St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

February 2, 2020

The Presentation of the Lord

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
maryregansssp@gmail.com

Mr. Stephen E. Jones, Music Director
stephenjonessa@gmail.com

Mrs. June Tessin, Office Manager / Bookkeeper
junednessssp@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
stephaniewobbesssp@gmail.com
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“...they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...” (Luke 2:22)

How seriously do you take being a Catholic?
Is “being Catholic” something I just do when I attend Sunday Mass or attend one of my parish functions?
It’s easy to be Catholic then; it’s harder to be Catholic when I am out in the world. Would someone recognize you as a Catholic by the way you act, dress, and talk? How do you present yourself to the Lord and to others?

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

| January 26 Contribution | $ 3,847.00 |
| Online giving contribution | $ 1,486.00 |
| Total weekly contribution | $ 5,333.00 |
| R & I | $ 130.00 |
| Tuition Assistance | $ 180.00 |
| Candlesmas | $ 30.00 |
| First Offering | $ 25.00 |
| The St. Louis Review | $ 474.00 |

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
Saturday, February 8
4:00 p.m. — TBA

Sunday, February 9
8:00 a.m. — TBA
10:30 a.m. — TBA

SERVERS
Saturday, February 8
4:00 p.m. — Aaron V., Bianca C.

Sunday, February 9
8:00 a.m. — Reagan M., Katie W.
10:30 a.m. — Brian B., Nolan G.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30—16:5-13; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday, St. Agatha: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday, St. Paul Miki: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47 & 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Mk 6:30-34

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:15; Mt 5:13-16

JANUARY MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekend</th>
<th>Break Even Target</th>
<th>Actual Collection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 4-5</td>
<td>$8,511.87</td>
<td>$6,284.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 11-12</td>
<td>$8,511.87</td>
<td>$5,093.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18-19</td>
<td>$8,511.87</td>
<td>$9,321.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25-26</td>
<td>$8,511.87</td>
<td>$5,333.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>January Total</td>
<td>$34,047.48</td>
<td>$26,031.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal YTD Total</td>
<td>$255,355.23</td>
<td>$214,817.68</td>
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Anyone needing a copy of their 2019 contribution statement can contact June at 314-481-1133 or junetessinssp@gmail.com. Unless you request to have it mailed, you can pick up your statement at the rectory during regular business hours.

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday February 3</th>
<th>Tuesday February 4</th>
<th>Wednesday February 5</th>
<th>Thursday February 6</th>
<th>Friday February 7</th>
<th>Saturday February 8</th>
<th>Sunday February 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy of the Word 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass at 8 a.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>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Perpetual Help Devotions</td>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Gala 6 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.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SPRING SPORTS

Registration is now open for the 2020 season of tee-ball, CYC baseball/softball, and track 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.

SURVEY

We encourage you to participate in our brief and anonymous survey, which will help provide the focus for our town-hall meeting on March 1, 2020, at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. At that time, we will reflect on where we are today as a community of faith.

Please complete the survey whether or not you are able to attend the meeting. Complete the form inserted in this week’s bulletin and drop in the collection basket or return to the parish office. The survey is also available online. See the form for that link.

You are welcome to invite participation from others in our community who, for whatever reason, may not be aware of this opportunity to share their thoughts. The discussion at the March 1 meeting will help us to flourish as a parish and school in the months and years to come.

SOMETIMES IT’S HARD TO ASK FOR HELP

We’re brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that’s not God’s plan.

Galatians 6:2 says, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” God wants us to care for others — and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

If you’re sad or struggling inside, don’t suffer alone. Ask for help. We’ve got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It’s confidential, too!)

Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with Leigh at 314-486-0717 or leighsgsm@gmail.com. Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!

LES MIS FOR LENT — HERE AT SSP

Ponder the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love in a six-week Lent study to be hosted here at St. Stephen.

Victor Hugo’s Les Misérables is a truly epic story. Whether you’ve tackled the 1,400-page 19th century novel, witnessed the Broadway musical (and memorized its soundtrack), or seen the several screen adaptations of it, you already know the power of its story.

In the six-week study The Grace of Les Misérables, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story — grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope — each represented by a character in Hugo’s story. Discover the parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it.

The program will run Monday evenings at 7 p.m in the parish hall, beginning March 2, 2020. Now would be a great time to watch one of the film adaptations, read the book — or the SparkNotes — or otherwise (re)acquaint yourself with the basic story before the program begins.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In the charity of your prayers, please remember Dan Evans and Martha Grega, who died recently.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.
SOUTH CITY PSR FUNDRAISER

Dine in at Mariachi’s II (4625 Gravois Rd.) on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., when the restaurant will donate 15 percent of its sales to the South City Deanery Parish School of Religion. Please mention this fundraiser at the time of dining so that PSR receives the 15 percent.

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 11 — Holy Name Society Meeting
Feb. 12 — Confirmation
Feb. 20 — 50+ Club Meeting
Feb. 26 — Ash Wednesday / First Fish Fry
March 1 — Gathering for Growth Town Hall Meeting
March 27-29 — Luke 18 Retreat
April 12 — Easter
April 26 — First Communion
May 2 — Golf Tournament
June 10 — Parish Picnic

ANNA AND SIMEON IN OUR OWN TEMPLE

Every parish community has an Anna.

“Advanced in years,” she has known every joy and heartache of being a spouse and mother and grandmother. Anna lives at the heart of the prayer life of the community. She’s always among the first to offer her time to whatever needs to be done; her joy is filling her days with baking cookies for the soup kitchen, volunteering in the parish office, knitting prayer shawls, participating in any of the parish’s Scripture study groups or the RCIA team.

The most important gift Anna brings to the parish is her ability to lift spirits and hearts by her kindness and understanding, her generosity of heart centered in her faith in God’s love, her trust in God’s presence in the reality of life. Anna is a “prophetess” to us of God’s hope and joy in our midst.

Every parish has a Simeon, as well.

He has settled into the autumn of life with optimism. He takes joy in his family and friends. A good day is when he’s able to offer help, make someone’s day a little brighter, relieves a neighbor’s stress or anxiety. Though self-effacing, the Simeons among us possess the wisdom of experience and we do well to listen to them. They have weathered countless storms in their long lives but have always trusted that the light of God would shatter the darkness — and it always has.

Our Simeons remind us of all we have to be grateful for. They are signs of the reality of our salvation: that God — Emmanuel — dwells in our midst in our love and care for one another.

Today, 40 days after Christmas, we celebrate the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem, witnessed by the faithful Simeon and the prophetess Anna. May we give thanks for the Annas and Simeons among us, who are living signs of God’s love dwelling in our homes and communities and churches. May we live our lives with Anna’s “prophetic” grace and joy, that the light of Christ’s peace may illuminate our hearts and homes; may we take up in our own lives and hearts Simeon’s song of thanksgiving: May we go in peace, Master, realizing your salvation; may we behold your light revealing your loving presence in our midst.

From Connections, February 2020
TWICE BLESSED

Twice Blessed Resale Shop (3312 Meramec) is currently seeking donations of women’s and children’s spring and summer clothing, shoes, purses, and jewelry.

The store benefits Our Lady’s Inn Maternity Homes in St. Louis and St. Charles, and trains the clients in basic job skills. Find boutique items — women’s, children’s, and men’s clothing, accessories, shoes, purses, décor, and furniture — at thrift store prices!

Store hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 314-481-3332 for more information or visit on Facebook @TwiceBlessedResaleShop.

Donate, volunteer, and shop!

UMSL NEWMAN CENTER REUNION

The Catholic Newman Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (8200 Natural Bridge) is having an alumni reunion on Friday, Feb. 21, 2020, which is St. John Newman’s birthday. Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. in the living room of the Newman House, just like the old days, followed by drinks and hors d’oeuvres.

Come for a casual evening with old friends. The event is free of charge. Please RSVP by Feb. 18 to Kay at kay@cncumsi.org or 314-385-3455.

FREE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

Epiphany Lutheran Church’s International Friendship Center (4045 Holly Hills Blvd.) offers free classes to serve those who are learning English as a Second Language. Students must be 17 years of age or older and not currently enrolled in high school.

Classes are held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Child care is provided, and there are refreshments for children and adults.

Learn basic English and build vocabulary. Practice conversation and life skills. Enjoy meeting new people during social hour! Teach us your traditions and culture while learning about ours!

KIDS’ INDOOR SOCCER

A soccer program for boys and girls aged 5 to 12. will be conducted at Vetta Concord’s indoor soccer facility in South County and will begin in early February. For more information, call Marty at 314-393-1164.

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.

LOOKING FOR DEDICATED LADIES

If you are retired, bored, and/or lonely and maybe looking for a renewed sense of purpose, consider joining Senior Services Unlimited, which assists elderly persons having physical therapy in their home. They are tired and enjoy a companion and some light assistance. No heavy lifting involved.

Call Cherie Posley, LPN, at 314-646-8131 for more information.

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.
SSP2020.GIVESMART.COM

This is where you want to be!

Whether attending the Gala or not, anyone who registers with our event on GiveSmart will have the ability to bid on silent auction items and purchase raffle chances. (Live-auction items and sign-up parties are open to attendees only.)

If you attended the 2018 Gala, you already have an account with GiveSmart. If not — or if you do not remember your password — visit the site to get set up or reacquainted.

Technical questions? Contact the auction chairs at ststephengala@gmail.com.

There will be experts on hand at the event to assist anyone who may need help navigating the software.

We can’t wait to see you for drinks, dinner, and dancing!

JUST A SAMPLING OF GALA OFFERINGS
(ITEM DETAILS ON EVENT SITE)

**DAY OF HOOKY**  **LIVE AUCTION**
Your child cuts school on April 22 for a Cards game with two friends and a favorite teacher!

**SCHLAFLY BREWERY TOUR**  **SILENT**
Private tour and tasting for 10 at the original brewery, including the underground Ibex Cellar!

**LAKE WEEKEND**  **LIVE AUCTION**
A long weekend for 8 in a house on the Lake of the Ozarks, with boating & BBQ!

**HANDMADE QUILT**  **RAFFLE**
A beautiful queen-sized quilt handmade by our very own SSP Quilters!

**CROCS FOR THE FAMILY**  **SILENT**
Dress up the whole family with up to five pairs of Crocs shoes!

**RESERVED PEW**  **LIVE AUCTION**
No need to save seats at the Christmas Eve “Children’s” Mass with your reserved pew!
MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 3
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, February 4
8:00 a.m.— Rev. Terry Borgerding

Wednesday, February 5
8:00 a.m.— Rev. Robert Marshall

Thursday, February 6
8:00 a.m.— Rev. Edmond Fitzgibbon

Friday, February 7
8:00 a.m.— George Vincent

Saturday, February 8
8:00 a.m.— Sr. Celeste Cour
4:00 p.m.— Rev. Donald Koch

Sunday, February 9
8:00 a.m.— Steve Dickinson
10:30 a.m.— Our Parishioners

PLEASE PRAY

for our sick and recovering ...

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

for our homebound ...

Jack Hefferman     Albertine Honious    Art Petersen

for family members serving in the military ...

Derek Hirtz        Ryan O’Neil         Dylan Schulte
Tristan Moilan     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.