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 E. Jones, Music Director
stephenjonesssp@gmail.com

Mrs. June Tessin, Office Manager / Bookkeeper
jnetessinsssp@gmail.com

Mrs. Michel Wendell, Principal
michelwendellsssp@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

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to us.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

December 22 Contribution $ 5,613.00
Online giving contribution $ 2,699.00
Total weekly contribution $ 8,312.00
R & I $ 45.00
Tuition Assistance $ 5,095.00
Seminary $ 20.00

The special collection in December is for the Seminary.

Due to an early deadline by the bulletin publisher, the Sunday contribution amounts for December 29 were not available in time for this bulletin. They will be published in the January 12 bulletin.

FISHPOT CREEK BLUEGRASS BAND

The Fishpot Creek Bluegrass Band is returning to provide music at our 4 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020. Afterward, come down to the parish hall after Mass for spaghetti dinner (see ad in this bulletin for more information)!

NATIVITY PAGEANT & CHORAL CONCERT

Plan to join us in church on Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020, at 2 p.m. for our annual Nativity Pageant by our second graders, followed by a performance of Christmas music by our Choral Club.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
Saturday, January 11
4:00 p.m. — S. Gaydos, P. Cooper
Sunday, January 12
8:00 a.m. — C. Grindel, A. Borgmeyer
10:30 a.m. — C. Deeken, B. Dowd

SERVERS
Saturday, January 11
4:00 p.m. — Dayana N., Connor H.
Sunday, January 12
8:00 a.m. — Brian B., Katie W.
10:30 a.m. — Tommy G., Elsa Y.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday After Epiphany: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday After Epiphany: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday After Epiphany: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday After Epiphany: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14 & 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22
Friday After Epiphany: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147;12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday After Epiphany: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monday January 6</th>
<th>Tuesday January 7</th>
<th>Wednesday January 8</th>
<th>Thursday January 9</th>
<th>Friday January 10</th>
<th>Saturday January 11</th>
<th>Sunday January 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy of the Word 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass at 8 a.m. Perpetual Help Devotions</td>
<td>All School 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>
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<td>Nativit Pageant &amp; Choral Club 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 4 p.m. Fishpot Creek Spaghetti Dinner 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Nativity Pageant &amp; Choral Club 2 p.m.</td>
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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.

FROM THE PASTOR’S GARDEN

Wishing you a Blessed New Year filled with all that is good and peaceful. We look back on the past with grateful hearts for all the blessings that have come our way. The special events and people in our lives over the past years have made each day a new adventure. We also remember our loved ones whom the Lord called home this year with special gratitude for their time with us.

As we begin a new year we pray that it will bring a renewed spirit of hope and peace to each nation and person in this beautiful world.

Happy New Year!

LIFETOUCH PHOTOS

If you had your portrait taken for the pictorial directory and did not order photos beyond the complimentary 8x10, your photo has been delivered to the parish. Please pick up your complimentary photo after Mass or from the parish rectory during office hours.

If you missed your appointment due to weather or still need to schedule for whatever reason, please call Mary at 314-481-1133 as soon as possible to reserve a time on Jan. 17 or 18.

SAVE THE DATE — TOWN HALL

Save room on your calendars for the early afternoon of Sunday, March 1, 2020. We are planning a facilitated town-hall-style gathering for all members of the parish and school community. Stay tuned for details.

TAX ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The St. Louis Tax Assistance Program offers FREE electronic income tax return preparation and tax information for a family with income below $56,000. Must bring W-2s, 1099s, and 1098Ts, if applicable.

Location: St. Mary’s High School, 4701 S. Grand Blvd.

Dates: January 26, February 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 2, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For more information, please contact Anne Skelton at 314-602-8622 or anneskelton@live.com.

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan. 14 — Holy Name Dinner at Feasting Fox
Jan. 16 — 50+ Club Meeting
Jan. 17-18 — Lifetouch Reschedules (due to snow days)
Jan. 21 — Finance Council Meeting
Jan. 26-31 — Catholic Schools Week
Feb. 1 — Sports Trivia Night
Feb. 8 — Gala
March 1 — Town Hall Meeting

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HONDURAS

Our school holds periodic fundraisers — including the Mission Carnival — to support the efforts of John Hock (SSP ’64) and his wife, Marilyn, in their Friends of Honduras community-building project in Guanacaste, Honduras. John and Marilyn recently returned from Honduras after a successful installation of a water purification plant.

Keep the good work, everyone!
There was once a monastery that had come upon hard times. Once it was filled with young monks and its great church resounded with the singing of God’s praise, but now it was almost deserted, with a handful of elderly brothers shuffling through the cloister struggling to pray and work.

On the edge of the monastery woods an old rabbi had built a little hut. He would go there from time to time to fast and pray. Whenever the venerable and wise rabbi was there, the monks felt blessed by his presence.

One day the abbot of the monastery went to visit the rabbi to seek his counsel. The rabbi welcomed him warmly. First, the two prayed silently together; then the rabbi made tea for his guest. As he set the cups on the table, the rabbi said to the abbot, “You and your brothers are serving God with heavy hearts. You have come to ask a teaching of me. Very well. I will give you a teaching — but you can only repeat it once. After that, no one must ever say it aloud again.”

The rabbi leaned in and looked straight into the eyes of the abbot. “The Messiah is among you,” the rabbi said. “He lives among you now.”

The abbot did not know what to say; he left the rabbi’s hut without a word. The next morning, the abbot called his brothers together. He told them he had received a teaching from the rabbi who walks in the woods, warning that the teaching was to be spoken once and then never said again. The abbot then looked at each of his brothers and said, “The rabbi said that one of us is the Messiah.”

The monks were stunned by the abbot’s words. What could this mean? they asked themselves. Is Brother John the Messiah? Or Father Matthew? Or Brother Thomas? Could I be the Messiah? They were all puzzled — and unsettled — by the rabbi’s teaching, but faithfully obeyed the abbot’s instructions that it never be mentioned again.

As time went by, the monks began to treat one another with a special reverence. There was a gentle, peaceful quality about them that was hard to describe but easy to notice. The few visitors to the monastery found themselves deeply moved by the life of the community. Before long, people were coming from miles around to be nourished by the prayer of the monks. More and more brothers joined the community. As the monastery began to rebuild, the joy of their prayer once again resounded through their church — and hearts.

“THE MESSIAH IS AMONG YOU …”

The old rabbi was never seen again — but the old monks, who had taken his teaching to heart, forever felt his presence.

“The Messiah lives among you” — Epiphany celebrates that reality in all our lives: that God’s Christ is present among us in our love for one another, in the mercy and justice we work for, in the forgiveness we extend and accept. Our lives are filled with “epiphanies”: moments of awareness and understanding, discoveries of abilities and potential, realizations of the love of God in our lives. In this New Year, may we seek to find the Messiah in our midst, following the star of God’s reconciliation and justice, enabling us to behold Emmanuel — “God with us”— in every experience of charity, consolation and forgiveness, whether given or received.

From Connections, January 2020
Join Christians from many traditions and from around the St. Louis region in prayer for unity in our faith at St. Monica Parish (12140 Olive Blvd.) on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, at 7 p.m. A light reception will follow the prayer.

Archbishop Robert Carlson will preside, and Fr. James Mason, Rector of Kenrick Seminary, will offer the reflection on “Showing Unusual Kindness” (Acts 28:2).

For more information contact James at 314-792-7177 or jamescomminellis@archstl.org.

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/adorptiongranttraffe

For more information, contact Melissa Barnason at melissabarnason@archstl.org.
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!

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.

GIFT CARDS FOR THE GALA
Have you always wanted to help with the Gala and never knew how or didn’t have the time?

Consider grabbing 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. All gift cards purchased in this way also give a percentage of the value back to St. Stephen.
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, January 6**  
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, January 7**  
8:00 a.m.— Bourisaw Family

**Wednesday, January 8**  
8:00 a.m.— Thomas Kenning

**Thursday, January 9**  
8:00 a.m.— Nancy Marty

**Friday, January 10**  
8:00 a.m.— Msgr. Richard Lubeley

**Saturday, January 11**  
8:00 a.m.— Rev. Chris Holtmann  
4:00 p.m.— Virginia Vennemen

**Sunday, January 12**  
8:00 a.m.— Our Parishioners  
10:30 a.m.— John & Cecelia Hopmeir

**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 Zenithoefer

for our homebound ...  
Albertine Honious  
Art Petersen

for family members serving in the military ...  
Derek Hirtz  
Tristan Moylan

Ryan O'Neil  
Brian Schoellhorn

Dylan Schulte  
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.

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**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**:

- Through Saturday: Mass  
  8:00 a.m.

- Sunday:  
  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.