October 27, 2019

Thirtieth 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
@sspstl @sspstl

Chapel of Sts. Mary and Joseph
6304 Minnesota, St. Louis, MO 63111
@stsmaryandjosephchapel

SCHOOL
3929 Wilmington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116
314-752-4700
314-752-5165 fax
michelwendellssp@gmail.com
@SSPCatholicSchool

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
juneessenssp@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
stephaniewobbesssp@gmail.com
SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 20 Contribution</td>
<td>$3,980.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online giving contribution</td>
<td>$3,245.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total weekly contribution</td>
<td>$7,225.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>R &amp; I</td>
<td>$156.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition Assistance</td>
<td>$914.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Mission Sunday</td>
<td>$603.00</td>
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</tbody>
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Special collections in October are for the Formation of Permanent Deacons and World Mission Sunday.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

All Saints Day, November 1
8:00 a.m. — Students
7:00 p.m. — B. Stoff, G. Stoff

Saturday, November 2
4:00 p.m. — B. Dowd, L. Driscoll

Sunday, November 3
8:00 a.m. — S. Gunter, S. Gaydos
10:30 a.m. — P. Cooper, C. Deeken

SERVERS

All Saints Day, November 1
8:00 a.m. — Gabriel S., Sophie W.
7:00 p.m. — Mark W., Stephanie W.

Saturday, November 2
4:00 p.m. — Ollie M., Zach M.

Sunday, November 3
8:00 a.m. — Jack B., Mary Kate C.
10:30 a.m. — Bianca C., Meggie G.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Friday, Nov. 1, 2019, is the Feast of All Saints. We will celebrate Mass at 8 a.m. (with the school children) and at 7 p.m.

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

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday, Sts. Simon & Jude: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Lk 6:12-16

Tuesday: Rom 8:18-25; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Lk 13:18-21

Wednesday: Rom 8:26-30; Ps 13:4-5, 6; Lk 13:22-30

Thursday: Rom 8:31b-39; Ps 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31; Lk 13:31-35

Friday, Solemnity of All Saints: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

Saturday, All Souls: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Rom 5:5-11; Jn 6:37-40

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time: Wis 11:22-12:2; Ps 145:1-2, 8-14; 2 Thes 1:11—2:2; Lk 19:1-10

TRICK OR TREAT

Father Ron will welcome trick-or-treaters at the rectory on Halloween — Thursday, Oct. 31 — from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Happy Halloween!

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Liturgy of the Word 8 a.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Perpetual Help Devotions</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Pastoral Council 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PARISH BREAKFAST 9 a.m.-noon</td>
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</table>
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

October 2019

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the United States today, numerous Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests past age 70 benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Donations to this special collection provide funding that helps religious communities care for senior members and plan for long-term retirement needs.

On the weekend of November 3, all parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Louis will take up the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an opportunity for you to acknowledge the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests for their faithful service.

Whether or not we realize it, we are all beneficiaries of the tremendous contributions these women and men have made to the Church in the United States. Through hard work, prayer, and sacrifice, they built Catholic schools and hospitals, initiated programs to promote social justice, and ministered to the neediest among us.

Today, many religious communities struggle to care for their elderly members. Elder sisters, brothers, and religious order priests dedicated their lives to service and prayer, and some lack adequate retirement savings.

Increasing health-care costs and decreased income make it difficult to provide necessary medical care, costly medications, and basic services.

Please consider making a financial gift to assist with the care of our senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Many thanks for considering this request.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Archbishop of St. Louis

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

What would normally be a Donut Sunday will be a Pancake Breakfast Sunday on Nov. 3, 2019, from 9 a.m. until noon. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, donut holes, coffee, milk, and juice will be served.

There is no charge, but free-will donations will be accepted to offset costs. Thanks to Angie Butz and her capable crew of cooks!
**OUR CONFIRMANDI**

Our 46 young people who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Feb. 12, 2020, will be presented to the congregation during the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, **Nov. 3, 2019**.

After Mass, at each entrance of the church, you are invited to take a card with the name of one of the confirmandi so that you can keep them in special prayer.

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**UPCOMING SSP 50+ CLUB ACTIVITIES**

**Dec. 8** — Bus trip to see Christmas lights in the area
Please call **Joyce Stockmann** at 314-752-4827 for more information.

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**HAPPY HOUR!**

Please join **South Grand Senior Ministry** for its first ever **Happy Hour**. Take a couple of hours to socialize and sing a song or two before the craziness of the holidays begins.

Meet at St. Mary Magdalen Parish Hall (4924 Bancroft) on **Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2019**, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is plenty of parking on the lot surrounding the hall as well as an easy-access automatic door entrance with no steps. Appetizers, wine, and refreshments will be served. **Dolores Guittar** will entertain on the piano and lead us in a sing-a-long!

To make a reservation, please contact **Marilyn** at 314-352-2111, ext. 5. There is no cost for this event. However, for planning purposes, reservations must be received by **Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019**.

**Save the Date — Advent Day of Reflection, Dec. 3**

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**FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

In the charity of your prayers, please remember the **son of Marge Ulrich** and the **brother of Gene Berviller**, who died recently. May the angels lead them into paradise; may they have eternal rest.

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**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY**

Believe it or not, it’s been five years since our last parish pictorial directory! The directory is a great way to connect names and faces.

All parishioners and school families are invited to have a portrait taken in our parish hall on one of seven dates in mid-December. Each family photographed will receive a **free** copy of the directory and a **free** 8x10 of their portrait with the opportunity to purchase various photo packages. There is no obligation to purchase anything.

All registered parishioners will have their photo included in the directory. (This would be a great time to register with the parish, if you have not already done so.)

Visit [https://booknow-lifetouch.appointmentplus.com/b2x8g022](https://booknow-lifetouch.appointmentplus.com/b2x8g022) to reserve your time slot. If you prefer to book your session in person, schedulers will be available after weekend Masses, beginning Nov. 2-3.

Photos will likely not be available in time for Christmas but very soon thereafter. We scheduled our sessions in mid-December to accommodate those college students who will be home on holiday break.

If you are interested in helping out with the production of the directory, as a scheduler after Masses, or as a greeter during photo sessions, please contact **Mary Regan** at 314-481-1133 or maryreganssp@gmail.com.

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**PRAY FOR OUR STEPHEN MINISTERS**

Please continue to pray for our Stephen Ministers in formation — **Sandy & Gene Berviller**, **Katie Kummer**, **Lee Randell**, and **Carol Prag** from St. Stephen; **Paul Clark** from Immaculate Heart of Mary; **Luz Giraldo-Llanos** from St. Cecilia; **Jim Klenke** from St. Francis Xavier; and **Vicki McGowan** from St. John the Baptist.

We are halfway through the initial training and have studied topics like listening, assertiveness, maintaining boundaries, confidentiality, and ministering to those experiencing grief. Please pray for them as they continue their journey.

O God, we ask you to be with our Stephen Leaders as they prepare and teach caregiving topics each week. Be with our Stephen Minister trainees as they read, learn, and discuss new concepts and practice new skills. Give them dedicated hearts and open minds. Bless the community they are forming so that they learn to care for, nurture, and support one another in ministry. Be with these servants now and throughout their ministry. Amen.
LOCAL TOWN HALL MEETING

Missouri State Representative Steve Butz is hosting a town hall meeting at Woerner Elementary School (6131 Leona St.) on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019, at 7 p.m. Among the topics: The Cops Walking a Beat Program, public safety, housing, and youth development. Captain Moore and other community leaders will be there to address your concerns.

Please contact Steve with any questions at steve.butz@house.mo.gov.

GO SHOPPING FOR SSP SPIRIT!

We would like to invite the whole parish community to take a shop our entire array of Shark Shoppe items at https://forms.gle/ePvXQU17KNWtrb9Y8. The last order will be placed on Friday, Nov. 2, 2019.

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

ALPHABET RAFFLE

The Chapel of Sts. Mary and Joseph (6304 Minnesota Ave.) is a beautiful and historic landmark that is a Mission Church for St. Stephen Protomartyr.

To raise funds to help support the upkeep of the property, we are sponsoring an Alphabet Club Raffle to be held each month in 2020.

The cost of a ticket is $20. This enters you into all 12 drawings on the 15th of each month in 2020. The winning letter/number combo drawn wins $100, and the letter/number combo on each side of the winning combo each wins $25.

We are only selling 260 tickets, and you will have 36 chances to win.

To purchase tickets, email joerusch@sbcglobal.net with your letter/number choice(s) -- A to Z, 1 to 10. (Some letters are already sold out.)

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Registration is open for the 2019-20 basketball season.

Pee Wee basketball is K-2nd grade, and has a fee of $40. CYC basketball is 3rd-8th grade, and has a fee of $60. (Basketball is not offered for Pre-K.)

Please visit https://ezrosters.com/stl-ssp to sign up. Registration will remain open through Oct. 31, 2019.

LOOKING AHEAD

Nov. 5 — St. Vincent de Paul Society meeting
Nov. 8 — PTO Holiday Boutique
Nov. 12 — Holy Name Society meeting
Nov. 22-24 — 8th grade play
Dec. 7 — Breakfast With Santa
Feb. 1 — Sports Trivia Night
Feb. 8 — Auction Gala
St. Dorotheus of Gaza said, “In some kinds of trees, no fruit is produced as long as the branches grow upwards; but if somebody takes a stone and binds it to a branch and pulls it down, then the branch will bear fruit. It is similar with a soul; when it humbles itself, it bears fruit, and the more fruit it bears, the humbler the soul becomes. The more the saints approach God, the more they see themselves as sinners.”

A few years ago, I was caught in disobedience here at the monastery. I argued the righteousness of my position, until I heard the sound of arrogance coming through my words. I was quite horrified because I had never spoken like that before. It was a humiliating experience to admit my fault in a chapter meeting and to ask for forgiveness publicly.

But I learned a huge lesson that day: my own sense of righteousness can lead to my downfall. While I now regret the decision I made that day, I realize there’s a wisdom that comes from experience, something that cannot be gained through reading a book. Perfectionism is, perhaps, just another word for self-righteousness, the sense that I am entitled to live my life the way I see fit. There is a human prudence here, certainly. But from another perspective, self-determination can often put us at odds with God’s will in our lives … as I learned that day years ago.

Humility is difficult for us because it is an admission of submission to a higher authority. In other words, it is giving someone else (a.k.a., God) the permission to be in the driver’s seat of our lives. It is for this reason that the Rule of St. Benedict outlines 12 steps towards growing in humility.

The fifth step deals with the revelation of thoughts to an elder. This isn’t the same as sacramental Confession, but “the revelation of secret thoughts to an elder was a central practice among the early monks, less for the content of the elder’s response than for the self-knowledge it evoked in the monk. Speaking honestly about oneself to an elder was considered a means of testing objectively the reality of private imaginations.” (Michael Casey, “Living in the Truth: St. Benedict’s Teaching on Humility”).

One can liken it to having conversations with a therapist or spiritual director or sharing in an accountability group. When we find the courage to share vulnerably in a healthy manner, we verbalize what were mere thoughts in our minds, and we can learn to see the accuracy and/or the distortions in our thought processes before we take action.

While this kind of humble attitude is not easy to pursue, it does have an added benefit: it endears you to others. I saw a graphic on Facebook recently that said, “Those who talk about their strengths build walls; those who talk about their weaknesses build bridges.” Think about this in your own life: Who are the types of people that attract your attention? And who are those who turn away your attention?

Perhaps this is the lesson that Jesus wants to teach us in today’s Gospel. Humility, or radical self-honesty, is a necessary component of our faith. It is precisely this depth of self-knowledge that can begin to open us up to a deeper knowledge of God beyond what can be read in books or blogs or heard in podcasts or at conferences.

Can you imagine what life would be like if our deepest thoughts could be gently received? Can you imagine what life could be like if we knew that there would be no condemnation for sharing the darkness of our interior dimension? Can you imagine the relief of knowing that our distorted self-talk no longer had control of our lives?

Indeed, I am no different than the rest of humanity in that I am a sinner. But also indeed, it is for this reason that Jesus is the savior for humanity. Let’s learn to call upon our need for a savior by remembering that we all have needs for which Jesus is the only remedy.

Br. John-Marmion Villa, BSC
From LPi Connect! Sunday Reflections

**“ONE WARM COAT” DRIVE**

Do you have an extra coat or two? We are holding a One Warm Coat drive and collecting clean, gently worn coats of all types and sizes.

Coat donations will be accepted through Nov. 29, 2019. There are collection boxes at school and in the back of church. The coats will be distributed in our local community. Do you know someone who needs a coat? Contact Mary Regan at 314-481-1133 and let her know gender and size.

For more information about One Warm Coat or to make a monetary donation to our effort, please visit https://tinyurl.com/yyxh8jfp.
October 27, 2019

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, October 28**  
8:00 a.m.—Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, October 29**  
8:00 a.m.—Mike Bauer

**Wednesday, October 30**  
8:00 a.m.—Rev. John Kennedy

**Thursday, October 31**  
8:00 a.m.—Rev. Thomas Schaab

**Friday, November 1**  
8:00 a.m.—Rev. Jon Kerber  
7:00 p.m.—LaVerne Gartner

**Saturday, November 2**  
8:00 a.m.—Leo Esswein  
4:00 p.m.—Our Parishioners

**Sunday, November 3**  
8:00 a.m.—Rosemary Rivituso  
10:30 a.m.—Margo Villar

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**PLEASE PRAY**

**for our sick and recovering ...**

Dave Asinger  
Suzi Beck  
Liz Bentrup  
Ann Dosenbach  
Erin Goedeker

Jan Haffer  
Paul Heidbrier  
Wence Kveton  
Thomas Lorenz  
Lois McClellan

Steve Moylan  
Dianne Neels  
Grace Phillips  
Vince Stehlin  
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  
Tristan Moylan  
Ryan O’Neil  
Brian Schoellhorn

Dylan Schulte  
Mitch Sollmann

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**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.

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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:  
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.