



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

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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

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

Second Week of Advent

St. Edward Mass Intentions for the Week

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 & deceased of the parish</i>
Tuesday, December 12:	6:00pm	Rosary
	6:30pm	Mass <i>For the intentions of all Guadalupe Project visitors</i>
	7:00pm	Adoration until midnight
Wednesday, December 13:	7:30am	Rosary
	8:00am	Mass <i>In remembrance of babies lost by miscarriage and for their families</i>
Thursday, December 14:	7:30am	Rosary
	8:00am	Mass + <i>Dominic & Mary Talmant</i>
Friday, December 15:	8:30am	Adoration until 3:15pm
	12:00noon	Servite Rosary
	3:00pm	Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Saturday, December 16:	4:00pm	Confession
	4:30pm	Mass + <i>Ray Winka</i>
Sunday, December 17:	8:00am	Rosary & Confession
	8:30am	Mass <i>For the living & deceased of the parish</i>

Weekly Contribution: 12-3-23			Attendance: 12-3-23	
Envelope:	\$2,215.00	Chicken BBQ: \$119	Saturday:	57
Loose:	\$ <u>158.00</u>	Clavinova: \$500	<u>Sunday:</u>	<u>65</u>
TOTAL:	\$2,373.00	Food Pantry: \$365	Total:	122
Weekly Budget		\$2,270.00		

Ministers for December

<u>Saturday, December 16:</u>			
Lectors: Cheryl McCarty		Eucharistic Ministers: Krista Weidner, Phil Fancher, Beth Fancher	
Servers: Volunteers		Ushers: Jerry Price & Mark Winka	
<u>Sunday, December 17:</u>			
Lector: Susan Schroeder		Commentator: Beth Sulsberger	
Eucharistic Ministers: Jonathan Akers, Emily Milner, Andrew Vahling			
Servers: Kehlin & Kiara Crawford		Ushers: Cory Anderson & Justin Fleener	

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 Replogle, 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.*

Weekly Contributions

12/3/2023	
Envelopes	\$ 2155
Loose	\$ 105
Total	\$2260
We Need	\$ 2032
Mass Stipends	\$20
Building Fund	\$217
Food Pantry	\$ 686
Candles	\$ 30
Immaculate Conception	\$65
Christmas Flowers	\$475
CSMA	\$320

Attendance 82

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 - Second Sunday of Advent
Is 40: 1-5, 9-11 2 Pt 3: 8-14
Mk 1: 1-8
Mon - Advent Weekday
Is 35: 1-10 Lk 5: 17-26
Tues - Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2: 14-17 Lk 1: 39-47
Wed - Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
Is 40: 25-31 Mt 25: 1-13
Thurs- Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church
Is 41: 13-20 Mt 11: 11-15
Fri - Advent Weekday
Is 48: 17-19 Mt 11: 16-19
Sat - Advent Weekday
Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11 Mt.17: 9a, 10-13
Sun - Third Sunday of Advent
Is 61: 1-2a, 10-11 1 Thes 5: 16-24
Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

St. Edward News

Food Pantry – Thank you to everyone that stayed for the meeting last Sunday concerning the food pantry. Thanks to everyone that helped with the food pantry on Friday to set up and to those that helped distribute the food on Saturday.

Christmas Eve Choir – The first choir practice will be after the Christmas Party on today. Everyone is invited to participate.

Christmas Masses – Please check the back of the bulletin.

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- An anonymous benefactor in our parish has offered to match donations for the Catholic Service Ministry and Appeal (CSMA) up to \$400. They believe it's important our parish meet its goal for this great cause in the Diocese of Belleville by New Year's Day. **We are only \$80 from our \$400 goal. If you have not contributed yet, just drop it in the collection basket.**

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

From Administrator's desk,

Why , and for what reason is Jesus Christ coming

Today the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Advent, year B.

On this second week of Advent year B, we continue our waiting and preparation for the Lord's coming. Today in a special way the church calls us to reflect on the good news that this season brings – that Christ is coming. In light of this, we are also to reflect on the reason for his coming, and most importantly on what we ought to be doing while we wait for him.

Today all our readings focus on the following themes, the imminence of the Lord's coming and arrival, the need for repentance for the forgiveness of our sins, and of course the need to live saintly, holy and spotless lives. All of these are geared towards making sure that we are fully prepared for the glorious encounter with our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. One important question that we must ask ourselves today is: Why is Christ coming, what are all these talks about his coming for? The answer is simple: He is coming because he loves us, he is coming in order to forgive, console, and to save us, and he is coming to make all things (including us) new.

In the Gospel of this Sunday, John the Baptist brings us the good news about the Lord's imminent coming. He makes an explicit call to us to repent for the forgiveness of our sins. What is there to repent from? They include, those moments we have denied God through our words and actions, those moments we have failed ourselves and our neighbors, those times we have neglected the good we ought to do, those times we have gossiped and castigated others, those times we have not been true to ourselves, God, our neighbors and our country, and those times we have failed to live saintly and holy lives. This Advent is the time to say, God we are sorry, forgive us for we have sinned! This is a very important condition for us to welcome Christ worthily, and this is what the prophets Isaiah, John the Baptist mean respectively by, *"preparing a way for the Lord"* and *"living holy and saintly lives."*

This season of Advent is a time of grace given to us to prepare our hearts so that we are ready to receive Christ at Christmas. Therefore, God's grace is abundant for all. His grace is gratuitous and he gives it free to all who are ready, available, and open to the spirit. We should not miss this opportunity to reconcile with God and our neighbor.

St. Stephen News

Christmas Dinner & Program is this 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.

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 10 – Class Sunday, December 17 - 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 (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.

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.

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.

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.

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:

Readings: (1st: Ish 40, 1-5.9-11: Ps 84, 9-14; 2nd: 2 Pt 3, 8-14; Gos: Mk 1, 1-8)

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Announcements

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There will be an advent penance service this week. **St Edward Parish on Sunday 17th 2023 at 6pm**
St Stephen Parish on Monday 18th 2023 at 6pm

Holy Days and Special Events November & December 2023

Christmas Party:

St. Edward: December 10
St. Stephen: December 10 (Meal at 5:30pm, Program at 7:00pm)

Penance Service:

St. Edward: December 17 at 6:00pm
St. Stephen: December 18 at 6:00pm

Sunday, December 24: 4th Sunday of Advent

St. Stephen: Saturday (Dec 23) at 4:30pm and Sunday (Dec 24) at 8:30am
St. Edward: 10:30am

CHRISTMAS (Holy Day of Obligation)

Christmas Eve, December 24:

St. Edward: 5:00pm
St. Stephen: 10:30pm (Carols) 11:00pm (Mass)

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day

St. Stephen: 8:30am St. Edward: 10:30am

Tuesday, December 26: Feast of St. Stephen

St. Stephen: 8:00am

Wednesday, December 27: St. John

St. Stephen: 8:00am

Thursday, December 28: Holy Innocents

St. Stephen: 8:00am

Sunday, December 31: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

St. Stephen: Saturday (Dec 30) at 4:30pm and Sunday (Dec 31) at 8:30am
St. Edward: 10:30am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday, December 31: Eve of Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

St. Stephen: 6:00pm

Monday, January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

St. Stephen: 8:30am St. Edward: 10:30am



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*Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking
hinder those who set out in haste
to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
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.*