December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent
**STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER**

“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” (Matthew 24:42)

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and grow in gratitude for all that we have been given. You begin to see God’s active presence in your life.

---

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

(PAPER COPIES AVAILABLE AT CHURCH ENTRANCES)

**Blessing of Advent Wreaths**
Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at all Masses

**Candlelight Christmas Concert**
Dec. 1, at 7 p.m., SSMJ Chapel

**Spanish Christmas Program**
Dec. 9, at 7 p.m., Parish Center

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**
Saturdays, 3 p.m.-3:30 p.m. (except Dec. 14)
Dec. 4, at 7 p.m., First Reconciliation
Dec. 14, Parish Reconciliation, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Annual Christmas Novena**
Dec. 17-23, nightly at 7 p.m.

**Decorating the Church for Christmas**
Dec. 22 after the 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Christmas Eve**
Dec. 24, Mass at 5 p.m. with sung music at 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 24, Mass at 10 p.m. with sung music at 9:45 p.m.

**Christmas Day**
Dec. 25, Mass at 10 a.m. with sung music at 9:45 a.m.

**Feast of St. Stephen**
Dec. 26, Mass at 8 a.m., then reception in the rectory

**Feast of the Holy Family**
Dec. 28 and 29, Blessing of Families after Mass

**Feast of Mary the Mother of God**
Dec. 31, Mass at 5 p.m.; Jan. 1, Mass at 9 a.m.

**Epiphany Pageant**
Jan. 12, at 2 p.m., in the church

---

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**LECTORS**
Saturday, December 7
4:00 p.m. — L. Harbaugh, C. McGeehan

Sunday, December 8
8:00 a.m. — E. Joly, G. Joly
10:30 a.m. — C. Grindel, B. Dowd

**SERVERS**
Saturday, December 7
4:00 p.m. — Mary Kate C., Luke W.

Sunday, December 8
8:00 a.m. — Ollie M., Jack B.
10:30 a.m. — Brody Z., Colin M.

---

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

**Monday:** Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11

**Tuesday, St. Francis Xavier:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 & 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:** Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday, St. Ambrose:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

**Second Sunday of Advent:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

---

**THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>December 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy of the Word 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Perpetual Help Devotions</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. Breakfast With Santa 9 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m. Blood Drive 9 a.m. Choir Practice 11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7 p.m.</td>
<td>First Reconciliation 6 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Pickleball 7 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish**

[www.saintstephenstl.org](http://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.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY — CRUNCH TIME!

Portrait sittings begin next week!

We are in the process of making phone calls to verify your contact information for the directory and to assist in scheduling your photo session. If you could kindly save us a phone call and stop by to schedule your appointment after Mass or schedule online, we would appreciate it.

Sign up to have your portrait taken 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.). Visit https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b2x8g022 to make an appointment. If you prefer to book your session in person, schedulers will be available after weekend Masses.

Only those who are photographed will receive a copy of the directory — as well as a free 8x10 of their portrait. There is no obligation to purchase anything.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

Due to an early bulletin deadline because of the Thanksgiving holiday, stewardship information was not yet available for the weekend of Nov. 24, 2019. We will share that information in the Dec. 1 bulletin.

BLOOD DRIVE

Boy Scout Troop 104 is sponsoring a 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 this weekend and next.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

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.

Cost is $5 per person (adults and children) in advance or $7 at the door, with a maximum charge of $20 per family (up to six family members). Additional diners are $5 each. Visit https://saintstephensstl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/BWS-flyer-2019.pdf for details or to make a reservation.

ADVENT ANGELS

If you returned a slip indicating interest in participating in Advent Angels, you are asked to choose an angel from the back of church to take home, keeping that person or family in your prayers.

Thank you for participating!
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.

GAME DAY
It’s time to spread Christmas joy! Join the SGSM for our monthly Game Day on Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Immaculate Heart of Mary rectory meeting room (4092 Blow St.). We will play card and board games, talk, eat, laugh, and have fun. All are welcome!

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 featuring vocalist Charles Glenn and pianist Pete Ruthenburg will be followed by lunch at Vito’s. Bus leaves at 8:15 a.m. from Immaculate Heart of Mary, returning around 3 p.m. Cost is $50 for parishioners of SGSM member parishes and $55 for others. Send check payable to “SGSM” to IHM, 4092 Blow St., 63116, with name, phone, parish, and emergency contact. For details, call Debbie at 314-481-9385.

NEW ADVENT RESPONSORIAL PSALM
As a way of recognizing the change in seasons, we will be using a new common psalm for all of the Sundays during Advent (“Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness,” #779 in our Breaking Bread hymnals). If you’d like to become familiar with the psalm at home, you can visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzFW8S2Lp2A.

OUR LADY’S INN TRIVIA NIGHT
Our Lady’s Inn Maternity Homes is having its Annual Trivia Night on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, at Chaminade College Prep School (425 S. Lindbergh). Doors open at 6 p.m. and trivia begins at 7 p.m. Cost is $25 per person; tables of eight. For information or to register, visit www.ourladysinn.org or call Katrina at 314-736-1544.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT MERCY CENTER
A Silent Advent Retreat, with Joy Clough, RSM, Dec. 6-7, 2019 — This retreat invites you to engage with scripture stories using your imagination. Sr. Joy uses storytelling to re-tell Gospel stories to refresh what has perhaps become too familiar.

Come to the Quiet, a guided silent retreat led by Dawn Stringfield, Jan. 3-5, 2020 — How would it feel to unplug the cell phone, tablet, and laptop and allow yourself time and space to listen more deeply to the Spirit within and around you? Mindfully walk the labyrinth and beautiful grounds; soak up the sacred space of the chapels; read, reflect, journal, pray; or simply rest.

Both programs are held at the Mercy Conference & Retreat Center (2039 N. Geyer). For more information or to register, visit www.mercycenterstl.org.

INVITATION FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY
Please join us for South Grand Senior Ministry’s Stephen Minister Commissioning Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019, at 2 p.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.


QUILTING GROUP’S PROCEEDS
Our parish group of quilters has been meeting weekly for as long as most of us can remember. They enjoy each other’s company while producing beautiful handicraft. Their Quilt of the Every Other Month Raffle, in which many of you participated, awarded quilts to six lucky winners. The quilters presented the parish with a check for $1,600, representing the proceeds from this raffle and other quilts that have been sold.

Many thanks to these special ladies — Madge Potrzeboski, Trudy Jung, Sandy Majneric, Laura Rueve, Dolores Buescher, and Joyce Stockmann — for sharing their talents with our community!

LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH SSMJ
On Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, at 2 p.m., the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet will host their annual Advent prayer service, Lessons and Carols, at their motherhouse (6400 Minnesota Ave.). A freewill donation will benefit the Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project. Register at www.csjsl.org or call 314-481-8800.

OUR LADY’S INN TRIVIA NIGHT
Ask any expectant mother if she wants her baby to come early and she will say no, she does not. As badly as her back hurts, as long as it has been since she has seen her toes, she is willing to wait because the baby is not yet ready. The eyelashes are ready, but not the fingernails. The kidneys are ready, but not the lungs. Those wing-shaped sacks are still preparing to make the leap from fluid to air. There is still more time to do in the dusky womb, where the baby is growing like a seed in the dark.

The child’s parents may never be ready, especially if this is their first. They want this; they are terrified of this. They planned for this; they can’t imagine how this happened. Meanwhile, they have a few baby-less weeks to go, which they can put to good use. They can make sure the nursery is ready. They can learn to sing some lullabies. They can think about what it means to bring a human being into the world, and what it will take to raise a child up into his or her full humanity. All they cannot do is hold a baby in the light, because the baby is still in the dark.


We celebrate the birth of Christ in the darkest days of the year. But the dawning of the light of Christ enables us not only to not fear the darkness but to find God in the darkness. The season of Advent calls us to such “pregnant waiting”: not passive, disengaged waiting for we don’t know what, but waiting that anticipates and makes possible now for what is to come. The experience of waiting enables us to realize what we appreciate, value, and cherish; waiting teaches us how to be present and attentive to family and friends; waiting opens our vision and spirits to realize the love of God in our midst.

Connections, December 2019

CHORAL CLUB EVENTS

The SSP Choral Club (our schoolkids from 3rd through 8th grade) is embarking on its Christmas 2019 Tour! You can catch them here or around town on any of the dates below.

- Tuesday, Dec. 3, Small Group of 7th & 8th Graders
  - 5 p.m., MOBOT (for Christmas Carol Association)

- Thursday, Dec. 5, 6th & 7th Grade
  - 1 p.m., Rose Hill House
  - 2 p.m., Our Lady of Life

- Friday, Dec. 6, 8th Grade
  - 11:30 a.m., Carondelet Business Luncheon, followed by caroling for SSP homebound

- Tuesday, Dec. 10, 5th Grade
  - 1 p.m., St. Alexius Auxiliary luncheon at Pietro’s

- Tuesday, Dec. 10, All Grades
  - 8 p.m., SSP Holy Name Society, SSP Parish Hall

- Monday, Dec. 16, 3rd & 4th Grade
  - 9:30 a.m., Alexian Brothers Senior Center
  - 10:30 a.m., St. Louis Altenheim

- Tuesday, Dec. 17, Small Group of 7th & 8th Graders
  - 5 p.m., MOBOT (for Christmas Carol Association)

- Thursday, Dec. 19, All Grades
  - 11 a.m., SSP 50+ Club, SSP Parish Hall

- Tuesday, Dec. 24, All Grades
  - 4:30 p.m., SSP Christmas Eve Mass, caroling with adult choir; Mass to follow at 5 p.m.

- Sunday, Jan. 12, All Grades
  - 2 p.m., Epiphany pageant, SSP Church

We celebrated the feast of St. Cecilia on Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, at the 8 a.m. Mass. The school children thanked the music ministers who lead them at liturgy and school.

Left to right: Stephen Jones, Ann Dolan, Stephanie Wobbe, Anne Borgmeyer, and Dave Borgmeyer.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec. 9 — Spanish Christmas program
Dec. 9-17 — Lifetouch photo sessions for directory
Dec. 10 — Holy Name Society Meeting (with Choral Club)
Dec. 11 — Board of Education Meeting
Dec. 14 — Parish Advent Reconciliation
Jan. 12 — Fishpot Creek Bluegrass Band, 4 p.m. Mass
Jan. 12 — Spaghetti Dinner benefitting SSMJ
Feb. 1 — Sports Trivia Night
Sts Mary and Joseph Chapel presents
Candlelight Christmas Concert
featuring
Scott Kennebeck - Tenor
Emily Truckenbrod - Soprano
John P Walsh - Pianist
December 1 @7pm
Reception to Follow
Free Will Offering

6304 Minnesota Ave. St. Louis MO 63111 314-517-3998

LIVE FROM NEW YORK … LIMITED-EDITION RAFFLES!
Only 300 of each to be sold! Each ticket only $25. Tickets go live Dec. 1 and can be purchased online at ssp2020.givesmart.com or after Masses on Dec. 7-8.

Apple Watch Series 5 (GPS)
WITH
Apple AirPods Pro

$1,500 IN CASH PRIZES!
$1,000 … $300 … $200
MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 2
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, December 3
8:00 a.m.— Dolores Meisemann

Wednesday, December 4
8:00 a.m.— Cecelia Hopmeir

Thursday, December 5
8:00 a.m.— J. Lizzi

Friday, December 6
8:00 a.m.— Rose & Elmer Schuster

Saturday, December 7
8:00 a.m.— Jean Westrich
4:00 p.m.— Verna Pierce

Sunday, December 8
8:00 a.m.— Our Parishioners
10:30 a.m.— Leonard Amsler

PLEASE PRAY

for our sick and recovering ...
Dave Asinger  Jan Haffer  Steve Moylan
Suzi Beck  Paul Heidbrier  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 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.

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 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.