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
june@sspstl.org

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

Before the Lord
the whole universe
is as a grain
from a balance
or a
drop of dew
come down
upon the earth.
Wisdom 11:22

November 3, 2019
Thirty-First Sunday
in Ordinary Time
**STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER**

“But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, ‘Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.’” (Luke 19:8)

We are all called to gratefully give back to the Lord in proportion to the blessings we have been given. This means everyone isn’t called to give the same amount, but is called to give equal sacrifice. No amount is too small or insignificant! Open your heart! How is God calling you to be more generous with your financial resources and possessions?

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**SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 27 Contribution</th>
<th>$ 3,176.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online giving contribution</td>
<td>$ 1,196.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total weekly contribution</td>
<td>$ 4,372.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

R & I $ 130.00
Tuition Assistance $ 160.00
Permanent Diaconate $ 10.00
World Mission Sunday $ 10.00
All Saints Day $ 56.00

Special collections in November are for the Retirement Fund for Religious and the Campaign for Human Development.

**OCTOBER MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekend</th>
<th>Break Even Target</th>
<th>Actual Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 5 / 6</td>
<td>$8,511.87</td>
<td>$6,342.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12 / 13</td>
<td>$8,511.87</td>
<td>$4,941.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 19 / 20</td>
<td>$8,511.87</td>
<td>$7,225.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26 / 27</td>
<td>$8,511.87</td>
<td>$4,428.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October Total</td>
<td>$34,047.48</td>
<td>$22,936.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal YTD Total</td>
<td>$144,700.92</td>
<td>-$31,608.24</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**LECTORS**
Saturday, November 9
4:00 p.m. — G. Joly, C. Grindel

Sunday, November 10
8:00 a.m. — W. Kveton, C. Kveton
10:30 a.m. — C. McGeehan, L. Harbaugh

**SERVERS**
Saturday, November 9
4:00 p.m. — Tommy G., Makenna S.

Sunday, November 10
8:00 a.m. — Sunny F., Connor H.
10:30 a.m. — Jack S., Colin M.

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

**Monday:** Rom 11:29-36; Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36; Lk 14:12-14

**Tuesday:** Rom 12:5-16ab; Ps 131:1, 2, 3; Lk 14:15-24

**Wednesday:** Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33

**Thursday:** Rom 14:7-12; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 15:1-10

**Friday:** Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Lk 16:1-8

**Saturday, Dedication of the Lateran Basilica:**
Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time:** 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14; Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15; 2 Thes 2:16—3:5; Lk 20:27-38

**THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday November 4</th>
<th>Tuesday November 5</th>
<th>Wednesday November 6</th>
<th>Thursday November 7</th>
<th>Friday November 8</th>
<th>Saturday November 9</th>
<th>Sunday November 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 4 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Holiday Boutique 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Choir Practice 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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.

Don’t Miss Out!!

Only 70 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

36 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:

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

CHOIR TIME!

Calling all choir members — past, present ... and future! Practice for Thanksgiving, Advent, and the Christmas season begins 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!

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. 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.

In the charity of your prayers, please remember the brother of Steve Gaydos, who died recently. May the angels lead him into paradise; may he have eternal rest.

THANK YOU!

A huge shout-out to all who volunteered and attended the Fall Festival Fundraiser at Sts. Mary and Joseph Chapel last Saturday. From the food and drinks to the set-up and tear-down crew to the chapel cleaners to the sponsors to all who came — and especially to Denise Dowd — thank you!
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!
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 auto-door entrance with no steps. Appetizers, wine, and refreshments will be served. Dolores Guittar will lead a sing-a-long on the piano!

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 Nov. 12.

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION
Mark your calendars for the SGSM annual Advent Day of Reflection, to be held Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019, at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph (6400 Minnesota). For those who wish, there will a Mass in the chapel at 9 a.m. with Fr. Jerry Kleba as celebrant. The program, which includes lunch, begins at 10 a.m. and ends around 2 p.m. Deacon Jim Martin will be the day’s facilitator. Deacon Jim describes his call in life “to bring joy to the world.” He promises his message will be delivered with “a welcoming smile, the voice of an Irish tenor, and a memory for poems, ditties, and anecdotes.”

Thanks to a gift from the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, there is no charge. However, reservations are required. Please contact Diane at 314-772-1525 ext. 206 or spvparishnurse@gmail.com by Nov. 25.

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 Scott Kennebeck, lead vocalist with the Archdiocesan choir; Emily Trochenbrod, celebrated soprano; and John P. Walsh, organist/pianist extraordinaire — with opportunities to sing along as well. There is no charge to attend; free-will donations will be accepted.

ARCHDIOCESAN ADOPTION MASS
Celebrate the “forever families” and their children throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis at the Annual Adoption Mass.

Vicar General Msgr. Dennis Stehly will celebrate the Mass on Nov. 17, 2019, at 10 a.m., at the Cathedral Basilica with a reception and fellowship in Boland Hall to follow. Adoptive families and individuals are invited to sit in special reserved seating in the front/middle pews as marked, as space allows.

Contact prolife@archstl.org or 314-792-7555 for more information.

ANNUAL TURKEY BOWL
Our annual Turkey Bowl soccer match between the 8th grade and their parents will take place at Whitewall Field in Carondelet Park after the 9 a.m. Thanksgiving Mass on Nov. 28, 2019. All are welcome! Coffee, juice, and donuts will be served.

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.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE
All who are buried from our parish or who have been asked to be remembered on All Souls’ Day are included in our parish’s Book of Remembrance. If you have lost loved ones since last November who are not already in the book, you are invited to write their name(s). You can find the book in the sanctuary until it is moved to near the baptismal font. Names written in past years remain in the book and will continue to be kept in our prayers.
Few things hold us back more than our excuses.

We have excuses for not praying, for not attending Mass, and for not following the Church’s teachings. We have excuses for not giving something up for Lent, for not reading the Bible, and for not spending time with our families. All the while, we miss out on what God has to offer us. So many gifts of peace and joy are lost because we are too busy making excuses, rather than taking the risk of following the path Jesus calls us to.

The story of Zacchaeus has much to teach us about all the blessings that can come our way once we put our excuses aside and take a risk for Jesus. Zacchaeus had plenty of excuses why he shouldn’t try to get a look at Jesus.

First of all, he was short. The crowd was so tightly packed that he couldn’t have hoped to see Jesus over their shoulders and heads. The children had the benefit of sitting on their fathers’ shoulders to get a look at Jesus. But no one was about to help Zacchaeus. We can just imagine him getting on the tips of his toes and jumping up and down to see over the people gathered along the side of the road.

Secondly, Zacchaeus was not only a small man physically, but he was also a small man spiritually. Though his name means “righteous one,” he was far from being a just man. He had accumulated his riches by extorting more taxes than the empire required. And the taxes he gathered helped ensure that the Roman Empire could tighten its grip on the people. Zacchaeus must have feared that a sinner such as himself would be brushed aside, ignored, or even scolded openly by the truly Righteous One, Jesus.

Thirdly, because of his position in the empire, Zacchaeus was small in the eyes of the crowd. No one was about to help him. Even if Jesus were to acknowledge him, the crowd would certainly denounce him for his crimes against them. Zacchaeus had reason to fear the ridicule of the crowd and, being a small man, might even have feared that they would attack him physically.

With so much against him, Zacchaeus could have decided that it was no use. However, instead of hanging his head and going home, Zacchaeus knew he would have to take an extreme measure to get a look at Jesus. He took the risk of climbing the sycamore tree, and it got Jesus’ attention. He was rewarded because his love for Jesus overcame his fear.

Faith requires overcoming obstacles and facing challenges to bring our values into reality. For every shameful experience, for every crowd that denounces us, for everything standing in our way, there is a grace compelling us to do whatever it takes to overcome it. Once we brush our excuses aside, we can grasp what Jesus is offering.

What excuses are holding us back? What are we afraid of? What challenges and obstacles stand in our way? Jesus is offering us the grace to overcome them if we put our trust in him and take the risk of seeking him out no matter what the crowd may think of it. When we do, we will find that he knows us by name, that he calls us to a banquet of love, and that we can have a loving relationship with him no matter our sins and failings.
Save the date for a one-of-a-kind event! At this biennial fundraiser for our parish and school, we’ll be celebrating all things New York City. Some Broadway theatrics, an homage to your favorite "Saturday Night Live" characters, a little Big Apple glitz and glamour … whatever spin strikes your fancy.

The evening will include dinner, an open bar, and enticing ways to support our community through silent and live auction items, raffles, Fund-A-Need, and the ever-popular sign-up parties.

Other than our regular column here in the bulletin, the best ways to stay informed about tickets, auction items, raffles, and other fun tricks up our sleeve:

www.saintstephenstl.org/gala-2020
www.facebook.com/sspstl/events
@sspstl #SSPGala2020

Chairs: Gina & Jason Joly (jolygg@gmail.com) and Chris & Sarah McGeehan (mcgeehanct@gmail.com)

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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.

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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.

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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.

More information to come!

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LOOKING AHEAD

Nov. 12 — Holy Name Society meeting
Nov. 22-24 — 8th grade play
Nov. 28 — Thanksgiving / Turkey Bowl soccer game
Dec. 1 — SSMJ Christmas Concert
Dec. 7 — Breakfast With Santa
Feb. 1 — Sports Trivia Night
Feb. 8 — Auction Gala
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.