



*St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr
Catholic Church
We are a Stewardship Parish*

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**
DECEMBER 30, 2018



*Jesus said to his parents,
“Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I
must be in my Father’s house?”*

Luke 2:49

St. Stephen Deacon and Martyr Catholic Church

17500 South 84th Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 60487

www.ststephentinley.com

Parish Office Phone: 708-342-2400 | Parish Office Fax: 708-342-1545

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am—12:30pm and 1—8:00pm | Friday 8:30am—12:30pm and 1-4pm
Saturday Noon—5pm

Religious Education Phone: 708-342-1544

RE Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am—12:30pm and 1pm-4:30pm | Friday 8:30am—12:30pm
Evenings and weekends by appointment. Please call to schedule.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Parish School (CJB)

9250 West 167th Street, Orland Hills, IL 60487

Phone: 708-403-6525 | Fax: 708-403-8621 | web: cjb.school.org | email: info@cjb.school.org

Pastor

Rev. Tom Bernas

Associate Pastor

Rev. Mirek Kulesa

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. James Finno

Deacons

Robert Conlin

William Engler

Chuck McFarland

William Schultz

Pete Van Merkestyn

Administrative Asst. to Pastor

Karen Opyd

Adult Formation

Barbara Black

Communications

Maintenance Director

Dave Prete

Music Minister

Selina Prasad

Receptionist

Noreen Galvin

Youth/Young Adult Minister

Kyle Groves

Director of Religious Education

Sandi Morgan

Assoc. Director of Religious Ed.

Leslie Krauledis

Religious Ed. Admin. Assistant

Dee Zvejnieks

Religious Education Secretary

Patti Parker

CJB Principal

Mary Iannucilli

CJB Admissions Director

Cynthia Labriola Devlin

Anointing of the Sick—Please contact the parish office if you or a loved one needs this holy sacrament.

Baptisms are celebrated every Sunday at 3pm in English and 1pm in Polish. Please contact Fr. Tom in the parish office for the necessary preparations. New parishioners are required to register. A baptism preparation class is required to have your child baptized at St. Stephen's.

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

Funerals can be arranged through the contact 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.

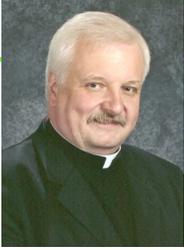
New parishioners are invited to register:

- 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.

For those in need:

- **Counseling services** are available through the Holbrook Counseling Center of Catholic Charities. To get help, call 312-655-7725 or visit the website at catholiccharities.net
- For **Bereavement and Crisis Counseling**, please contact Deacon Pete Van Merkestyn. Appointments will be taken on Wednesdays at 10am, 11am, and 12pm. Please call the parish office or email Deacon Pete at dcnpete@ststephentinley.com to arrange for an appointment.
- For parishioners struggling and in need of assistance, please contact the **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.
- For information about **Domestic Violence** awareness, services, and prevention, please contact Deacon Bill Schultz at the parish office.

FATHER TOM'S TIDBITS



Dear Friends,

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph are called the Holy Family because Jesus is God Himself, the source of all holiness and because Mary is called the Blessed Mother, the immaculate virgin preserved from sin from the time of her conception. Still, they probably didn't look overly holy to those who observed them. They were poor. The origins of Mary's pregnancy were uncertain. They had to flee their home to preserve the life of their baby. All of this makes me reflect on the question, "What makes a family holy?"

A family is holy, not because they are perfect. A family is holy because God is present and because they welcome God into their lives. We can see from many stories in the gospels that Jesus entered the messy lives of people. He confronted illness, death and sin. To these imperfect situations, He brought love, acceptance, healing and forgiveness.

The celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family enables us to affirm our belief that all family life is holy. You might think that if your family life is imperfect, it is not holy. What family is perfect? Even those which might appear to be perfect from the outside have their struggles, failings and sins in the privacy of their homes. To be holy as a family is not to be perfect, but rather to invite and include God in your lives. May today's feast prompt all families to accept the holiness of its members and to invite God into your lives, no matter the situation.

We also stand at the doorstep of 2019. As with any new beginning, we approach this new year with some fears and anxieties as well as hopes and dreams. The beginning of a New Year gives us the opportunity to begin anew and to make resolutions, and promises which we hope to keep in the coming year.

On January 1st, the Church also celebrates the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. This solemnity is the oldest feast of Mary in the Church, honoring her under her most ancient title - "Theotokos, Bearer of God" or "Mother of God." Mary, the Mother of the Child of Bethlehem, is the perfect symbol of our own salvation. In accepting her role as Mother of the Messiah, she becomes the first disciple of her Son, the first to embrace his Gospel of hope, compassion and reconciliation. She is the promise of what the Church is called to be and will be and seeks to become. She is the hope and comfort of a pilgrim people walking the road of faith. Mary, the "Bearer of God," is a genuine and fitting example for us of what it means to be a faithful disciple of the Servant Redeemer - "Bearers of God" - in our own time and place. Our Mass schedule for New Year's Day is as follows: 5PM, Monday, New Year's Eve, and Masses at 8:30AM, 10:00AM and 11:30AM in English, and 1PM in Polish, on Tuesday, New Year's Day.

This past week has been a very busy week here at our parish with the many additional liturgical celebrations of Christmas Holidays. Preparing and celebrating all of these liturgies would have been an overwhelming task if it were not for the assistance of so many individuals. I would like to thank Selina Prasad and our Christmas Choir; Kamil Bundrya and our Polish Choir, all those who worked with the children to prepare for the Christmas Pageant; the young people who participated in the Christmas Pageant; the volunteers who helped to clean and decorate our church and make it look its best for the holidays; our ushers, lectors, altar servers and Eucharistic ministers; all who volunteered their services at the many liturgies; our maintenance staff who worked so hard to make sure that everything was ready; and to anyone else who in any way helped to make the holidays special here at St. Stephen. Thank You and May God Bless You!

I would like to also thank everyone who joined us for our Christmas Liturgies. While it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and some new faces as well, coming together for Mass is central to our relationship with Christ and to our faith. It is important for us to attend Mass on a regular basis, including all major feasts and celebrations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who remembered our parish with a financial gift this Christmas Season. As you know, we depend on your generosity at Christmas to allow us to continue to provide the many services and programs we offer here at St. Stephen throughout the year. If you were away for Christmas or if you have still not made your Christmas gift to our parish, we ask that you do so as soon as possible. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, Peaceful and Safe New Year! As we move forward together in 2019, may it be a year of peace, tranquility, health, and prosperity. Together may we continue the journey, continue to dream, and continue to accomplish many great and wonderful things as the Faith Community of St. Stephen.

After much discussion and planning, I am happy to announce the launch of our "Queen of Hearts" Raffle here at Saint Stephen. Cost of the tickets are 6 for \$5.00. We are earmarking all the monies raised through this raffle to be used to help pay down the outstanding balance of \$2 million+ dollars that is still outstanding on the cost of building and the church. Tickets will be sold starting next weekend in the narthex of the church before and after all the weekend Masses, they will also be available at the parish and religious education offices, and they will be available at the Side Street American Tavern, 18401 North Creek Drive, Tinley Park, (located right behind the Speedway Gas Station at 183rd and Harlem Avenue). Because of the early deadline for this bulletin, exact times of the sales at all these locations is still being determined. I hope we can count on everyone's support!

Happy New Year!!!!

Drodzy przyjaciele,

Dzisiaj Kościół obchodzi Święto Świętej Rodziny. Ta uroczystość jest przypisana do niedzieli w oktawie Bożego Narodzenia. Dzisiejsza Dobra Nowina została zaczerpnięta z Ewangelii według św. Łukasza i stanowi część tzw. Ewangelii Dzieciństwa.

Józef, Maryja i Jezus są nazywani Świętą Rodziną, ponieważ Jezus jest Samym Bogiem, źródłem wszelkiej świętości i dlatego, Maryja jest nazywana Matką Najświętszą, Niepokalaną Dziewicą zachowaną od grzechu od czasu jej poczęcia. Mimo, że prawdopodobnie dla tych, którzy ich obserwowali, nie wyglądali na świętych. Byli ubodzy. Początki ciąży Maryi były niepewne. Musieli opuścić dom, aby ocalić życie swojego dziecka. Wszystko to sprawia, że zastanawiam się nad pytaniem: "Co czyni rodzinę świętą?"

Rodzina jest święta, nie dlatego, że jej członkowie są doskonali. Rodzina jest święta, ponieważ Bóg jest w niej obecny i dlatego, że witają Boga w swoim życiu. W wielu historiach z Ewangelii możemy dostrzec Jezusa wkraczającego w chaotyczne życie ludzi. Stawiał czoła chorobom, śmierci i grzechowi. W te niedoskonałe sytuacje wnosi On miłość, akceptację, uzdrowienie i przebaczenie.

Obchody Święta Świętej Rodziny pozwalają nam potwierdzić naszą wiarę w to, że całe życie rodzinne jest święte. Możesz myśleć, że jeśli twoje życie rodzinne jest niedoskonałe, że nie jest święte. Ale, która rodzina jest idealna? Nawet te, które mogą wydawać się doskonałe z zewnątrz, mają swoje zmagania, błędy i grzechy w zaciszu domowym. Być świętym jako rodzina, to nie znaczy być doskonałym, ale raczej zaprosić i włączyć Boga w swoje życie. Niech dzisiejsze święto zachęci wszystkie rodziny do przyjęcia świętości swoich członków i zaproszenia Boga do waszego życia, bez względu na sytuację.

Stoimy również u progu 2019 roku. Podobnie jak w każdym nowym początku, zbliżamy się do tego nowego roku z pewnymi obawami i lękami, a także z nadziejami i marzeniami. Początek Nowego Roku daje nam możliwość rozpoczęcia od nowa i podejmowania postanowień i obietnic, które mamy nadzieję spełnić w nadchodzącym roku.

1 stycznia Kościół również obchodzi uroczystość Maryi, Matki Kościoła. Ta uroczystość jest najstarszym świętem ku czci Maryi, jest również uhonorowaniem Maryi pod jej najstarszym tytułem – "Theotokos" (Nosicielka Boga) lub "Matka Boga". Maryja, Matka Dzieciątka z Betlejem, jest doskonałym symbolem naszego własnego zbawienia. Przyjmując rolę Matki Mesjasza, stała się również pierwszym uczniem swego Syna, pierwszą, która przyjęła Jego Ewangelię nadziei, współczucia i pojednania. Maryja jest obietnicą tego, do czego Kościół jest powołany, aby być i nieustannie się stawać. Jest nadzieją i pociechą pielgrzymów idących drogą wiary. Maryja, "Nosicielka Boga", jest dla nas prawdziwym i stosownym przykładem tego, co znaczy być wiernym uczniem Sługi Odkupiciela - "Niosących Boga" - w naszym własnym czasie i miejscu. Porządek Mszy świętej na Nowy Rok jest następujący: 5pm w Poniedziałek (Sylwester) oraz Msze Św o godz. 8:30, 10:00 i 11:30 po angielsku i o 1pm po polsku, we wtorek (Nowy Rok).

Ubiegły tydzień w naszej parafii był bardzo pracowity. Obfitował w wiele liturgii związanych ze Świętami Bożego Narodzenia. Przygotowanie i świętowanie wszystkich tych liturgii byłoby niemożliwym zadaniem, gdyby nie pomoc tak wielu osób. Chciałbym podziękować Selinie Prasad i naszemu świątecznemu chórowi oraz naszemu polskiemu chórowi, wszystkim, którzy pracowali z dziećmi, aby przygotować je do Świątecznego Korowodu; młodym ludziom, którzy uczestniczyli w świątecznym konkursie; wolontariuszom, którzy pomogli posprzątać i udekorować nasz kościół i sprawili, że w czasie świąt wyglądał wspaniale; naszym pracownikom sprzątającym, lektorom, ministrantom i szafarzom Eucharystii; wszystkim, którzy zgłosili się do posług liturgicznych; naszemu personelowi odpowiedzialnemu za konserwację, który ciężko pracował aby wszystko sprawnie działało, Dziękuję każdemu, kto w jakikolwiek sposób sprawił, by święta u Świętego Szczepana były wyjątkowe. Dziękuję i niech Was Bóg błogosławi!

Chciałbym także podziękować wszystkim, którzy dołączyli do nas w czasie świątecznych liturgii. Cudownie było widzieć tak wiele znajomych i kilka nowych twarzy. Wspólne spotkanie na Mszy jest kluczowe dla naszego związku z Chrystusem i naszą wiarą. Ważne jest, abyśmy regularnie uczestniczyli we Mszy św., zwłaszcza we wszystkie święta i uroczystości.

Chcę skorzystać z okazji i życzyć Wam szczęśliwego, zdrowego, pomyślnego, spokojnego i bezpiecznego Nowego Roku! Zbliżając się do 2019 roku, życzę Wam aby to był rok pokoju, zdrowia i dobrobytu. Razem możemy kontynuować naszą podróż, nadal marzyć i nadal realizować wiele wspaniałych rzeczy, takich jak wspólnota wiary Parafii Św. Szczepana.

Po wielu dyskusjach i planowaniu, z radością ogłaszam rozpoczęcie naszej loterii "Królowa serc" („Queen of Hearts”) w Saint Stephen's. Koszt biletów wynosi to 5,00 dolarów z 6 sztuk. Wszystkie zebrane w tej loterii pieniądze chcemy przeznaczyć na spłatę długu w wysokości 2 milionów dolarów który został zaciągnięty na budowę kościoła i centrum parafialnego. Bilety będą sprzedawane od przyszłego weekendu w przedsionku kościoła przed po wszystkich mszach weekendowych, będą również dostępne w biurach parafialnych a także w amerykańskiej tawernie „Side Street”, 18401 North Creek Drive, Tinley Park, (znajduje się zaraz za stacją benzynową Speedway przy 183 ulicy i Harlem Avenue). Ze względu na wczesny termin składania tego biuletynu nadal ustalone są dokładne czasy sprzedaży we wszystkich tych lokalizacjach. Mam nadzieję, że możemy liczyć na wsparcie Was wszystkich!

Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!!!!

**SAINT STEPHEN'S
NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE**

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God
January 1, 2019**

**New Year's Eve
December 31st - 5PM**

**New Year's Day - January 1st
8:30AM, 10AM, 11:30AM
1PM in Polish**

**FEAST OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD**

On January 1st, the Church celebrates the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. This solemnity is the oldest feast of Mary in the Church, honoring her under her most ancient title - "Theotokos, Bearer of God" or "Mother of God." Mary, the Mother of the Child of Bethlehem, is the perfect symbol of our own salvation. In accepting her role as Mother of the Messiah, she becomes the first disciple of her Son, the first to embrace his Gospel of hope, compassion and reconciliation. She is the promise of what the Church is called to be and will be and seeks to become. She is the hope and comfort of a pilgrim people walking the road of faith. Mary, "the bearer of God," is a genuine and fitting example for us of what it means to be a faithful disciple of the Servant Redeemer - "bearers of God" - in our own time and place.



The Feast of Mary, Mother of God, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Attending Mass on New Year's Day is a great way to start off the New Year. Masses will be celebrated at 5PM on New Year's Eve and at 8:30AM, 10AM & 11:30AM in English and 1PM in Polish, on New Year's Day.



**YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT
TO YOUR PARISH**

In this season of gift giving, we ask that you please remember your Christmas Gift to our parish.

If you have not as yet given your Christmas Gift to our parish, we ask that you please do so as soon as possible. Your support is necessary in supporting our many ministries and activities.

Thank you for all you do for St. Stephen's Parish!

**HAPPY NEW
2019
YEAR**



**PRAYER FOR THE FAMILIES
OF THE WORLD**

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, to you, Holy Family of Nazareth, today we turn our gaze with admiration and confidence; in you we contemplate the beauty of communion in true love; to you we commend our families, so that in them marvels of grace be renewed. Holy Family of Nazareth, alluring school of the Gospel: teach us to imitate your virtues with a wise spiritual discipline, grant us a clear vision that recognizes the work of Providence in the daily realities of life. Holy Family of Nazareth, faithful custodian of the mystery of salvation: help us to regain an appreciation for silence, make our families cenacles of prayer and transform them into little domestic Churches, renew the desire for sanctity, sustain the noble toil of work, of education, of listening, of mutual understanding and of forgiveness. Holy Family of Nazareth, reawaken in our society the consciousness of the sacred and inviolable character of the family, an inestimable and irreplaceable good. May every family be a place where goodness and peace are welcomed for children and for the elderly, for those who are sick and alone, for those who are poor and needy. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we pray to you with confidence, and we entrust ourselves to you with joy.

Pope Francis

OFFICES CLOSED

Because of the New Year's Holiday, our parish and religious education offices will close at 12 Noon, on New Year's Eve and will be closed all day on New Year's Day. Our offices will reopen at 8:30AM on Wednesday.



We wish everyone a very Happy New Year!



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Our Baptismal Preparation Class for the month of January will take place this Thursday, January 24th at 7PM.

We remind all parents planning on having their child/children baptized that they must attend a Baptismal Preparation Class prior to their child's baptism.

To register for the baptismal class, please go to our parish website, ststephentiny.com. For more information please contact the parish office, 708-342-2400.



**A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR
Lord, thank you so much for all
that you have done for me,
my friends, and my family.**

**Your hand on our lives is so much
more than we could ask for, and your
blessings are so greatly appreciated.**

**I know, Lord, that you have seen our challenges,
wept at our weaknesses,
and rejoiced in our successes.**

**As you know, we are now coming up on a new year.
You know I have made resolutions to change the
areas of my life that need it, and I ask for your
strength to make those changes.**

**I ask for your continued blessings and guidance
to make me more like you,
to walk better in your path, this year.**

**I also ask, Lord, for your continued blessings on
those around me. I ask that this year
be one of peace and joy for my family and friends.
I ask that you continue to be a presence in all of our
lives. I ask that you give each of us a heart
for you and a desire to serve to make the world a
better place.**

**I also ask for peace and blessings on
those far from home, for those who suffer,
and for those who need you a little more each day.
Thank you, Lord, for all you do in my life and for all
your continued blessings and love. Amen.**

YEAR END TAX STATEMENTS FOR 2018

In the past we have automatically sent out year end tax statements if you had requested them in the past. This year, due to changes in the IRS Regulations, most people will not be able to itemize their deductions, due to the fact that the amount of the standard deduction been significantly increased, **so we will not automatically send a tax letter as we have done in the past.**



If you would like a tax statement of your donations to our parish for 2018, we ask you to either write the letters **IRS** on your weekly contribution envelope or contact the parish office at 708-342-2400 or email karen@ststephentinley.com (put 2018 tax letter requested in the subject line). Statements will be available after January 15th.

*We will mail the statements out on a weekly basis.
Thank you and God Bless you for your generosity....Karen*

BERNARDIN SCHOOL JOB OPENING

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School is accepting applications for a part-time position (25-hours weekly) for a Pre-K teacher aide working with 3-year old and/or 4-year old children. Please email a cover letter, resume, and references to Mrs. Mary Iannucilli, Principal, at miannucilli@cjschool.org

St. Peter tells us, "Each one of you has received a special grace, so like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourselves at the service of others."



This is exactly what our staff members, Karen Opyd and Ken Beukema, have done for many years, since the inception of our Parish. They have unselfishly offered of themselves in many ways, to the mission and ministry of the parish. They have worn many hats and have been deeply involved in constantly working behind the scenes to make our parish work so well.

Unfortunately, they have both informed me, that the time has come for them to retire and move on to the next phase of their lives. Karen in early March and Ken at the end of March.

I would like to thank them for their many years of hard work and dedication to our parish. They will be greatly missed and we wish them the best and promise to keep them in our thoughts and prayers, as they transition into this new chapter in their lives. Fortunately they will help with the transition while they are here.

Because of their plans to retire, I am looking for people interested in giving of their time and talents to continue the work that Karen and Ken have started. I have been working to identify the jobs, skills and talents associated with their jobs, which will help me as I work to find their replacements.

I am currently looking to fill the positions of Business Director (part-time), Office Administrator/Bookkeeper (full-time) and Communications Coordinator (part-time).

Have you or someone you know ever thought of using your time and talents to help our Parish? Are you looking for a new challenge for the new year? Have you wondered how you could give back? Have you been praying for guidance on a path for your life? Is this the moment you have been waiting for?

If any of these roles sound interesting to you, please take the time to learn more about them by visiting our website (ststephentinley.com), and consider applying for these positions.



BASKETBALL OPEN GYMS

Coming in January and February of 2019, the Saint Stephen's Men's Club will be hosting Basketball Open Gyms on Tuesday Nights from 7:00PM – 8:30PM, in the Parish Life Center. Specific dates TBD.

Join fellow parishioners, 21 years and older, on in the Parish Life Center for pickup basketball games. \$5 each for all players – Must be 21 years old or older and a parishioner of St. Stephen's Parish. Check upcoming bulletin for additional information or contact Men's Club Member - Jim Westerberg (708)-299-2681.



NEW YEAR'S DAY DID YOU KNOW?

For many people around the globe, New Year's Day is a day of hope. It's a day of excitement, anticipation and encouragement as we face a

New Year full of exciting possibilities.

But for thousands of years, the New Year wasn't always celebrated on the first day of January. Mesopotamia created the concept of the New Year celebration around 2,000 B.C. The event often was celebrated during the spring equinox.

In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar introduced a new calendar that followed the tracks of the sun instead of the moon. This event moved New Year celebrations from March 1st to January 1st. After Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C., the Roman Senate voted to honor the slain leader on the first of January 42 B.C. in honor of his life and his institution of the new rationalized calendar.

The month of January owes its name to the Roman deity Janus, who had two faces, one looking forward and the other looking backward. This suggests that New Year's celebrations are founded on pagan traditions.

In Ancient Rome, the beginning of the New Year was a time to expunge the ills of the past twelve months and establish a pattern for the twelve months to come through good conduct. Friends reconciled any differences, adversaries suspended litigation and people exchanged gifts. Many Roman citizens also brought gifts to the Emperor and wished him good fortune. Initially, these donations were simple branches of bay and palm leaves but later, more expensive presents were given.

Ancient Persians followed the Roman tradition by exchanging presents of eggs. Since an egg hatches into life, this custom meant much the same thing as "turning over a new leaf." The Celts and some areas of Britain prior to the Roman invasion celebrated their New Year at the end of October. The festival was called *Samhain*, which means "summer's end."

During the Middle Ages the Christian church did away with many calendar feasts and holidays because of their pagan roots. As a result, dates in March coinciding with the spring equinox, along with a variety of Christian feast dates, were used. The celebration bounced through the calendar year until the 16th century when Pope Gregory XIII overhauled the calendar again to create the Liturgical calendar. Our days and months would again be changed in the 18th century into the Gregorian calendar we use today.

Most countries in Western Europe officially adopted January 1st as New Year's Day some time before the adoption of the Gregorian calendar. In England, until the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1752, the first day of the New Year was the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25th, also called "Lady Day".

Across the world today, there are cultures that use a lunar and not a solar calendar and hold their New

Year's celebrations at different times of the year. For example, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and the first day of Muharram, the start of the Islamic New Year, are both celebrated in the fall. The Chinese New Year, which is a month-long event, begins in late January or early February, depending on the year.

Today, the celebration of the New Year still rings strong. From champagne and fireworks, to kisses and well-intentioned resolutions, the New Year means many things to many people. These celebrations have a long and glorious tradition throughout many cultures.

In many countries, New Year's celebrations begin on the evening of December 31st, New Year's Eve, and continues into the early hours of January 1st. Revelers often enjoy meals and snacks thought to bestow good luck for the coming year. In Spain and several other Spanish-speaking countries, people bolt down a dozen grapes-symbolizing their hopes for the months ahead right before midnight. In many parts of the world, traditional New Year's dishes feature legumes, which are thought to resemble coins and herald future financial success; examples include lentils in Italy and black-eyed peas in the southern United States. Because pigs represent progress and prosperity in some cultures, pork appears on the New Year's Eve table in Cuba, Austria, Hungary, Portugal and other countries. Ring-shaped cakes and pastries, a sign that the year has come full circle, round out the feast in the Netherlands, Mexico, Greece and elsewhere. In Sweden and Norway, meanwhile, rice pudding with an almond hidden inside is served on New Year's Eve; it is said that whoever finds the nut can expect twelve months of good fortune.

Other customs that are common worldwide include watching fireworks and singing songs to welcome the new year, including the ever-popular "Auld Lang Syne" in many English-speaking countries. The practice of making resolutions for the new year is thought to have first caught on among the ancient Babylonians, who made promises in order to earn the favor of the gods and start the year off on the right foot.

In the United States, the most iconic New Year's tradition is the dropping of a giant ball in New York City's Times Square at the stroke of midnight. Millions of people around the world watch the event, which has taken place almost every year since 1907.

The Church celebrates January 1st as the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among us. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

Queen of Hearts Raffle

QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE



The excitement of the "Queen of Hearts" Raffle is coming to Saint Stephen. Our "Queen of Hearts" Raffle will begin on the weekend of January 5th and 6th,

with the first drawing being held on Wednesday, January 16th.

The "Queen of Hearts" Raffle is a split ticket raffle with the pot being split between the winner and our parish.

The Queen of Hearts raffle puts the 54 cards in a deck, including the two jokers, onto a board face down in no particular order. Then the cards are numbered 1-54. With every chance, a purchaser gets to write a number between 1 and 54 on the ticket. That ticket goes into a drum.

Every Wednesday, a drawing will be held at 8:00PM, at the Side Street American Tavern, 18401 North Creek Drive, in Tinley Park. .

If your ticket is drawn, you must pick the Queen of Hearts on the Raffle board to win the pot. If the winning ticket holder has selected the number that reveals the Queen of Hearts, the winner gets 50% of the available pot.

If you are not present at the drawing, you must declare a numbered card from the board and write the number on your raffle ticket stub. If you do not choose a number or if the number you choose had been previously selected, you will be assigned the lowest available number on the board, (i.e., if the number 1 is available you will be assigned #1, if #1 has been selected already you will be assigned #2, etc.)

If the Queen of Hearts is not drawn, the pot will roll over to the next week. The pot will continue to build until the Queen of Hearts is drawn. The game could take up to 54 weeks.

If your ticket is drawn and you draw a card other than the Queen of Hearts, you receive \$25.00 in tickets for the following week.

Tickets are sold in a set of 6 tickets for \$5.00. They will not be sold separately. This is a progressive raffle. All raffle tickets will be discarded following the drawing each week and new tickets must be purchased to enter into the following week's drawing. The ticket purchaser must be 18 years of age or older. There can be only one name per ticket. The ticket must contain your name and the card # you choose to pick.

Tickets will be available before and after all the weekend Masses in the narthex of the church. They will also be available at the parish and religious education offices and they will be available at the Side Street American Tavern.

All funds raised through the raffle will be used to pay down the outstanding debt on the church building. Your support of this raffle is appreciated.

BUILDING & GROUNDS STEERING COMMITTEE



The Building and Grounds Steering Committee is concerned with the state and condition of parish facilities and property, their maintenance and upkeep. The committee prioritizes and presents needs as part of the budget process and identifies any situations which require immediate action to the Finance Council.

The steering committee plays an important role in the development and monitoring of a master site plan. The plan allows the parish to maximize the use of property and facilities, establish a timeline for the updating of mechanical and electrical systems, and anticipate any building or renovation projects. The committee also provides advice on the scope and cost of capital improvements to the St. Stephen Parish facilities.

Members of this committee have experience in the building trades and professions. Members will meet with the pastor and the parish finance committee to review issues and concerns and take action when necessary to maintain a vibrant parish campus.

We are currently looking for members to be a part of this steering committee. We are looking for volunteers with building, construction and/or maintenance experience such as: architects; mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineers; carpenters; MEP contractors; flooring contractors; painters; project managers; construction estimators; and construction superintendents.

Please contact the Parish Office at (708) 342-2400 if you are interested in being part of this committee. We need your help and expertise.



TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Information and communication technology is essential for parish employees to work efficiently and for the parish to keep in contact with its parishioners. A technology committee which functions under the Finance Council will provide the expert guidance for the parish to develop replacement and upgrade plans as well as incorporate and integrate new technologies into parish usage. The scope of the committee can cover a number of technology areas, including computers, copiers/printers, phone, video, sound and security systems.

The Finance Council may request to meet with the committee on occasion and will rely on the committee to assess the state of the technology systems and to recommend any budgetary expenditure as part of an ongoing plan.

Members should have some technology skills and knowledge as well as an understanding of the Church's mission in order to ensure that the use of technology will help the parish achieve its broader mission and goals. In the selection of members, knowledge about how to use the technology is preferable to how the technology works but both are needed on the committee.

Please contact the Parish Office at (708) 342-2400 if you are interested in being part of this committee. We need your help and expertise.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, weather permitting, will take place this Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 10:00am in Rooms 125-126 in the parish office wing.

Make your New Year's resolution to join our ministry. Please bring your needles and hooks and share your talent. If you are interested in learning how to crochet or knit we can help you!

This is a wonderful way to meet great people and bring comfort to those in need with our prayer shawls. If you are unable to attend our meeting but are interested in creating shawls from home please contact Dorothy Kuzelka at 708.614.2588 for information.

If you are in need of a shawl please contact Dorothy or call the parish office.

TRAINING FOR NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are in need of additional Eucharistic Ministers for our weekend liturgies.

Training for new Eucharistic Ministers will take place on Tuesdays - January 15th & 22nd, from 7-9pm, at Saint Michael's Parish, 14327 Highland Avenue, in Orland Park.

In order to be mandated as a Eucharistic Minister for the Archdiocese of Chicago, affirmation by one's pastor along with attendance at both training sessions is required. A follow-up session is offered at St. Stephen to familiarize you with our procedures. This third session is intended to provide practical details specific to our parish.

Please email Barbara Black at barbara@ststephentinley.com if you are interested in helping with this ministry. There is no cost for these classes.



WELCOME AMAZONSMILE!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support our parish every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, including Amazon Prime member benefits, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our parish.

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From time to time, Amazon may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

So when you shop at Amazon, don't forget to select St. Stephen's as the recipient of your AmazonSmile donations. For more information, please go to smile.amazon.com

We understand some people have had some difficulty finding St. Stephen on AmazonSmile. When you go to AmazonSmile and are looking for your non-profit, in the search bar enter exactly Saint Stephen, Deacon & Martyr, Catholic Church or enter our zip code 60487.



ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER?

Are you a registered parishioner? Have you been attending Saint Stephen's for a while but haven't yet registered in your own name? Have you been looking for a parish to call your own but haven't made the

commitment yet?

What makes a person a parishioner? You are not a parishioner because your parents go here. You are not a parishioner because you went to Religious Education here. You are not a parishioner just because you come to Mass here or were married here.

If you attend Mass here regularly, and if you are an adult (18 or older) Catholic, we encourage you to register as a member of our faith community. Registering in the parish is a declaration of your desire to be a part of the Catholic community and to make a commitment to the life of the parish. Stating your commitment brings many advantages, recognition and responsibility.

Registering in the parish also makes the process much easier when it is time for infant baptism, religious education registration, weddings and when you are asked to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation and formal documentation of your parishioner status is being requested.

To begin the registration process, please contact the parish office at 708-342-2400. We hope that, once you have registered, you will consider the many opportunities to get involved in the parish.

HELPFUL OUTREACH FOR PEOPLE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT (HOPE)

Due to the New Year's Day holiday, the January meeting will be rescheduled to Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

A Mass will be held in St. Elizabeth Seton Church for those seeking employment, followed by a short meeting in the downstairs O'Mara Church Hall, addressing, "How to Jump Start Your Job Search."

The HOPE Employment Support Ministry is open to everyone and all services are free of charge. Our monthly meetings address resume review, interview skills, networking, guest speakers and open forums.

Employers and HOPE Alumni: We ask that you please share job openings with us. Send your staffing needs to Fred Zeilner at fred.zeilner16@gmail.com and they will be distributed to those who attend our monthly meetings.

Volunteer Opportunity: If you have expertise in the areas of Career Guidance, HR/Recruitment, Staffing, Employee Tracking Systems, Resumes, Employee Networking or LinkedIn, please consider joining our team as a volunteer or as a guest speaker. Enjoy the satisfaction of providing your expertise in order to prepare job seekers for success. Contact Arnie Skibinski at skibins@comcast.net.



HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following students from our parish who made the Honor Roll

at Mother McCauley High School

Madeline DuMais

Natalie Zampillo

YEAR-END GIVING



CONSIDER MAKING A YEAR END GIFT TO ST. STEPHEN'S

As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. The end of the year also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by gifting to (Saint Stephen's Church. The benefits of income tax deductions, capital gains savings and other financial benefits are significant advantages that provide an incentive to make a gift at the year-end. A gift can also help support our parish for years to come.

There are many different ways of contributing a gift. However, two of the easiest and most direct methods to gift are donations of cash and appreciated stock or other investments. You can also make other financially advantageous gifts such as real estate, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, will/trust bequests and IRA/retirement accounts.

For more information on how you can help make a difference by contributing a year-end gift to our parish, please contact our parish office.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus, Fr. C.C. Boyle, Council 4698, is looking for new members. This is part of a Council program to familiarize Catholic men with the Knights and their contributions to our Church and community.



The Knights of Columbus members are working to assist our parish community, making the world better for the less fortunate, celebrating family life and friendship.

To be as effective as possible, they need new members. That's why our Knights of Columbus Fr. C.C. Boyle, Council 4698, is conducting a membership campaign.

Membership is available to all Catholic men in the parish, over age 18, who may be interested in discovering what the Knights are all about.

Discover the world of good things in the Knights of Columbus. Join today! For more information, please contact Mike Gatto, Knights of Columbus Membership Chair, at 708 214-9738 or radmag@live.com.

STEWARDSHIP

December 30, 2018
Feast of the Holy Family

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 John 3:1)

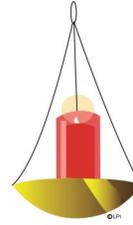
During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.

PARISH SUPPORT

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 Byline Bank or through GiveCentral.org. More information on how to make electronic donations is available at the back of the bulletin or on our website www.ststephentinley.com



*The sanctuary candle burns
in memory of
Walter Hildebrandt
From Chet, Megan and Barb*

Creation Care Corner

Taking action to protect God's great gift to us,



*"All of us can cooperate
as instruments of God
for the care of Creation."
— Pope Francis*

THIS WEEK'S STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Tips to Save Energy and Money this Winter

- 1) **Use a programmable thermostat:** program to lower the heat by 8 degrees Fahrenheit or more when you are away from home or asleep, and you can save about \$180 per year.
- 2) **Seal and weatherstrip:** can improve the heating system efficiency by as much as 20 %.
- 3) **Keep your furnace air filters clean :** At minimum, change the filter every three months. This lowers energy bills and improves air quality.
- 4) **Tune up your HVAC equipment yearly.**
- 5) **Close your fireplace damper when not in use.**



*Because of
early printing deadlines,
due to the holidays,
the collections totals
were not available at press time.*

Marriage & Banns

We pray for those engaged to be married

Christian Glocker & Brianna Fuhrmann - III

*In the new year,
may you be blessed
with all the good
things God has to give.*



Meetings/Events

Sunday, December 30th - Feast of the Holy Family

- Baby Nursing Room #153
- 3pm - Baptism

Monday, December 31st - New Year's Eve

- Parish & RE Offices Close at Noon

Tuesday, January 1st -New Year's Day

*Feast of the Holy Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation*

- Parish & RE Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 2nd

Thursday, January 3rd

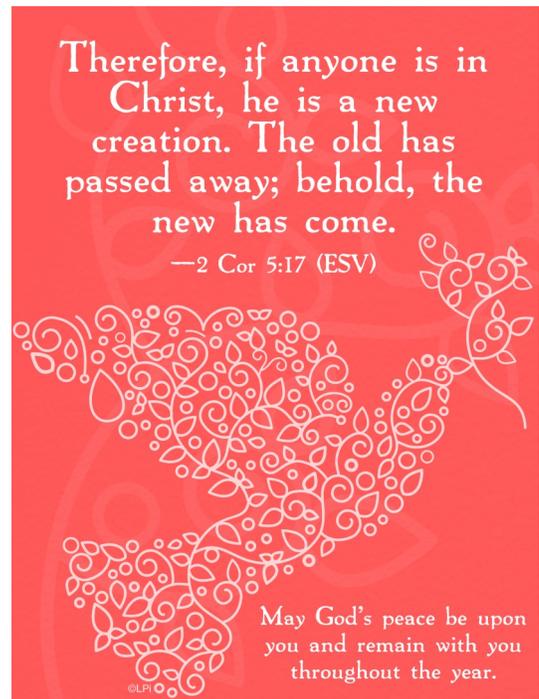
- 10am - Shawl Ministry #125/126
- 4:30pm - Children's Choir Church
- 6pm - Youth Ministry Youth Room & PLC (Open Gym)
- 7pm - SWIFT #125/126

Friday, January 4th

- 8:45am - Scripture Study #126
- 6:30pm - 1st Friday Mass (Polish) Church

Saturday, January 5th

- Baby nursing #153



Greeter Schedule December 31/January 1

Monday 5 PM	Tuesday 8:30 AM	Tuesday 10 AM	Wednesday 11:30 AM
Beck, Joan	Mitus, Tom	Cotrano, Pauline	Beck, Joan
Berger, Mary	O'Donnell, Jim	Cunningham, Kathy	Gilligan, Julie
Coughlin, Jean	Simosky, Flo	Giroux, Linda	Gilligan, Seana

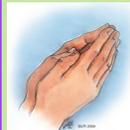
Greeter Schedule January 5/6

Saturday 5 PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 10 AM	Sunday 11:30 AM
Lacerna, Julie	Stephens, Kathy	Losey, Chris	Kluchins, Judy
Schmidt, Peg	Tyrrell, Eileen	Losey, Mark	Mueller, Charlene
Soverina, Dolores	Tyrrell, Mike	McCauley, Sean	Packert, Lynn



Please remember our parishioners who have died and have been born into eternal life. ay:

Andrew Zahara, Debra Kampouragiannis



Prayer Requests

Parishioners' names will be read 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.

To be added to our prayer list, please contact the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions



Please pray for those who are sick and in need of healing from our Divine Healer:

Time	Intention	Requested by:
Monday, December 31st		
8:00am	Jimmy Kelley	Family
	Walter Hildebrandt	Barbara Black
5:00pm	Family of Karen Opyd	Karen Opyd
Tuesday, January 1st - Holy day of Obligation Holy Mother of God		
8:30am	Ed Walsh	Family
	Mary Hildebrandt	Barbara Black
10:00am	David Engler	Karen Opyd
	For the Parish	
11:30am	Guillermina Navarro	Eileen Urbanczyk
	Frank Cotrano	Pauline Contrano
1:00pm	For the Parish	
Wednesday, January 2nd		
8:00am	Salvation Dometita	Levie & Edgar Dometita
	Eric Harrison	Family of Bruno & Stella Opyd
Thursday, January 3rd		
8:00am	Purgatorial Society	
	John Przybylski	Dianne Przybylski
Friday, January 4th		
8:00am	Tim Monahan	Mom & Dad
	Stanley Wasag	Family
Saturday, January 5th		
8:00am	Patricia Maus	Adult Altar Servers
	Louis Slowiak	Family
5:00pm	Frank D. Patula	Mom & Dad
	John & Jeanette Dygdon	Family
	Vincent Krippel	Tom & Eileen Krippel
	Ryne Kinsella	Charlene Meyers
	Int. of Deacon Ken Zawadzki	Shawl Ministry
Sunday, January 6th - Feast of the Epiphany		
7:00am	Barb Onak	Karen Opyd
	People of the Parish	
8:30am	Harriet Wojcik	Orawiec Family
	Jean McMahon	Laakson Family
10:00am	Jane Cleveland	Peg Leonard
	Donald Bryar	M/M Dick Lindenmeyer
11:30am	Joseph Marthaler	Family
	Toni Rafferty	Deacon Pete & Jan Van Merkestyn
1:00pm	Ann Podlasinski	Bridget Podlasinski
	Isabela Litwa	Danuta Styrczula
	Janina Oleskiewicz	
	Andrzej Gacek	Marianna Hejnes
	Za Dusze w Czyscu Cierpiace	
6:15pm	Bart & Peggy Boyle	Bridget Boyle
	Ann Sanfilippo	Nemec Family

Lily Acosta	Rex Knapp
Marilyn Alvarado	Margaret Kulpinski
Maria Ariza	Howard Kuzelka
Kristen Caldwell	Rex Knapp
Peggy Castro	Dawn Leslie
Joanne Chess	William Moser
Mike & Sharon Clavio	Susan Naccarato
Dan Clausen	Dave Newquist
Karen Cole	Tim O'Connell
Matt Creen	Stacie Pavalon Lentz
Joanne Chess	Rosemary Pagliero
Ken Dellorto	Pearl Paul
Mary DeSuno	Deacon Pablo Perez
Bridget Dougal	Joseph & Sandra Piccolo
Bill Dunlap	DorisAnn Ramirez
Francis Foley	Joy Renje
Rich Frain	Joe and Joan Ricciuti
Bill Galvin	Barb & Bob Ridge
Sharon Grill	Terri Schulte
Sgt. Evan Grober	Don Schmidt
Ryan Grybas	Gene Skowronski
Larry Hersh	Rachel Swallow
Arlene Kezon	Louis Tassone
Steve Kizaric	Stella Wiederski
	Michael Wilkins

Please pray for those from our parish who are on active duty in the military who serve our country



Lt. Michael Balcerzak	Capt. Michael Gryczka
L/Cpl Benjamin Brasher	Lt. Dan Kniaz
Capt. Anthony J. Cesaro	Tsgt. Laura Langley
Major Vincent Cesaro	Ssgt. Carl Langley
Capt. Michael Chimienti	Sgt. Joseph Malone
PV2 Joseph Clavio	Capt. Christopher Mazurek
Lt. Dylan Conover	Sgt. Matthew O'Boyle
LCMR Amanda Griffith	Lt. Elizabeth Ernst-Signore
Jacob Elliott USN	LCDR Marilyn Walsh
Sgt. Evan Grober	Major Thomas Walsh

Ways to Support the Ministry of St. Stephen Parish

- **GiveCentral**—Through www.GiveCentral.org parishioners can make automatic donations at the time and frequency they chose. Donating through GiveCentral is a way to simplify your giving and is environmental friendly. Signing up only takes a few minutes. Go to our parish website www.ststephentinley.com and click on the Donate Now button at the bottom of the page. Donations through GiveCentral are processed via your credit card or bank card and at the frequency you choose.
- **Electronic Donations**—St. Stephen accepts electronic donations through Byline Bank. To begin this method of donating, you will need to complete and sign the authorization form and attached a voided check, and bring the items to the Parish Office. The authorization form is located on our website under Support/Sunday Giving.
- **Envelopes**—Registered parishioners can also choose to receive weekly envelopes. Envelope packets are mailed out every other month.
- **Wills and Trusts**—Please consider remembering St. Stephen Parish through your will or trust. Details area available on our website.

Bulletin Submissions

If your parish group or ministry would like to submit a bulletin article, please send your submissions to the following email address: bulletin@ststephentinley.com Our deadline for submissions is the Wednesday, 11 days prior to the bulletin's publication date. Please include a contact name, email address, and phone number when making a submission.



Queen of Hearts Raffle Starts Next Weekend !

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