



### The Best Moments of Life

He who knew us before time began, who loves us and willed us into being, and who will be waiting for us at the moment of our last breath, is the same One looking upon us from the Sacred Host.

God is as really present in the consecrated Host as He is in the glory of Heaven. - *St. Paschal Baylon*

The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in heaven and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth. – *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

From: *Manual for Eucharistic Adoration* of the Saint Joseph Adoration Monastery

### Eucharistic Adoration at St. Stephen Parish:

Tuesdays from 7:00pm-12:00midnight

Fridays from 8:30am-3:15pm

### Eucharistic Revival: Let's Make it Matter at our Sister Parishes

*The American Catholic Church is engaged in a multi-year Eucharistic Revival. 2023-2024 is the second year and focuses on grassroots "Year of Parish Revival." In this spirit, Deacon David Mills invites parishioners of St. Edward-Fairfield and St. Stephen-Flora to participate in an 8 month book study of "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist" by Brant Pitre leading up to Easter next March. Meetings will take place on Sunday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. It will begin with Eucharistic Adoration set to the Liturgy of the Hours in the church and transition to a group discussion in the parish hall. Book Study Schedule: 12/17 at St. Stephen, 1/28 at St. Edward, 2/25 at St. Stephen, 3/24 at St. Edward, 4/28 at St. Stephen.*

# St. Edward and St. Stephen Catholic Churches

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Rev. Father Charles Anyaoku, Pastoral Administrator

Rectory Phone: 618-662-6261 Cell Phone: 618-641-8978

Deacon David Mills, Permanent Deacon

#### St. Edward Catholic Church

300 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Fairfield, IL 62837

Phone: 618-847-7931

[stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com](mailto:stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com)

[stedwardfairfield.com](http://stedwardfairfield.com)

New Parishioners register at Parish Office  
Please send bulletin information to the parish office  
by noon on Wednesdays.

Parish Secretary: Libby Pond  
PSR Coordinator: Jen Wellen  
RCIA Co-Coordinator: Ginny Barrett  
Music Director: Linda Keck

Trustees: Don Zurliene  
Jay Fyie

Finance Council: David Cavanaugh  
Jay Fyie  
Don Zurliene  
Teresa Williams  
Jen Wellen  
Ken Nordmann

Parish Council: Diana Zurliene  
Linda Keck  
David Cavanaugh  
Tim Schoenborn  
Libby Pond  
Kent Ochs  
Mike Oppenheimer  
Scott Merkle

#### In Case of Emergency Contact:

Father Charles: 618-641-8978  
Deacon David Mills: 618-599-4683  
Laura Anderson: 618-599-6786  
Libby Pond: 618-599-6924

#### St. Stephen Catholic Church

812 N. Main Street

Flora, IL 62839

Rectory: 618-662-6261 Office: 618-662-8121

[ststephen\\_flora@yahoo.com](mailto:ststephen_flora@yahoo.com)

[ststephenflora.com](http://ststephenflora.com)

Bulletins and special reminders can be sent to  
your cell phone or email via Flocknote.  
Contact the parish office to sign up.

New Parishioners register with Fr. Charles,  
Parish Office or Dorothy Uebinger (662-3711)

Prayer Requests: Contact Trudi Herdes

#### Parish Office Contact Information

Laura Anderson

618-599-6786 (cell) or 618-662-8121 (office)  
[laura.whitehead.91@gmail.com](mailto:laura.whitehead.91@gmail.com) or [ststephen\\_flora@yahoo.com](mailto:ststephen_flora@yahoo.com)

Wednesday & Thursday Mornings  
Submit bulletin information in email by Wednesday at noon.

Parish Secretary: Laura Anderson  
PSR Coordinator: Paul Duquaine  
RCIA Co-Coordinator: Cheryl McCarty  
Music Director: Diane Briscoe

Trustees: Randy Wells  
Susan Schroeder

Finance Council: Jesse Harvey  
Trudi Herdes  
Dorothy Uebinger  
Krista Weidner  
Deb Zimmerman  
Ted Zimmerman

Parish Council: Cory Anderson  
Laura Anderson  
Justin Fleener  
Pat Greenwood  
Mary Beth Lancaster  
Andrew Vahling

St. Stephen Liturgical Schedule

First Week of Advent

Saturday, December 2:	4:00pm	Confession
	4:30pm	Mass <i>For the living &amp; deceased of the parish</i>
Sunday, December 3:	8:00am	Rosary & Confession
	8:30am	Mass <i>+James Croy</i>
Tuesday, December 5:	6:00pm	Rosary
	6:30pm	Mass <i>For the intentions of the St. Monica Society &amp; The St. Monica Club &amp; Support Group</i>
	7:00pm	Adoration until midnight
Wednesday, December 6:	7:30am	Rosary
	8:00am	Mass <i>+Dominic &amp; Mary Talmant</i>
Thursday, December 7:	7:30am	Rosary
	8:00am	Mass <i>+Al Winka</i>
Friday, December 8: <i>FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</i>	8:30am	Adoration until 3:15pm
	12:00noon	Servite Rosary
	3:00pm	Chaplet of Divine Mercy
	6:00pm	Mass <i>For the living &amp; deceased of the parish</i>
Saturday, December 9:	4:00pm	Confession
	4:30pm	Mass <i>+Eliza Argenbright</i>
Sunday, December 10:	8:00am	Rosary & Confession
	8:30am	Mass <i>For the living &amp; deceased of the parish</i>

Weekly Contribution: 11-26-23		Attendance: 11-26-23	
Envelope:	\$1,605.00	Campaign Human Development: \$20	Saturday: 55
Loose:	\$ 188.00	Thanksgiving: \$143.00	Sunday: 63
TOTAL:	\$1,793.00	Weekly Budget \$2,270.00	Total: 118

Ministers for December

<u>Saturday, December 9:</u>	
Lectors: Jim Fehrenbacher	Eucharistic Ministers: Robin Lipka, Pat Ridgeway, Beth Sulsberger
Servers: Allison & Austin Cartright	Ushers: Don Talmant & Mike Winka
<u>Sunday, December 10:</u>	
Lector: Jonathon Akers	Commentator: Phil Fancher
Eucharistic Ministers: Beth Fancher, Andrew Vahling, Volunteer	
Servers: Xander & Sophie Johnson, Landon Thompson    Ushers: Ted Whitehead & Dennis Holkenbrink	

Happy Birthday:

Tina Winka: December 5	Bernice Mary Brown: December 6	Jerry Bible: December 20
Collin Price: December 26	Kaleb Greenwood: December 29	Alison Cartright: December 29

Happy Anniversary: Jerry & Kathy Price – December 5

Prayer Intentions

Linda Griffy, Bill Marks, Nicole Wheaton, Velma Oliver, Clara Wilson, Ray Vaughn, LaVonne Kemmerer, Patience McKnight, Mildred Garrison, Irene Winka, Mary Wilson, Celeste Repogle, Luke Miller, Ralph & Georgianna Weber, Marie Elwat, Kennah Hiestand, Harrison Hilliard, Becky Dulaney, Mary Patridge, Chris Niebrugge, Margaret Bateman, Helen Wilkins, Fern Ketzner, Paul Birk, Gerald Klein, Dale Jennings, Bob Porter, Lisa Schimp, Jane Henson, Tammy Lough, John D., Bobby Wilkin, Emma Winslow, Justin Traub, Lois Lewis, Galen Gill, Matt Kuenstler, Sydney Knott, Shallon Booth, Smitty, Robert Tatman, Josh Winka, repose of the souls in the Troksh family, & nursing home residents.    *Please let the parish office know if names can be added or removed.*

St. Edward Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, November 26, 2023 10:30 am –Rick Buchanan+  
Thursday, November 30, 2023 6:00 AM – Erwin Manns+  
Friday, December 1, 2023 8:00 AM – Alice Zurliene+  
Sunday, December 3, 2023 10:30 am – Jerry Zurliene+

Weekly Contributions

11/12/2023	
Envelopes	\$ 1873
Loose	\$ 55
Total	\$1928
We Need	\$ 2032
Mass Stipends	\$0
Building Fund	\$174
Food Pantry	\$ 35
Candles	\$ 32
Campaign for Human deve	\$185

Prayer Intentions

Kim Buchanan, Lanora Neavill, Robyn Meagher, Donna Turner, Marilyn Butler , Michelle Dalton, CeCe Coorapi, , Margaret Thompson, Richard Rennie, Lee Bouldin, Fr. Ray, Marty Hawkins, Spencer Meagher, Judy Maguire, Fr. Jim Daugherty, Ray Glover, Dick Hibbetts, David Mills, Donna Williams, Teresa Keyser, Shirley Miller, Glory Almon  
**Let the office know if names need to be added or removed from our prayer list.**

Our Scripture Readings

Sun - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
Ez 34: 11-12, 15-17    1 Cor 15: 20-26, 28  
Mt 23: 1-12  
Mon - Weekday  
Dn 1: 1-6, 8-20    Lk 21: 1-4  
Tues - Weekday  
Dn 2: 31-45    Lk 21: 5-11  
Wed - Weekday  
Dn 5: 1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28    Lk 21: 12-19  
Thurs- Saint Andrew, Apostle  
Rom 10: 9-18    Mt 4: 18-22  
Fri - Weekday  
Dn 7: 2-14    Lk 21: 29-33  
Sat - Weekday  
Dn 7: 15-27    Lk 21: 34-36  
Sun - First Sunday of Advent  
Is 63: 16b-17, 19b: 64: 2-7    1 Cor 1: 3-9  
Mk 13: 33-37

Attendance    76

**St. Edward News**

**Advent Bags** – We will be wrapping Advent gifts for the shut-ins on Wednesday, November 30 at 5:00 PM.

**Food Pantry** – Due to big changes at Midwest Food Bank, we will have a meeting after mass on Sunday, December 3 to discuss how this will impact our food pantry and ways to move forward. Everyone involved in food pantry is encouraged to attend.

**Christmas Eve Choir** – We will again be having a choir on Christmas Eve, more information will be coming soon.

**Little Blue Books for Advent**- The Little Blue Books for Advent are available on the table in the hall. They are an excellent resource for extra prayer during the Advent season.

**Adoration/Benediction** – There will be Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction immediately after mass today. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Upcoming Events –**

**Parish Council – Thursday, Nov 30 after 6:00 PM Mass**  
**Finance Council – Thursday, Dec 7 after 6:00 PM Mass**

**Feast of Immaculate Conception Masses:**  
**St. Edward, Friday December 8 – 8:00 AM**  
**St. Stephen, Friday, December 8 – 6:00 PM**

**Food Pantry – Set up December 8 after 8:00 AM mass**  
**Distribution December 9, 7:00 AM**

**Parish Christmas Brunch – Sunday, Dec 10 after mass.**

**Penance Service – Sunday, December 17, 6:00 PM**

**St. Stephen News**

**Bulletin Announcements:** Please submit all bulletin announcements in writing via email, exactly as you would like them to appear in the bulletin. This will ensure accurate announcements and streamline the process of printing the bulletin. Email all announcements to Laura (laura.whitehead.91@gmail.com) by Wednesdays at noon. Thank you!

**Christmas Dinner & Program** is next Sunday, December 10. The meal is at 5:30, with the program to follow at 7:00. Please plan to attend. Meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

**Dorothy Uebinger** thanks everyone who remembered in prayers her sister-in-law, Joan Rudolphi during her final illness. Joan passed away Wednesday, November 22. Her funeral Mass was Monday, November 27 followed by burial in Holy Cross Cemetery in Wendelin. May Joan now rest in peace.

**Little Books** for Advent are available on the tables at each entrance.

**Parish School of Religion:** Sunday, December 3 – Class Sunday, December 10 - Class

**Tree of Joy:** Many angels remain on our Tree of Joy. If you can help at all, please select some angels to help this Christmas. Gifts must be returned by December 17th. Thank you.

**Lector Workbooks:** Lectors, please pick up your 2024 workbooks from the sacristy. They will begin with next Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent.

**Poinsettias:** If you are interested in donating towards the Christmas flowers, there are envelopes at both entrances. Flowers can be donated in a family members name. No amount is too small. Thank you for your generosity. Questions call Beth Fancher, 618-676-4292.

**Penny Wars:** Three PSR Classes (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade) will have a penny war competition now until Christmas. The money raised will go to Guadalupe Project. Please send your extra change and the class that raises the most money wins. That class will then have an ice cream party. The jars will be kept outside the social room. Thank you.

**In keeping with the Eucharistic Revival** that is currently taking place in the Catholic Church, there will be Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following Mass on each Sunday that PSR is in session. All students and teachers are asked to come to the front pews immediately following the final song. If students are not at Mass on Sunday, please come to the church as soon as you arrive. All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to stay.

**The next rotating chairmen** are Berenice Mary Brown & Donna Myers.

**2023 Side by Side Raffle:** This year, St. Stephen and Guadalupe Project will be giving away a 2023 CF Moto UForce 1000. are \$20 each or 6/\$100. **The drawing will take place on Saturday, December 16.** Please help sell tickets and turn your tickets and money in as soon as possible. Thank you!

**There is no adoration** on Tuesday, December 26 and Friday, December 29.

**Help is needed** after Mass on Sunday, December 17 to decorate the church for Christmas. In addition to the decorating, there are quite a few heavy Christmas decorations, so if you can help lift heavy things, your help would be greatly appreciated!

**Donations** are being accepted for the purchase of a clavinova for music ministry. This purchase will help ensure music when an organist is not available.

# St. Stephen News

**SCRIP cards are for sale in the social room after Mass.** Please see the updated list below for what we have on hand. We have added several businesses. St. Anne’s is also in the process of contacting local businesses to participate in this program and have added Los Tres Caminos. Please watch as more become available.

## SCRIP CARDS ON HAND

Ace Hardware	\$25	Panera	\$10, \$25, \$50
Aeropostale	\$25	Phillips 66	\$25
Amazon	\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100	Pizza Hut	\$10
American Eagle	\$25	Sears	\$25
Bath and Body Works	\$25	Staples	\$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	\$10, \$25	Starbucks	\$5, \$10, \$25
Casey’s	\$25, \$50	Subway	\$10, \$50
CVS	\$25	Taco Bell	\$10, \$25
Dairy Queen	\$10	Target	\$10, \$25, \$50
Great Harvest	\$25	VISA	\$25, \$50, \$100
Kohls	\$25, \$100	Walgreens	\$100
Los Tres Caminos	\$25, \$50	Walmart	\$10
McDonalds	\$10, \$25	Walmart/Sam’s	\$25, \$50, \$100
Menards	\$25, \$100		
Old Navy	\$25		

## From Administrator’s Desk:

Today is the first Sunday in Advent and the beginning of the new liturgical year, year B. The Gospel of St Mark is pre-dominant in this liturgical year. The season of Advent runs from yesterday evening till the evening of December 24, the vigil of Christmas. It is a period of four weeks before Christmas. It is a season of preparation for the celebration of the Lord’s birth as well as a period of anticipation of the second coming of Christ at the end of history. It is a season of expectation, hope, renewal, new beginning, and promise that are key elements of the season.

In today’s gospel, the Church teaches us to wake up and be on the watch. For us to prepare meaningfully and be wakeful, we must not allow ourselves to be sedated to sleep spiritually by sin, instead we should try harder to dedicate time for quiet prayer. Brothers and sisters in the Lord, I will recommend Praying the rosary daily and reading spiritual books during this advent season can keep us alert and watchful.

Wishing you a blissful Advent

Announcements	<b><u>Advent reconciliation service (Penance service)</u></b>
<b><u>December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of Immaculate conception</u></b>	December 17 <sup>th</sup> St Edward at 6pm
<b><u>Mass:</u></b>	December 18 <sup>th</sup> St Stephen at 6pm
St Stephen Flora mass at 6:00pm	
St Edward Fairfield mass at 8:00am	

## Holy Days and Special Events November & December 2023

<b>Friday, December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>		
St. Edward:	8:00am	St. Stephen: 6:00pm

<b>Christmas Party:</b>		
St. Edward:	December 10	
St. Stephen:	December 10 (Meal at 5:30pm, Program at 7:00pm)	
<b>Penance Service:</b>		
St. Edward:	December 17 at 6:00pm	
St. Stephen:	December 18 at 6:00pm	
<b>Sunday, December 24: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>		
St. Stephen:	Saturday (Dec 23) at 4:30pm and Sunday (Dec 24) at 8:30am	
St. Edward:	10:30am	

<b>CHRISTMAS (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>		
Christmas Eve, December 24:		
St. Edward:	5:00pm	
St. Stephen:	10:30pm (Carols)	11:00pm (Mass)
<b>Monday, December 25: Christmas Day</b>		
St. Stephen:	8:30am	St. Edward: 10:30am

<b>Tuesday, December 26: Feast of St. Stephen</b>	St. Stephen: 8:00am
<b>Wednesday, December 27: St. John</b>	St. Stephen: 8:00am
<b>Thursday, December 28: Holy Innocents</b>	St. Stephen: 8:00am
<b>Sunday, December 31: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</b>	
St. Stephen:	Saturday (Dec 30) at 4:30pm and Sunday (Dec 31) at 8:30am
St. Edward:	10:30am

<b>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>			
<b>Sunday, December 31: Eve of Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>			
<b>St. Stephen:</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>		
<b>Monday, January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>			
<b>St. Stephen:</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>St. Edward:</b>	<b>10:30am</b>

***Two New Programs from FORMED for Advent!***  
***Sign up for them at <https://daily.formed.org/advent>***



***Rooted presents a beloved tradition in a new light.***

This new 22-episode series guides Catholics through a daily Advent reflection using the Jesse Tree model traditionally practiced by families. Each seven-minute episode introduces the ancestors of Jesus Christ, shares a Scripture passage, and offers an engaging, practical reflection.

Hosted by Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, *Rooted* helps viewers apply the passage and related teachings to each day of Advent, guided by the Church's teaching. Episodes begin on December 3, the First Sunday of Advent, and end on December 24, the Fourth Sunday of Advent.



***Drawing Closer to God prepares your family  
for the Messiah's coming.***

Journey through Advent with the whole family! Join art teacher Ms. Kim as she teaches children to draw different scenes from the Christmas story, including the Annunciation, shepherds' visit, the Nativity scene, and more. With compelling storytelling, Ms. Kim points out key details from Scripture and Catholic tradition.

As kids follow along and learn new art skills, they also learn to see the connections between the big picture of God's story and their place within it.



***Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that, gathered at his right hand,  
they may be worthy to possess  
the heavenly Kingdom.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.***