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
@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 E. Jones, Music Director
stephenjonesssp@gmail.com

Mrs. June Tessin, Office Manager / Bookkeeper
june@sspzssp@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
“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word.”
(2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

There are two important lessons here. First, we are called to be generous with our encouragement and hope. As God shows us mercy, we must be merciful to others. Second, joy is contagious! The joy we receive from doing good works not only strengthens us, it encourages others as well. Share the joy of living your faith whenever you can.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

November 3 Contribution $ 4,241.00
Online giving contribution $ 1,537.00
Total weekly contribution $ 5,778.00
R & I $ 130.00
Tuition Assistance $ 586.00
Campaign Human Development $ 25.00
Permanent Diaconate $ 10.00
Retirement Fund for Religious $ 802.00
Seminary $ 25.00
Triennial Military Service $ 51.00
World Mission Sunday $ 35.00
Special collections in November are Retirement Fund for Religious and Campaign for Human Development.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

All parishioners and school families are invited to have a portrait taken in our parish hall on one of seven dates in mid-December (Dec. 9-13 and 16-17, 2 p.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.). 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.appointment-plus.com/b2x8g022 to reserve your time slot. If you prefer to book your session in person, schedulers will be available after weekend Masses.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

Saturday, November 16
4:00 p.m. — P. O’Connell, T. Jenney

Sunday, November 17
8:00 a.m. — R. Moylan, B. McLain
10:30 a.m. — C. Prag, E. Kovac

SERVERS

Saturday, November 16
4:00 p.m. — Ella C., Luke W.

Sunday, November 17
8:00 a.m. — Jack S., Nolan G.
10:30 a.m. — Anya J., Brian B.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday, St. Martin of Tours: Wis 1:1-7; Ps 139:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10; Lk 17:1-6
Tuesday: Wis 2:23—3:9; Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19; Lk 17:7-10
Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11; Ps 82:3-4, 6-7; Lk 17:11-19
Thursday: Wis 7:22b—8:1; Ps 119:89, 90, 91, 130, 135, 175; Lk 17:20-25
Friday: Wis 13:1-9; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5ab; Lk 17:26-37
Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Ps 105:2-3, 36-37; 42-43; Lk 18:1-8
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mal 3:19-20a; Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

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<tr>
<th>Monday November 11</th>
<th>Tuesday November 12</th>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgy of the Word 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Perpetual Help Devotions</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>Mass 8 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Holy Name Society 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Choir Practice 11:30 a.m.</td>
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**St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish**

www.saintstephenstl.org
**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.

**CONFIRMATION: NOT JUST FOR CONFIRMANDI**

Last Sunday, **Nov. 3, 2019**, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, our seventh and eighth grade confirmandi were presented to and blessed by the parish. This inclusion with the parish is an important step in their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the last of their sacraments of initiation.

For the parish community this is a visible sign that “We are all in this together.” It means that every member of the parish community is challenged to be involved in the preparation for and celebration of Confirmation.

How can we do this? We participate through our Christian example of living our faith. Our young people watch us. They see how we treat others, how we reach out and support each other and those in need. How we work for peace and justice within our neighborhoods.

We also pray for our confirmandi. At each of the doors of the church there are containers with cards with the names of our confirmandi and their classmate companions. We ask you to take one of these cards and pray for that person. It would also be nice to write a simple note to the person to let them know you are praying for them. You can drop the note in the collection basket or at the office to be delivered.

**SPOTLIGHT ON … LINEN ANGELS**

Maybe your schedule prevents you from participating in service activities during “normal hours.” Maybe you are looking for a quiet activity that invites a unique kind of contemplative prayer. Maybe — it’s possible! — you enjoy doing laundry.

We have a crew of **Linen Angels** who take a shift twice a year washing and drying the purificators used during Mass. Each volunteer covers two months, picking up the used linens after the weekend Masses, washing them, and then returning them to church before the next weekend. Pick-up and drop-off times are flexible.

Our Linen Angels are **Lauren Clerc, Judy Liernmann, Mary Alice Martchink, Joann Welby, and Mary Winfrey**. We are looking for an additional person to cover the months of May and November.

**Might it be you?** Contact **Mary Regan** at 314-481-1133 or maryreganssp@gmail.com.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NEWS**

How are your donations being put to good use through the St. Vincent de Paul Society?

**Utility Assistance**
24 helped with electric ($3,548), 7 helped with gas ($995)

**Other**
4 helped with 6 beds, furniture, other household items ($1,592 thrift-store credits used)
3 helped with rent/mortgage ($1,800 - $900 from Council)

**Food Pantry**
Averaging 900 individuals / 360 families

**TOTAL FOR OCTOBER**
38 individual cases at $7,935 less $2,492 credits, Council bed program, twinning help = $5,443 out-of-pocket

**New Pantry-Van Purchase — $10,825**

Thanks to all for your donations to the SVDP Thrift Store truck in October, from which our parish’s SVDP received $1,500 in thrift-store credits. We use the credits to help our clients with household items such as start-up furniture, beds, pots & pans, etc. You make a difference.
**EIGHTH GRADE PLAY**

Save the dates! SSP’s Class of 2020 proudly presents: 
**The Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank!** Shows are Friday, Nov. 22, and Saturday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 24, at 2 p.m., in the Parish Center. Tickets will be sold at the door.

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**GIVING TREE**

25 years! That’s how long St. Stephen’s has had the Giving Tree. Think of all of the people we have helped in those 25 years. You have all shown true stewardship and demonstrated a real example of how we bring Jesus to those in need.

The Giving Tree will be in church from Nov. 9 through Nov. 24. Please pick a leaf or two (or three!), and then return your unwrapped items to the back of church by 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24. All donations will benefit St. Martha’s Hall for Abused Women and Children and the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

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**CHOIR TIME!**

Calling all choir members — past, present ... and future! Practice for Thanksgiving, Advent, and the Christmas season begins this Sunday, **Nov. 10, 2019**, after 10:30 a.m. Mass. Sunday practices will continue through the Advent season; a weeknight practice may be scheduled as well. All singers from high school on up are welcome!

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**FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

In the charity of your prayers, please remember the **sister of our maintenance supervisor Bob Wiley**, who died recently. May the angels lead her into paradise; may she have eternal rest.

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

Nov. 22-24 — 8th grade play
Nov. 28 — Thanksgiving / Turkey Bowl soccer game
Dec. 1 — SSMJ Christmas Concert
Dec. 4 — First Reconciliation
Dec. 7 — Breakfast With Santa
Feb. 1 — Sports Trivia Night
Feb. 8 — Auction Gala

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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.

**HAPPY HOUR!**

Join South Grand Senior Ministry for Happy Hour on Tuesday, **Nov. 19, 2019**, from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at St. Mary Magdalen Parish Hall (4924 Bancroft). Appetizers, wine, and refreshments will be served. **Dolores Guittar** will lead a sing-a-long on the piano! To make a reservation, call **Marilyn** at 314-352-2111, ext. 5, by **Nov. 12**. There is no cost for this event.

**ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION**

The SGSM Advent Day of Reflection is Tuesday, **Dec. 3, 2019**, at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph (6400 Minnesota). **Fr. Jerry Kleba** will celebrate Mass in the chapel at 9 a.m. The program, which includes lunch, begins at 10 a.m. and ends around 2 p.m. **Deacon Jim Martin** will be the facilitator. Thanks to a gift from the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, there is no charge; however, reservations are required. Contact **Diane** at 314-772-1525 ext. 206 or spvparishnurse@gmail.com by **Nov. 25**.

**CONCERT AT THE SHELDON**

Join SGSM for a Christmas Concert at The Sheldon (3648 Washington Blvd.) on Wednesday, **Dec. 11, 2019**, at 10 a.m. This coffee matinee features vocalist **Charles Glenn** and pianist **Pete Ruthenburg**. The concert is preceded by coffee and donuts at the theater, and will be followed by lunch at Vito's. The bus leaves at 8:15 a.m. from Immaculate Heart of Mary (4092 Blow), returning around 3 p.m. All-inclusive cost is $50 for parishioners of SGSM member parishes and $55 for non-parishioners. To reserve, send check payable to “SGSM” to IHM, 4092 Blow Street, 63116. Include your name, phone number, parish, and emergency contact name and phone number. You will receive a confirmation phone call when your information and check are received. For further details, call **Debbie** at 314-481-9385.

**NOTE:** South Grand Senior Ministry is no longer publishing a newsletter. Information on programs and events will be shared in the bulletin. Follow the SGSM Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SGSMStl](http://www.facebook.com/SGSMStl).
Too many of us “play” life as a “zero-sum game.” “Zero-sum game” is the economic and political theory that one party’s gain requires another party’s loss. “Zero-sum” rules understandably dictate when demand exceeds supply or a pool of resources is limited — but too often the “game” is a matter of self-interest and excess: I can only win if you lose. My happiness is dependent on your unhappiness. For me to have what I want requires you to have less.

Our pragmatic side immediately appreciates the how and why of zero-sum thinking — but the “faith” part of us knows better.

Zero-sum thinking is a horrible theory to live by. It breeds envy and division; it rationalizes avarice and greed. The “haves” continue to dominate the “have nots,” who are condemned to struggle in an endless cycle of poverty.

Zero-sum politics is equally destructive. The conviction that somebody must win and somebody must lose in every economic, legislative or geopolitical transaction makes for a broken body politic and an anguished world. In zero-sum politics, each side viciously protects its own interests. The ultimate result is catastrophic for all.

And a zero-sum approach to religion is just as untenable. Some Christians wonder what joy their salvation will bring if God saves everyone — as if our salvation depends on the misery of some people being damned.

We fool ourselves when we entertain the notion that there is only so much love to go around. A Gospel that sees limits on one’s generosity and forgiveness is not the Gospel of Jesus. We out-and-out reject the grace of God when we refuse to aid another until we know what’s in this for us.

God’s promise of abundant life and grace should shatter our notion on zero-sum living.


Most of us view ourselves as the center of all things, that our wants and needs and happiness come before all else. We have become so intent on controlling everything that God, the Giver of life itself, is exiled from our lives, called back only when things go wrong or we’re desperate for some kind of divine intervention or affirmation. In fact, all of us live and move and have our being because of and for God — not God for us. Our response to Jesus’s call to discipleship begins with opening our minds and hearts to become what God has envisioned us to be. The Gospel Jesus expands our narrow vision of God beyond the limits of our “zero-sum” imaginations, enabling us to approach this life with hope in the possibilities of forgiveness, mercy and compassion to re-create our lives in the vision of God’s kingdom.

Connections, November 2019

Don’t Miss Out!!
Only 41 Tickets Remain!!
The 2020
Alphabet Club Raffle
To Benefit
STS. MARY & JOSEPH CHAPEL

Pick your favorite Letter/Number combination (A-Z/1-10)
Each Combo costs $20.00
On the 15th of every month in 2020, we will draw a letter/number combo. That winning combo wins $100.00, and the numbers on each side of the winner each win $25.00
Only 260 tickets sold
30 chances to win!!

For more information or to purchase a ticket,
Please contact Michelle Rusch:
Email: michelleruschssp@gmail.com
Phone: (314) 306-1707
Pay with Cash, Check or Venmo: @Joe-Rusch-2

Choose from one of these Lucky Combos:

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**SSMJ CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

The annual **Candlelight Christmas Concert** at Sts. Mary & Joseph Chapel (6304 Minnesota) is scheduled for **Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019**, at 7 p.m.

The evening features vocalists **Scott Kennebeck** and **Emily Truckenbrod**, and musician **John P. Walsh**.

Kennebeck has served as the tenor section leader for the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis Choir and Archdiocesan Choir of St. Louis, is cantor for the Cathedral Parish, and also is the executive director of the St. Louis Cathedral Concerts. Scott has toured as a soloist throughout the United States and Europe.

Truckenbrod is a renowned soprano who has appeared in recitals, concerts, and operas throughout the United States, Europe, Honduras, and Tanzania. She is currently the Director of Vocal Studies at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Walsh has had a long career in piano and organ performance, as well as choral direction and voice coaching. He studied at Washington University and at the Haarlem International Academy for organists in the Netherlands. He is currently the organist and vocalist in the Schola at the St. Louis Abbey and Priory School and is accompanist for the Central Reform Congregation Synagogue.

The evening will offer opportunities to sing along with these fine talents. There is no charge to attend; free-will donations will be accepted.

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**“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 with 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](https://tinyurl.com/yyxh8jfp).

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**BLOOD DRIVE**

**Boy Scout Troop 104** is sponsoring its annual Holiday Blood Drive to support the American Red Cross on **Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019**, in the Parish Center from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Boy Scouts will be available to take appointments following all Masses on the weekend before and the weekend of Thanksgiving. Donors can also visit [https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=StStephenP](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=StStephenP) to schedule an appointment.

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**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Save the date! The SSP Girl Scouts invite you to their annual **Breakfast With Santa** on **Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019**, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., in our parish hall. Festivities include a pancake and sausage breakfast, photo opp with Santa, Christmas arts & crafts, and reindeer games.

Details to come!
Mass Intentions

Monday, November 11
8:00 a.m. — Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, November 12
8:00 a.m. — Bourisaw Family

Wednesday, November 13
8:00 a.m. — N. Edward Forti

Thursday, November 14
8:00 a.m. — John & Cecelia Hopmeir

Friday, November 15
8:00 a.m. — Richard Meisemann

Saturday, November 16
8:00 a.m. — Art Siems
4:00 p.m. — Walter M. Schweiger

Sunday, November 17
8:00 a.m. — Dominic Curcuro
10:30 a.m. — Our Parishioners

PLEASE PRAY

for our sick and recovering ...
Dave Asinger  Jan Hauffer  Steve Moylan
Suzi Beck    Paul Heldbier  Dianne Neels
Liz Bentrup  Wence Kveton  Grace Phillips
Ann Dosenbach  Thomas Lorenz  Vince 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

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.