St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

December 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent

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
junetessinssp@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
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” (James 5:8)

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God’s will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

December 8 Contribution $ 5,924.00
Online giving contribution $ 1,957.00
Total weekly contribution $ 7,881.00
R & I $ 227.00
Tuition Assistance $ 380.00
Retirement Fund for Religious $ 15.00
Seminary $ 45.00

The special collection in December is for the Seminary.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

We are accepting donations for flowers in church for this Christmas season in honor of the living and deceased members of the parish or of your family. You may use the envelope for Christmas flowers or mark an envelope "Flowers" and list the name(s) of those you wish to remember. Place your donation in the collection basket or drop it by the rectory. After the Christmas season, donors may take the flowers home.

DECORATING CHURCH

All hands on deck!
We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Dec. 22, 2019, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
Thanks in advance!

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
Saturday, December 21
4:00 p.m. — A. Borgmeyer, C. Deeken
Sunday, December 22
8:00 a.m. — B. Dowd, L. Driscoll
10:30 a.m. — P. Cooper, S. Gaydos

SERVERS
Saturday, December 21
4:00 p.m. — Brian B., Gregory F.
Sunday, December 22
8:00 a.m. — Katie W., Tommy G.
10:30 a.m. — Elsa Y., Gabriel S.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Fourth Sunday of Advent: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday December 16</th>
<th>Tuesday December 17</th>
<th>Wednesday December 18</th>
<th>Thursday December 19</th>
<th>Friday December 20</th>
<th>Saturday December 21</th>
<th>Sunday December 22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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. Baptismal Service Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. 50+ Club 11 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m. Band/Choral Concert 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m. Church Decorating 11:30 a.m. Choir 11:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Finance Council 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Pastl Cncl 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Novena Service, Nightly at 7 p.m. Through December 23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></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.

ACE CARDS — HOLIDAY SEASON

If you need ACE cards in time for Christmas gifts or purchases, the last day to place orders is after Masses THIS WEEKEND.

For a limited time only! Starbucks and St. Louis Bread Company cards in $5 denominations will be available until Christmas.

ADVENT RESPONSORIAL PSALM

As a way of recognizing the change in seasons, we have been using a common psalm for all of the Sundays during Advent (“Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness,” #779 in our Breaking Bread hymnals).

To hear the psalm at home, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfw82L0p2A.

BLUEGRASS AND SPAGHETTI

SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, The Fishpot Creek Bluegrass Band will be providing the music at our 4 p.m. Mass. After Mass, there will be a spaghetti dinner in the parish hall, the proceeds of which will benefit the maintenance of the Chapel of Sts. Mary & Joseph.

More information to come.

NOVENA: GIVE IT A TRY?

As much as we all try to remember the reason for the season, at this time of year we often find ourselves feeling pressured to do too much in too little time.

It may seem that planning to attend one of our Novenas would be yet another thing on your calendar. But we encourage you to make space for a Novena or two. You may find that taking just 30 minutes for peaceful prayer by candlelight provides the realignment you need to head back out there to make the merry.

Novena is celebrated nightly, Dec. 17-23, at 7 p.m.

May our hearts swell with Advent expectation!

THANKS FOR GIVING-TREE DONATIONS

To all at St. Stephen Protomartyr Church —

Thank you so much for your wonderful donation. You all were one of our first big pickups for the holiday season. We have so much gratitude and love for you all for getting us all the supplies you did. This year is just as exciting as the last 25.

Wishing you peace and health in the new year.

Kindly,
Megan, Children’s Advocate
Saint Martha’s Hall

NEW TO THE PARISH FAMILY

Please extend a warm welcome to Nick and Laura Hartzler, the newest members of our parish family.

Glad you’ve joined us!

Blessings on the 16 second graders (pictured with teachers Judy Rone and Mary Beth Block) who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Dec. 4, 2019.
Advent is a time of longing. It is a time to recognize that in all our hopes and dreams we are reaching out for the “one who is to come.” To use the words of St. Augustine, Advent is a time to “exercise our desire” for God.

In this Sunday’s Gospel, John the Baptist and his disciples express their longing for a Messiah when they ask Jesus if he is the “one who is to come.” How does Jesus respond?

He simply recounts to them what they have seen. The sick are healed, the blind are given their sight, and the poor have the Good News preached to them. Jesus was the one Isaiah had foretold would come and the one John had prepared the way for. He was the one who would bring an eternal kingdom.

Over 2,000 years after the birth of Jesus, many in our world still await a Messiah. They are imprisoned in ignorance, abusive situations, poverty, or their own sinful choices. They are looking to us to answer this question for them: “Is Jesus the one we are waiting for? Is Jesus the one who can save us?”

How are we to answer them? What can we point to in our lives to show that God is at work in the world, freeing us from sin, changing lives, and bringing peace?

They know that the world cannot offer them what they truly desire, but they are also not yet convinced that Jesus is the answer. They want to see what difference a life lived in relationship with God makes. Will they be able to see that by looking at us?

Each of us, through Baptism and Confirmation, has received the Holy Spirit. This same Spirit empowered Jesus to preach the Good News to the poor and to perform miracles. This same Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. Because the Holy Spirit dwells within us, Jesus can say in today's Gospel that the least in his kingdom is greater than John the Baptist. John the Baptist probably never understood that Jesus would die for his sins. He never read the New Testament. He never received the Eucharist as we do. And so, we have a power at work in our lives that even he could not understand.

Like the priests, prophets, and kings of the Old Testament, we have received an anointing. It is now time for us to put that power of God to work serving others so that the world can see for itself what difference a life lived for Jesus makes. Only by seeing our lives transformed by the peace which only God can give will the world come to know that Jesus alone provides the answers that the people of today are seeking.

Where do we begin? We begin right here and right now with the people around us. It is by showing kindness every day to the people we bump into that the transformation can start. If I can hold a door open for someone or say a kind word to a teenager, then I will have an open heart for the beggar who asks me for change or the hitchhiker who needs a lift to the gas station. Our acts of mercy will leave people wondering what motivates us to be so kind. Through our goodness, they will come to know Jesus, who is the source of all goodness. And knowing him, they will have grasped the answer to the longing of their hearts.

Douglas Sousa, S.T.L.
From LPi Connect! Sunday Reflections
NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATION AT OLS

Ring in the new year at Our Lady of Sorrows (5020 Rhodes Ave.) on Dec. 31, 2019, from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The event features the band Hit List! and The Wolk Brothers. Cost is $40 person, which includes buffet dinner from Lochirco’s, as well as soda, coffee, beer, and wine. You are welcome to bring your own beverages. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the parish.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Marjorie at 314-481-1453 or mdwolk@hotmail.com.

CAROL FOR A CAUSE

Looking to start a new holiday tradition with family and friends? Get a group together and “Carol for a Cause” in your neighborhood with the St. Louis Christmas Carols Association this year! Bring joy and good will to your neighborhood while collecting donations for area agencies serving children.

For more information, contact area chair Anne Borgmeyer at 314-752-2528.

FIAT WOMEN’S GROUP

All women are invited to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary (5200 Glennon Drive) on the third Thursday of each month for prayer and a talk. The next meeting is Dec. 19, 2019. Rosary is prayed at 8 a.m. Father Jason Schumer will speak from 8:15 a.m. until 9 a.m., followed by coffee in the Fireside Lounge until 9:30 a.m. For more information or to watch videos from past Fiat talks, visit www.kenrick.edu/fiat.

OUR LADY’S INN TRIVIA NIGHT

Our Lady’s Inn Maternity Homes is having a 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. To register, call Katrina at 314-736-1544.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT MERCY CENTER

Stephen Minister Commissioning Ceremony is Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019, at 2 p.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Come and help us celebrate our newest class of ministers: Gene Berviller, Sandy Berviller, Paul Clark, Luz Giraldo-Llanos, Jim Klenke, Katie Kummer, Vicki McGowan, Lee Randell, and Carol Prag.

Come to the Quiet, a guided silent retreat led by Dawn Stringfield, is taking place Jan. 3-5, 2020, at the Mercy Conference & Retreat Center (2039 N. Geyer). 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. To register, visit www.mercycenterstl.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec. 17-23 — Christmas Novena, nightly
Dec. 26 — Feast of St. Stephen: 8 a.m. Mass, reception
Dec. 26-29 — Holiday Hoops basketball tournament
Jan. 11 — Fishpot Creek Bluegrass Band, 4 p.m. Mass
Jan. 11 — Spaghetti Dinner benefitting SSMJ
Feb. 1 — Sports Trivia Night
Feb. 8 — Gala

ARCHBISHOP’S ADOPTION FUND

Have you or someone you’ve known been touched by adoption? Adoption, even through non-profit agencies, can be very expensive. The Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Adoption Fund was created to help build families through this loving choice.

There are two ways you can help:
- Buy a raffle ticket for yourself or as a gift for 10 seats at a 2020 Cardinals Game in Suite 33 — bit.ly/adoptiongrantraffle

Help build families this Season of Our Savior’s Birth! For more information, contact Melissa Barnason at melissabarnason@archstl.org.

STEPHEN MINISTRY COMMISSIONING

The SGSM’s Stephen Minister Commissioning Ceremony is Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019, at 2 p.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Come and help us celebrate our newest class of ministers: Gene Berviller, Sandy Berviller, Paul Clark, Luz Giraldo-Llanos, Jim Klenke, Katie Kummer, Vicki McGowan, Lee Randell, and Carol Prag.

OUR LADY’S INN TRIVIA NIGHT

Our Lady’s Inn Maternity Homes is having a 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. To register, call Katrina at 314-736-1544.
UPCOMING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Annual Christmas Novena
Dec. 17- Dec. 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.

NEW TWIST!

WINE & BOURBON DONATIONS

The popular WINE RAFFLE returns to the Gala — $10 gets you a “mystery” bottle of wine worth at least that much — but this year we are adding a BOURBON RAFFLE! At this time, we are looking for donations of wine worth at least $10 a bottle and bourbon worth at least $25 a bottle (even if you buy them on sale for less). If you are gifted something at Christmas that maybe isn’t your cup of … tea, we would love to have it for the raffle! Put bottles in the back of church, marked with your name and the dollar value (regardless of sale price). Questions? Contact Mandy Borgmeyer at mborgmeyer80@gmail.com.

LIMITED-EDITION RAFFLES!

Only 300 chances to win each of two raffles! Tickets are $25 each. Buy them online at ssp2020.givesmart.com or after Masses. The LATE NIGHT RAFFLE — cash prizes of $1,000, $300, and $200! The BIG APPLE RAFFLE — Apple Watch 5 (GPS) with AirPods Pro!

REMINDING 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.

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

CAN YOU HELP?

The auction committee is looking for St. Louis Cardinals tickets; Mizzou football tickets; downtown St. Louis restaurant gift cards (for themed package); golf-course passes; timeshares; bed-and-breakfast stays; brewery or winery tours; and concert or theater tickets. Do you have special connections or interest in donating any of these items for auction? Contact the chairs at StStephenGala@gmail.com.
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, December 16**  
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, December 17**  
8:00 a.m.— Bourisaw Family, Lorraine Hempen

**Wednesday, December 18**  
8:00 a.m.— Henrietta Werkmeister

**Thursday, December 19**  
8:00 a.m.— Rev. John Kerber

**Friday, December 20**  
8:00 a.m.— Msgr. Richard Lubeley

**Saturday, December 21**  
8:00 a.m.— Rev. Robert V. Fleiter  
4:00 p.m.— Our Parishioners

**Sunday, December 22**  
8:00 a.m.— William Choate  
10:30 a.m.— Marie Simon, Howard Neels

---

**PLEASE PRAY**

for our sick and recovering ...  
Dave Asinger  
Bob Beck  
Suzi Beck  
Liz Bentrup  
Ann Dosenbach  
Erin Goedeker  
Jan Haffer  
Paul Heidbrier  
Thomas Lorenz  
Lois McClellan  
Steve Moylan  
Dianne Neels  
Grace Phillips  
Virginia Zenthoefer

for our homebound ...  
Albertine Honious  
Art Petersen

for family members serving in the military ...  
Derek Hirtz  
Tristan Moylan  
Ryan O'Neil  
Brian Schoellhorn  
Steve Moylan  
Dianne Neels  
Grace Phillips  
Virginia Zenthoefer

---

**DEVOTIONS**

Tuesdays, after 8 a.m. Mass: Perpetual Help Devotions

First Friday of the Month, after 8 a.m. Mass: Holy Hour and Benediction

Christmas Novena. Nightly, Dec. 17-23, 7 p.m.

Weekdays, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m.: Church is available for prayer. Stop by the rectory for entry.

---

**SAINT STEPHEN**

Saint Stephen Protomartyr Parish

**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.

**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 a.m. 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.