



Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time November 5, 2023

Weekend Masses: Saturday (Vigil) 5:00 PM Sunday 8:30,11:00 AM and 5:30 PM (Note Time Change) 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

... do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example.

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you,



tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Mt 23:1-12

Authority is a part of human life. The word 'authority' comes from the same root as 'author'. The ultimate author is God. His creation of us comes with a sense of authority, beginning with an imperative command to Adam and Eve:

Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. (Gen. 1:38)

Notice that God shares His own authority by giving humans 'dominion' over creation.

One of the great tragedies in history is the detachment of humanity from this first command integral with our fertility and family life. Strangely, many married couples are following the example of celibates and bearing no children. Of course, there are exceptions to the rule, but the norm for marriage is to observe the natural law. The Church was very clear when She said through Pope Paul VI:

If therefore there are well-grounded reasons for spacing births, arising from the physical or psychological condition of husband or wife, or from external circumstances, the Church teaches that married people may then take advantage of the natural cycles immanent in the reproductive system and engage in marital intercourse only during those times that are infertile, thus controlling birth in a way which does not in the least offend the moral principles ...

The natural norm, however, is to be open to life. This is one of the intentions that we ask the couple before they make their vows in the Sacrament of Matrimony:

"(Name) and (name), have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?"

"Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live?"

"Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?"

The confidence of a couple to make such intentions flows from the truth that:

Married love particularly reveals its true nature and nobility when we realize that it takes its origin from God, who "is love," the Father "from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named." Bearing children takes courage, but still, it is beneficial to the couple as they fulfill the potential of their gifts.

...[T]his love is fecund. It is not confined wholly to the loving interchange of husband and wife; it also contrives to go beyond this to bring new life into being. "Marriage and conjugal love are by their nature ordained toward the procreation and education of children. Children are really the supreme gift of marriage and contribute in the highest degree to their parents' welfare."

Let us pray for our courageous young couples that they follow Our Lord and the wisdom of the Church by bringing new life into our world.

J180

Weekly Readings

November 5 Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; Ps 131:1-3; 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13; Mt 23:1-12

November 6 Monday of the Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time Rom 11:29-36; Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36; Lk 14:12-14

November 7 Tuesday of the Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time Rom 12:5-16ab; Ps 131:1bcde, 2-3; Lk 14:15-24

November 8 Wednesday of the Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33

November 9 Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

November 10 Memorial of Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 16:1-8

November 11 Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15

November 12 Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

Parish Calendar

Sunday November 5

8:30 am – 9:30 am Mass (live-streamed)

11:00 am –12:00 pm 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Mass Mass Apologetics

Monday November 6

9:00 am – 9:30 am
10:00 am – 11:45 am
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm
6:30 pm – 7:15 pm
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Mass (live-streamed)
Marriage Prep Class

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Knights of Columbus 4th Degree

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Women of Grace

Tuesday November 7

9:00 am - 11:30 am Scripture Study 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm Mass (live-streamed) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Scripture Study 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Stephens Ministry 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm RCIA - Inquiry Sessions 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm True Heart

Wednesday November 8

8:00 am – 12:00 pm 10:00 am – 10:45 am 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm

Campus Crew Rosary Group Divine Mercy Chaplet Food Bank (drive by only) Evening Prayer Mass (live-streamed)

7:15 pm – 7:45 pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Sacred Story
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Young Adult Group
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Adoration & Reconciliation

Thursday November 9

8:30 am – 9:30 am 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Mass (live-streamed) Divine Mercy Chaplet Evening Prayer Encounter Ministry

7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Precious Blood of Jesus devotion

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Pastoral Council

Friday November 10

6:30 am –7:30 am Men's Prayer/Reflection (Doors open at 6:15)

8:30 am – 9:30 am 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Mass (live-streamed)
Sacrament of Reconciliation

10:00 am - 11:00 am Sacred Story

10:00 am – 11:45 am 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm 5:30 pm 5:00 p

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Encounter Transformation Night

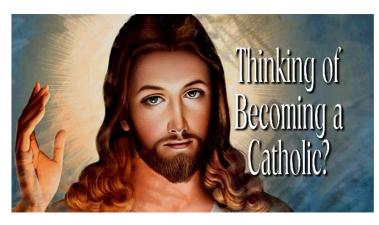
Saturday November 11

7:30 am – 8:30 am Exodus 90 in Social Hall 8:30 am – 9:15 am Mass (live-streamed)

9:30 am – 12:00 pm
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Missionary Family Gospel Retreat
Sacrament of Reconciliation

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm **Vigil Mass**



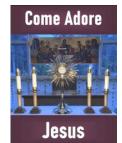
Are You, or Someone you Know Someone Interested in Becoming a Catholic Christian?

Join Us for Inquiry Sessions Tuesday Evenings 7:00-9:00 PM in Room 124

Inquiry Sessions are the first step in RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). These Sessions are for adults interested in exploring the Catholic Faith in a non-judgmental atmosphere, these include:

- Seeker and Inquirers who want to learn about the Catholic Faith, Traditions and Sacraments.
- Adults from other Faith Traditions who are interested in joining the Catholic Church.
- Baptized Adult Catholics who haven't received all their Sacraments.

For Information or Questions contact: Anne Merklin at AMerklin@ststephenslife.com or 253-480-7108 (126)



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
- To sign up or for more information: visit the website: https://ststephenslife.com/eucharistic-

adoration or visit the adoration table in the Narthex after Mass. All hours have room for more adorers. Call one of the coordinators: Tina (206) 715-8462 or Bernie (206) 427-6085

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

Oct 17 & Oct 23 2023	Oct 10 & Oct 16 2023	FY To date July 1 2023-Sep t 30 2023
17,864	13,231	223,901
10,172	15,730	219,622
7,692	(2,499)	4,279
8,791	11,970	114,531
9,432	13,208	103,972
(641)	(1,238)	10,559
7,051	(3,737)	14,838
	Oct 23 2023 17,864 10,172 7,692 8,791 9,432 (641)	Oct 23 Oct 16 2023 2023 17,864 13,231 10,172 15,730 7,692 (2,499) 8,791 11,970 9,432 13,208 (641) (1,238)

*EFT= Electronic Funds Transfer (Online Collections)

New Fiscal Year began 7/01/2023

Faith Formation Programs



Registration Continues for Fall Classes!

Grow closer to Jesus, meet new families, make new friends!

Children and Families (K-5th Grade)

This year, we provide onsite classes, family learning & activities, family Mass, and at-home learning. On-site classes are once/month on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm. We're also adding community nights for families (all parish) on Friday nights!

If you're interested in **First Sacraments (Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist)**, follow the link to our web-page. The program will be the same as above, plus more! There are prerequisites for First Sacraments and you will use a different registration form. (Our website will guide you.) To learn more and register, visit: https://ststephenslife.com/elementary-programs

Teens (6th-8th Grade)

Get ready for a great year! Teens sign up for **EDGE** (6th-8th) or **LIFE TEEN** (9th-12th). **Both programs** will be on Sundays, trading off every other week. (Look for a new kind of schedule.) We have a lot of fun things planned, and we're ready to help you know our Lord, walking out your faith in you heart and with your friends! Once a month, we'll host an awesome night for – and with – your parents. (Last year, these nights were so good!) If you're interested in **Confirmation**, request it on your registration when you sign up for EDGE or Life Teen. (These programs are required to be part of Confirmation.) Whether you're "All-In" or "Just Watching to See How Things Go," be sure to register so you don't miss out! Go to our web-pages: For **EDGE** visit https://ststephenslife.com/edge. For **LIFE TEEN** visit https://ststephenslife.com/life-nights).

All High School Teens Welcome This Sunday for Our Next Session "Perfection through

Imperfection." We will discuss the sacramental nature of our Catholic faith through the Eucharist, as well as delve into some of the most miraculous examples of this throughout history. The event goes from 3-5pm in the Social Hall. Please contact Michael (mjoseph@ststephenslife.com) with any questions or for more details!

Next Sunday We Have an Edge/Confirmation Meeting from 3:00 - 5:00 PM before the 5:30 Mass! We'll be discussing the second half of the Apostles Creed.





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 pre-registration to be admitted. Please, only 2 parents, baby, 2 godparents (5 total) per family. Pre-register by calling (253) 480-7106 or emailing Ellen Golden at egolden@ststephenslife.com.



Volunteer Opportunities

Welcome Team: Assist with welcoming people to Mass with a smile. Arrive 20 minutes prior to the Mass you usually attend, after Mass wish people a great day and assist with basic questions. For more information contact Beth at Bnieva@ststephenslife.com

RCIA Sponsors: Journey with new people who are entering the Catholic Church and share your love for the faith. For more info contact Anne at amerklin@ststephenslife.com

Eucharistic Ministers to Retirement Homes: Bring Jesus, in the Eucharist, to those who can't come to Church. For more information contact MariJean mheutmaker@ststephenslife.com

Music Help: Assist with re-filing and organizing the sheet music. Contact Janet at jstewart@ststephenslife.com

Talents Team: Assist with follow-up calls/emails to people who want to volunteer. Help them use their Spiritual Gifts for the Church. Some can be done from home on your own time. Contact Beth for more information bnieva@sststephhenslife.com



Transformation Night Friday, November 10

All are invited for an Encounter School of Ministry Transformation Night with a very special guest, Deacon Jim Johnson. Do you long to know the Lord? To hear Him speak and know it is Him with confidence? To find peace deep within? Come. Jesus is waiting. We set this night aside to wait on the Lord and know Him more intimately. Encounter the Lord in worship. Encounter Him in the Gospel. Encounter Him in prayer ministry. Deacon Jimm has a special outreach and ministry for the youth and enjoys challenging them to be bold in the adverse conditions they face in today's society. Deacon Jim was born and raised in Minnesota and the youngest of nine children he is blessed to say that his parents are his greatest influence and has been inspired by their 69 years of marriage.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for a FREE Dinner

St. Stephen the Martyr
Parish Social Hall

13055 SE 192nd Street, Renton, WA 98058

November 23, 2023

Mass at 10:00 am

Dinner is Served 1:00 - 3:00 pm

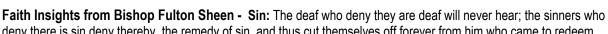
Come Early for Fellowship
Bring Your Family and Friends
Everyone is Welcome!

Please RSVP at https://ststephenslife.com/thanksgiving-dinner-rsvp Walk-ins are welcome!









November 5 Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time: In the Gospel today, we hear the good news that when we keep our focus on God and serve one another, God exalts us! Please say a special prayer for the poor who have no one



to pray for them.

deny there is sin deny thereby the remedy of sin, and thus cut themselves off forever from him who came to redeem.



Darling Dusters - We Need Your Help! The Darling Dusters, who serve the church by helping to keep it neat and tidy, need more helpers. Please join us for an hour on Mondays, starting at 9 am. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please call Betty in the church office (253-631-1940).



Curious about Home-schooling? It's not too late to join the Home-school Co-op at St. Stephen the Martyr. We meet on Thursdays for Mass and classes to grow our faith. We are currently serving students K-10. For more information email sstm.homeschool@gmail.com



Join the National Eucharistic Revival - The United States' Conference of Catholic bishops has laid down a three year National Eucharistic Revival that began last year 2022 and will go through 2024. We are all invited to participate in this effort to renew the whole church beginning with YOU! How to join: Begin by prayer. To to start the 9 day Novena go to https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/get-involved. For resources visit https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/learn-resources Spread the word about the Revival to all your family and friends! If you would like to help with the Eucharistic Revival in our parish, please contact Niña de Jesus at ndejesus@ststephenslife.com.



Respect Life - Fear is always limiting. Fear-based decisions might provide temporary relief from hardship, but they eventually lead to long-term regret and pain, as is declared by so many men and women post-abortion. But as we know, Perfect love casts out fear. Let us remember that this world needs love, and each of us can bring more love into the world by our small, everyday actions towards those around us. We can extend a hand with help to those women who are told they can't make it



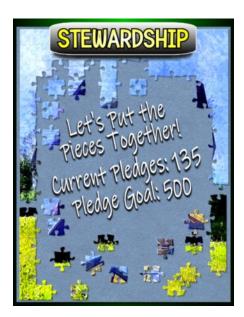
in life if they have their baby. We can go to the street and be there for them with loving action, especially when they feel fear. With one act of love at a time, we can boldly declare that not only does love cast out fear, but love is stronger even than death itself. Will we decern to show that love as witness? Will we take the time, even if it is only 15 minutes to an hour, to stand at the Cedar River Clinic in their new location, 601S Carr Rd, Suite 200, in Renton? You decide.



Girlfriends - Please join the Girlfriends at our upcoming events. All women (age 18+) are invited! The Lit & Lattes group is meeting on Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 pm to discuss Rules of Civility: A Novel by Amor Towles. We will be meeting in Classroom 130 and also have a Zoom option. RSVP to Vicki Kennerud at vkennerud@comcast.net if you will be in person or via Zoom. New members are welcome!



Grief Ministry - If you are grieving the death of a loved one, come find strength and compassion with the St. Stephen's Grief Support Meeting on Sunday, November 19th at 1:00pm. The meeting will be held in the Chapel as well as on Zoom. Our topic will be "Pathways Through The Holiday Season." For more information and to register, please contact Sharon Rasmussen at srasmussen910@yahoo.com. "Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted." Mt. 5,



Stewardship of Treasure

We are asking everyone to prayerfully reflect on how we are called to continue to sustain our parish and the ministries that support the mission of Jesus Christ. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts serves a twofold purpose: One, it helps build God's kingdom here on earth. Two, it helps us strengthen each other's relationship with Christ. We ask that all our parishioners partake of that joy and return their commitment cards as soon as possible.

After one weekend, we have received 135 pledges toward our goal of 500. After taking some time to pray on what God is asking of you, we look forward to you turning in your pledge card this weekend at the Stewardship table in the Narthex. You will receive a St. Stephen's Sacred Heart of Jesus Magnet when you turn in your pledge card. Or you can pledge online at: https://archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/1192/responses/ new Thank you for your continued support.



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: 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: our web site at www.ststephenslife.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 a	assistant, Betty Mencke 253-480-7103 (100)
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Robert Antony	253-480-7111 (132)	FatherRobert@ststephenslife.com
Deacon	Dec. Carl Chilo	, ,	sstmdeaconcarlchilo@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec. Sonny Ungco		sonny.ungco@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec.lke Tarabi		ike.tarabi@outlook.com
Director 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
Outreach Ministry Assistant	Lisa Grigaliunas	253-480-7109	lgrigaliunas@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 Blakely	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	Michael Joseph	253-480-7110 (113)	mjoseph@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
Marriage & Child Baptism Prep	Ellen Golden	253 480-7106	egolden@ststephenslife.com
Faith Formation Support Coordinator	Maria Trejo	253-631-6175 (115)	MTrejo@ststephenslife.com
Choir Director	Nina DeJesus	253-236-2882 (137)	ndejesus@ststephenslife.com
St Stephen Housing Association		253-480-7122	office@ststephenhousing.org
SVDP Help-Line		206-767-6449	
Lead Custodian	Luke Sanchez		Lsanchez@ststephenslife.com

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 See contact information above to reach a Staff person for Marriage or Baptism. **Annulments:** (for those who are civilly divorced). For compassionate and confidential answers to your questions, please contact our Pastoral Associate, Anne Merklin, 253-480-7108 (ext. 126), AMerklin@ststephenslife.com.

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. sstmassociate@gmail.com

Praying For Sick

Erlinda David, Canlas Ingraham

Please note we are revising the list of those who are ill and in need of prayers. Names will be posted for 3 weeks unless we receive further notification.

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

Mary Claire Duncan, Bill Kuhn, Brian Brazier Names will be posted for 3 months.

Serving in the Military

Captain Philip Clay, LT Luke Carpenter (deployed), Jack Cullers US, Zenaida Roth, Joey Buslon Poland, Pv. 2
Anthony Vogeler, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs

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!



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