



Graces are Flying Forth from His Heart

Our Lord is not in the Blessed Sacrament as dead or asleep, not simply there to receive your love and adoration. But just as the most blessed Virgin had her divine Son's life, and His holy examples, and words, and actions before her eyes, even so we have her Son's life and example going on before our eyes, in all their stages, which we can study to our immense profit and advancement in grace. The life of our dear Lord in the Sacred Host is most active. He remains still in the tabernacle, it is true, but graces are flying forth from His Heart in inconceivable abundance. From the tabernacle, Our Lord works miracles both in souls and bodies, as He did of old in Galilee and Judea.

Our divine Lord, thus present in the sacrament of His love, is the central object of the devotion and worship of the Holy Catholic Church. From His Sacred Heart, present in the tabernacle, go forth streams of grace upon human souls that lift them up in prayer and adoration to the throne of God. The very words we use, a "visit to the Blessed Sacrament," reminds us that we go to a living person, and that He is no other than our blessed Savior.

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: 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 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 5th Street

Fairfield, IL 62837

Phone: 618-847-7931

stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com

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

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 or 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

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24:	10:30pm	Carols
	11:00pm	Mass + <i>Al Uebinger</i>
Christmas Day, Dec. 25:	8:30am	Mass + <i>Carroll & Virginia Sulsberger</i>
Tuesday, December 26: <i>Feast of St. Stephen</i>	7:30am	Rosary
	8:00am	Mass + <i>Kenny, Evelyn, & Connie Myers</i>
Wednesday, December 27:	7:30am	Rosary
	8:00am	Mass + <i>Dominic & Mary Talmant</i>
Thursday, December 28:	7:30am	Rosary
	8:00am	Mass + <i>Al Winka</i>
Friday, December 29:	No Adoration	
Saturday, December 30:	4:00pm	Confession
	4:30pm	Mass + <i>Jerry Kohrmann</i>
Sunday, December 31:	8:00am	Rosary
	8:00am	Confession
	8:30am	Mass <i>For the Living & Deceased of the Parish</i>
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:		
Vigil Mass – Sunday, Dec. 31:	6:00pm	Mass + <i>Howard & Madonna Goellner</i>
New Year’s Day, January 1:	8:30am	Mass <i>For the Living & Deceased of the Parish</i>

Weekly Contribution: 12-17-23		Attendance: 12-17-23
Envelope:	\$1,655.00	Retirement Fund for Religious: \$25
Loose:	\$ 325.00	Saturday: 61
TOTAL:	\$1,980.00	Sunday: 47
Weekly Budget	\$2,270.00	Total: 115

Ministers for December

<u>Saturday, December 30:</u>	
Lectors: Beth Sulsberger	Eucharistic Ministers: Cheryl McCarty, Jim Fehrenbacher, Krista Weidner
Servers: Volunteers	Ushers: Mark Winka & Kurt Holkenbrink
<u>Sunday, December 31:</u>	
Lector: Justin Fleener	Commentator: Ted Whitehead
Eucharistic Ministers: Deb Zimmerman, Trudi Herdes, Volunteer	
Servers: Wyatt & Waylon Harvey	Ushers: Jerod Fleener & Ted Zimmerman

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.*

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Tom and MaryBeth Lancaster, winners of this year’s side by side raffle! Thanks to all who contributed to this fundraiser. It was a success once again with a profit of \$8,400, which is split between St. Stephen Parish and Guadalupe Project. Thank you!

Parish School of Religion: Sunday, December 24 – NO Class Sunday, December 31 – NO Class

Tree of Joy: Many thanks to all who have so generously agreed to help the children represented by the Tree of Joy. May you enjoy the abundant blessings of this Christmas season.

Complimentary 8x10 prints of the photos taken for the directory are on the table in the back of church. Directories will be available after the first of the year.

Please pick up your 2024 Contribution Envelopes from the tables in the back of church.

Penny Wars: Three PSR Classes (2nd Grade, 3rd & 4th Grade, 5th & 6th 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.

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

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

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		



***Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.
Amen.***

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 24, 2023



The True Meaning of Christmas | Lukas Storyteller

Christmas is coming and our friends Peter, Agnes, Paul and Anna expect to receive many gifts. but when they caught in one of their antics. Lukas and Noah will help them understand the true story of Christmas and how the birth of the Son of God should change our hearts.



Christmas | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they look at the painting Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. This famous painting reveals the Christ Child as the light that has come into the world and also depicts the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds to be models of adoration to our humble Lord who came as a helpless baby.



The 12 Days of Christmas

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.