From the Heart of the Pastor

Dear Parish Family,

Great things are happening at St. Stephen's! Here are a few highlights from this week:

A NEW ST STEPHEN STATUE ACQUIRED

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we have acquired a beautiful new statue of St. Stephen for the sanctuary of the church (see photo on facing page). It will stand at the same height as the statue of St. Joseph. The statue is currently being shipped from Italy.

This new statue of St. Stephen will be placed on the wooden pedestal to the left of the tabernacle. The statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary will return to the side altar where the current state of St. Stephen stands. This is the original placement of the statue of Our Lady. Returning Our Lady to her side altar will make it more convenient for Marian devotions — and for brides to bring flowers to Mary at weddings.

Our new statue of St. Stephen will be solemnly blessed at the 10am Mass next weekend.

UPDATE: REPAIR OF CHURCH CEILING

In my first weekend at St. Stephen's, I shared my intention to keep you updated on the progress of important repairs to our church. Here is an update on the church ceiling:

Following the recommendation of three building experts, we have begun to investigate a method of cleaning and painting the ceiling. A lift was brought in church this week so workers could carefully clean and prime a 2' x 6' portion of the ceiling. This portion will be monitored over the next month. *More to come on this exciting development!*

ALTAR SERVERS RETURN TO HOLY MASS

Thank you to our new altar servers who said, "YES" to the invitation to serve at God's Holy Altar! Our two altar server trainings were a success, and the new servers will begin serving this weekend at Holy Mass.
I'm very grateful to a generous family who helped the parish to acquire new cassocks and surplices for our altar servers. These are the black and white vestments that the servers wear—they have a history in the church that goes back to the Middle Ages. Please thank our new servers for their gift of service to St. Stephen's!

In Christ,
Fr. Istre

Masses for the Week

Monday, September 26, 12:10 p.m.
Elma Braus

Tuesday, September 27, 12:10 p.m.
Elma Braus

Wednesday, September 28, 12:10 p.m.
Elma Braus, Ruby & Guy Pete, Mae & Algie DeHart

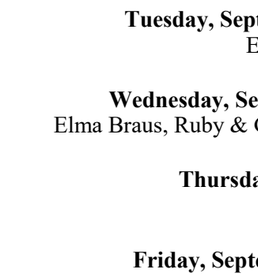
Thursday, September 29
No Mass

Friday, September 30, 12:10 p.m.
AML

Saturday, October 1
8:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. M/M Herman Pellerin, Sr. fly. (L&D), M/M E.J. Lemoine fly. (L&D), Miles Liner fly. (L&D), Geraldine Barbier, Don Lasseigne, Leroy & Mercedes Naquin, Anatole & Marcelite Naquin, Bobby Naquin, Tommy Naquin, Elaine Grant, Dana Robin, Betty Aucoin

Sunday, October 2
7:00 a.m. Calvin LeLeux fly. (L&D), Jr., Joseph Trahan, Kenneth Garber, Sr.
10:00 a.m. Lee Nini, Jr. fly. (L&D), Brenda White, Guy & Ruby Pete
6:30 p.m.



New Daily Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday
12:10 pm Mass
Confessions 30 minutes before Mass
No Mass Thursday

First Saturday
8 am Mass
Confessions 30 minutes before Mass

Begins Monday, September 5th (Labor Day)

Sacrificial Giving

Offertory: $6,087.00

The new statue of our patron, St. Stephen (at left), comes from a studio in Modena Italy.

The statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary will return to its original place at the Marian side altar. At right are photos from The Church of St. Stephen *(printed in 1953) that show the side altar statues in their original places.*

Around the Parish

FIRST SATURDAY MASS BEGINS IN OCTOBER

The First Saturday Mass (in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary) will begin on Saturday, October 1st at 8am. *October is the month of the Holy Rosary.* Confessions will be heard half an hour before Holy Mass.

NEW DAILY MASS SCHEDULE CONTINUES

Our new 12:10 daily Mass continues, and it has been a great success. So far, we have had around 35 people attending Holy Mass each day. What a blessing for our parish! *If you have never attended daily Mass before, consider joining us just one or two days a week. Attending daily Mass is a powerful way to sanctify your day!*

BLESSING OF PETS ON OCTOBER 3rd

Fr. Istre will celebrate the Blessing of Pets in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi at 11:00 am on Monday, October 3rd in the church parking lot. *Please park under the bridge, since Early Learning School students will gather in the parking lot.*

NEW LIGHTS IN SACRISTY

This week, brighter, energy-efficient LED light fixtures were installed to replace existing fixtures in the sacristy (the room to the left of the sanctuary where the priest prepares for Holy Mass). These fixtures were gifted to the parish by an anonymous donor.

DATE / TIME	READERS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION	ROSARY
October 1, 4:00 p.m.	Linda Thomas	Debby Morella	Sybil Lasseigne
October 2, 7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Prissy Davis Martha Boudreaux Monique Ratcliff	 Debra Parker Belinda Boudreaux	