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
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
michelwendellsssp@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
junetessinsssp@gmail.com

Mrs. Michel Wendell, Principal
michelwendellsssp@gmail.com

Mrs. Mary Paule, Child Safety Coordinator / Secretary
marypaulesssp@gmail.com

Ms. Stephanie Oehler Wobbe, Communications Coordinator
stephaniewobbesssp@gmail.com
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb ...” (Isaiah 49:5)

God has given each of us different gifts.
In order for God’s plan to work, you have to do what God is calling you to do, and I have to do what God is calling me to do. And guess what? God has given each of us a different plan! So, stop comparing yourself to others. Don’t let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and generously share them with others.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 12 Contribution</td>
<td>$3,477.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online giving contribution</td>
<td>$891.00</td>
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<td>Total weekly contribution</td>
<td>$4,368.00</td>
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<td>R &amp; I</td>
<td>$269.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Assistance</td>
<td>$1,036.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Offering</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>The St. Louis Review</td>
<td>$120.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Special collection in January is for The St. Louis Review.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

Saturday, January 25
4:00 p.m. — Student Ministers

Sunday, January 26
8:00 a.m. — Student Ministers
10:30 a.m. — Student Ministers

SERVERS

Saturday, January 25
4:00 p.m. — Aidan J., Mary Kate C.

Sunday, January 26
8:00 a.m. — Luke W., Colin M.
10:30 a.m. — Hendrix F., Ollie M.

Anyone needing a copy of their contribution statement for 2019 is asked to contact June Tessin at junetessinssp@gmail.com or 314-481-1133. Unless you request to have it mailed, you can pick up your statement at the rectory during regular business hours.

OPEN HOUSE (AND CHILI COOKOFF)

Prospective students (or curious parishioners and alumni) are invited to visit our school during our Open House on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Guided tours will be provided. All visitors are also welcome to sample (free of charge) and vote on a variety of chilis provided by our school parents.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 & 23; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, St. Agnes: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday, Legal Protection of Unborn Children:
1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13; Mk 3:7-12

Friday, St. Francis de Sales: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 & 11; Mk 3:13-19

Saturday, Conversion of St. Paul: 1 Acts 22:3-16; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Is 8:23—9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>January 20</th>
<th>January 21</th>
<th>January 22</th>
<th>January 23</th>
<th>January 24</th>
<th>January 25</th>
<th>January 26</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
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<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
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<td>8 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>OFFICE CLOSED FOR MLK DAY</td>
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<td><strong>SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE</strong></td>
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<td>Finance Council 7 p.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 4 p.m.</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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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.

GATHERING FOR GROWTH, PART 2

In the summer of 2013, more than 40 small meetings were held at various homes in an effort for parishioners to hear from Fr. Ron regarding the status of the South City Collaborative and to ask questions regarding the parish and school.

As we continue to grow and prosper, we would like to gather for a formal meeting to reflect on where we are today as a community of faith. On Sunday, March 1, 2020, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Parish Center, there will be a facilitated town-hall-style gathering for all members of the parish and school community.

At the end of January, you will be invited to complete an anonymous survey, available both through the bulletin and an online link. The responses we receive to the survey will provide the focus for the meeting, which will be open to all parishioners and school parents.

At this meeting you will be encouraged to express your thoughts on various topics in small groups and then to the larger group. Your ideas and suggestions will help us to flourish as a parish and school in the months and years to come.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SPRING SPORTS

Registration is now open for the 2020 season of tee-ball and CYC baseball / softball at ezrosters.com/stl-ssp.

Tee-ball is pre-K through 1st grade, CYC baseball/softball is 2nd grade through 8th grade, and track is 2nd grade through 8th grade.

Fees are $50 for tee-ball and track and $60 for CYC baseball or softball. Registration will remain open through Feb. 29, 2020. We will NOT be able to guarantee a spot for your child if you are not registered by Feb. 29.

If you have any questions, please email Athletic Association President Jason Joly or Treasurer Gretchen Simons at sspathletics@gmail.com.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In the charity of your prayers, please remember Ted Porter, who died recently.

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

NEW TO THE PARISH FAMILY

Please extend a warm welcome to Bridgett Blake and her children Sophia, Maeve, and Leo, the newest members of our parish family!

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan. 26-31 — Catholic Schools Week
Jan. 31 — Family Trivia
Feb. 1 — Sports Trivia Night
Feb. 8 — Gala
Feb. 11 — Holy Name Society Meeting
Feb. 12 — Confirmation
Feb. 26 — Ash Wednesday / First Fish Fry
March 1 — Gathering for Growth Meeting

STS. MARY & JOSEPH CHAPEL

January 2020

Alphabet Club Raffle Winners:

V/9: Ted & Sharon Hartzler ~ $100.00
V/8: Beverly Luber ~ $25.00
V/10: Greg Vennemann ~ $25.00

Congratulations!
As I’m writing this reflection, I am taking pause from writing a talk for an upcoming Diocesan Youth Conference. I’m preparing a brief overview of Christian history, hitting only major highlights for this 45-minute presentation. In coming into the 21st century, one cannot pass by Pope Leo XIII chanting the *Veni Creator Spiritus* on Jan. 1, 1901. I cannot help but think of how that prayer, recited in Rome, has taken root and blossomed in various ways throughout the world in the 1900s.

While I’m not familiar with all the fruit born from that prayer, I am familiar with a few things that happened in the 1900s: The Los Angeles Street Blessing of 1906 and the Toronto Blessing of 1994, the Second Vatican Council in Rome (1962-65), the 1967 Charismatic Movement in the Catholic Church at Duquesne University, the work of Catholic figures presently in Catholic circles (like Fr. Mike Scanlan and Fr. Dave Pivonka and Ralph Martin and Peter Herbeck of Renewal Ministries), the rise of vocations to priesthood and religious life consequent of their involvement with programs like NET Ministries, St. Paul’s Outreach, FOCUS, and LifeTeen. Many other people and movements can be mentioned here, but it is all to say that Pope Leo XIII’s prayer in 1901 seems to be coming to fruition in the Catholic Church in America.

One hundred and nineteen years have passed since Pope Leo uttered that prayer, and flourishing still seems to be happening all around. And yet, there are still so many who have not yet tapped into the power of the Holy Spirit given to them at Baptism and Confirmation. The potential has been sacramentally distributed, yet remains dormant in most of the Catholic population.

I heard it said one time that the Holy Spirit is the most powerful force in the world. So what would it look like if we could learn to harness or access this power in our daily lives? The late Cardinal Suensens gives us a thought-provoking reflection in his book *A New Pentecost*?

I like to compare our approach to God in faith to that of a traveler who, as he makes his way on a winter night, arrives by some detour at a Lonely cottage, ablaze with lights shining through the windows. As he looks through the windows, he sees a fire with logs burning and crackling and sparks flying. He can imagine the warmth by the fireplace, but he cannot feel it as long as he stays outside, an onlooker, in the cold and wind. This is an image of the Christian, who, in the darkness of faith, sees the light and the warmth that is God …

Still, though he may catch sight of the firelight and imagine its warmth, it has not yet penetrated to the very marrow of his bones. He has yet to go inside, not because he is worthy, but because God invites him: a God who gently presses the invitation, and longs to be one with him. For that to happen, the traveler must knock at the door — that is what he has to do. Jesus told us to knock. He did not say how many times. We have to be sure to knock and knock again. But above all, each one of us must realize that he is expected at the fireside, that he is a son, that this is his home, that he can give no greater joy to God than by accepting this invitation.

To stay on the threshold on the plea of humility would be to misjudge God’s heart. He invites all of us to experience, even here below, the warmth of His love. He has made us just for that.

Once inside, everything is different for the traveler. The bright flames on the hearth leap up to greet him, the heat begins to envelop, to penetrate him, his face lights up in the glow, he reaches out his two hands, and his numb limbs begin to lose their numbness. A sort of osmosis begins: the brightness of the flames penetrate his very being. This is an image of the experience of God, as felt by one who lets himself be invaded by God, who opens his whole being, conscious and subconscious, to the radiance of his presence. A new life takes over. Saint Paul’s cry becomes, once more, a reality: “It is no longer I who live, it is Christ who lives in me.” (Gal 2:20)

We are not alone anymore, we know we are guided by the Holy Spirit; our life unfolds in response to him. As we dispossess ourselves, our being is possessed by God. The void is filled.

God himself, who is all welcome, light and warmth, transforms our existence, bestowing on us something of his radiance. Those who allow themselves to be possessed by God, resemble the log that little by little becomes white-hot. Their life, nourished by the fire of the Holy Spirit, becomes fire in its turn. Is not this the fire of which Jesus spoke when he said, “I have come to bring fire to the earth …” (Lk 12:49)? This is what it means to experience the Holy Spirit who alone can renew the face of the earth!”

How desperately we need a fire like this that burns not only within churches, but more importantly, within individual believers’ hearts, young and old, cleric, lay and religious.

Br. John-Marmion Villa, BSC
From LPi Connect! Sunday Reflections
HISTORY OF DOWNTOWN ST. LOUIS

St. Louis Altenheim (5408 S. Broadway) is hosting local author and historian Nini Harris on Feb. 2, 2020, at 1 p.m.

Ms. Harris will provide a presentation on the evolution of downtown St. Louis.

After the presentation, her book, Downtown St. Louis, will be available for sale and free tours of the Altenheim will be offered.

For more information, contact Dana at 314-269-5316 or dboyland@stlouisaltenheim.com.

LENTEN RETREAT

South Grand Senior Ministry invites you to a Lenten Day of Reflection. This annual event will take place on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at The White House Retreat Center (7400 Christopher Dr.).

The program will include conferences by Fr. Jim Blumeyer, with opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day will include Mass and lunch.

Cost for the day is $5 per person, payable at the door. The retreat is open only to parishioners of SGSM member parishes. For reservations, call Diane at 314-772-1525, ext 206, by Tuesday, March 3.

SSP 50+ CLUB MEETING

All seniors of SSP Parish are welcome to join us at the monthly meetings of our 50+ Club on the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in our Parish Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 20, 2020.

Liturgical Composers Concert

Coming to St. Louis, One Night Only!
Thursday, January 30, 2020 - 7PM
at Mercy Center Chapel
2039 North Geyer Rd - St. Louis, MO 63131

Mercy Conference and Retreat Center Presents
A Liturgical Composers Concert
Songs of Sacred Music

Come enjoy and evening of music and song. Sing with the composers who wrote some of your favorite songs for the Mass.

Songs Include: These Alone Are Enough (Dan Schutte)
  I Have Loved You (Michaell Joncas)
  Servant Song (Donna McCargill, OSM)
  Like a Shepherd (Bob Dufford, SJ)
  Lift Up Your Hearts (Roc O’Connor)
  You Are Mine (David Haas)
  Shepherd Me, O God (Marty Haugen)
  Come to the Water (John Foley, SJ)
  Center of My Life (Paul Inwood)

Celebrate the music and experience the women and men who have enhanced our liturgical prayer and worship throughout the years.

TICKET PRICES:
$50 Preferred Seating (includes after concert reception with composers)
$25 General Admission

PURCHASE TICKETS online: www.mercycentertstl.org
  or call: 314-966-4666

Mercy Conference and Retreat Center

The 37th Annual Aquinas Lecture

SPONSORED BY
AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY

“The Reformed Rites of Paul VI as Post-Holocaust Liturgy”

PRESENTED BY:
Rev. Dennis McManus
CENTER FOR JEWISH CIVILIZATION, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020 | 3:00PM
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE CHURCH BALLROOM
3628 LINDELL BOULEVARD, ST. LOUIS

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Parking will be available in the SLU garage at Grand & Laclede

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 314-256-8800 OR VISIT ai.edu

Aquinas
INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY
THE BIG EVENT IS THREE WEEKS AWAY!

By now, everyone should have received their official invitation in the mail! Return the paperwork in the invitation mailer OR visit ssp2020.givesmart.com to make your reservation / choose your table mates / get your payment info squared away / enter the raffles / make a donation / become a sponsor / and eventually get a sneak peak at auction items and do some bidding. If you did not receive an invitation, contact StStephenGala@gmail.com ASAP.

WHAT TO WEAR? WHAT TO WEAR?

For those who enjoy dressing the part … In the spirit of LIVE FROM NEW YORK, we invite everyone to be inspired by their favorite “Saturday Night Live” or Broadway show characters. Run with it! (Of course, you are also welcome to simply dress in your lovely finest. Costumes are not required!)

GRAND CENTRAL STATION SPONSOR

Imagine … a treasured family photo next to your very own subway tile in the lobby of the big event! And then seeing your tile in the cafeteria during Lent — you could be FISH FRY FAMOUS for only $25! To become a Grand Central Station Sponsor of the Gala, please visit ssp2020.givesmart.com. Questions? Contact Jenny at 314-276-5034.

STILL ISO WINE & BOURBON

We are still taking donations of wine worth at least $10 a bottle and bourbon worth at least $25 a bottle. Put bottles in the back of church or send to the school office, marked with your name and the dollar value (regardless of sale price). Questions? Contact Mandy at 314-602-5122.

LIMITED-EDITION RAFFLES!

Only 300 chances to win each of two raffles! The LATE NIGHT RAFFLE — cash prizes of $1,000, $300, and $200! The BIG APPLE RAFFLE — Apple Watch 5 (GPS) with AirPods Pro! Tickets are $25 each. Buy them online at ssp2020.givesmart.com or after Masses. Questions? Contact Kristy at kt63111@gmail.com.

GIFT CARDS FOR THE GALA

Grab a Statue of Liberty or Empire State Building with different gift cards and values to purchase and donate to the Gala. Gift Cards for the Gala are available where ACE cards are sold — in the back of church after all Masses and at the parish office. Values range from $10 and $20, all the way to $100. Contact Krissy at krissy4205@att.net.
MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 20
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, January 21
8:00 a.m.— Richard Jamboretz, Leo Esswein

Wednesday, January 22
8:00 a.m.— John Fuchs

Thursday, January 23
8:00 a.m.— Sr. Rosemary Meiman

Friday, January 24
8:00 a.m.— Rev. John Ditenhofer

Saturday, January 25
8:00 a.m.— Jean Westrich
4:00 p.m.— Our Parishioners

Sunday, January 26
8:00 a.m.— Margo Villar
10:30 a.m.— Ronnie Ulrich

PLEASE PRAY

for our sick and recovering ...

Dave Asinger        Erin Goedeker        Steve Moylan
Bob Beck            Jan Haffer           Dianne Neels
Suzi Beck           Paul Leidbrier       Grace Phillips
Liz Bentrup         Thomas Lorenz        Virginia Zenithoefer
Ann Dosenbach       Lois McClellan

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.