: Sandy & Gene Berviller and Jim Liermann.

GO SHOPPE-ING FOR SSP SPIRIT!

Now that fall has arrived, our school children have the opportunity to order uniform-approved sweatshirts and other spirit items from our Shark Shoppe. We would like to invite the rest of our parish community to take a look at the entire array of Shark Shoppe items as well. You can shop online at https://forms.gle/ePvXQU17KNWtrb9Y8.

The measurements for each style are on the order form below each section. (There are samples of each size in the school office.)

Orders will be placed on the next three Fridays. The sooner you get your order in, the sooner you will receive it.

These lovely items are produced by school parent Kate Schoellhorn. If you do not have a child in SSP School, please leave that line on the form blank and Kate will be in touch with you regarding delivery or pickup. If you have questions, please contact Kate at kateschoellhorn@gmail.com.

UPCOMING SSP 50+ CLUB ACTIVITIES

Oct. 17 — Meeting in parish hall at 11 a.m.
Oct. 20 — Bingo at American Legion in Columbia, Ill.
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 Oct. 24, 2019. 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.

SAVE THE DATES

Upcoming events from SGSM:
Dec. 3 — Advent Day of Reflection at The Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse
Dec. 11 — Christmas show at The Sheldon
More information to come.
At the end of the 1961 romantic comedy *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*, the exchange between the characters played by Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard proposes an interesting question: Do people belong to each other?

Hepburn’s character says, “People don’t belong to people.” Peppard’s character responds, “You know what’s wrong with you, Miss Whoever-You-Are? You’re chicken. You’ve got no guts. You’re afraid to stick out your chin and say, ‘Okay, life’s a fact. People do fall in love. People do belong to each other, because that’s the only chance anybody’s got for real happiness.’ You call yourself a free spirit, a wild thing, and you’re terrified somebody’s going to stick you in a cage. Well, baby, you’re already in that cage. You built it yourself. And it’s not bounded in the west by Tulip, Texas, or in the east by Somaliland. It’s wherever you go. Because no matter where you run, you just end up running into yourself.” Of course, moments later, they embrace. Happy ending!

In St. Paul’s second letter to Timothy, he writes, “If we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we persevere, we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him, he will deny us. If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.” St. Paul teaches that as the Body of Christ, we are one with Jesus and that even if we are unfaithful to Him, he remains faithful to us because we belong to each other. The thing is that just like Holly Golightly, played by Hepburn in the movie, we are afraid of losing ourselves in surrendering to Jesus. We want to die with him in Baptism, but when we arise, we would like some autonomy. We want to forge our own path. We want our freedom.

It’s not hard to look at our current society and see countless examples of this fear in action. Athletes, politicians, and artists demonstrate this fear of losing themselves in something or someone else. These struggles don’t even have to do with belonging to God. It’s easy to imagine that if you can’t let yourself belong to a team, a band, or another entity on earth, it’s tough letting go to some heavenly being, especially if you’ve never met them or developed an authentic relationship with them.

What Peppard’s character is stating in the movie is that working hard to avoid losing your freedom accomplishes the opposite. When we try to stay free on our own terms, we constantly find ourselves at dead ends. We move nowhere and accomplish nothing. In the end, we create our own cage and destroy our freedom, which is the last thing we wanted to do.

For us as Christians, this is where there is Good News. Jesus does not offer rules and regulations that confine us and crush our spirit. He offers us true freedom. We are no longer in the shackles of our own sin but instead are liberated by grace and are free to love in an authentic way. This is all made possible by belonging to him. As humans, this is not always easy because our pride and selfishness get in the way. That is why we have the Body of Christ. By belonging to one another, we become instruments of grace for each other. We share testimony to the truth of the value of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Amid all that is wrong in our world, you belong to me and me to you. We belong to our God as well. There is no need to fear. Those who seek to protect their liberty by shutting others out and remaining autonomous may never understand, but perhaps through our witness, we can be examples of the truth. In the words of the great St. Ignatius of Loyola in his Suscipe prayer, “Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.”

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
From LPI Connect! Sunday Reflections
**ST. PATRICK CENTER 5K NEEDS HELP**

The St. Patrick Center needs more than 50 volunteers on Saturday, **Nov. 9, 2019**, to help operate its Veterans Day 5K Run/Walk in downtown St. Louis. Job assignments include registration, water stations, route course marshals, family area, fan club, and food/beverages. Shift start times range from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. Volunteer groups welcome. Contact **Sarah Webb** at 314-802-0681 or swebb@stpatrickcenter.org.

**MASS MOB**

Holy Name of Jesus Parish (102325 Ashbrook Dr., 63137) invites all Catholics who once belonged to the parishes of the communities of Spanish Lake, Bellefontaine Neighbors, Jennings, and surrounding areas to come together on Sunday, **Oct. 20, 2019**, for the 10 a.m. celebration of Mass, 11 a.m. fellowship, and 11:30 a.m. open house. Join in thanking God for the heritage of our faith, including the faithful witness and generous sacrifice of 14 different parish communities, which are now the foundation of our future as our parish and the Catholic Church in northeast St. Louis County.

**MEETING OUR NEIGHBORS**

The Archdiocesan Office of Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs is sponsoring several opportunities to learn more about different religious traditions and experience the aesthetic of their gathering spaces. Visit [https://www.archstl.org/ecumenical-interreligious-affairs/events](https://www.archstl.org/ecumenical-interreligious-affairs/events) to RSVP for gatherings at the St. Louis Islamic Center on Sunday, **Nov. 10, 2019**; the New Northside Baptist Church on Wednesday, **Dec. 11, 2019**; the Confluence Zen Center on Sunday, **March 15, 2019**; and the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis on Sunday, **March 22, 2019**.

**STS. PETER & PAUL ANNIVERSARY MASS**

If you were married at Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Soulard and are celebrating a five-year marker anniversary in 2019, then you are invited to an Anniversary Mass to honor your marriage and renew your wedding vows on Saturday, **Nov. 9, 2019**, at 5 p.m. at Sts. Peter & Paul (8th and Allen).

RSVP to **Phyllis** by Oct. 28 at 314-231-9923 or pssspeterpaul@charter.net. Include your first and last names, wedding date, and contact information.
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, October 14**
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, October 15**
8:00 a.m.— Florence Arcipowski

**Wednesday, October 16**
8:00 a.m.— LaVerne Gartner

**Thursday, October 17**
8:00 a.m.— Polo & Karmela Vushaj

**Friday, October 18**
8:00 a.m.— Frances Crimi

**Saturday, October 19**
8:00 a.m.— Jim Blume
4:00 p.m.— Richard & Nathalie Marty

**Sunday, October 20**
8:00 a.m.— Florence Arcipowski
10:30 a.m.— Our Parishioners

**PLEASE PRAY**

for our sick and recovering ...

Dave Asinger  Jan Hafer  Steve Moylan
Suzi Beck  Paul Heldbrier  Dianne Neels
Liz Bentrup  Wence Kveton  Grace Phillips
Ann Dosenbach  Thomas Lorenz  Vincent Stehlin
Erin Goedeker  Lois McClellan  Virginia Zenthoefer

for our homebound ...

Albertine Honious  Art Petersen

for those in nursing homes ...

Dolores Meisemann

for family members serving in the military ...

Derek Hirtz  Ryan O'Neil  Dylan Schulte
Tristan Moylan  Brian Schoellhorn  Mitch Sollmann

**DEVOTIONS**

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**Parish Office Hours**
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.