



## **Fourth Sunday of Advent\***

### **December 22, 2024**

**(\*Also Christmas Edition)**

Weekend Masses: Saturday (Vigil) 5:00 PM  
Sunday 8:30, 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM  
Reconciliation: Wednesday 7:15-8:30 PM, Friday: 5:00-6:00 PM &  
Saturday: 9:15-10:30 AM, 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](http://www.ststephenslife.com)  
Listing of Parish Staff on the back inside page

# Words from Fr. Bryan

Merry Christmas!

As your pastor I pray for the blessings of a renewal of faith, hope, and love for you and your families this Christmas season. As we remember Emmanuel, God with us, in the child Jesus, I encourage you to ask for the intercession of the Holy Family for your family throughout the Christmas season. We also pray for our newly formed parish family; we are only six months into our process of collaborating and working together and I thank everyone for being faithful and flexible.



I wanted to draw your attention to two important moments in our universal church. About a month ago the Synod on communion, participation and mission concluded. You can find the final document and teaching of the church here:

[https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2024-10-26\\_final-document/ENG---Documento-finale\\_traduzione-di-lavoro.pdf](https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2024-10-26_final-document/ENG---Documento-finale_traduzione-di-lavoro.pdf)

Also, starting in 2025 the Holy Father proclaimed a Jubilee year of Hope. Each of us is called to be a joyful witness of our hope in the Risen Christ in the world. Please find more information here: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>

I am grateful to be the pastor of St. Anthony and St. Stephen the Martyr, thank you all for your ongoing faith, participation, stewardship and witness. God Bless.

Your Servant in the Risen Christ,

Fr. Bryan Dolejsi, Pastor

## Weekly Readings

### December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mt 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

### December 23 Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

### December 24 Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Advent

Mass in the Morning

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

### December 25 The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

**Vigil Mass** - Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;

Mt 1:1-25

**Mass during the Night** - Is 9:1-6; Ps 96: 1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

**Mass at Dawn** - Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

**Mass during the Day** - Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

### December 26 Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

### December 27 Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

### December 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

### December 29 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52



## Parish Calendar

### Sunday December 22

8:30 am - 9:30 **Mass** (Fr. Marlo, Music: Nina)  
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Mass** (Fr. Marlo, Music: Filipino:Grace)  
 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm **Mass** (Fr. Chanda, Music:Lifeteen)  
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Apoletics Meeting

### Monday December 23

9:00 am - 10:00 am Darling Dusters  
 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Decorating for Christmas  
 10:00 am - 11:45 am Food Pantry (drive by only)  
 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet  
 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Evening Prayer  
 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Mass** (Fr. Dolejsi)

### Tuesday December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm **Vigil Mass** (Fr. Dolejsi, Music: Childrens)  
 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm **Vigil Mass** (Fr. Marlo, Music: Choral Janet)

### Wednesday December 25 Christmas Day

12:00 am - 1:00 am **Midnight Mass** (Fr. Marlo, Music: Nina)  
 8:30 am - 9:30 am **Christmas Mass** (Fr. Marlo, Music: Lifeteen)  
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Christmas Mass** (Fr. Dolejsi, Music: Filipino)

### Thursday December 26 Feast of St. Stephen the Martyr

10:00 am - 11:00 am **Mass** (Fr. Dolejsi and Fr. Marlo)  
 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Potluck reception following Mass

### Friday December 27

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm **Mass** (Fr. Marlo)

### Saturday December 28

7:30 am - 8:30 am Exodus 90  
 8:30 am - 9:00 am **Mass** (Fr. Chanda)  
 9:15 am -10:30 am Sacrament of Reconciliation  
 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm **Vigil Mass** (Fr. Chanda, Music:Nina)



# WE DID IT!

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION!

St. Stephen the Martyr has met our goal of **\$184,000** for the Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign. Parishioners have pledged/given **\$184,200 from 383 families!**

There is still time to contribute for those families who have not yet pledged/given to the ACA this year. All gifts received now will be returned to the parish to help support our ministries and outreach. Through the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal, our parish has been answering the call to support our local Catholic community. Your generous gifts support the needs of our faith family and help cultivate the future of our Church.



**Adoration Invitation** - At St. Stephens we enjoy Perpetual Adoration of Jesus in the chapel/church. That means Jesus is exposed in the Monstrance 24 hours 7 days (except during scheduled Masses). At this time we find ourselves with open hours needing to be filled by committed adorers. Is Jesus calling you to Come and Adore Him? Please go to the Adoration sign up table in the narthex and find up-to-date information on what hours are available and/or need to be filled or visit <https://ststephenslife.com/eucharistic-adoration> or contact coordinator Bernie 206-427-6085 or Tina 206-715-8462.



**Watch Bishop Robert Barron insightful sermon on the power of Eucharistic Adoration at**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3snpp3VrYvE> (Youtube search: Bishop Barron Eucharistic Adoration)

# Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm 7:00 pm

and Midnight

Christmas Day

8:30 am 11:00 am

*All are welcome!*



### Food Pantry Needs -

Spaghetti  
 Spaghetti sauce  
 Peanut Butter

**Thank you for your continued support.**

Weekly Collections	Dec 2, - Dec 8, 2024	Nov 25, - Dec 1, 2024	FY To date July 1 2024-November 30, 2024
Collections-actual	15,193	26,260	380,054
Collections-Budget	21,041	22,502	403,996
Variance	(5,848)	3,758	(23,942)
*EFT-Actual	11,933	13,038	192,740
*EFT-Budget	10,215	8,563	206,315
Variance	1,718	4,475	(13,575)
Total Collections Variance	(4,130)	8,233	(37,517)
Outreach Collections			
Outreach Assistance	860	975	13812
Food Pantry	546	985	19632

New Fiscal Year began 7/01/2024

\*EFT= Electronic Funds Transfer (Online Collections)

# Faith Formation Programs

## Faith Formation Registration

This is for children and teens through 12th Grade, as well as Adult Scripture Study. Check out your areas right away, as things are happening fast! If you have questions, we're happy to help. Join us, build community, and grow in our Lord!

Children/Family Classes and Activities: Wednesday Nights (some Friday night activities)

**For Registration Please Visit** <https://ststephenslife.com/fall-2024-registration-children-and-teens>



## 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](mailto:egolden@ststephenslife.com).



**Pilgrimage to Fatima!** - Join Fr. Mark Kiszelewski, pastor of St. Cecilia and Kathleen Tansey, experienced group travel advisor from St. Stephen on a 13 day Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes with Avila, Loyola, Barcelona and more in October 2025. To learn more go to: [travel.nativitypilgrimage.com/kiszelewski](http://travel.nativitypilgrimage.com/kiszelewski) or contact Kathleen at 253-653-6074 or [Kathleen@travelcenter4u.com](mailto:Kathleen@travelcenter4u.com)

## Position Opening: Liturgical Musician

St. Stephen's is hiring a Liturgical Musician! Job requirements are:

- Proficiency in keyboard and sight-reading skills is required.
- Basic knowledge of proper vocal production. Singing skills are desirable.
- Flexibility to execute music in a variety of styles.
- Ability to communicate with and instruct others in a clear and positive manner.
- Willingness to take direction, to collaborate, and to lead when empowered to do so.
- Practicing Catholic preferred.

For more details visit <https://ststephenslife.com/job-openings>



**December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent:** Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines there. Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, "Light" has shown, bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor who live in dark places in our streets and neighborhood.



**The Gabriel Project** is in need of diapers and wipes for their young Moms. They especially need sizes 4, 5, and 6 as well as unscented wipes. You may leave them at the Food Pantry Baskets in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support for our Moms who chose life!



**CATHOLIC COLLEGE CORNER – What is Legatus?** It is an international organization of Catholic business leaders and executives, who have committed to study, live and spread the Catholic faith. They are currently offering a variety of grants to those who apply to a select group of Pro-Life colleges. It is National Catholic Register's new (hot off the press, 2024) Catholic College guide. Having thoroughly read it, each school and seminary listed is Pro-Life, teaches in communion with the Church, and all have reputations for being very generous with their financial aid, especially need-based scholarships. For more information, visit <https://www.ncregister.com/section/college-guide>





## ADULT CONFIRMATION

**Are you a Baptized Catholic Who Has Never Received Confirmation?  
Wouldn't it be a great blessing to receive the GIFTS of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation?**

**Adult Confirmation Sessions Begin January 21st, 7:00-9:00 PM in the Social Hall.**

To learn more about our Adult Confirmation Program (adults over the age of 19 years) **OR** if you are interested in Becoming a Catholic; call or email Anne Merklin, 253-480-7108, or at [AMerklin@ststephenslife.com](mailto:AMerklin@ststephenslife.com).



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY Winter 2025

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's

immeasurable and unconditional love for you—grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

**Come join us as we learn, grow and prepare for Lent and Easter together!**

We have a wonderful, welcoming community of learners meeting in two Bible study sessions at St. Stephens. One session meets Tuesday morning from 9:20-11:30 and one session meets Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:00. We'd love to see you at one of them!

**Registration begins December 20 and ends January 10!** Follow the link below to register.

<https://archseattle.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/4123/responses/new> target="\_blank">2025 Winter Scripture Study - No Greater Love</a>

For more information contact: Karen Buchert at [kasbuchert@comcast.net](mailto:kasbuchert@comcast.net) or the Faith Formation office at [mtrejo@ststephenslife.com](mailto:mtrejo@ststephenslife.com) or 253-631-6175.





## Did you know St. Stephen's has more than 85 ministries!

### Connect with a ministry and use your gifts



Eucharistic Ministers  
Altar Servers  
Lectors  
Hospitality Team  
Music



Adoration  
Men's Group  
Bible Study  
Prayer Groups  
Faith Formation



Food Bank  
Terrific Tuesday Meals  
Food for Funerals  
Outreach to those in need



Office Helpers  
Collection Counters  
Councils  
Clean Up Crew



St. Vincent de Paul  
Knights of Columbus  
Hospital & Homebound  
Missions  
Grief Ministry  
Gabriel Project/Prepares



After Mass Socials  
Medical Closet  
Respect Life  
Rosary Makers  
Cultural Communities



**For more information about how to get involved  
please contact Beth Nieva at [bnieva@ststephenslife.com](mailto:bnieva@ststephenslife.com)**



## Parish Information

New to St. Stephen's? Welcome! Learn more about our vibrant community by visiting our web site at [www.ststephenslife.com](http://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](mailto: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. Bryan Dolejsi		<a href="mailto:frbryan@ststephenslife.com">frbryan@ststephenslife.com</a>
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Marlo F. Abad		<a href="mailto:frmarlo@ststephenslife.com">frmarlo@ststephenslife.com</a>
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Sylvester Chanda		<a href="mailto:frchanda@st-anthony.cc">frchanda@st-anthony.cc</a>
Parochial Vicar	Fr. Gilberto Mora Tapia		
Deacon	Dec. Carl Chilo		<a href="mailto:sstmdeaconcarlchilo@gmail.com">sstmdeaconcarlchilo@gmail.com</a>
Deacon	Dec. Sonny Ungco		<a href="mailto:sonny.ungco@gmail.com">sonny.ungco@gmail.com</a>
Deacon	Dec. Ike Tarabi		<a href="mailto:ike.tarabi@outlook.com">ike.tarabi@outlook.com</a>
Director of Parish Operations	Tom Jones	253-480-7114 (103)	<a href="mailto:tjones@ststephenslife.com">tjones@ststephenslife.com</a>
Pastoral Associate	Anne Merklin	253-480-7108 (126)	<a href="mailto:AMerklin@ststephenslife.com">AMerklin@ststephenslife.com</a>
Pastoral Assistant for Outreach	Darlene Simpson	253-480-7121 (127)	<a href="mailto:DSimpson@ststephenslife.com">DSimpson@ststephenslife.com</a>
Outreach Ministry Assistant	Lisa Grigaliunas	253-480-7109	<a href="mailto:lgrigaliunas@ststephenslife.com">lgrigaliunas@ststephenslife.com</a>
Office Manager	Betty Mencke	253-480-7103 (100)	<a href="mailto:bmencke@ststephenslife.com">bmencke@ststephenslife.com</a>
Liturgy Coordinator	Janet Denby-Stewart	253-480-7115 (102)	<a href="mailto:JStewart@ststephenslife.com">JStewart@ststephenslife.com</a>
Pastoral Care	Marijean Heutmaker	253-480-7116 (106)	<a href="mailto:Mheutmaker@ststephenslife.com">Mheutmaker@ststephenslife.com</a>
Bookkeeper	Debbie Blakely	253-480-7113 (101)	<a href="mailto:DBlakely@ststephenslife.com">DBlakely@ststephenslife.com</a>
Facilities & Parish Life Coordinator	Kim Anderson	253-480-7120 (129)	<a href="mailto:KAnderson@ststephenslife.com">KAnderson@ststephenslife.com</a>
Director of Faith Formation	Shannon Battles	253-480-7112 (114)	<a href="mailto:SBattles@ststephenslife.com">SBattles@ststephenslife.com</a>
Youth Ministry	Michael Joseph	253-480-7110 (113)	<a href="mailto:mjoseph@ststephenslife.com">mjoseph@ststephenslife.com</a>
Young Adult Ministry/Talents Ministry	Beth Nieva	253-480-7105 (123)	<a href="mailto:bnieva@ststephenslife.com">bnieva@ststephenslife.com</a>
Evangelization & Communications	Bill Swedberg	253-480-7107 (121)	<a href="mailto:bswedberg@ststephenslife.com">bswedberg@ststephenslife.com</a>
Marriage & Child Baptism Prep	Ellen Golden	253 480-7106	<a href="mailto:egolden@ststephenslife.com">egolden@ststephenslife.com</a>
Faith Formation Support Coordinator	Maria Trejo	253-631-6175 (115)	<a href="mailto:MTrejo@ststephenslife.com">MTrejo@ststephenslife.com</a>
Choir Director	Nina DeJesus	253-236-2882 (137)	<a href="mailto:ndejesus@ststephenslife.com">ndejesus@ststephenslife.com</a>
St Stephen Housing Association		253-480-7122	<a href="mailto:office@ststephenhousing.org">office@ststephenhousing.org</a>
SVDP Help-Line		206-767-6449	

**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](mailto: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. [sstmassociates@gmail.com](mailto:sstmassociates@gmail.com)

### Praying For Sick

Erlinda David, Canlas Ingraham, Angel M. Piol, Jeff Tobin, Estrellita & Patrick Staeheli, Frank Ratajczyk, Cincy Lagmay

*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

Conrado Redila, Peter Olson, Charito Rubis Galindo, Buddy Day, Mike Romero,

*Names will be posted for 3 months.*

### Serving in the Military

Captain Philip Clay, LT Luke Carpenter (deployed), Zenaida Roth, Joey Buslon Poland,

Specialist, Anthony Vogeler, Fort Carson, Colorado.

To add names to the box, please email [ourbulletin@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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@ccsw.org](mailto:projectrachel@ccsw.org) Visit us at [www.ccsw.org/projectrachel](http://www.ccsw.org/projectrachel) or [www.facebook.com/projectrachelw](https://www.facebook.com/projectrachelw) Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services. **You are loved with an everlasting love!**



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