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
marypaulessp@gmail.com

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

ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR PARISH
March 15, 2020 • Third Sunday in Lent

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”

John 4:7

STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” (John 4:13)

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us for long.
When we build our lives around material possessions, we always want more. True Joy and Peace only come when we follow Jesus; when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

| March 8 Contribution | $ 2,922.00 |
| Online giving contribution | $ 1,761.00 |
| Total weekly contribution | $ 4,633.00 |
| R & I | $ 250.00 |
| Tuition Assistance | $ 115.00 |
| Black & Indian | $ 335.00 |
| Propagation of the Faith | $ 237.00 |

Special collections in March: Church in Central & Eastern Europe, Black & Indian Missions, Catholic Relief Services.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
Saturday, March 21
4:00 p.m. — L. Driscoll, L. Harbaugh

Sunday, March 22
8:00 a.m. — S. Gunter, C. Grindel
10:30 a.m. — S. Gaydos, E. Kovac

SERVERS
Saturday, March 21
4:00 p.m. — Zach M., Sunny F.

Sunday, March 22
8:00 a.m. — Brody Z., Gabriel S.
10:30 a.m. — Meggie G., Hendrix F.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter is scheduled for Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. Mass and Thursdays at 7 p.m. during the month of March. New members are always welcome!

CONFIRMATION OPPORTUNITY

Did you receive the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion but were never confirmed?

Our Archdiocese offers an annual opportunity for confirmation at the Cathedral Basilica; this year’s celebration is May 22, 2020. In order to receive the sacrament on that day, you must make the reservation through your parish. Please contact Mary Regan at maryreganssp@gmail.com or 314-481-1133.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday, St. Joseph: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 & 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Fourth Sunday of Lent: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday March 16</th>
<th>Tuesday March 17</th>
<th>Wednesday March 18</th>
<th>Thursday March 19</th>
<th>Friday March 20</th>
<th>Saturday March 21</th>
<th>Sunday March 22</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>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>All School Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
<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>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>50+ Club 11 a.m.</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Fish Fry 4-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Choir Practice 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Les Mis Discussion 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Finance Council 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Choir Practice 7:30 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

I am writing this note shortly after enjoying a delicious St. Patrick’s Day dinner of corned beef and cabbage at our March meeting of the Holy Name Society. I am grateful for all the good work done by this special group of men. All men of the parish and school are welcome to the gatherings on the second Tuesday of each month.

One of the concerns arising from our recent survey was how we welcome and know one another. In the next few weeks, we will be providing name badges (and lanyards or clips, as you prefer) in the back of church for your use at Mass and parish events. If you choose to participate (and we hope you do!), your badge will be yours to take home and then wear to Mass each week. As you may know, the chemotherapy I received many years ago saved my life but also affected my memory. I can know your face but maybe not be able to retrieve your name. I realize this can be frustrating for you. It is frustrating for me. The name tags will help me put names with faces, but they will also help you know one another better! With the schoolchildren, I often point out that their school uniforms identify them as being part of a team. I am hopeful you will see your name badge as a similar source of pride in our parish family!

Regarding our search for a new principal — As of this writing, we have received applications from several individuals and are finalizing our search committee. We will be interviewing very soon.

The COVID-19 virus is in the news and on our minds. To be as cautious as possible, the Archdiocese has asked us to refrain from shaking hands during the Sign of Peace. We would also ask that if you usually receive the host on your tongue that for the time being, you consider receiving in your hands or after the others in the congregation. We also ask that those who aren’t feeling well please refrain from receiving the Precious Blood.

ARE YOU AN EMBROIDERER?

The SSP Quilters are in search of volunteers who would enjoy embroidering some quilt blocks at home. Blocks and thread would be provided.

Can you help? If so, please call Joyce Stockmann at 314-752-4827.

COMMUNICATION NEWS

One of our goals is to make SSP communications as clear, consistent, integrated, and seamless as possible and to give you control over what you receive from us and how (email and/or text). To that end — and for no difference in cost — we have opted to move our digital communications from Constant Contact to Flocknote, a platform specifically designed to meet the unique needs of church communities. We sent the March e-newsletter via Flocknote, and it seemed to go without a hitch.

As a way to dip your toe in the water, we invite you to subscribe to Mary Regan’s daily Lenten reflections (which are currently being posted to our parish Facebook page). To sign up, you can either:

- visit https://StStephenProtomartyr.flocknote.com/SSPDailyLentenRe
- text SSPLent to 84576

You will then be invited to subscribe to a few other of our lists, if you’d like, and also to select whether you would like to receive our messages by email or by text — or both. Follow the instructions about verifying your email address or cell number, and then you’re good to go! You can unsubscribe at any time.

We hope you find this as easy to use as we do!

The plan is to expand the use of Flocknote, with guidance and instruction as needed. Please direct feedback or questions to Stephanie Wobbe at 314-660-1548 or stephaniewobbessp@gmail.com.
In the charity of your prayers, please remember Rose Behnen, who died recently.

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

Help wanted — Vacation Bible School

We are looking for that special someone who would be interested in coordinating our Vacation Bible School this summer. The dates of the program are flexible to accommodate the availability of an interested coordinator.

There are many worker-bee volunteers at the ready to help; we are in need of a person to manage the moving parts. Contact Mary Regan at 314-481-1133 or maryreganssp@gmail.com.

Armed forces night at Fish Fry

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.

New to the regular menu this year are fried catfish and margaritas!

The fry on March 27, 2020, will be our annual Armed Forces Night. We will be honoring members of the U.S. Military (active and veterans) and first responders (police and firefighters). We welcome photos and memorabilia to add to our display. Contact Greg Venneman at grvenneman@sbcglobal.net for more information.

SUCCESS AT SPEECH MEET!

On March 7, 2020, we hosted the Bellarmine Speech meet. Thank you to our coordinator, Amy Uttendorf; our coaches and judges; and our student volunteers. And congratulations to our team!


Prevent & Protect STL

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has developed a new system for safe environment compliance called Prevent and Protect STL.

All clergy, employees, and volunteers who minister to minors and vulnerable adults in the Archdiocese are required to register in the new system. This includes those new to service and those who are currently in service. For those who have already attended a Protecting God’s Children workshop, your previous training date will transfer to this new system.

In addition to attending a live Protecting God’s Children workshop, all clergy, volunteers, and employees will register for an updated background screening, view two new online training modules on abuse reporting and the Code of Ethical Conduct, and agree to the updated Code of Ethical Conduct.

Please go to www.preventandprotectstl.org to register. Contact SSP Child Safety Coordinator Mary Paule at 314-481-1133 or marypaulessp@gmail.com with any questions.
MEETING AT THE WELL

Annette was an active and faithful parishioner of many years. One Sunday, she asked for a moment of the pastor's time. Her voice was firm, but she didn’t sound cross or upset.

“I had surgery last week ...”

Before she finished the sentence, the pastor slumped in his chair. Weeks before, Annette had told him about her surgery and asked him to check in with her after. He said he’d be happy to do so — but he had forgotten all about it. Now he felt horrible. And she knew it.

She patted his hand. “You’re my pastor. I need you to be there for me and you weren’t. That really hurt me. I wanted to tell you this in person.”

“Oh my gosh, Annette,” the pastor stammered. “I don’t know what else is to say except you’re right. I should have been there. I am so sorry. I screwed up.”

“I know you didn’t ignore me. But I wanted you to know that the forgetting hurt. And I accept your apology,” Annette gave him a hug. Absolved. Done.

The two never spoke of it again, but the pastor never forgot. The pastor moved on to new parishes. He and Annette stayed in touch. The two spoke recently, and the pastor brought up the incident. Annette’s memory of that pastoral blunder surprised him: “She told me that I had created the environment that enabled her to address hurt directly and openly,” the pastor writes. “She said it was a big moment of growth for her to be able to do that ... A lapse in pastoral care turned into one of the best mistakes of my ministry.”


Jesus creates just such an “environment” in his meeting the Samaritan woman at the well: a safe, nonjudgmental space where the woman can see her life honestly and completely, where she is able to confront her failings and brokenness and begin to turn her life around. May we create such places and times of support and empathy around our “wells,” where all may come and drink from the waters of compassion and reconciliation.

From Connections, March 2020

FREE LENTEN CONCERT

The St. Louis Metro Singers (with which Betsy & Gary Stoff sing) will present a concert of inspirational Lenten music entitled, “Let All Creation Sing,” at St. Anthony of Padua (3140 Meramec St.) on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020, at 3 p.m. A free-will offering will be collected.

50+ CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

The St. Stephen 50+ Club has several events planned for this year:

**June 16** — Fairmount Races ($16)

**July 21** — Best Western bus trip, with show, lunch, and shopping ($77)

**Aug. 18** — Grafton Gondola Ride, with winery, lunch, and bus transportation ($104)

**Sept. 15** — Warm Springs Farm, with Clydesdales, lunch, and shopping

**Nov. 2-4** — Branson ($429 double, $519 single)

Come to our next meeting on March 19, 2020, and learn more about these events. We meet at 11 a.m. to enjoy lunch and bingo.

Contact Joyce Stockmann at 314-752-4827 with any questions.

SGSM’s AGING WISELY: HOUSING

Gerry Keene and Dana Boyland will be giving a presentation on finances and housing options on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The St. Louis Altenheim (5408 S. Broadway). Gerry will speak about creating reliable streams of income to cover alternative housing arrangements as you age. Dana will explain the levels of care and housing that are available when remaining at home is no longer possible.

There is no charge for this event. Lunch is included. RSVP to Heather at 314-351-1318, ext. 201, by March 24.

LIFE PLANNING FORUM

As a service to the Catholic community, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Foundation is presenting a free life planning forum on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at the Missouri Athletic Club West (1777 Des Peres Rd.) from 10 a.m. to noon. Prepare yourself and your family for the unexpected and hear from experts who will reveal essentials for life planning including Ethics for Moral Understanding; Wills and Trusts for Financial Certainty; Philanthropy—A Legacy for All; and Health Care Directives for Legal Harmony. Lunch and refreshments will be served. For more information or to register, please call 314-577-5605.
GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

From Scout leader Tara Ohler-Jenney, on the occasion of Girl Scout Sunday on March 8:

As Catholic Christians, we recognize the strong females whom our SSP Girl Scouts, and all SSP students, have as role models, including Mary Regan, Dr. Anne Borgmeyer, our many teachers, administrative assistant and principal, religious sisters, and the senior women of the parish, whose faithful presence quietly inspires us and the other women among us. And we are all inspired and guided by our ultimate female role model, Mary, our spiritual Mother.

Our Girl Scouts work daily to abide by the Girl Scout Promise and live by the Girl Scout Law. We recognize them for participating in their troops and leading the many Girl Scout events, such as Trunk or Treat and Breakfast with Santa, which they host for this vibrant SSP community. We thank them for service projects such as making cards and gifts for the homebound of our parish throughout the year and for participating in the as Mass ministers.

We thank their families for supporting our Girl Scouts in all of their endeavors. We could not exist without the many volunteers, primarily the mothers of Girl Scouts, who give of their time, talent, and treasure to lead, assist, and support our SSP Girl Scout troops and leaders.

We thank all the members of our parish and school who attend our events and encourage our girls. And we thank Fr. Ron for supporting the Girl Scouts of SSP.

Not only on Girl Scout Sunday but every day, we hope you will continue to support the SSP Girl Scouts, and all girls and women by recognizing our history, supporting our efforts, and celebrating our achievements.

God bless you!
**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, March 16**  
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

**Tuesday, March 17**  
8:00 a.m.— Helen Keeton

**Wednesday, March 18**  
8:00 a.m.— Bill Jost

**Thursday, March 19**  
8:00 a.m.— Marie Zielinski

**Friday, March 20**  
8:00 a.m.— Rose Behnen

**Saturday, March 21**  
8:00 a.m.— Steve Dickinson
4:00 p.m.— Michael Simon

**Sunday, March 22**  
8:00 a.m.— John & Cecilia Hopmeir  
10:30 a.m.— Our Parishioners

---

**PLEASE PRAY**

**for our sick and recovering ...**

Suzi Beck  
Liz Bentrup  
Ann Dosenbach  
Erin Goedeker  
Jan Haffer  
Paul Heidbrier  
Thomas Lorenz  
Bob Marx  
Evelyn Matt  
Lois McClellan  
Steve Moylan  
Grace Phillips  
Virginia Zenthoefer

**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  
**Stations of the Cross**, Lenten Wednesdays at 7 p.m., Fridays at 2 p.m.  
**Weekdays**, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m.: Church is available for prayer. Stop by the rectory for entry.
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