



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 19, 2023

Weekend Masses: Saturday (Vigil) 5:00 PM Sunday
8:30, 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM
Reconciliation: Friday: 9:15 AM & Saturday: 3:00-4:00 PM
or by Appointment (Call Main Office)
Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration - See pg 2

Parish Office (253) 631-1940
Faith Formation (253) 631-6175
13055 SE 192nd Street Renton, WA 98058
www.ststephenslife.com
Listing of Parish Staff on the back inside page

Words from Fr. Ed

*But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be children of your heavenly Father,
for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,
and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.*

"...love your enemies..."



To "love your enemies" is not easy. It is supernatural. We need Jesus in order to do this. Think of an enemy. How does that feel? Often, as discussed in last week's Gospel about anger, we're still angry. We have not forgiven them, nor have we prayed for their well-being. By the definition found above, we're not yet "children of" our heavenly Father.

Lord, have mercy, and grant us this grace to forgive in the name of Jesus. As I shared in my homily last week, there is a simple prayer that might help us:

In the name of Jesus, I forgive (name of person who hurt us) for (what did they do to hurt us). Amen

As Lent quickly approaches, it's a good time to forgive our enemies and become true children of our heavenly Father.

Understanding the Liturgy

I want to continue to emphasize and recap the truths of the liturgy that will transform us and our world.

1) Prepare

- The more prepared we are, the more we will get. The best way I know of to prepare is to go over the readings beforehand.
- Adjust your attitude. Are you coming as a passive spectator? Critical observer? Or receptive participant? (Tom Curran, The Mass.)
- Know that liturgy means a work for the people. In this case it is a work by God for the people. He has prepared the way for us to be totally blessed in the Holy Mass.

2) Bless

- The narthex is that narrowing foyer that leads us into the church, transitioning from the world to heaven.
- The font, like Baptism, is the gate of heaven (porta Caeli), the entrance and door of the Church, literally and mystically.
- Bless yourself at the font +++
- Say a prayer, like "Jesus, cleanse me of my sin."
- Breathe. The Lord is kind and merciful. Praise Him.

3) Process

- Christ the High Priest enters.
- The veil is torn, all heaven opens to us, the ekklesia (from the Greek: ek = out and kalein = called) enter, represented by servers and lectors. The Book of the Gospels tells us that Jesus is going to speak to us. The ecclesia is the church, those "called out" from this world into the heavenly court, with heavenly worship in spirit and in truth.

4) Forgive

- We confess our sins, confident in God's infinite mercy.
- We praise God because His mercy has led us into this holy assembly.

5) Collect

- The Church has gathered ('collected').
- 2000 years of Christianity contributes to the sentiments of the Church at this moment through the Opening Prayer (Collect) as we prepare to receive His Word and Sacrament.

3 Methods of Prayer

Taking 10+ minutes of prayer a day, you can use several different methods of prayer:

- Take the Bible**, beginning with Luke 10:1-4 (or any passage), read the passage and think about what you have read. Then speak to God about what you think, see what happens, and listen.
- Take the Sacred Story words**: Creation – Presence – Memory – Mercy – Eternity, repeating them slowly, breathing deeply, and speaking to God what comes to mind when you say each word. Listen and observe your feelings.
- Take the simple Jesus Prayer**, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me." Repeat it slowly, breathing in deeply on the name of Jesus, then breathing out while saying, "Have mercy on me." Notice what His name produces in your soul.

At the end of your prayer time, jot a few notes using the Sacred Story questions, "What increased your faith, hope, or love, etc.?" and "What decreased your faith, hope, or love...?"

Also, we will begin our Lenten Mission next week with Fr. Blount presiding and preaching on Sunday the 26th through Wednesday the 1st of March. Please mark your calendars.

Fr. Ed

Weekly Readings

February 19 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

February 20 Monday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29

February 21 Tuesday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time

Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37

February 22 Ash Wednesday

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

February 23 Thursday after Ash Wednesday

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

February 24 Friday after Ash Wednesday

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

February 25 Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

February 26 First Sunday of Lent

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

Parish Calendar

Sunday February 19

8:30 am - 9:30 am
11:00 am - 12:15 pm
12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
3:30 pm - 4:50 pm
5:00 pm - 6:15 pm
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Mass (Live Streamed)
Mass
Confirmation Class
Prayer Teams
Mass
Apologetics

Monday February 20

9:00 am - 9:30 am
10:00 am - 11:45 am
6:30 pm - 7:15 pm

Darling Dusters
Food Bank (Drive Thru)
Mass (Live Streamed)

Tuesday February 21

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
6:30 pm - 7:15 pm
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Scripture Study
Mass (Live Streamed)
Scripture Study
RCIA

Wednesday February 22

ASHWEDNESDAY

8:00 am - 12:00 pm
9:00 am - 10:00 am

Campus Crew
Mass

4:00 pm - 5:45 pm
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
7:15 pm - 7:45 pm

Food Bank (Drive Thru)
Mass
Mass

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
Adoration and Reconciliation
Sacred Story
Young Adults

Thursday February 23

8:30 am - 9:15 am
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Mass (Live Streamed)
St. Vincent de Paul
Encounter Ministry

Friday February 24

6:30 am - 7:30 am
8:30 am - 9:15 am
9:00 am - 10:00 am
9:15 am - 11:00 am
10:00 am - 11:45 am
5:15 pm
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
6:15 pm - 7:00 pm

Men's Prayer/Reflection
Mass (Live Streamed)
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sacred Story
Food Bank (Drive Thru)
Fish Fry
Encounter Transformation Night
Stations of the Cross

Saturday February 25

8:30 am - 9:15 am
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
5:00 pm - 6:15 pm

Mass (Live Streamed)
Prepares
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Vigil Mass

Parish Financials - Included are last weekend's collection, the weekend before, and the fiscal year to date through the last full month.

| Weekly Collections | Feb. 04 & Feb. 05, 2023 | Jan. 28 & Jan. 29, 2023 | FY To date July 1 2022- Dec. 31 2022 |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Collections-actual | 17,883 | 26,967 | 594,310 |
| Collections-Budget | 54,769 | 11,257 | 633,661 |
| Variance | (36,886) | 15,710 | (39,351) |
| *EFT-Actual | 10,128 | 9,236 | 283,778 |
| *EFT-Budget | 9,330 | 10,233 | 312,910 |
| Variance | 798 | (997) | (29,132) |
| Total Collections | (36,088) | 14,713 | (68,483) |
| Variance | | | |

*EFT= Electronic Funds Transfer (Online Collections)

New Fiscal Year began 7/01/2022



Share your Gifts and Talents at St. Stephen's

These are a few needs at the moment contact Beth Nieva for more information.

Screen Operator

Once a month run the screens at the Saturday 5 PM Mass or Sunday 11 AM Mass. Ideal candidates are comfortable using a PC, attentive to the action of the liturgy, able to confidently "go with the flow."

Altar Server Closet Keeper

Once a week straighten the Altar Server closet. Wash and iron garments periodically, as needed. The ideal candidate appreciates order and cleanliness. Work alone or with a friend on your own schedule.

Altar Server Mentor

Train young people in the skills and spirituality of altar serving. Ideal candidates like working with children and teens, are naturally encouraging, good communicators, and love the Holy Eucharist and the sacred action of the liturgy.

Talents Team

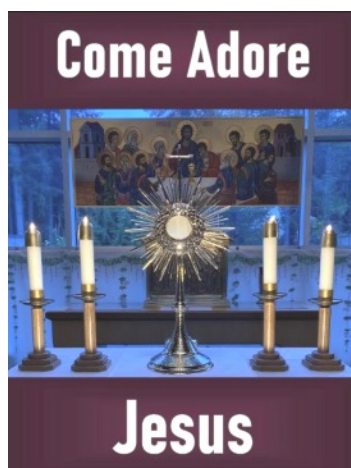
Assist with connecting volunteers to ministries. Make phone calls to welcome new people, send emails, and assist with follow-up paperwork.

Welcome Team

Bring a smile to the Narthex before and after Masses. Assist with simple questions and welcome visitors.

Greeter and Ushers

Do you already attend the 8:30 am Mass? Joe could use your help. Assist families with seating, help with the collection and Communion. This is a great way to assist with the smooth flow of Mass and get to know others.



Adoration Invitation Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Stephen's is now perpetual!

- Jesus is exposed daily from midnight to midnight
- No adoration during regularly scheduled Masses
- Wednesday Night Adoration in the Sanctuary.
- To sign up or for more information:
- Visit the adoration table in the Narthex after Mass

For more information <https://ststephenslife.com/eucharistic-adoration>
Call Tina 206-715-8462 or Bernie 206-427-6085.

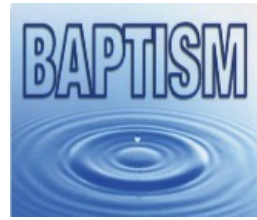
Liturgy of the Hours <https://ststephenslife.com/holy-mass-live-stream>

Mon - Fri 6:30 -7:30 AM Holy Hour, Office of Reading Morning Prayer
Mon - Fri 12:00 PM Angelus
Mon - Fri 3:00 PM Divine Mercy
Mon - Fri 5:30 PM Evening Prayer
Sat - Sun 7:30 PM Evening Prayer

Faith Formation Programs



Children and Teen Faith Formation and Sacrament programs K-12th grade are now underway.



Baptism Classes In-person classes to prepare for Infant Baptism are now available. **Pre-registration is required to attend.** Class size will be limited, and you must have proof of preregistration to be admitted. Please, only 2 parents, baby, 2 godparents (5 total) per family. Pre-

register by calling or emailing Teresa Wright, Pastoral Assistant for Infant Baptism at (253) 480-7106, ext. 120 or twright@ststephenslife.com.

For updates on our programs please access our website at: <https://www.ststephenslife.com/faith-formation>. Families - **We need Volunteers! Ask in prayer -- are you called to help in some way?** We look forward to meeting you!! For our Faith Formation office contact Maria Trejo at mtrejo@ststephenslife.com or at (253) 631-6175, ext. 115. For K-12th grade and our overall Director, contact Shannon Battles at sbattles@ststephenslife.com or at (253) 480-7112, ext. 114.

| FLOCKNOTE SIGNUP | |
|------------------|--------------|
| First Name | Last Name |
| Email Address | Mobile Phone |
| Sign Me Up! | |

Parents: Please sign-up for Flocknote so you can get program and parish news, as well as emergency updates! To sign up for Flocknote, go to bottom of the first page of our website: ststephenslife.com.



If you are planning to be married in 2023 or 2024, please contact Teresa Wright twright@ststephenslife.com or 253-480-7106

Marriage preparation classes are required, and they will be starting in April. You must contact Teresa well in advance to enroll.



Attention Youth: The Living Stations are Coming! Lent is just around the corner, and our annual tradition is set to return! Watch for details in the bulletin or weekly Update. For questions contact Bill Swedberg at 253-480-7107 or email bswedberg@ststephenslife.com.



Sign-up here for Living Stations of the Cross



The Knights of Columbus Council 13374 would like to express our deepest appreciation to the parishioners of St. Stephen the Martyr Parish for your generous donations that made Coats for Kids a tremendous success this season. The Knights distributed 192 coats to charities serving the local community including: St. Stephen Housing Association, Catholic Community Services Kinship Program, St. Vincent de Paul, the Gabriel Prepares Program, and Vine Maple Place that was supported by the Terrific Tuesday Meals program. The Knights held three in-person distribution events for the St. Stephen Housing Association, and the CCS Kinship program that featured Kent Mayor Dana Ralph. Become a Knight and be a part of this story. The Coats for Kids program is just one of many ways that the Knights of Columbus puts faith into action. Join today!



You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization! Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

Here's how to take part:

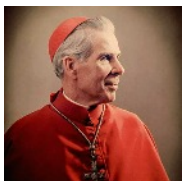
- **Vigil location:** Outside Cedar River Clinic
263 Rainier Ave S #200 Renton, WA
- **Vigil hours:** 7 am to 7 pm daily, except Sunday
- **Local contact:** Mary K, 253-217-6817, 19JMJ54@comcast.net
- **Learn more** and get involved by visiting our campaign:

40daysforlife.com/en/renton

February 22 to April 2
40 DAYS FOR LIFE



ST ANTHONY SCHOOL



Thank you with your generous donations we were able to adopt seven families at Christmas. This included 26 individuals. We provided \$100-\$150 gift card for a Christmas dinner and \$75 for each neighbor's gift.

Now Enrolling: St. Anthony School - Are you interested in your child receiving a mission-based, community-focused Catholic education? For nearly 100 years, St. Anthony School has educated the whole child to better the world and serve others. St. Anthony is now enrolling for all grades for next school year (2023-2024). Please visit our website at www.sasr.org or email Jean Dang at dang@sasr.org to set up a school tour or to learn more info.

Seeking a full-time school Accounts Manager. Job requirements would include experience with Online bookkeeping, customer relations, purchasing and vendor relations. Please submit a cover letter and resume to Deacon Michael Cantu, Principal, at cantu@sasr.org. E-mail submittal is preferred.

Are You Interested in Homeschooling?

The beauty of the program is you can start at any time, even mid-year. SSTM Home School Co-op offers support to families and helps our students grow in their Catholic faith. If you have questions please reach out to Beth Nieva or Stephanie Firth at sstm.homeschool@gmail.com

February 2023 Events for Life

February 1-21- Prayer Partners stand vigil at the Cedar River Clinic, 263 Rainier Ave S, Renton. They stand on Wednesday 9:30-10:30 am. Prayer partners are also there Thursdays 9:30-Noon. Care Net Ultrasound Mobile unit is in Renton from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm every Thursday each month. Partners also stand on Fridays 11:00am-Noon and Saturdays 9:30am-11:30am.

February 22 - April 2 - Renton 40 Days for Life Campaign begins - For more information go to St. Stephen Respect Life webpage: <https://ststephenslife.com/respect-life> for more information and to sign in and up to stand vigil in the Renton campaign. For questions contact Mary K at: 19jmj54@comcast.net or Bernie W at: bkwit6gc@msn.com

Safe Environment Classes at St. Stephen's. These classes are required for new volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults or anyone who would like more information on how to keep kids safe. Class dates March 10 at 10 am. Sign up here www.virtusonline.org (click on first time registrant) If you have questions about Safe Environment classes or how to sign up, contact Beth Nieva at bnieva@ststephenslife.com 253-480-7105.

Grief Ministry - If you are grieving the death of a loved one, come find strength and compassion with the St. Stephen's Virtual Grief Support Group on Sunday, February 19th from 1:00-2:30 pm. Our topic will be "Family and Friends Grieve, Too." For more information and to register, please contact Sharon Rasmussen at srasmussen910@yahoo.com. "I am the Lord your God. I am holding your hand so don't be afraid. I am here to help you."

Faith Insights from Bishop Fulton Sheen: *"America, it is said, is suffering from intolerance - it is not. It is suffering from tolerance. Tolerance of right and wrong, truth and error, virtue and evil, Christ and chaos. Our country is not nearly so overrun with the bigoted as it is overrun with the broadminded. A man may stand for the justice of God, but a woman stands for His Mercy. We hate other, and call it "zeal"; we flatter others because of what they can do for us, and call it "love"; we lie to them, and call it tact."*

Food Bank - We had a busy 2022 at the Food Bank (Pantry). With your generous donations, we served 2,215 families! That number amounted to feeding 7,950 people, with 6,610 bags of food, 1,944 half-gallons of milk, and eggs (dozens). You also funded a very successful Thanksgiving Dinner that served 200 people, and 5 parish families had a happier Christmas thanks to your generosity. A hearty thank you goes out to you all from the Food Pantry.

Give up a Saturday for Lent - Save the Date: March 25. Come and help us spruce up the Church and grounds to get ready for Easter.

Join us for the Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus will be offering their famous fish fry on Friday, February 24 from 5:15-6:15. Come for Encounter Transformation Night or the Stations of the Cross and save the cooking for the Knights.

Falling in Love



With Jesus

Parish Mission with Fr. James Blount

Father James Blount is a priest of the Society of Our Lady of the Trinity, (SOLT) Georgia Mission. He is a gifted spiritual director, confessor, and preacher, endowed and empowered by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Fr. Blount, known for his humility and untiring drive, will speak about growing in a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

A free will offering will be taken. All are welcome!



Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Evenings (Feb 27 - Mar 1), 6:00 - 9:00 PM

6:00 PM Masses ✦ Inspirational Talks ✦ Healing Ministry ✦ Confessions Wed.

Parish Information

New to St. Stephen's? Welcome! Learn more about our vibrant community by visiting our web site at www.ststephenslife.com. Registration forms are online or may be obtained from the ushers and put in the collection basket or mailed in. **Bulletin Notices:** The **content deadline is 12:00 PM on the Friday** a week before the weekend you wish it to appear (8 days in advance). Notices about parish events or items of interest to the parish are welcome, however posting cannot be guaranteed. Email notices to: ourbulletin@gmail.com.

Main Office Phone: TEL 253-631-1940 / FAX 425-255-2943 Ten digit phone numbers listed below are direct lines.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Pastor | Fr. Edward G. White | For Fr. Ed contact his assistant, Betty Mencke 253-480-7103 (100) |
| Parochial Vicar | Fr. Robert Antony | 253-480-7111 (132) FatherRobert@ststephenslife.com |
| Deacon | Dec. Carl Chilo | ssmdeaconcarlchilo@gmail.com |
| Deacon | Dec. Sonny Ungco | sonny.ungco@gmail.com |
| Deacon | Dec. Ike Tarabi | ike.tarabi@outlook.com |
| Dir. of Parish Operations | Tom Jones | 253-480-7114 (103) tjones@ststephenslife.com |
| Pastoral Associate | Anne Merklin | 253-480-7108 (126) AMerklin@ststephenslife.com |
| Pastoral Assistant for Outreach | Darlene Simpson | 253-480-7121 (127) Dsimpson@ststephenslife.com |
| Office Manager/Pastor's Assistant | Betty Mencke | 253-480-7103 (100) bmencke@ststephenslife.com |
| Liturgy Coordinator | Janet Denby-Stewart | 253-480-7115 (102) JStewart@ststephenslife.com |
| Pastoral Care | Marijean Heutmaker | 253-480-7116 (106) Mheutmaker@ststephenslife.com |
| Bookkeeper | Debbie Blakey | 253-480-7113 (101) DBlakely@ststephenslife.com |
| Facilities & Parish Life Coordinator | Kim Anderson | 253-480-7120 (129) KAnderson@ststephenslife.com |
| Director of Faith Formation | Shannon Battles | 253-480-7112 (114) SBattles@ststephenslife.com |
| Youth Ministry | Shannon Battles (interim) | teens@ststephenslife.com |
| Young Adult Ministry/Talents Ministry | Beth Nieva | 253-480-7105 (123) bnieva@ststephenslife.com |
| Evangelization & Communications | Bill Swedberg | 253-480-7107 (121) bswedberg@ststephenslife.com |
| Baptism & Marriage | Teresa Wright | 253-480-7106 (120) Twright@ststephenslife.com |
| Little Saints Preschool | Shannon Battles | 253-480-7112 (114) ssm.littlesaints@gmail.com |
| Faith Formation Support Coordinator | Maria Trejo | 253-631-6175 (115) MTrejo@ststephenslife.com |
| St Stephen Housing Association | | 253-480-7122 office@ststephenhousing.org |
| SVDP Help-Line | | 206-767-6449 |
| Custodial Support | Soo Kim | |

Marriage: Couples seeking Marriage must contact the church 9 months before their wedding date. Some preparation and Parish Registration are required before a date can be set. Contact Teresa Wright for details concerning marriage at (253) 631-6175, Ext. 120.

Annulments: (for those who are divorced): For compassionate and confidential answers to your questions and for help through the annulment process, please contact our parish Tribunal Advocate, Veronica Smith-Casem, at vsmithcasem@gmail.com or 425-301-0356.

Baptism: Preparation and Parish Registration are required for both Parents and Godparents/Sponsors. Baptisms are held monthly. Contact the Faith Formation Office for details (253-631-6175).

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) For adults desiring to become Catholic, including those needing baptism. Contact Anne Merklin 253-631-1940 ext 126. ssmassociate@gmail.com

Praying For Sick

Renato Desiderio, Jim Steckler, Linda Marie Parker, Grace Ragonesi, Kelley Chaves, Angelina Rivera, Leila Rivera-Abada

If you or a loved one would like to be included in the bulletin listing please contact Betty Mencke at 253-631-1940.

Recent Deaths

Larry Kelly, Karen Gorg, Ann Erhart, Margie Voountarioso, Paulo Falaniko, Rita Canine, Tom Thiel, Maria Soto, Pat O'Connell, Joan Sevigny, Thomas Lorezca, Maria Coluccio, Joseph Marci, Adrian Perez, Walter Joseph Koczor, brother of Mary Kasprzyk, Terry Strom, Rose Heryla, Mary Ann Schofield, Violeta Castaneda, Mary Claire Duncan and Adrian Abada, Robert Paulsen

Serving in the Military

Captain Philip Clay, LT Luke Carpenter (deployed), Major Stephen Snelling, Jack Cullers US, Zenaida Roth, Daniel Dobbs Japan, Joey Buslon Poland

To add names to the box, please email ourbulletin@gmail.com, or contact Betty Mencke, 253-631-1940.

To contact the Prayer Chain, please see Teresa Wright, at 425-255 0301 or teresa2pray@gmail.com



Rachel's Corner: Hope and Healing After Abortion *The Lord sets prisoners free; the Lord gives sight to the blind. The Lord raises up those who are bowed down.* - Psalm 146: 7-8 When thoughts come to your mind regarding the day you were involved in an abortion decision, do they make you feel blind to hope, entrapped in regret and burdened with shame? Call for a compassionate, confidential conversation, and be free again. **Registering now for our Virtual Healing Series.** English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 Email projectrachel@ccsww.org Visit us at www.ccsww.org/projectrachel or www.facebook.com/projectrachelww Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services. **You are loved with an everlasting love!**