



St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr

We are a Stewardship Parish

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016



Daily Mass—Monday through Saturday at 8 am

Mass of Anticipation—Saturday at 5 pm

Sunday Masses—7 am, 8:30 am, 10 am, 11:30 am, 6:15 pm, and Polish at 1 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation—Saturday 8:45-9:30 am

☞ Parish Mission ☞

St. Stephen is a Catholic community of faith striving to witness to the Gospel. Our Baptism and Confirmation call us to bring Christ's Love to our families, our work places, and our community. Grateful for God's gifts, we seek to nurture those gifts and to give back to the Lord by sharing our time, talent, and material treasure. In all of our parish activities we seek to develop a personal relationship with the Lord who directs our lives and a vision that sees the world with the eyes of Christ and that leads to a commitment to justice. We seek a sense of unity in Christ that leads us to be an open and welcoming people and a sense of joy in being graced by the gifts of God's love.

Our Staff

Rev. James Finno, Pastor

Rev. Grzegorz Warmuz, Associate Pastor

Deacons: Robert Conlin Joseph Stalcup
William Engler Pete Van Merkestyn
Chuck McFarland Kenneth Zawadzki
William Schultz

Karen Opyd, Administrative Assistant to Pastor
Mark Gorka, Music Minister
Kyle Groves, Youth/Young Adult Minister
Dave Prete, Maintenance Director

Parish Office

Address: 17500 S. 84th Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 60487

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30am-8pm; Fri 8:30am-6pm;
Sat Noon-5pm; *Closed Mon-Friday from 12:30-1pm.*

Office Phone: 708.342.2400

Office Fax: 708.342.1545

Website: www.ststephentinley.com

Email: info@ststephentinley.com

Bulletins: Email articles to Ron@ststephentinley.com by noon on Wednesday 11 days prior to bulletin's publication date.

Religious Education Office

Director of Religious Education—Sandi Morgan
Assoc. Director of Religious Education—Leslie Krauledis
Admin. Assistant for Religious Education—Joann Buryj
Religious Education Secretary—Patti Parker
Phone: 708.342.1544

Our Parish School—Cardinal Bernardin

Principal—Ms. Mary Iannucilli

Address: 9250 W. 167th Street Orland Hills, IL 60487

School Phone: 708.403.6525 **School Fax:** 708.403.8621

Website: cjbschool.org **Email:** info@cjbschool.org

For those in need...

- Counseling services are available at St. Stephen through the Holbrook Counseling Center of Catholic Charities. Appointments with our parish counselor Michele L. Nowak, LCPC, can be made at 312-655-7725.
- For crisis counseling and veteran concerns, please contact Deacon Pete Van Merkestyn at the parish office.
- For parishioners struggling and in need of help, please contact St. Stephen's St. Vincent de Paul ministry through the parish office.
- For those seeking help through a twelve-step program, St. Stephen offers English and Polish support groups. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Sacraments

Baptisms are celebrated every Sunday at 3pm in English and 1pm in Polish. Please contact Deacon Ken in the parish office for the necessary preparations.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on Saturdays from 8:45—9:30am in the church or by appointment.

Funerals can be arranged with the parish office.

Marriages—St. Stephen Parish welcomes the celebration of the weddings of both registered parishioners and the children of registered parishioners. Information is available from one of the priests or deacons.

Communion for the sick, elderly, handicapped, or homebound parishioners can be arranged by calling Fr. Greg at the parish office or Barbara Black at 708-466-9962.

New Parishioner Registration

St. Stephen Parish welcomes all those who wish to register:

- After the 10am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month
- By appointment on Mondays at 2pm, Tuesdays at 11am, Wednesdays at 8:30am or Thursdays at 6:45pm. Please contact the parish office.

Stewardship: Sharing Our Treasure

Thank you for your continued Stewardship in support of St. Stephen. Please remember that our monthly mortgage payment to the Archdiocese of \$41,500 is paid from our monthly collections.

Please consider making electronic donations through Give Central. Go to our website www.ststephentinley.com and click on Online Giving to sign up. Online donations can be scheduled at the frequency you choose through either your bank or credit card.

	<u>September 2016</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Actual	\$108,893	\$343,307
Budget	\$116,375	\$371,125
Surplus / (Shortfall)	(\$7,482)	(\$27,818)

Collections For 11-13-2016

Regular	\$21,513.00
Kids	\$78.08
Sharing	\$48.00
All Saints	\$65.00
All Souls	\$52.00
Immaculate Conception	\$20.00

Also, please consider remembering your parish when preparing your will.

From Our Pastor

Dear People of St. Stephen,
Today we begin the very spiritually rich season of Advent. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus," which means "coming." Advent is the Church's season of preparing for the two comings of the Lord. We prepare for Jesus' first coming at Christmas; we also prepare for Jesus' second coming at the end of time. Preparing to celebrate each of the comings puts different yet complementary emphases on the spirituality of the Advent season. Christmas celebrates the great love of our God who became one of us at Bethlehem on the first Christmas. Preparing to celebrate Jesus' being born of Mary calls us to quiet our lives and to allow the Lord to touch us in moments of prayer and reflection - not something easy to do amid the busy activities at this time of year. We need to quiet our hearts in Advent in order to open ourselves to the peace that comes from the Lord's presence with us and to the hope that comes from Jesus' promise of life. Preparing for the second coming - the final coming of the Lord at the end of time - is harder for us to identify with. We do not expect the second coming to be anytime soon, yet we are called to prepare the way for the Lord's final coming by working to build His Kingdom now.

The Advent theme for our parish this year is "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain"; it is taken from the words of the prophet Isaiah in the first reading today. In a passage that proclaims God's promise of salvation, Isaiah calls us to prepare for the Lord's kingdom. Calling us to climb the mountain of the Lord is a call to make the effort to join in God's work of salvation. Isaiah calls us to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth

by making the effort needed to welcome Christ into our hearts. This call is inner directed, inviting us to turn to the Lord Jesus and to deepen our relationship with Him. Advent is a season that invites us to prayer. I invite you to take advantage of some of the opportunities present in our parish to grow in prayer in the special season. *The Little Blue Book* offers daily reflections for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Dynamic Catholic's Best Advent Ever online program offers daily reflections via email. I invite you to join in the parish Advent Reconciliation service on December 13 at 7:30 PM. Take advantage of one of the hours for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Just a few minutes a day will open our hearts to the Lord in a special way this Christmas.

Preparing for the Lord's second coming is more outer directed, calling us to live in the spirit of Christ each day in an effort to build God's kingdom that will come to completion at the end of time. Building God's kingdom involves committing ourselves to the work of building our world as God would want it to be. The generosity we see in the Christmas season is an example of an attitude that builds God's kingdom. Isaiah's vision of peace and John the Baptist's call to repent that we see in the readings for the second Sunday of Advent speak to the challenge of the season. We are called to work for peace and reconciliation among people. Building peace starts in our own personal relationships and extends to the ways we can work together in our world. Isaiah's vision in which the wolf is at peace with the Lamb and all God's creation lives in harmony is both a comfort and expression of hope since this peace is the work of our God who

ultimately will establish this peace.

Isaiah's vision is also a challenge, as climbing the Lord's mountain calls us to be an instrument of peace and reconciliation in our world. The custom of building manger scenes - the custom developed by St. Francis of Assisi - can help us to reflect on preparing for these two comings of Christ. The Christmas reality expressed in the manger scene reflects the faith of St. Francis. St. Francis was deeply devoted to Christ and to seeing the presence of Christ in others in our world. He recognized the Christmas reality of God being among us and wanted everyone to recognize God's love for us that was revealed in Jesus becoming one of us. St. Francis also had a great commitment to care for the poor and needy - the commitment to the work of God's kingdom that will be fulfilled at the end of time. Let's pray for one another that in this Advent season we will all grow in our personal relationship with Christ through our prayer and worship and that we will grow in our commitment to building the Lord's kingdom by living in our homes and communities the love Jesus brought to us.

I also ask you to pray for our parish children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time next Saturday. These are the children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion next May. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

May God bless you and your loved ones.

Fr. Jay



Spiritual Life

**The Holy Family Flowers
were donated in memory of**

James G. Kelley

for the week of November 27, 2016.

Sponsored by The Kelley & Guzzo Families.

The Sanctuary Candle

burns in memory of

Edward Haberkorn

for the week of November 27, 2016.

Sponsored by The Family.

Adoration ☩ Come and spend some quiet time with Jesus, who is truly present in the Holy Eucharist, and allow Him to transform your life. Hours in the chapel are: Mondays from 9:30 AM -3:30 PM; Thursdays from 8:30 AM—6:30 PM with rosary at 8:30 AM and Benediction at 6:30 PM; and Fridays from 9:30 AM—3:30 PM.

Advent Candle Lighting

Parishioners of St. Stephen are invited to help light the Advent candles at Mass during Advent. A sign up form with available Mass times is available at the back of church on the ushers' table. The Advent Intentions will also be brought up to the altar by those who sign up to light the candles. For those who do sign up—please check in with an usher no later than 10 minutes before Mass starts. Otherwise, the ushers will look for someone to take your place. Please remember to honor your commitment.



Best Advent Ever with Dynamic Catholic

This Advent, you are invited to participate in *Best Advent Ever: Rediscover Christmas*, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you slow down and focus on what really matters during the busy season. Each day, you'll receive an email with practical tips, free Christmas music, or an inspirational video from Dr. Allen Hunt and other Catholic voices of our time. Simply sign up at www.BestAdventEver.com

Oplatki

Oplatki (Christmas Wafers) will be on sale after all the Masses during Advent on the table in the narthex and will also be available at the parish office. Please put your donation in the box marked "Oplatki Donation Here." The cost for the Oplatki is \$2 per package, which includes 3 white wafers and 1 pink wafer.

Sharing Oplatki with your family and friends at Christmas is a beautiful Polish custom. Each member of the family shares a part of their wafer with those at the dinner table and wishes them a Blessed Christmas and New Year.

Parish Vocation Prayer Cross Program

Please consider signing up for the Parish Vocation Prayer Cross Program. Sign ups are at the back of church on the ushers' table. The program works like this: At each Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday, a family, couple, or individual will be invited to come forward after communion to receive the Vocation Prayer Cross and a special prayer written to accompany it. In taking the cross, they commit themselves to pray during the week, in the name of our parish, the vocation prayer in thanksgiving for all those generously sharing in Church ministry and in asking God for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and lay Church ministries. Everyone is invited to participate in this program.

Honor or Remember a Loved One

If you would like to sponsor the Sanctuary candle or the Holy Family flowers for a special occasion or for a memorial, please stop by the parish office. Reservations are now open through December 2017. A recommended donation of \$50 is requested. Weekly bouquets will be seasonal, fresh-cut flowers provided by Hearts and Flowers Florist in Tinley Park. If you have any questions, please contact Karen or Stacy in the parish office at 708-342-2400.



Spiritual Life

<i>First Week of Advent—Come, Walk in the Light of the Lord</i>						
Sunday Nov. 27	Monday Nov. 28	Tuesday Nov. 29	Wednesday Nov. 30	Thursday Dec. 1	Friday Dec. 2	Saturday Dec. 3
First Sunday in Advent. Walk with Mary and Joseph and be part of Jesus' birth.	Begin Advent by attending daily Mass as often as possible.	Smile and say "Hello" to people you meet.	Make a new friend or contact an old one.	Send greeting cards to disabled veterans and people in assisted living.	When grocery shopping, buy something extra for the food pantry.	First Saturday in Advent. Say the Rosary for world peace.

“Come Let Us Climb the Lord’s Mountain.”

Advent Season

The word “Advent” (Coming) indicated how Christians view the four-week period preceding the Nativity of our Lord. It is a time of preparation for an evermore intimate coming of the Lord to you and all of us.

When I come to visit a friend, I am present to him. Coming results in presence. Of course, the Lord is already present to His people. Therefore, His coming at Christmas should result in a more intimate presence. People (friends, lovers) who get to know and love one another better are becoming more intimately, more personally, present to one another. It is a question of opening up and sharing one another’s personality. Our preparation for Christ’s coming should consist in an evermore opening up to Him who wants to share our human condition in loving care.

By preparing for the Lord’s coming time and again at Christmas, Christians prepare for His final coming which will be decisive for you and all human beings. “Now we watch for the day hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in His glory” (Preface of Advent).

St. Joseph Daily Missal

Advent Prayers

We invite all of our parishioners to fill out an intention sheet available on the table in the narthex. Please list your intentions and family name if desired and place your intentions in the basket on the table. The intentions will be placed by the altar during the Advent Season.



Preparing A Home Advent Wreath

Cut out and attach the following tags at the end of a ribbon and tie the other end of the ribbon around the wreath near each candle. Be careful not to start a fire.

Come

Come, Walk in the Light of the Lord

Leaving the darkness behind, I choose to walk in the light of the Lord, remembering His ways, following His paths, sharing His peace.

Glory

Welcome One Another for the Glory of God

May I glorify You by reaching out to others with deeds that produce good fruit, compassion that brings peace and harmony to others, and actions that reflect Your mercy and love.

Peace

Be Patient, the Lord is Coming

As I patiently await Your coming, help me to know your splendor and glory. Grant me confidence to trust, courage to hope, and the conviction of a firm faith.

Emmanuel

Welcome, Emmanuel

Jesus, I welcome You into my heart with anticipation, excitement, and joy. With the help of Your grace, may I always be pleasing to You.

Spiritual Life

Our Lady of Fatima

The Ambassadors of Mary will be making a pilgrimage to St. Stephen parish with the Our Lady of Fatima statue on Saturday, November 26 at 8 o'clock in the evening. The statue's visit is intended to bring the graces of Fatima and Mary's message of hope, peace, and salvation to those who may never have an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal. The rosary will be said at 7:30 each night from Sunday, November 27 through Saturday, December 3. Please join us as we pray the mysteries of the rosary together as a community of faith.



***The Little Blue Book* An Advent Prayer Book**

Advent begins this Sunday, November 27. To aid in the prayerful preparation for Advent *The Little Blue Book* written by Bishop Untener of Saginaw, Michigan offers a brief prayer for each day of Advent. *The Little Blue Book* is available in the magazine racks on the west wall of the narthex. Please take one and use it for daily prayer during Advent. A donation of \$1 is requested to help pay for each book.

Communion for the Homebound

If you or someone you know would like to receive this life giving Sacrament, please call Father Greg in the parish offices at 708-342-2400 to make arrangements. Schedules are flexible and can be arranged by the minister and the person to be visited or his/her caregiver.

Faith and Inspiration to Hope Intercessory Prayer Group

Our Faith and Inspiration prayer group will meet this Thursday, December 1 at 7 PM in the daily chapel. The goal of this ministry is to bring Christ's healing love to people struggling with illness and to support their loved ones and caregivers. The prayer service includes quiet music, a Scripture reading, a reflection, and intercessory prayer. The prayer asks for the help of God in our times of need and helps us to recognize that God walks with us in facing the pain of life. Everyone is invited to join in this prayer time.



Christmas Eve Nativity Liturgy

As Advent season nears, it is time for us at St. Stephen to begin to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Your children, grades 1 and up, are invited to be a part of the St. Stephen Christmas Eve Nativity Liturgy. At the 5 PM Mass on Christmas Eve, our children will be presenting the Christmas Gospel. We hope to involve many of our children in this beautiful experience. All parts are non-speaking. A few special parts, grades 3 and up, will be selected by lottery. **While we have a few costumes, families will need to provide most costumes which are all very basic.**

Please consider the schedule of rehearsals below. **All rehearsals are mandatory.** Rehearsals for the Children's 5 PM Christmas Eve Mass are as follows:

- Thursday 12/1 from 6—7 PM; in rooms 125/126 (Assignment of parts.)
- Thursday, 12/15 from 6—7 PM; in church
- Tuesday, 12/20 from 6—7 PM; in church (Dress Rehearsal—Costumes must be worn.)

If your child(ren) is interested in participating in this special Mass, please come to the first practice on December 1 at 6 PM.

Adult helpers are needed and welcome. If you have any questions, please call Fr. Jay at 708-342-2400 or Sandi Morgan 708-342-1544, ext. 147.

FORMED

St. Stephen parishioners are invited to sign up for Formed—an online resource filled with all the best Catholic content, all in one place. Entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks, and a great selection of popular ebooks are just a click away. Take advantage of your free subscription and register using our parish **code RR3NKN**. Advent is a great time to sign up!

www.formed.org

Spiritual Life

The Call of the Holy Spirit



The call of the Holy Spirit to consider a vocation may sometimes be a gentle voice stirring the soul or a personal longing in our hearts. It may be the urging of friends or spouses. It can also find birth in the invitation of pastors, deacons and parish leaders to pursue such an inquiry. No matter the source of our questions, each of us needs to be affirmed and encouraged to bring a call to a vocation to prayerful discernment.

The Institute for Diaconal Studies (IDS) invites all men who feel the gentle nudge of the Holy Spirit to attend an *Exploring the Diaconate* session. It is a time to pray, discuss, and learn more about the discernment process and the formation program that aspirants and candidates pursue.

Please join us with your wives, if married, as we explore the potential of a vocation, engage in dialogue, and pray in search of the next step. All are welcome to attend any of the following sessions. No registration is required.

Jan. 17, 2017: SS. Cyril & Methodius, Lemont (Vicariate V), 7:30 PM. Location: Sivore Hall (School Basement).

Jan. 24, 2017: St. Thomas the Apostle, Chicago (Vicariate VI), 7:30 PM. Location: Parish Hall.

Feb. 26, 2017: St. Philip the Apostle, Northfield (Vicariate II), after 11:45 AM Mass. Location: St. John Paul II Room.

Mar. 2, 2017: Vicar for Deacons Office, Forest Park, 7:30 PM. Location: St. Bernadine (816 Marengo Avenue).

Mar. 21, 2017: St. John the Evangelist, Streamwood (Vicariate I), 7:30 PM. Location: Parish Center.

Mar. 30, 2017: St. Aloysius, Chicago (Vicariate III), 7:30 PM. Location: Gonzaga Hall (1510 N. Claremont Ave.).

Apr. 6, 2017: Univ. of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein (Vicariate I), 7:30 PM. Location: Priest Center (Bldg. 201P).

Apr. 21, 2017: Univ. of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein (Vicariate I), 7:30 PM Location: Prist Center (Bldg. 201P).

Our priests and deacons are praying for those discerning a vocation to become a deacon. If you are interested in exploring the Diaconate, please contact Deacon Ken Zawadzki or any of the other Deacons by phone at 708-342-2400.

Parish Life

SCRIP Gift Card Sale—Weekend of December 3 and December 4



Tis the season of giving! The SCRIP Program from our parish school—Cardinal Joseph Bernardin—will be selling gift cards for local and national merchants at all the Masses next weekend on December 3 and 4. Save yourself the hassle of running from store to store this holiday season or trying to find that perfect gift for that hard to buy person. Save time, gas, and avoid the lines of holiday shopping. **SCRIP gift cards are the very same cards you would purchase at the store.** Gift cards are safe and easy to use without the threat of identity theft.

Gift cards for over 200 retailers and restaurants, including Jewel, Target, Wal-Mart, Kohl's, Marcus Theaters, VIP Nails, Ulta, Lumes, Red Lobster, and many, many more will be available for sale. Our Visa, Discover, and American Express cards do not have any activation fees. Assorted \$5 and \$10 stocking stuffer cards will also be sold. **Please use the green order form inserted into last week's bulletin or pick one up on the ushers' tables or in the parish office.**

An additional benefit of this program is that you can earn rebates for each card purchased. These rebates can be applied to yourself, St. Vincent de Paul, the Parish Life Center, Religious Education tuition or any Catholic school tuition.

Payments may be made by cash or check only. If you have any questions about the program, or would like to order a large quantity of one merchant, please contact Corinna Pytel prior to November 23 at 708-478-0710.

Christmas Charitable Giving Opportunities



Mercy Home for Boys and Girls—Gifts Needed

Our St. Stephen Teen Group—Branches—is sponsoring a collection of stocking stuffers and small gifts for the teens who live at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. Please consider purchasing one of the suggested Christmas gift items or gift cards for boys or girls ages 13—18 years old. Unwrapped gifts and gift cards should be brought to church **next weekend—Saturday, December 3 or Sunday, December 4.** Teens will be in the Narthex to collect your gifts at all of the Masses.

Please remember to bring in your gifts. Due dates are bolded below.

Parishioners—the SCRIP vendor gift card program will also be in the Narthex the same weekend as our Mercy Home collection. If you would like to give a gift card as a stocking stuffer, please consider purchasing one through the SCRIP program. A sample list of teen-friendly gift cards offered through SCRIP and available denominations is also provided below. Buying a gift card through the SCRIP program will save you a stop and your purchase will also help our parish and parish school. It's a win-win!

Ideas for Mercy Home Christmas Gifts /Stocking Stuffers for Teens Ages 13—18 Years Old		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book lights, book markers • Craft duct tape • Journals, fine tip sharpies, colorful pens, silly erasers • Jigsaw puzzles (250 count and up) • Puzzle books—Sudoku, Word Search • Sketch books, art pencils • Alarm clocks, digital watches • Mini-speakers • MP 3 Players, head phones/ear buds • Water bottles • Towel or towel sets • Twin size sheet sets and comforters • Athletic or fuzzy socks • Slippers all sizes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Card games such as Uno, Skip-Bo, etc. • Board games such as Monopoly, Apples to Apples, Life, Chess, Checkers, etc. • Movie DVD's such as <i>The BFG</i>, <i>The Angry Birds Movie</i>, <i>ZOOTOPIA</i>, <i>The Secret Life Of Pets</i>, <i>Kubo and The Two Strings</i>, <i>Storks</i>, <i>Finding Dory</i> • Bubble bath • Small cologne and perfume • Dopp kit or cosmetic bags • Movie passes, mall gift cards • Visa or Discover pre-paid gift cards • Baseball caps 	<p><i>Gift cards available through SCRIP:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMC Theatre—\$10 • Amazon—\$10 or \$25 • Barnes and Noble—\$5, \$10, \$25 • Bath & Body—\$5, \$10, \$25 • Best Buy—\$25 • Culvers—\$10 • Dick's Sporting Goods—\$10, \$25 • Dunkin Donuts—\$5, \$10, \$25 • Game Stop—\$25 • iTunes—\$10, \$15, \$25 • Starbucks—\$5, \$10, \$25 • Subway—\$5, \$25 • Taco Bell—\$10 • Target—\$10, \$25 • Wendy's—\$10

St. Vincent de Paul December Food Drive

Please consider participating in our St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Parish Food Drive **next weekend—December 3/4.** Perhaps you could include a holiday treat, such as candy canes or a Panettone, with your food offering this month to help make the season a bit more merry for someone in need.

St. Vincent de Paul - Grocery Cards

Grocery gift cards are always welcome to help needy families purchase a holiday ham or turkey, as well as fresh produce. Jewel, Meijer, Target, Walt's, and Walmart grocery gift cards will be sold as part of the December 3/4 SCRIP gift card sale. If you are donating a grocery gift card, please do not put it in your food bag. Instead, please drop it in one of the secure SVdP black boxes in the narthex or bring it to the parish office **by Monday, December 5.**

Tinley Park Food Pantry

If you signed up at Mass last weekend to give a gift to child through the Tinley Park Food Pantry program, please remember to bring your wrapped gift to the Parish Office **by Friday, December 2.**

Bickford Assisted Living House

If you signed up to give a resident of Bickford Assisted Living Home a gift, please bring your unwrapped gift to the Parish Office **by Thursday, December 8.**

Youth Education & Formation

Religious Education Schedule

November 29—Catechist meeting, 6-8 p.m. (Ed. wing/church). Our featured speaker is Joe Paprocki.

December 3—First Reconciliation 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. (church)

December 5, 6, 7—Instructional Mass 4, class sessions (church/chapel). Fourth grade will join in church during class time to learn more about Mass.

December 11—Grade 4 Sunday Mass 10 a.m. (church). All Religious Ed. students and Catholic School students of fourth grade families should attend 10 a.m. Mass. Fourth graders will process in with the priest and be called to the altar for the homily. Please remember to sign in your student at the table in the Narthex.

January 8—Grade 1 Sunday Mass 10 a.m. (church). Epiphany of the Lord. All Religious Ed. students and Catholic School students of first grade families should attend 10 a.m. Mass. First graders will process in with the priest and be called to the altar for the homily. Please remember to sign in your student at the table in the Narthex. First graders are asked to make donations of hats, scarfs, mittens, and gloves for the less fortunate. These donations will be sent to the PADS program at St. Lawrence O'Toole.

Children's Liturgy

Attending Sunday Mass creates a great faith foundation for the youth of the parish; all families are invited to participate in the various children's liturgical offerings during the 10AM Mass. Here is a listing what is happening at each Mass for the school year. Come fill the pews and enjoy our faith community! We are currently forming a Children's Liturgy Team to assist in the planning and celebrating of these liturgies. If you are interested in helping in this effort, please contact Fr. Jay or our religious education office.

Calendar of Events:

December 4	Family Mass	10AM
11	Grade 4 Mass	10AM
18	Children's Liturgy of the Word	10AM
24	Christmas Family Mass	5PM

St. Stephen/St. Seton Branches Youth Ministry



December Events

Sunday, December 4—NO Branches

Sunday, December 11

BRANCHES HIGH SCHOOL

Downtown Shopping

Christkindl Market & Water Tower Place

Meet at 12:15pm at Tinley Park/80th

12:30pm-9:30pm. RSVP required.

Thursday, December 15

BRANCHES MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Bickford Senior Living Service Project

Christmas game night 6:30pm-8:30pm

Must have permission waiver filled out.

Email or call to RSVP.

Sunday, December 18

BRANCHES MIDDLE SCHOOL

Christmas Party—PLC at St. Seton

5:00pm-7:00pm

Monday, December 19

BRANCHES MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Bickford Senior Living Service Project

Christmas Caroling at 6:30pm.

Email or call to RSVP.

Friday, December 30

HIGH SCHOOL BRANCHES

Lock-in at St. Seton

6:00pm Friday until 8:00am Saturday

Volleyball League

Starting in January, Branches will be playing in a high school volleyball league among the other churches in the area from January to March. All 8th grade & high school students are welcome. Please contact Kyle Groves to sign up.

Contact information for Kyle Groves, Youth Minister

St. Stephen Phone: 708-342-2400 x 149

St. Stephen email: kyle@ststephentinley.com

Human Concerns



Confidentiality & compassion are the cornerstones of our ministry.

Are you in need of help?

Please contact our parish office at 708-342-2400, ask for the SVdP hotline, and leave a message when you are connected to the voicemail box. Be sure to leave your name and a phone number where you can be reached. Someone from our SVdP ministry group will contact you.

There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every human person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves; for we long for the coming of the Lord. As you put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, your heart will discover the true meaning of Christmas as you help those who are suffering and poor to long for the coming of the Lord.

Community

Brother Rice Open House

Attention 6th - 8th grade boys!! *Come see why so many say there has never been a better time to be a Crusader!!* Come to our open house on Sunday, December 4th from 11 AM—1 PM. Contact Tim O'Connell '03 with any questions at toconnell@brrice.org

Marian Catholic High School Open House

Prospective students are invited to attend an open house on Wednesday, December 7th from 7-9 PM. Prospective families will be given guided tours of the Chicago Heights campus.

Marian Catholic Honor Roll

Congratulations to St. Stephen parishioner and CJB graduate Pamela Maria Hamoay for achieving Honor Roll Grade status.

God's "Big Hug" Prayer Shawl Ministry

Next Meeting—Thursday, December 1 at 10 AM in Rm. 125

The purpose of the Prayer Shawl ministry is to hand craft shawls that represent a mantle of care and love from our parish to the recipient. We create hand knit or crocheted shawls and chemo caps for the sick, homebound, those who are grieving, or to celebrate a very special occasion! Prayer shawls are not just for those who are ill. If you know of someone in need of a shawl to remind them they are not alone and they are loved and cared for, please request one.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is open to everyone—even if you cannot attend the meetings. Shawls can be created at home, on your own time, and at your own speed. We ask that you make the shawls no smaller than 25"x 60". This size is a perfect fit for those receiving shawls. We welcome everyone to bring your latest project and join us for friendly conversation or instruction from one of our members.

In case you missed us the weekend of November 5/6, shawls will be available in the Narthex after all the Masses the weekend of January 7-8.

Donations of yarn as well as monetary donations are always welcome. For more information about our ministry, please contact Dorothy at 708-614-2588.



Parish 500 Club Winners

Congratulations to the following Parish 500 Club winners for the week of November 21

\$100 Winner—Square # 432

The Wurster Family

\$25 Winner—Square #55

John McLean

Celebrants, Deacons, Greeters, and Counters

Date	Ministry	Sat 5 PM	Sun 7 AM	Sun 8:30 AM	Sun 10 AM	Sun 11:30 AM	Sun 1 PM Polish
12/4	Celebrant Deacons Greeters	Dolores Soverino Joan Beck Jean Coughlin Peg Schmitt		Kathy Stephens Jeanne Upreti Mike Tyrrell Eileen Tyrrell	Barb Ridge Bob Ridge Chris Losey Mark Losey	Julie Gilligan Seana Gilligan Charlene Mueller Natalie Sims	
	Counters	12/4	Team #3	12/11	Team #4		

Polish Ministry

Informacje Dotyczące Duszpasterstwa w Parafii Sw. Szczepana

W ciągu całego roku Msza Św. w niedzielę w języku polskim jest o godz. 1PM

-Pierwszy piątek miesiąca: Spowiedź of 6:30-7:30pm Msza o 7:30pm

-Pierwsza sobota miesiąca: od godz. 7pm-9:30pm

-Spowiedź w każdą sobotę of godz. 8:45-9:30a.m.

-Po bliższe informacje proszę dzwonić do biura parafialnego pod numer 1(708) 342- 2400 wew 137

Cicho, cichutko, cichuteńko

A może po postu pomilczeć? Odrzucić złe słowa, złe gesty, złe myśli? Bo przychodzi do nas i nastaje w nas taki czas, kiedy zaczynamy odczuwać te wszystkie złe sprawy, a krótkie dni i chłód potęgują nasze doznania. Szukamy instynktownie czegoś, co by nas pobudziło, co pozwoliłoby nam być pełnymi werwy i gotowymi do działania, a zarazem radosnymi. Czegoś, co mogłoby nas odnowić i zaszczerpić w nas nadzieję i siłę. Nie chodzi tu jednak ani o depresję jesienną, ani o chandrę.

Adwent to radosny czas oczekiwania na dzień Bożego Narodzenia. Tylko Bóg wie dokładnie, ile jeszcze pozostało przed nami Adwentów. Czy każdy z dotychczas przeżytych stał się dla nas początkiem nowego życia, zaowocował wzrostem wiary, nadziei, miłości? Na to pytanie każdy musi sam sobie odpowiedzieć. Dlatego dobrze by było usiąść i pomilczeć, przeanalizować wszystko, co wokół nas się dzieje i zastanowić się nad naszym dalszym bytem. I niezależnie od tego, jak odpowiedź będzie brzmiała, wszyscy przecież chcemy otrzymać kolejną szansę dobrego przeżycia Adwentu.

Prorok Izajasz mówi nam: „Tyś, Panie, naszym Ojcem, "Odkupiciel nasz" to Twoje imię odwieczne. ... Panie, Tyś naszym Ojcem. Myśmy gliną, a Ty naszym twórcą. Dziełem rąk Twoich jesteśmy my wszyscy.” (Iz 63,16c;64,7). Skoro mamy Odkupiciela, którego przyjście będziemy świętować za cztery tygodnie, to powinniśmy wykorzystać czas oczekiwania na przygotowanie.

W tym właśnie przygotowaniu wspomaga nas Słowo wysłuchiwane podczas liturgii Słowa przez cały czas Adwentu. Od nas zależy, co zapamiętamy i co wprowadzimy w czyn. To przecież do nas św. Paweł mówi: „Bogu mojemu dziękuję wciąż za was, za łaskę daną wam w Chrystusie Jezusie. W Nim to bowiem zostaliście wzbogaceni we wszystko: we wszelkie słowo i wszelkie poznanie, bo świadectwo Chrystusowe utrwaliło się w was, tak iż nie brakuje wam żadnego daru łaski, gdy oczekujecie objawienia się Pana naszego Jezusa Chrystusa.” (1 Kor 1,4-7). Wzbogaceni jesteśmy we wszystko, ale musimy popracować nad sobą, by łaska wydała widoczne owoce.

Dlatego też w Ewangelii na dzisiejszy dzień słyszymy o potrzebie czujności, o potrzebie czuwania, co jednocześnie rozumiane powinno być jako gotowość na Paruzję. Ewangeliczne słowa o czuwaniu trafiają w samo sedno problemu przygotowania. Słyszac o potrzebie czujności, o potrzebie czuwania, powinniśmy zdawać sobie sprawę z tego, że słowa te dotyczą naszej gotowości na ponowne przyjście Pana, na Paruzję. „Czuwajcie więc, bo nie wiecie, kiedy pan domu przyjdzie: z wieczora czy o północy, czy o pianiu kogutów, czy rankiem. By niespodzianie przyszedłszy, nie zastał was śpiących.” (Mk 13,35-36). Mamy być gotowi zawsze i w każdej chwili, abyśmy na polecenie „Czuwajcie” mogli odpowiedzieć zgodnie z prawdą: czuwamy, jesteśmy gotowi. Jednak nasza odpowiedź będzie prawdziwa dopiero wtedy, gdy zrozumiemy, że gotowość nie powinna wypływać z poczucia obowiązku, lecz przede wszystkim z miłości, nadziei, tęsknoty, oczekiwania. Musimy sobie sami odpowiedzieć na pytanie: czy jesteśmy gotowi pomilczeć na ten temat?

Parish Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday	Nov 27		Baby Nursing	#153
		10:00 AM	Children's Liturgy of The Word	Church
		11:00 AM	Welcoming & Parish Registration	#158/159
		3:00 - 4:00 PM	Baptism	Church
		7:30 PM	Our Lady of Fatima Rosary	Daily Chapel
Monday	Nov 28	4:15-5:30 PM; 6-7:15 PM	RE Classes	Education Wing
		4:15-5:30 PM; 6-7:15 PM	RE Classes	Education Wing
		9:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Daily Chapel
		7:30 PM	Our Lady of Fatima Rosary	Daily Chapel
Tuesday	Nov 29	6:00—8:00 PM	Catechist Meeting	Church
		7:30 PM	Highlanders	#170/171/172/173
		7:30 PM	Our Lady of Fatima Rosary	Daily Chapel
Wednesday	Nov 30	4:15-5:30 PM; 6-7:15 PM	RE Classes	Education Wing
		9:30 - 11:00 AM	Moms and Tots	#161
		7:00 - 8:30 PM	Adult Choir	Church
		7:30 PM	Kingdom Meeting	#126
		7:30 PM	Our Lady of Fatima Rosary	Daily Chapel
Thursday	Dec 1	8:30 AM - 6:30 PM	Adoration of Blessed Sacrament	Daily Chapel
		8:30 AM	Rosary	Daily Chapel
		10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	#125/126
		4:30 - 5:30 PM	Children's Choir	Church
		6:00—7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Nativity Liturgy –First Meeting	#125/#126
		6:30 - 7:00 PM	Benediction followed by Divine Mercy Prayers	Daily Chapel
		7:00 - 9:00 PM	Praise Band	Church
		7:00 PM	Faith and Inspiration to Hope Prayer Group	Daily Chapel
		7:30 PM	Our Lady of Fatima Rosary	Daily Chapel
		7:30 PM	SWIFT	#125
Friday	Dec 2	8:30 AM—6:00 PM	Last day/time to drop off TP Food Pantry gifts to Parish Office	
		8:45 - 10:00 AM	Scripture Study	#126
		9:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Daily Chapel
		6:30 PM	1st Fri Mass (Polish)	Church
		7:30 PM	Our Lady of Fatima Rosary	Daily Chapel
Saturday	Dec 3		Baby Nursing	#153
		11:00 AM	1st Reconciliation	Church
		1:00 PM	1st Reconciliation	Church
		5:00 PM Mass	SCRIP Sales, St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive, Mercy Home Gift Collection	Narthex
		7:00 PM	1st Sat Mass (Polish)	Church
		7:30 PM	Our Lady of Fatima Rosary	Daily Chapel
Sunday	Dec 4		Baby Nursing	#153
		All Masses	SCRIP Sales, St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive, Mercy Home Gift Collection	Narthex
		9:30 AM	RCIA	#125
		10:00 AM	Family Mass	Church
		10:00 - 11:00 AM	Growing With God	#162-#167
		3:00 - 4:00 PM	Baptism	Church
		Reminder	NO Branches Teen Group Meeting	

Please pray for our Military men and women on a daily basis for their safe return.

CPL Nicholas Cascone	Lt. A.m.anda Griffith	Tsgt. Laura Langley	Sgt. Dominic Messina
Capt. Anthony J. Cesaro	Sgt. Evan Grober	Ssgt. Carl Langley	PFC Matthew O'Boyle
Major Vincent Cesaro	Capt. Michael Gryczka	Sgt. Joseph Malone	LCDR Marilyn Walsh
Capt. Michael Chimienti	Lt. Dan Kniaz	Capt. Christopher Mazurek	Major Thomas Walsh

Mass Intentions

<u>11/28</u>	<u>Monday</u>	
8:00am	Purgatorial Society	
	David Dioguardi	M/M Delia
<u>11/29</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	
8:00am	Mathew Grudewicz	Maureen Lundgen
	Eleanor Kaminski	Janet Kaminski
<u>11/30</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	
8:00am	Edward Haberkorn	Marge & Pete Jacobchuk
	Dan Hattan	Emily Johnson
<u>12/1</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	
9:00am	Bobby Przybylski	Dianne Przybylski
	Adolfo Sumera	Connie Sumera
<u>12/2</u>	<u>Friday</u>	
8:00am	Mary Brasky	Dolores Michalski
	Grace & Richard	Lucy LaMargo
	Joseph Salomon	The Family
<u>12/3</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	
8:00am	Richard Spindler, Sr.	Adult Altar Servers
	Allan Boesch	The Carter Family
5:00pm	Roger Johnson, Sr.	Emily Johnson
	Paul Tomaskovic	The Family
	Ed Haberkorn	Bill & Arlene Beavan
	Nancy Cunneen	Helen Laka & Lenard Schwartz
	Robert Cunneen	Helen Laka & Lenard Schwartz
	50th Anniversary	The Family
	Richard & Kathy	
	Holba	
<u>12/4</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	
7:00am	Za Dusze W. Czyscu	Cierpiace
	Stanley Mazeikis	The Family
8:30am	Thomas Rogan	The Family
	Mary Marren	Thomas & Eileen Marren Family
10:00am	Bob & Betty Buttala	Roger & Alexis Leggero
	Gibbons & McLean	The McLean Family
11:30am	Tim Kirby	Noreen Galvin
	Terri Lloyd	Joe & Grace Dobersztyn
1:00pm	Za Dusze W. Czyscu	Cierpiace
6:15pm	Ann Vidinich	The Family
	Mary O'Donnell	Jim O'Donnell

Marriage



Marriages: Szymon & Mariam Sieczka

Pray for our Sick

Julie Barth	Joe McCorry
Arlene Beavan	Helen Michalik
Grace Boblak	Joey Moylan
Kathie Brosius	Dave Newquist
Ruth Bulkaski	Dana Nosek
Tammy Burns	Barb & Joe Onak
Joanne Chess	Alvin Paul
Thomas Connors	Pearl Paul
John Cornwall	Kathy Provenzano
Jim Cull	Joe & Joan Ricciuti
John Czerniak	Marek Rudzki
Bob Dickman	Cynthia Ryan
Sheila Dickman	Mary Lou Schoettler
Janice Dorff	Nicole Siedschlag
Joe Dorff	Rachel Swallow
Bill Dunlap	Joseph Tierney
Bill Galvin	Elizabeth Tyminski
Caroline Grady	Michael Vasek
Larry Hersh	MaryBeth Vasquez
Pete Horkan	Kelly Weiss
Bill Keating	Ken Weissman
Rex Knapp	Patricia Weissman

And for all those for whom our parish is asked to pray.

Names of parishioners will be kept on the prayer list at Mass for four weeks and listed in the bulletin for 60 days. Immediate family members are asked to call after four weeks if you wish to still have the name read at Mass. Names of non-parishioners who are immediate family members of our parishioners will be read at Mass for two weeks and listed in the bulletin for two weeks.

Pray for Our Deceased

None

Weekly Readings

Sun	Is 2: 1-5/ Ps 122: 1-2. 3-4. 4-5
Mon	Is 4: 2-6/ Ps 122: 1-2. 3-4b
Tues	Is 11: 1-10/ Ps 72: 1-2. 7-8
Wed	Rom 10: 9-18/ Ps 19: 8. 9. 10
Thur	Is 26: 1-6/ Ps 118: 1 and 8-9
Fri	Readings from Common of Dedication of a Church
Sat	Is 30: 19-21. 23-26/ Ps 147: 1-2

Welcome to Our Newly Baptized

Olivia Lee Burke
Ryan Andrew Friel
Skylar Flora Pleskun

Thank You Advertisers

Earn \$\$\$\$ for St. Stephen's Parish!

Have lunch or dinner at Gatto's on the 2nd or 4th Wednesday of the month and help in raising funds for St. Stephen's parish. The parish will receive 15% of the before tax cost of your meal. Please present this coupon to your server or ask your server to write St. Stephen's Men's Club on your bill.



St. Stephen Men's Club

Dine-In or Carryout

2nd & 4th Wednesdays
of the month

15% Donation (before tax)

Present this coupon to your
server

Nancy's Pizza and St. Stephen Pizza Coupon

Nancy's Pizza at 171st Street and 80th Avenue (in the Fa.m.ily Dollar Plaza) is making an offer to St. Stephen Parishioners. On any Monday through Wednesday, present this coupon and 20% of the pre-tax a.m.ount (10% if a discount coupon is used) will be donated to the St. Stephen Parish Center Fund. You can enjoy a pizza and support our parish. Nancy's Pizza's number is 708-614-6100.



20% of the pre-tax a.m.ount
(10% if a discount coupon is used) to be
donated to the
St. Stephen Parish Center Fund.
Coupon good on Mondays, Tuesdays and
Wednesdays!