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 8, 2020 • Second Sunday in Lent

Christ Jesus . . . destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. — 2 Timothy 1:10b
Stewardship: Sharing Time, Talent, Treasure, and Prayer

“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1)

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him.

Some of the old ways that we may have to struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness, and greed.

Yet God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said:

“God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful.”

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

| March 1 Contribution | $ 5,572.00 |
| Online giving contribution | $ 2,142.00 |
| Total weekly contribution | $ 7,714.00 |
| R & I | $ 410.00 |
| Tuition Assistance | $ 626.00 |
| Black & Indian | $ 167.00 |
| Catholic Relief Services | $ 30.00 |
| Central & Eastern Europe | $ 81.00 |
| Propagation of the Faith | $ 10.00 |

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

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS

Saturday, March 14
4:00 p.m. — B. Borgmeyer, P. Cooper

Sunday, March 15
8:00 a.m. — B. Stoff, G. Stoff
10:30 a.m. — C. Deeken, B. Dowd

SERVERS

Saturday, March 14
4:00 p.m. — Elijah S., Jack S.

Sunday, March 15
8:00 a.m. — Tommy G., Ben W.
10:30 a.m. — Joseph T., Gregory F.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11 & 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 & 23; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Third Sunday of Lent: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday March 9</th>
<th>Tuesday March 10</th>
<th>Wednesday March 11</th>
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<th>Sunday March 15</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., Baptismal Service</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>Fish Fry 4-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass 8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Holy Name Society 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Quilters 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Stations of the Cross 2 p.m.</td>
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<td>Mass 8 a.m. &amp; 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Les Mis Discussion 7 p.m.</td>
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St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish www.saintstephenstl.org

Sunday Contribution

March 1 Contribution $ 5,572.00
Online giving contribution $ 2,142.00
Total weekly contribution $ 7,714.00
R & I $ 410.00
Tuition Assistance $ 626.00
Black & Indian $ 167.00
Catholic Relief Services $ 30.00
Central & Eastern Europe $ 81.00
Propagation of the Faith $ 10.00

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

FEBRUARY MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP

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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

We had a great turnout for our Gathering for Growth meeting last Sunday! Ninety-plus parishioners came to express their thoughts on our parish and school community. Many helpful ideas and suggestions were brought forward. It was great to see such enthusiasm as we look to the future. This discussion will continue as a smaller group of representatives from the gathering will meet on April 19 to look more closely at input received and how to proceed. We will keep you informed as we move on.

As we shared last week, our principal, Michel Wendell, has announced she will be resigning her position at the end of the school year to pursue other opportunities within the Archdiocese. We want to assure you that we recognize the importance and urgency of securing a new principal. We have notified the appropriate parties at the Archdiocese of our open position, and the position should be posted by the time you are reading this bulletin. I am in the process of forming a representative search committee to screen and interview candidates for the job. We will continue to keep you informed. Please keep Ms. Wendell in your prayers as she prepares for this new chapter.

This weekend we are celebrating Girl Scout Sunday at our 10:30 a.m. Mass. We welcome the opportunity to celebrate the young women of our parish and their leaders. Last Saturday, Gabe and Max Manalang became our newest Eagle Scouts, and I extend my congratulations to them. We are proud of our long history of scouting here at St. Stephen.

Our parish is a very busy place at this time of year. I encourage you to join us for a fish fry or Stations of the Cross. We also invite you to take home a Rice Bowl or a little black book, which you can find in the back of church.

Peace,

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter will begin this Sunday, March 8, 2020, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. The choir will also practice on Thursday, March 12, at 7 p.m., and all the remaining Sundays and Thursdays in March. New members are always welcome!

LOOKING FOR HELP AT SCHOOL

As you know, these days there are fewer moms and dads available to help out at school during the day, now that both parents are often working full-time. As a result, our teachers have been bearing most of the load of recess and lunch duty, which cuts into the little break time they may have during the school day.

Would you have time to help out, regularly or occasionally, by being an adult presence for a short period in either the cafeteria or in the school yard?

Contact school administrative assistant Amanda Quinn at 314-752-4700 or amandaquinnssp@gmail.com for available slots or for more information.

The Archdiocese does require that all adult volunteers complete the Protecting God’s Children workshop. If you have not already completed the program, please contact Mary Paule at 314-481-1133 or marypaulessp@gmail.com for more information.

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.
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.

LES MIS FOR LENT
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. 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.

The program is running Monday evenings during Lent at 7 p.m in the parish hall. It’s not required, but if you’d like to prepare, watch one of the film adaptations, listen to the Broadway soundtrack, or read the book — or maybe the SparkNotes! Come when you can.

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.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED
In the charity of your prayers, please remember Marie Zielinski, the sister of Ann Dosenbach, who died recently.

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

ACE CARDS JUST GOT EASIER!
As you know, our ACE (Achieving Catholic Education) program is a way to support our school at no cost to you. You purchase retailer gift cards through our office, and our school gets a percentage value of the cards.

We are excited to now offer you the option to purchase cards online! Some retailers offer electronic gift cards which are immediately available to you on your phone at checkout. Others will send a gift card to the parish office after you place your order online.

There are hundreds of vendors to choose from and it only takes a few minutes to set up an online profile! Just follow the instructions below.

1. Go to myscripwallet.com
2. Select “Create an Account.”
3. Enter the Enrollment Code C1D7C62E7631 (This ensures that SSP gets credit for your purchase.)
4. Select "Register" and check the box "I am not a robot." (Unless you are a robot ...)
5. Complete the profile information for yourself. (Our school families are required to purchase ACE cards as part of the tuition agreement. If there is a student you would like to apply your purchases to, please include their name on your profile information.)

Once you set up your profile, you can save this as a favorite website to your phone or desktop. At this time an app is not available; you will need to access the program through a browser.

In order to receive your cards electronically to your phone or device, you will need to set up your bank account (fee of $0.15 per purchase) or credit card (fee of 2.85% of purchase) in your profile by clicking on the menu at the top of the screen.

Please contact June Tessin at 314-481-1133 or junetessinssp@gmail.com with questions.

Thank you for your support of our school!
TRANSFIGURING OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES

The story of the Transfiguration maps out some steps we need to take in our journey of prayer. First, we must climb the mountain; second, we must look upon Jesus; and third, we must go back down the mountain to tell others what we have seen.

First, we must climb the mountain. Before revealing his glory to Peter, James, and John, Jesus leads them up a high mountain. Climbing a mountain takes a good deal of effort. There’s always the danger of falling off a cliff or running into a wild animal. Also, the higher one climbs, the thinner the air is and the harder it becomes to breathe.

The apostles’ experience teaches us something profound about the spiritual life. God often does not reveal himself until we are willing to make the hard journey up the mountain. That mountain could be a sin that we have to overcome, an unhealthy relationship, or sickness. Every challenge we experience is an invitation from God to climb the mountain so that He can reveal His glory to us. We may not understand why God has put those obstacles in our path and made things so hard for us. However, if we ask Him, He will give us the strength to endure whatever may come. And, with time, we will see and be amazed by God’s mercy.

The second truth of the spiritual life which the Transfiguration teaches us is that we are meant to see the vision of God. Unlike the apostles, we do not see Jesus face to face. How, then, do we get a glimpse of him in all his glory? The central and most important way is in the Mass. At every Eucharist, the Risen Lord is truly present in our midst. When the readings are proclaimed, it is Jesus’ voice that we hear. When we receive the Eucharist, we touch the body of the Risen Lord just as the apostles did, and we are transformed by him.

For that reason, the Sunday Mass is an indispensable part of our Christian life and spirituality. While it is very good to read the Bible, pray the rosary, and contemplate the beauty of nature, none of those activities compare with the gift offered us in the Eucharist. While those activities can give us some insight into Jesus and his love, they cannot actually give us Jesus himself as the Eucharist does. There is no substitute for the real, life-changing encounter we have with the Risen Lord in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood which we receive every Sunday.

The third truth of the spiritual life is that we cannot stay on the mountain. We must go back down to witness to others the Jesus we have come to know. The experience the apostles had of Jesus was overwhelming. It filled them both with awe and fear. Understandably, Peter does not want it to end. He wants to stay there, camping out with Jesus, Elijah, and Moses forever. But Jesus does not allow it. The vision of his glory comes to an abrupt end, and he leads them back down the mountain to continue preaching the good news and healing the sick.

Many times, when we are praying and feeling God’s presence all around us, we do not want it to end. We want to stay basking in the warmth of God’s love. That is entirely natural because we were created to praise God and never feel so much “at home” as when we are praying. But it is not enough. The spiritual life is never just a private affair. From worship, we must go into service. We must come down the mountain and point out the way to encounter God to others so they may share our joy.

Douglas Sousa, S.T.L.
From LPI Connect! Sunday Reflections

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.
FREE LENTEN CONCERT

The St. Louis Metro Singers (with which Betsy and 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. There is no charge to attend, but a free-will offering will be collected. Come join this outstanding chorus in an emotional musical experience fit for the Lenten season.

DINNER AUCTION

St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church (1408 S. 10th St.) is hosting its annual Dinner Auction on Saturday, March 21, 2020, from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are $75 each, which includes a formal catered dinner with cocktails and appetizers. All money raised will support the work of the parish’s food pantry and lunch window. In addition, this year the parish is hoping to expand its after-school tutoring program for at-risk youth in the city as well as help senior citizens with the increasing costs of medications.

For more information or to make reservations, visit www.SVDP2020.givesmart.com.

LENT MISSION RETREAT

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church (4924 Bancroft Ave.) is hosting a Lenten Mission Retreat with Fr. Joe Laramie, S.J., at 7 p.m. each evening from March 22 to 25, 2020. Each evening’s topic will be taken from Fr. Joe’s book Abide in the Heart of Christ, which is based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola.

There is no cost to attend the retreat; free-will offerings will be accepted. It is recommended that you purchase Fr. Laramie’s book before the retreat. The cost is $15; you can order it through March 10 by calling the church office at 314-352-2111, ext. 4.

BOOK STUDY

The Aquinas Institute of Theology (23 S. Spring Ave.) is hosting a book discussion series that will explore spirituality for the second half of life.

Using the book Falling Upward, by Richard Rohr, the study will explore the questions, tasks, and gifts God gives us as we move into a deeper spiritual maturity. There will be opportunity for sharing and listening, community building, and prayer. The Study Series will be held on four consecutive Thursday evenings this spring — March 12 through April 2. The group is limited to 20 participants.

The facilitator is Fr. Mark Wedig, a Dominican friar and the President of the Institute.

For more information or to register, contact Angie Doerr at 314-256-8858 or doerr@ai.edu.

TRIP TO HOLY LAND AND EGYPT

Father Sebastian Mundackal, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, is leading an 11-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Egypt Oct. 19-30, 2020. The cost of the trip $3,500. For more information, please contact Fr. Sebastian at 636-212-1799.

SCOOPS OF FUN

If you want to eat ice cream, explore the Magic House and help kids, Scoops of Fun on April 18, 2020, is for you! It’s an all-you-can-eat ice cream social at the Magic House Children’s Museum (516 S. Kirkwood Rd.) with proceeds benefiting The Footprints Program at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital.

Tickets are $15 per person and available at www.glennon.org. Call 314-577-5605 for more information.
**MASS INTENTIONS**

Monday, March 9  
8:00 a.m.— Liturgy of the Word

Tuesday, March 10  
8:00 a.m.— Hilda & Robert Billing

Wednesday, March 11  
8:00 a.m.— Jean Westrich

Thursday, March 12  
8:00 a.m.— John Hopmeir

Friday, March 13  
8:00 a.m.— N. Edward Forti, Ed Dosenbach

Saturday, March 14  
8:00 a.m.— Martha Grega  
4:00 p.m.— Vera Heberer

Sunday, March 15  
8:00 a.m.— Our Parishioners  
10:30 a.m.— Class of 1961

---

**PLEASE PRAY**

for our sick and recovering ...  
Suzi Beck  
Paul Heidbrier  
Steve Moylan

Liz Bentrup  
Thomas Lorenz  
Grace Phillips

Ann Dosenbach  
Bob Marx  
Virginia Zenthoefer

Erin Goedeker  
Evelyn Matt

Jan Haffer  
Lois McClellan

for our homebound ...  
Jack Heffernan  
Albertine Honious  
Art Petersen

for family members serving in the military ...  
Derek Hirtz  
Ryan O'Neil  
Dylan Schulte

Tristan Moylan  
Brian Schoellhorn  
Mitch Sollmann

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**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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**SAINT STEPHEN**

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.