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

Father Ron Hopmeir, Pastor
froron@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
jutetessinssp@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

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

ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR PARISH
February 23, 2020 • Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.
—Leviticus 19:2b
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you…” (Matthew 5:44)

Love your enemies. Easier said than done, no doubt. But remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from “me” and moves it towards God and others. It allows us to have a little more empathy for “our enemy.” When we pray for others, even “our enemies,” maybe it softens their hearts as well.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

| February 16 Contribution | $ 8,626.00 |
| Online giving contribution | $ 2,242.00 |
| Total weekly contribution | **$ 10,868.00** |
| R & I | $ 188.00 |
| Tuition Assistance | $ 924.00 |
| Candlemas | $ 15.00 |
| Central & Eastern Europe | $ 110.00 |
| First Offering | $ 5.00 |
| Regina Cleri | $ 50.00 |

*The St. Louis Review* $ 30.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

**LECTORS**
- Ash Wednesday, February 26
  - 7:00 p.m. — TBD
- Saturday, February 29
  - 4:00 p.m. — E. Kovac, B. McLain
- Sunday, March 1
  - 8:00 a.m. — R. Moylan, C. McGeehan
  - 10:30 a.m. — B. Dowd, C. Kveton

**SERVERS**
- Ash Wednesday, February 26
  - 7:00 p.m. — Ellen K., Tara J.
- Saturday, February 29
  - 4:00 p.m. — Dayana N., Elsa Y.
- Sunday, March 1
  - 8:00 a.m. — Anya J., Connor H.
  - 10:30 a.m. — Mary Kate C., Aaron V.

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-8, 9-10a, 10b-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37

Ash Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32

First Sunday of Lent: Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Masses on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, will be celebrated and ashes will be distributed at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m. (with our school community), and 7 p.m.

Please see the insert in this bulletin for a full schedule of Lenten liturgies and other activities.

**DONUT SUNDAY**

Gathering for Growth 12:30 p.m.
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.
A GREAT GALA — STILL TIME TO DONATE!

A sincere thank you is in order for the wonderful evening that was our auction. It was a great gathering of family and friends showing support for our parish and school.

A thank you to each and every person who helped to make the evening a success. A special expression of gratitude goes to Gina & Jason Joly and Chris & Sarah McGeehan, who co-chaired this event. Thank you and God bless you for a job well done.

—Fr. Ron

The Fund-A-Need effort to subsidize safety-related building projects at the school continues to bring in donations. You are welcome to donate through March 1 by dropping a check payable to “St. Stephen” (memo “Fund-A-Need”) in the collection basket at Mass or at the parish or school offices. Thank you so much!

LAST CALL FOR LUKE 18 RETREAT

It’s not too late to sign up for St. Stephen’s Luke 18 Retreat for 7th and 8th graders! The retreat is open to all students in these grade levels, regardless of where they attend school.

The retreat is scheduled for March 27-29, 2020, and will be held in the Parish Center, Parish Hall, and classrooms at St. Stephen. The 7th and 8th graders stay at the retreat all weekend, spending Friday and Saturday nights in all-male and all-female “sleep houses” at parishioners’ homes. (All sleep-house families are in compliance with the Archdiocese Safe Environment requirements for volunteering with minors.) The weekend will end with Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m.

The cost of the retreat is $35 to cover meals, supplies, T-shirts, etc. If your child is interested in participating, contact Leigh Manalang at 314-486-0717 or Mary Regan at 314-481-1133 as soon as possible.

LOOKING AHEAD

March 7 — Boy Scout Blue & Gold Banquet
March 8 — Girl Scout Sunday
March 10 — Holy Name Society Meeting
March 17 — Finance Council Meeting
March 19 — 50+ Club Meeting
March 27-29 — Luke 18 Retreat
April 12 — Easter
April 26 — First Communion
May 2 — Golf Tournament

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In the charity of your prayers, please remember Mary Meyer and the father of Kris Rowe, who died recently.

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

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

We joyfully welcome the newest member of our community of faith, Hazel Jean Louise Summary, daughter of Justin and Jill Summary, who was baptized on Feb. 26, 2020.

Congratulations!

RICE BOWL PROGRAM

Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services and begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020. Rice Bowls will be available in the back of church for your use at home during the Lenten season. You will be asked to return them — and the donations inside them — to church at Easter.

IT’S FISH FRY TIME

Our world-famous fish fries serve up deliciousness every Friday during Lent, except for Good Friday. Dinner is served from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The menu includes signature dishes, the ever-popular fish tacos, a catch of the day, succulent side dishes, delicious desserts, and beverages (soda, tea, lemonade, coffee, beer, and wine). Dine in or carry out. Handicap-accessible. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted.

HELP WANTED: If you can help out during the fries — or with setup, cleanup, or dessert-making — please contact Greg Venneman at grvenneman@sbcglobal.net.
Thank you, Joe & Michelle Rusch, for coordinating the wildly popular Sports Trivia Night for 25 years!

LES MIS FOR LENT — HERE AT SSP

Ponder the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love in a six-week Lenten 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.

ALTERNHEIM LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The St. Louis Alternheim senior living facility (5408 S. Broadway) is in search of volunteers who are at least 16 years old to assist with various activities. (Father Ron celebrates Mass with the Alternheim residents every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.)

For more information about volunteering, please contact the Activities Director at 314-353-7225.

LAST CHANCE — SPRING SPORTS

Register online before Feb. 29, 2020, for the 2020 season of tee-ball, CYC baseball/softball, and track at ezrosters.com/stl-ssp. Tee-ball ($50) is pre-K through 1st grade, CYC baseball/softball ($60) is 2nd grade through 8th grade, and track ($60) is 2nd grade through 8th grade. We will NOT be able to guarantee a spot for your child if you are not registered by Feb. 29.

Questions? Email sspathletics@gmail.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP — 100 STRONG

Greg Venneman is spearheading a clean-up blitz on Feb. 29, 2020, from 8 a.m. to noon, to tackle all the neighborhood problem spots at once! This can only be done with MANY! It’s a risk to schedule this in winter, but litter knows no season. The goal is a massive turnout — a hundred or more! Meet at the Carondelet Park pavilion near Grand and Holly Hills at 7:30 a.m. There will be donuts! Bring your own tools — rakes, shovels, scoops, pickers, grabbers, brooms, blowers, gloves ... We will disperse in groups of five to ten to the identified problem spots. Greg will pick up full bags with his truck at noon.

Questions? Contact Greg at 314-809-8340 or grvenneman@sbcglobal.net.

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.

HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Are you in need of a walker, wheel chair, or other medical devices? Do you have equipment in your home that is no longer being used? South Grand Senior Ministry takes gently used medical equipment to share for short-term or long-term needs. If you have a need or have something to give away, contact Kevin at Immaculate Heart of Mary, 314-481-7543. (Walkers are not needed at this time.)
Blessings on Our Confirmandi

Bishop Mark Rivituso celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with 42 of our 7th and 8th graders on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020. We offer our congratulations to them on this spiritual milestone!

Brian B.  St. George
Henry B.  St. Anthony of Padua
Samuel C.  St. Sebastian
Caroline D.  St. Alice
Keira D.  St. Veronica
Christinia D.  St. Agnes
Ezekiel E.  St. Francis de Sales
Samuel E.  St. Francis of Assisi
Emily F.  St. Elaine (Helen)
Cecilia F.  St. Cecilia
Gabrielle F.  St. Joan of Arc
Kathryn G.  St. Cecilia
Margaret G.  St. Lucy
Connor H.  St. Anthony of Padua
Eddie H.  St. Sebastian
Cecilia H.  St. Maria Goretti
Aidan J.  St. Philip
Jake L.  St. Joseph
Prunella M.  St. Anuarite
Christine M.  St. Joan of Arc
Maureen M.  St. Francis de Sales
Zachary M.  St. Michael the Archangel
Eleanor M.  St. Rita
Olivia P.  St. Veronica
Colby Q.  St. Francis Xavier
Zoe R.  St. Joan of Arc
Mariah R.  St. Catherine of Siena
James R.  St. Anthony of Padua
Adrian R.  St. Juan Diego
Alondra R.  St. Maria
Olivia S.  St. Roberta
Helena S.  St. Joan of Arc
Abigail S.  St. Francis of Assisi
Caroline S.  St. Laura
Erica S.  St. Catherine of Bologna
Elijah S.  St. Francis of Assisi
Aaron V.  St. John the Baptist
Jason V.  St. Dominic
Luke W.  St. Matthew
Alexander Y.  St. Thomas Aquinas
Brody Z.  St. Nicholas
Evan Z.  St. Patrick

Upcoming Programs at Mercy Center

Giving Up Exclusion, March 15, 2020, 1:30-3:30 p.m. — Without being aware of it, we claim privilege, often based on race, gender, class, or other circumstance. There are also situations where we don’t even notice who’s missing or being treated differently. Led by Sr. Priscilla Moreno, RSM, co-founder of the Alliance of Sisters of Mercy of Color Living in the USA.

Belonging, Becoming and Connecting in a Digital Era
March 20, 2020: Pre-Retreat Talk, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. — Unpack the mysterious urgings in the depths of our hearts. Led by Sr. Sue Mosteller, CSJ, and Maria Fitzgerald, MSW, of L’Arche St. Louis.
March 21, 2020: Retreat Day, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. — Our hearts ache for community and belonging. Looking at the Gospels, the writings of Henri Nouwen, and our own stories, we will reflect upon what it means to “belong to a community” in the modern world. Led by Sr. Sue Mosteller, CSJ, and Nathan Ball, MDiv, of L’Arche USA.

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

Dear Jesus,
help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go.
Flood my soul with your spirit and love.
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of yours.
Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus.
Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light for others.
Amen.

— Prayer of St. Teresa of Kolkata
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: Liturgy of the Word
8:00 a.m.
Tuesday 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.