



### 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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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)  
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

Saturday, December 16:	4:00pm	Confession
	4:30pm	Mass +Ray Winka
Sunday, December 17:	8:00am	Rosary & Confession
	8:30am	Mass For the living & deceased of the parish
Tuesday, December 19:	6:00pm	Rosary
	6:30pm	Mass +Tony Whitehead
	7:00pm	Adoration until midnight
Wednesday, December 20:	7:30am	Rosary
	8:00am	Mass +Dominic & Mary Talmant
Thursday, December 21:	7:30am	Rosary
	8:00am	Mass Father Charles & all priests
Saturday, December 23:	4:00pm	Confession
	4:30pm	Mass For the living & deceased of the parish
Sunday, December 24:	8:00am	Rosary & Confession
	8:30am	Mass +John & Bertha Rudolphi
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24:	10:30pm	Carols
	11:00pm	Mass +Al Uebinger
Christmas Day, Dec. 25:	8:30am	Mass +Carroll & Virginia Sulsberger

Weekly Contribution: 12-10-23

Envelope:	\$1,798.00	Cemetery Fund: \$100
Loose:	\$ 307.00	Clavinova: \$500
TOTAL:	\$2,105.00	
Weekly Budget \$2,270.00		

Ministers for December

Saturday, December 23:		
Lectors:	Jim Fehrenbacher	Eucharistic Ministers: Robin Lipka, Pat Ridgeway, Volunteer
Servers:	Volunteers	Ushers: Don Talmant & Mike Winka
Sunday, December 24:		
Lector:	Deb Zimmerman	Commentator: Ted Zimmerman
Eucharistic Ministers:	Justin Fleener, Beth Fancher, Phil Fancher	
Servers:	Wyatt & Waylon Harvey	Ushers: Alan Huff & Ted Whitehead

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, Rodney Keck, & nursing home residents. Please let the parish office know if names can be added or removed.

Third Week of Advent

St. Edward Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:30 am Ruth Cavanaugh+  
Thursday, December 21, 2023 6:00 AM – Shirley Clark+  
Friday, December 22, 2023 8:00 AM – Kris Huffstodt & Kate Hoover+  
Sunday, December 24, 2023 10:30 am – Frank Cavanaugh+  
Christmas Eve, December 24, 5:00 PM – John Robison III+  
Christmas Day, December 25, 10:30 AM – Phyllis Ragain+

Weekly Contributions

12/10/2023

Envelopes	\$ 1583
Loose	\$ 268
Total	\$1851
We Need	\$ 2032
Mass Stipends	\$0
Building Fund	\$142
Food Pantry	\$ 0
Candles	\$ 30
Immaculate Conception	\$125
Christmas Flowers	\$5
Retired Fund for Religious	
	\$340
Christmas Needy	\$30
Christmas Collection	\$5

Attendance 84

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, Teresa Walker  
Let the office know if names need to be added or removed from our prayer list.

Our Scripture Readings

Sun - Third Sunday of Advent  
Is 61: 1-2a, 10-11 1 Thes 5: 16-24  
Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28  
Mon - Advent Weekday  
Jer 23: 5-8 Mt 1: 18-25  
Tues - Advent Weekday  
Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a Lk 1: 5-25  
Wed - Advent Weekday  
Is 7: 10-14 Lk 1: 26-38  
Thurs- Advent Weekday  
Sg 2: 8-14 Lk 1: 39-45  
Fri - Advent Weekday  
1 Sm 1: 24-28 Lk 1: 46-56  
Sat - Advent Weekday  
Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24 Lk 1: 57-66  
Sun - Fourth Sunday of Advent  
2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rom 16: 25-27  
Lk 1: 26-38

**St. Edward News**

**Food Pantry** – FYI – Our next food pantry will be on Saturday, January 20.

**Penance Service** – The Penance service in preparation for Christmas will be Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 PM

**Christmas Flowers** – If you are interested in donating for the Christmas Flowers in memory of a loved one, envelopes are in your boxes. Just place in the collection by December 17.

**Catholic Extension Calendars** – The Catholic Extension Calendars have arrived and are available for pick up. We again thank Johnson and Vaughn Funeral Home for donating the funds for these calendars for our parish.

**CSMA**- Thanks to some parishioners and an anonymous benefactor in our parish we have reached our goal of \$5948.00.

**Christmas Party** – Thank you to everyone that made our Christmas party a success. Several people helped set up on Saturday, this was very much appreciated.

**Help is needed – We will be decorating for Christmas TODAY (December 17) after mass for Christmas. All Help would be greatly appreciated.**

**Go Fund Me** – Riann Zurliene has set up a Go Fund Me page to assist her brother Ben and his children in the loss of his wife and their mother. Any amount would help this family. This is a way we can help some from our parish family during this season of giving. If interested, visit Riann facebook page.

**Christmas Schedule**

- Penance Service – **St. Edward – Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM**
- Penance Service – St. Stephen – Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM
- Christmas Eve Mass – **St. Edward – December 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM**  
St. Stephen- December 24<sup>th</sup> 11:00 PM
- Christmas Day Mass – St. Stephen- December 25<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 AM  
**St. Edward – December 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM**

**St. Stephen News**

**Sympathy is extended** to Father Charles and his family on the passing of Father’s brother, John Anyaoku. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

**Cookie Walk:** The Cookie Walk was a great time this year! Thank you to ALL the bakers, and to ALL the wonderful helpers that showed up (we had a very good turnout and so many cookies! The Cookie Walk made a profit of \$2,847 which is about \$500 more than last year! This money gets split 3 ways to go to Food Pantry, St Anne’s Special Fund, and St. Anne’s General Fund. A special thanks to all the people who came to buy cookies!

**Basket Raffle:** Thanks to everyone who supported this year’s basket raffle! A total of \$1,630 was brought in this year, and will be split between St. Anne’s and Guadalupe Project. A listing of winners can be found on the table outside of the social room.

**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!

**Parish School of Religion:** Sunday, December 17 - NO Class Sunday, December 24 – NO Class

**Tree of Joy:** Many thanks to all who have so generously agreed to help the children represented by the Tree of Joy. Please return your wrapped and labeled gifts no later than December 17. May you enjoy the abundant blessings of this Christmas season.

**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.

**There is no adoration** on Friday, December 22; Tuesday, December 26; and Friday, December 29.

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

**CSMA:** To date, St. Stephen Parishioners have contributed \$5,705.44 of our \$6,990.00 goal. To make a donation, use the envelopes received in the mail or extras located on the tables at the back of church.

**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		

Holy Days and Special Events December 2023

<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>			
<b>Christmas Eve, December 24:</b>			
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>			
St. Stephen:	6:00pm		
<b>Monday, January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>			
St. Stephen:	8:30am	St. Edward:	10:30am



Week of December 17, 2023



**Agape/Love | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project**  
The word “love” is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, “love” refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.



**Mary of Nazareth**  
What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



**O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About | Brother Francis**  
Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

**From Administrator's Desk:**

- Fr. Charles Anyaoku



**O God,  
who see how your people faithfully await  
the feast of the Lord's Nativity,  
enable us, we pray,  
to attain the joys of so great a salvation  
and to celebrate them always  
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.  
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.  
Amen.**