St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish

February 9, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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
marypaule@ssp@gmail.com

Ms. Stephanie Oehler Wobbe, Communications Coordinator
stephaniewobbessp@gmail.com

Light shines through the darkness for the upright.
—Psalm 112:4
STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people, and it is contagious! Good works encourage more good works. Let your light shine! Be careful to recognize that God is working through you, and don’t put yourself above the people you have been called to help.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2 Contribution</td>
<td>$5,341.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online giving contribution</td>
<td>$1,616.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total weekly contribution</td>
<td>$6,957.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>R &amp; I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candlemas</td>
<td>$249.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central &amp; Eastern Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Offering</td>
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<tr>
<td>The St. Louis Review</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
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LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

Saturday, February 15
4:00 p.m. — W. Kveton, C. Deeken

Sunday, February 16
8:00 a.m. — L. Harbaugh, B. Borgmeyer
10:30 a.m. — G. Stoff, B. Stoff

SERVERS

Saturday, February 15
4:00 p.m. — Jack S., Sunny F.

Sunday, February 16
8:00 a.m. — Joseph T., Meggie G.
10:30 a.m. — Hendrix F., Elijah S.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday, St. Scholastica: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3, 4, 5 & 10, 11; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 & 40; Mk 7:24-30

Friday, Sts Cyril and Methodius: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15, Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22; Mk 8:1-10

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

If you still need a copy of your 2019 contribution statement, please 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>Day</th>
<th>February 10</th>
<th>February 11</th>
<th>February 12</th>
<th>February 13</th>
<th>February 14</th>
<th>February 15</th>
<th>February 16</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass at 8 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quilters</td>
<td>9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Perpetual Help Devotions</td>
<td>Quilters</td>
<td>7 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Pickleball 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 4 p.m.</td>
<td>8 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Name Society</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>CONFIRMATION</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>4 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.

LUKE 18 RETREAT

“Let the little children come to me. Do not stop them; for it is such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.” Luke 18:16-17

St. Stephen will be hosting a Luke 18 Retreat for 7th and 8th graders this spring! The retreat is open to all parishioners, St. Stephen students, and non-parishioners in these grade levels.

What is Luke 18? Luke 18 is a weekend-long retreat, welcoming the participants (also referred to as “Lukers”) into the Church by helping them experience God and His love — a love that is unconditional and accepts them as they are. Through high-energy games, skits, songs, personal sharing, and a series of talks given by high school students, the Lukers are encouraged to have fun and grow in their faith. The weekend offers the opportunity to experience God’s love on a more personal level, and the Lukers are challenged to share that love with those around them.

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. All family and friends are invited to attend this closing celebration.

The cost of the retreat is $35 to cover the cost of meals, supplies, T-shirts, etc. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Leigh Manalang at 314-486-0717 or Mary Regan at 314-481-1133. Registration forms are due by Feb. 28, 2020.

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. Online and printable versions of the survey (in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese) are available at www.saintstephenstl.org/survey2020. If you need a paper copy, please contact Mary at 314-481-1133 or maryreganssp@gmail.com.

Please submit all completed surveys before Feb. 14, 2020, to allow time for us to prepare for the meeting.

NEW TO THE PARISH FAMILY

Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our parish family — Heidi Bartels and son Oliver; Karen Floyd; and Spenser & Michelle Owens and daughter Nia.

CONFIRMATION

Join us for Mass on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020, at 7 p.m., during which our 7th and 8th grade confirmandi will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Mark Rivituso.

Our prayers are with them at this joyous time!

LOOKING AHEAD

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

YARN DONATIONS WELCOME

If you have any yarn around the house, the Luke 18 retreat organizers would welcome any yarn donations! We will use the yarn to make a special craft for all the participants. Thank you!
The prophet Isaiah is both concise and profound: “If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation, and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.”

These words direct our attention to the sacredness of human life and human dignity. Without mincing any words, Isaiah sees no compromise when it comes to our relationship with the hungry, homeless, naked, and afflicted. Jesus insisted on the centrality of these relationships and directly stated that what you do to one of the least of these you do to Him.

How much clearer does it need to be? Our faith speaks directly to every aspect of human need. But even today, there are many who believe that faith and social issues need to remain separate and be treated differently. There are many places where the sacredness of human life and human dignity are sacrificed. The unborn child, the immigrant, the young victim of sex trafficking, victims of war and violence, the poor and the homeless, those struggling to make ends meet who cannot find sustainable work, those on death row, victims of sexual and emotional abuse, the forgotten elderly, those who are physically or emotionally challenged, those suffering from addictions, and those who profit from enabling them are just a few examples.

For every one of these and more, there are two things that are needed. The first is an immediate compassionate response that helps to ease their burden. The second is an understanding of why each challenge exists and what needs to be done to fix it.

Both are difficult. And both require more than what social services can provide and law can accomplish. The solution requires an acceptance of what our faith directs us to do and then working towards real systemic change. There is a great deal of work to do, and it will require communities of salt and light to accomplish it. Our faith brings us into the marketplace, to the streets, to politicians, to teachers, to leaders, to governments, and to people who really do not care what Jesus has to say or what Christianity directs.

Salt brings taste, zest, and joy to life. We are asked to liven things up by allowing the joy of our faith to spill over into the lives of others. Once we are able to develop a sincere and deep relationship with God, it will define us and flow out of us. Because of that relationship, humanity can be freshened and set on proper course. This is especially true if these relationships are cultivated, shared, and enriched in communities that share the same beliefs. To be light means that our faith must translate into action so that we can be Christ for others and extend the same arm of mercy and compassion that Christ did. To be light means that through perseverance, learning, determination, and discernment, the darkness of the cause of injustice can be illumined, challenged, and remedied.

None of this is easy work.

St. Paul came to the table with weakness and a lot of trembling. He did not have persuasive words of wisdom that swept people off their feet and set them on proper course. His effectiveness came because of his relationship with Jesus Christ, which brought a demonstration of Spirit and power. His relationship with God flowed over into his life and created an example of convincing integrity. It was from this simple example that the early communities flourished and grew. Numbers were added to the faith not because of what people said, but because of how they lived. They prioritized their lives and solved their problems differently than the rest of the secular world. If it happened once, it can happen again.

As with any group poised with tackling a challenge, some members have the gifts to train hard and get right into the heart of what needs to be done. Others have different gifts and talents and may find themselves suited more for a supportive role, lending their voice of encouragement and contributing to the mission as they can. We all come with different means, but we are all on the same team. Our Lord and Master has given us the blueprint and game plan. All we need to do is put it into action! I wonder how the world would look if Christianity was actually tried for a change.

Jesus wouldn’t have gone through all of the trouble of gathering a bunch of people together, teaching them about the kingdom of God, and sending them off on a mission if he didn’t think we had the ability to handle this. A good teacher knows what their students can handle. Do we see in ourselves what God sees in us? We have the ability to be both salt and light.

We can do this!

Rev. Mark Suslenko
From LPI Connect! Sunday Reflections
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.

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. 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. Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. in the living room of the Newman House, followed by drinks and hors d'oeuvres. The event is free of charge. Please RSVP by Feb. 18 to Kay at kay@cncumsl.org or 314-385-3455.

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.

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!)

For more information, contact Leigh at 314-486-0717 or Leighsgsm@gmail.com. Our Stephen Ministers are here to care!

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.
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.

FREE CLASS FOR HOMEBUYERS

You are invited to a FREE Homebuyer Education Workshop on Feb. 11, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., at South City Excel Center (2828 Gravois Ave.).

The program is presented by Terrence Rogers of Carrollton Bank and Maureen McCuen of St. Joseph Housing Initiative. Achieve affordable and successful homeownership by becoming aware of down payment assistance programs, how to get a free credit analysis, and what documentation you need to apply for a loan.

Seating is limited. Please register online at prosperityconnection.org/class-registration. Questions? Contact Annie at apurcell@stjosephhousing.org.

FIAT WOMEN’S GROUP

All women are invited to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary (5200 Glennon Dr.) on Feb. 20, 2020, for prayer and a talk. This month’s speaker is Fr. Paul Hoesing, Vice Rector for Formation at the seminary. The rosary will be prayed at 8 a.m., and Fr. Hoesing will speak from 8:15 a.m. until 9 a.m. Coffee afterward until 9:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.kenrick.edu/ fiat.

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.
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, February 10**
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, February 11**
8:00 a.m.— Family of Senad

**Wednesday, February 12**
8:00 a.m.— Roland Keeton

**Thursday, February 13**
8:00 a.m.— N. Edward Fori

**Friday, February 14**
8:00 a.m.— Jean & Bob Westrich

**Saturday, February 15**
8:00 a.m.— Rev. Donald Kock
4:00 p.m.— Our Parishioners

**Sunday, February 16**
8:00 a.m.— Bill Jost
10:30 a.m.— Rev. Robert Manning

**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
- Evelyn Matt
- Lois McClellan
- Steve Moylan
- Dianne Neels
- Grace Phillips
- Virginia Zentheofe

for our homebound ...
- Jack Heffernan
- 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.

**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.