



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

Easter
Sunday

*This is the day
the Lord has made;
let us rejoice
and be glad.*

Psalm 118:24



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April 21, 2019

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. Thomas A. 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

Laura Uher

Adult Formation

Barbara Black

Communications

Maintenance Director

Dave Prete

Music Minister

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 need this 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 parish office.

Marriages—St. Stephen's 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.

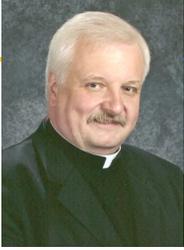
New parishioners are invited to register:

- After the 10am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month.
- At 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,

Happy Easter! Easter is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. What a joyful day it is today! The darkness of winter is gone and the gloom of Good Friday is behind us. Today is a wonderful day to spend celebrating Christ's love for us. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! This is our Easter joy!

Let us go forth to share the joy with everyone we encounter today. We don't have to go overboard or anything, just smile, be happy, look people in the eye, greet strangers, go out of our way to be nice to people, just enjoy being alive. We should slow down long enough to experience small moments of joy today, and then share it with others.

Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen because grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body.

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

So on this most special morning, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy and Blessed Easter. May Our Resurrected Lord shower you with His many blessings. I hope the Easter Bunny also visited you and dropped off many goodies for you to enjoy this Easter Season.

I want to also take this opportunity to welcome any family members, friends or visitors that may be joining us this weekend. We are very happy that you have joined us. Please feel free to come back anytime. You are always most welcome. We want you to feel at home here at St. Stephen's. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know.

Now that we have completed our Lenten Journey, our participation in "Operation Rice Bowl" is also coming to an end. Throughout Lent we were asked to pray, fast and offer alms in support of our brothers and sisters throughout the world who lack the basic necessities of life, such as food and clean drinking water. Through our efforts during this Lenten Season, Catholic Relief Services will be able to provide for the basic needs of people throughout the world. In addition to helping the needy and hungry throughout the world, 25% of the monies collected here at St. Stephen's will be given to the Catholic Charities Saint Blase Food Pantry to be used to help feed the needy locally as well. If you have already made your contribution to "Operation Rice Bowl," I want to thank you on behalf of all who will be helped by your generosity. If you still haven't made a donation to "Operation Rice Bowl," it is still not too late. Containers are located near the altar.

I would like to begin a new Communications Ministry to support the parish and the ministries within our parish. This ministry will consist of people that will work to continually improve parish-wide communications through all available channels and increase the engagement of parishioners.

This group will also work to find new ways to use social media to communicate general parish information and promotion both to parishioners and the greater community. Using a variety of tools such as our website, social media presence, email communication and print, we look for ways to have phenomenal engagement between all ministries so you in the pew know what is going on in our parish.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please see Fr. Tom or call the parish office and leave your contact information.

Happy Easter!!!!!!!



UJRZAŁ I UWIERZYŁ

Przeżywamy dziś największą uroczystość w Kościele katolickim: Zmartwychwstanie Jezusa! Biegniemy razem z uczniami do grobu po to, aby przekonać się na własne oczy, że Pan zmartwychwstał. Biegniemy, by potwierdzić swoją wiarę: Mesjasz naprawdę żyje! Bez tej pewności wiara stałaby się bezpodstawna! Pusty grób wiarygodnia wszystko, co wcześniej Jezus głosił i czynił.

Patrząc na wspomniane dzisiaj wydarzenia, trzeba przyznać, że apostołowie otrzymali ogromną łaskę ujżenia „leżących płócien i chusty” (J 20), które pozwoliły św. Janowi zanotować, że ów drugi uczeń „ujrzał i uwierzył” (J 20). Czy jednak współczesny człowiek skazany jest tylko na świadectwo uczniów Jezusa? Czy nam została odebrana łaska owego ujżenia cudu zmartwychwstania? Odpowiedź może być tylko jedna: Bóg nie odbiera nam możliwości zobaczenia Jezusa Zmartwychwstałego. Nie odbiera nam wzroku, lecz każdy z nas musi włożyć pewien wysiłek w dostrzeżenie żyjącego Boga-człowieka.

Apostołowie otrzymali szansę zobaczenia pustego grobu między innymi dlatego, że uwierzyli słowom niewiast; uwierzyli świadectwu tych, które wcześniej ujrzały i uwierzyły. Jakże ważne dla nas są współczesne świadectwa, którym trzeba wierzyć. Popatrzmy chociażby na św. Pio z Pietrelciny, który poprzez stygmaty zaświadczał o Chrystusie. A iluż współcześnie żyjących, jemu podobnych, uwierzyło po zobaczeniu znaków Chrystusowej męki. Sam św. Pio przeżywał codziennie spotkanie z Chrystusem Eucharystycznym i codziennie na nowo „biegł” swoimi modlitwami do grobu, aby po raz kolejny powiedzieć, że wierzy.

W obecnych czasach próbuje się podważać fakt zmartwychwstania. Różne teorie naukowe, badania z socjologii czy psychiatrii „polemizują” z prawdą o zmartwychwstaniu. A przecież przy pustym grobie niepotrzebne są dywagacje naukowe; liczy się żywa wiara i zaufanie świadkom cudu zmartwychwstania. Jakże wiele w historii Kościoła było i jest mistyków i wizjonerów, których posądzało się o choroby psychiczne, a oni w sposób autentyczny świadczyli o Chrystusie Zmartwychwstałym, spotkanym „twarzą w twarz”. Siostra Faustyna w swoim Dzienniczku zapisała takie słowa:

Ujrzałam Pana Jezusa przybitego do krzyża. Kiedy Jezus chwilę na nim wisiał, ujrzałam cały zastęp dusz ukrzyżowanych tak jak Jezus. I ujrzałam trzeci zastęp dusz i drugi zastęp dusz. Drugi zastęp nie był przybity do krzyża, ale dusze trzymały silnie w rękę krzyż; trzeci zaś zastęp dusz nie był ani ukrzyżowany, ani nie trzymał w rękę krzyża silnie, ale wlokły te dusze krzyż za sobą i były niezadowolone. Wtem rzekł mi Jezus: „Widzisz te dusze, które są podobne w cierpieniach i wzgardzie do Mnie, te też będą podobne i w chwale do Mnie; a te, które mają mniej podobieństwa do Mnie w cierpieniu i wzgardzie – te też będą miały mniej podobieństwa i w chwale do Mnie”.

Wobec takiego świadectwa nie można pozostać obojętnym! Trzeba uwierzyć, że Chrystus przebywa w chwale i ukazuje taką drogę także nam!

Wróćmy jednak do wydarzeń poranka wielkanocnego. Apostołowie zaniepokojeni świadectwem kobiet zdobyli się na wysiłek pójścia do grobu. Taka postawa jest bardzo wymowna, bowiem uwierzenie wymaga od człowieka ofiary, wysiłku, tego przysłowiowego kroku w stronę Jezusa. Ujrzeni pusty grób dlatego, że zdecydowali się na aktywność! Gdyby zostali w domu, zaprzepaściliby łaskę, którą chciał ich obdarzyć Pan. To dla nas ważna lekcja: żeby uwierzyć, trzeba się uaktywnić; trzeba szukać okazji, aby ujrzeć Jezusa. Można przecież Boga zobaczyć w drugim człowieku, który jest świątynią Ducha Świętego. Można żyjącego Jezusa zobaczyć w rządzeniach opatrności Bożej, w różnych splotach wydarzeń mających miejsce w naszym życiu. Wreszcie można zobaczyć Jezusa w modlitwie (pod warunkiem, że ją podejmujemy). Apostołowie swoją postawą dają świadectwo i zachęcają, by nie być biernym.

Jest jeszcze jedno ważne przesłanie zawarte w postawie apostołów. Uczeń, kiedy zobaczył pusty grób, uwierzył, to znaczy zrozumiał naukę Jezusa, ponieważ, jak pisze św. Jan, „dotąd nie rozumieli jeszcze Pisma, które mówi, że On ma powstać z martwych” (J 20). Wiara zakłada zrozumienie sensu przesłania Dobrej Nowiny. Życie ziemskie nie kończy egzystencji człowieka. Każdy powołany jest do życia wiecznego. Ma więc obowiązek nie tylko zrozumieć tę prawdę, ale też według niej żyć. Stąd apel o troskę o jakość ziemskiego pielgrzymowania. Apostołowie po poranku wielkanocnym na nowo uwierzyli i w konsekwencji oddali życie za Chrystusa Zmartwychwstałego. Prawdą wielkanocna umożliwiła im heroiczną wierność Jezusowi.

Dzisiejsza uroczystość powinna przemienić także nas! Każdy świętujący zmartwychwstanie Chrystusa powinien zweryfikować swoje postępowanie. Pusty grób staje się wezwaniem: warto dla Mistrza z Nazaretu poświęcić wszystko, albowiem to On jest źródłem, sensem i kresem życia każdego z nas!

W sekwencji wielkanocnej śpiewamy: „Zmartwychwstał już Chrystus, Pan mój i nadzieja. A miejscem spotkania będzie Galilea. Wiemy, żeś zmartwychwstał, że ten cud prawdziwy. O Królu Zwycięzco, bądź nam miłościwy”. Idźmy więc z radością i oznajmijmy wszystkim, że Chrystus naprawdę żyje! Alleluja!



Wesotego Alleluja



RICH SYMBOLISM OF EASTER

Easter is the day that celebrates and commemorates the central event of the Christian faith: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after His death by crucifixion. All major branches of Christianity observe this feast. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of the Christian faith, according to the Apostle Paul, who even says that if Jesus Christ had not been resurrected then the Christian faith is worthless and futile. Therefore, without Easter there is no Christianity.

Easter is the oldest Christian holiday and the most important day of the Church year. All the Christian movable feasts and the entire liturgical year of worship are arranged around Easter. Easter is preceded by the Season of Lent, a forty day period of fasting and repentance culminating in Holy Week, and followed by a fifty day Easter Season that stretches from Easter to Pentecost.

The early Christians began remembering the Resurrection every Sunday following its occurrence. In A.D. 325, the Council of Nicaea set aside a special day just to celebrate the Resurrection. The problem with an official day was deciding whether the Resurrection should be celebrated on a weekday or always on a Sunday.

Many felt that the date should continue to be based on the timing of the Resurrection during Passover. Once Jewish leaders determined the date of Passover each year, Christian leaders could set the date for Easter by figuring three days after Passover. Following this schedule would have meant that Easter would be a different day of the week each year, only falling on a Sunday once in awhile.

Others believed since the Lord rose on a Sunday and this day had been set aside as the Lord's Day, this was the only possible day to celebrate His resurrection. As Christianity drew away from Judaism, some were reluctant to base the Christian celebration on the Jewish calendar.

Finally it was decided Easter should be celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. Since the date of the vernal equinox changed from year to year, calculating the proper date can be difficult. This is still the method used to determine Easter today, which is why some years we have Easter earlier than other years.

The Eastern churches (Greek, Russian, and other forms of Orthodoxy) use the same calculation, but based on the Julian calendar and a 19-year paschal cycle. Thus, the Orthodox Easter sometimes falls on the same day as the western Easter, but the two celebrations can occur as much as five weeks apart.

The origins of the word "Easter" are not certain, but probably derive from Estre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. The German word Ostern has the same derivation, but most other languages follow the Greek term used by the early Christians: pascha, from the Hebrew pesach (Passover).

Being one of the holiest Christian feasts, Easter is associated with a host of traditional symbols and icons. Most of the Easter symbols pre-date Christianity and are remnants of ancient pagan symbolism. Each of them is related to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Lord Jesus

Christ.

One of the main traditional symbols associated with Easter are Easter eggs. Eggs symbolize the tomb from which Christ emerged and the hatching of the baby chick is the symbol of new life being born. Early Christians looked at the connection eggs had to life and decided eggs could be a part of their celebration of Christ's resurrection. In addition, in some areas, eggs were forbidden during Lent; therefore, they were a delicacy at Easter. This is why they were chosen as symbols for Easter.

Of all Easter symbols, the lamb is probably the most strongly Christian. Other than the fact that lambs are young animals born in springtime, it has no strong ties to pagan traditions.

The lamb comes from the Jewish Passover, where each family killed a lamb as a sacrifice. When Christ became the Passover Lamb for everyone, the lamb became a symbol for His sacrifice.

The white lily has long been associated with Easter, and for good reason. The trumpet-like petals suggest the angel Gabriel's awakening horn. Because it is started from a bulb that had been buried—it is easy to correlate to the rebirth of the Savior.

The butterfly was chosen as an Easter symbol because of its unique life cycle. It begins as a caterpillar that stands for the time Jesus spent on earth. The cocoon stage is next which represents the crucifixion of Christ and his burial. In the last stage it emerges from the cocoon as a beautiful butterfly which symbolizes his resurrection in a new glorified body.

The Cross, the all-pervading icon of Christianity, is an integral element of all Christian feasts, including Easter. It is the symbol of life over death. The crucifix is a cross with an image of Jesus' body hanging from it. It symbolizes the sacrifice, which Jesus did for humanity. An empty cross, without the figure of Christ crucified on it, reminds Christians of Jesus' victory over death and the new life and hope the victory brings to humanity.

The primary visual symbol at the Easter Vigil is the Paschal Candle, the symbol of Christ himself, risen triumphantly from the dead, shining as the True Light to the nations. The tradition of a large candle has been seen as a symbol of the Resurrection.

Traditionally, the Paschal Candle displays several meaningful symbols: The cross is the central symbol, most clearly identifying it as the Paschal Candle. The Greek letter alpha (Α) and omega (Ω) signify that God is the beginning and the end. The numbers of the current year represents God's presence here and now in the midst of the faithful. Five grains of incense, inserted into the wax, represents the five wounds of Jesus and the sweet spices brought by the devout women to the sepulcher.

The Paschal Candle is lit during all liturgies during the fifty days of Easter. It provides a reminder that baptism is a symbolic death and rebirth with Christ; just like Christ's Death and Resurrection. The Paschal Candle is also lit at Christian funerals as a reminder that those who die in Christ are raised up with Him.

As you can see, these symbols were not randomly chosen, they all have a specific meaning that is associated with new life and rebirth.



HELP WANTED

Because of the recent retirement of several staff members, we are looking for people interested in giving of their time and talents to continue the work and the mission of

the Church, here at Saint Stephen's.

We are currently looking to fill the positions of Business Director (part-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 either 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.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE VALUABLE

We have always known that the many parishioners who volunteer to serve in our various parish organizations and ministries are most valuable. Now we have confirmation. Based on the average hourly wage, experts currently estimate that one hour of volunteer time is worth \$17.55.

However, to us your volunteer time is **invaluable**. Through the gifts of time and talent that our parishioners so generously share we are able to truly be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

Many thanks to all those faithful and generous stewards who volunteer in our parish! Your time is worth everything to us!



GATTO'S FUNDRAISER

Don't Forget- Gatto's, 8005 183rd Street, in Tinley Park, is sponsoring St. Stephen's Nights, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Stop by Gatto's this Wednesday, and mention St. Stephens to the server, and the Men's Club will get a donation of 20% of the pre-tax bill.

All proceeds from these nights go back to the church through ministry donations and needs of the Parish Life Center.

If you are interested in finding out more about the St. Stephen Men's Club, email Curt Beringer, at curtberinger12@gmail.com



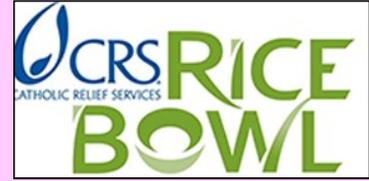
OPERATION RICE BOWL

"Encounter the Risen Christ"

We prayed, fasted and gave alms,

and now we celebrate Easter joy! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl challenges us as we encounter our Risen Lord to bring the hope of Resurrection to a world in need.

Your support of Operation Rice Bowl can and will make a difference. We ask that you place your rice bowl donations in the special boxes near the altar or they can be placed in the weekend collection. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Our Baptismal Preparation Class for the month of April will take place this Thursday, April 25th, 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, ststephentinley.com. For more information please contact the parish office, 708-342-2400.

YOUNG @ HEART GROUP

The next meeting of the Seniors Young @ Heart Group will take place on Monday, April 29th at 10:00 AM in the Parish Life Center. We will begin with 10 exciting games of Bingo for cash prizes.



Immediately following, a delicious Polish lunch will be served consisting of fresh sausage, cabbage rolls, stuffed chicken, sauerkraut, dumplings, cucumber salad and potato salad catered by Gorka's Deli in Orland Park. In addition, there will be plenty of enjoyable Polka music which you sing along and dance to. Tickets for the luncheon are \$15.00 and must be purchased in advance.

If you still wish to attend the upcoming Day Trip to White Fence Farm on May 17th, you will have one final chance to purchase a ticket at this meeting. Tickets for this event are \$58.00 per person. This includes round trip transportation on a motor coach bus, the famous White Fence Farm fried chicken dinner with all the fixins' and a delightful musical stroll down memory lane show featuring the "Sweet Reminder" duet.

Seniors Young @ Heart is an organization, which is dedicated to enriching the lives of men and women 55+ through faith, fellowship and fun. New members are always welcome.

For more information regarding any of the above, you may contact Bernie Valderrama at (708)444-7949 or valderrama,bernie@gmail.com.



HAPPY EASTER

The Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School community extends wishes for a Blessed Easter to our sponsoring parishes and to all parishioner families.

During this season of rebirth and renewal, may God's Blessings awaken you with hope, comfort you with peace, and refresh you with joy. He IS risen!

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 a Catholic adult (18 or older), 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.



TAX RETURN TELLS YOU HOW GENEROUS YOU REALLY ARE

Before you file your tax return away for the year, you might want to take a minute to determine what percentage you are giving away. Jesus told us, "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." (Luke 12:48)

Your tax return tells you not only how much income God has entrusted to you last year, but also what portion you gave away. Simply take your total charitable contribution and divide by your total gross income. Move the decimal point over two places. This is the percentage you gave away last year. Are you pleased with that number? If not, make plans now to improve your giving in 2019.

QUEEN OF HEARTS WEEKLY WINNER

Betty Kenny - Card #23
Seven of Diamonds - Pot Rolls Over!!!
Next drawing will take place on Wednesday, April 24th.



Did you get your tickets yet?



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY AND THE HOLY FAMILY CHAPEL

St. George Church, 6707 W. 175th St., in Tinley Park, is inviting everyone to join them for Divine Mercy Sunday, next Sunday, April 28th.

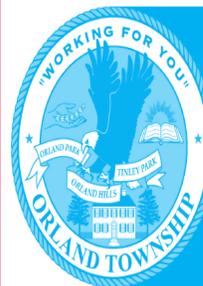
Everyone is invited to a procession and devotions in church after 11:30am Mass observing Divine Mercy Sunday, followed by a reception in the Cahill Parish Life Center to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration taking place in Holy Family Chapel.

Divine Mercy Sunday devotions will include a procession with Our Lord, burning the prayer petitions that were placed in Holy Family Chapel over the last year, praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Benediction, and veneration of the Divine Mercy image.

You are invited to join us in celebrating the spiritual fruits and blessings received over these 25 years and recognizing the efforts of many parishioners from St. George and from nearby parishes who have helped make these 219,000 hours of prayer possible. Make a commitment to help us continue Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. Questions? Call St. George Rectory at 708-532-

Spring Job Fair

Tuesday, April 30 • 10am-1pm
Orland Township, 14807 S. Ravinia Ave., Orland Park



All jobseekers are welcome to attend this FREE job fair at Orland Township. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to meet with possible future employers. There will be over 30 companies attending the fair. Business casual attire recommended, and bring several copies of an updated resume. No preregistration required for jobseekers!

Any questions, call Alexis (708) 403-4222





Office of the Archbishop
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
312.534.8230
archchicago.org

Easter 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we walk on our life journeys in this world, we may often feel overwhelmed. Struggle and suffering can mark our lives because of health issues, job insecurity, family concerns, or the painful loss of a loved one. The world itself, in Saint Paul's words, "has been groaning" (Roman 8:22), as it struggles with wars, violence, ecological degradation, economic injustice, and natural disasters. And as we are keenly aware this past year, the Church herself has struggled mightily with the shameful legacy of abuse and its mismanagement.

It seems that the landscape of our lives is entirely shaped by struggle and suffering. And that might seem to be the sum and substance of it all, but, in faith, we know that it is not. Our celebration of the Lord's Resurrection in this Easter season opens our eyes beyond this desperate landscape to a new and hope-filled horizon. There is more to the story than our struggle and suffering. In the Resurrection of Jesus, we can begin to see a new life ahead of us that God offers to us.

As we go forth in this Easter season, I am reminded of the great Psalm 118 that the Church so often prays:

*I was thrust down, thrust down and falling,
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
and has been my savior.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. (vv. 13-15)*

May this Easter season renew within you and your loved ones the conviction that God is your helper and an abiding awareness of your victory in the Risen Lord Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blase Cardinal Cury".

Archbishop of Chicago



DIVINE MERCY NOVENA OFFERS NINE DAYS OF PRAYER STARTED ON GOOD FRIDAY

The Divine Mercy novena is prayed between Good Friday and the Sunday of Divine Mercy, which is the Sunday following Easter. Those praying the novena are to pray for the special intentions of each day followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

St. Faustina wrote that Jesus told her, "On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy ... On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My passion, for the graces for these souls."

Special intentions for souls during the Divine Mercy Novena:

- .. Day 1 (Good Friday) — All mankind, especially sinners
- .. Day 2 (Holy Saturday) — The souls of priests and religious
- .. Day 3 (Easter Sunday) — All devout and faithful souls
- .. Day 4 (Easter Monday) — Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not yet know Him
- .. Day 5 (Easter Tuesday) — The souls of separated brethren
- .. Day 6 (Easter Wednesday) — The meek and humble souls and the souls of children
- .. Day 7 (Easter Thursday) — The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus' mercy
- .. Day 8 (Easter Friday) — The souls who are detained in purgatory
- .. Day 9 (Easter Saturday) — The souls who have become lukewarm

The Sunday of Divine Mercy is a new feast that was instituted on May 5, 2000 by Saint Pope John Paul II. A Polish nun, Sister Faustina Kowalska, now a saint, heard Jesus telling her, "Say always the Chaplet I have taught you. He (she) who says it, shall experience My Mercy, during his (her) life, and mostly at the hour of his (her) death."

How to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet:

You may begin with the optional opening prayers:

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

Using rosary beads, begin with the Sign of the Cross. Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary and The Apostles Creed.

On each of the five decades (Our Father bead of the rosary) pray: Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On each of the 10 Hail Mary beads, pray: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

For the concluding prayer, repeat 3 times: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

You may also add this optional closing prayer: Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

***"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
have mercy on us and on the whole world."***

SAVE THE DATE: June 14th!

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Watch upcoming bulletins for more information.



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

"In the beginning was the Word..." Words are foundational to our faith. We use them to communicate the Gospel, to disciple believers, to connect the disconnected and to reach out in our communities.

And although most churches see communication as an important part of their success, they do not necessarily view it as a strength within their organization.

Church communication, like anything else, can be improved with a simple plan and the establishment of basic guidelines.

We would like to begin a new Communications Ministry to support the parish and the ministries within our parish. This ministry will consist of people that will work to continually improve parish-wide communications through all available channels and increase the engagement of parishioners.

This group will also work to find new ways to use social media to communicate general parish information and promotion both to parishioners and the greater community. Using a variety of tools such as our website, social media presences, email communication and print, we look for ways to have phenomenal engagement between all ministries so you in the pew know what is going on in your parish.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please see Fr. Tom or call the parish office.

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STEWARDSHIP

**April 14, 2019
Easter Sunday**

“He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” (Acts 10:38)

On this Easter Sunday, open your hearts to receive God’s love, mercy and forgiveness. God is love and we are made in His image and likeness. Let our lives reflect His light to others. Pray for guidance on how to live your life and give thanks for all that He has given you

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

<u>Collections</u>	04-14-2019
Regular Sunday	\$21,913.00
Sharing	\$183.00
Good Friday	\$49.00
Easter	\$305.00
Total	\$22,450.00

Sunday and Holy Day Collections

<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>March 2018</u>	<u>Fiscal Year to Date</u>
Actual	\$125,085	\$1,066,366
Budget	\$150,000	\$1,165,000
Surplus/(Shortfall)	(\$24,916)	(\$98,634)

Creation Care Corner

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



“...the future of the human family depends also on how we safeguard –both prudently and compassionately... the gift

THIS WEEK’S STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Connecting the dots. From time to time, questions arise about what the connection is between the Catholic faith and the environmental sustainability recommendations presented in this column. Care for God’s Creation is one of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching. The US Council of Catholic Bishops links stewardship efforts to our faith when saying: “We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of Creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God’s Creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.”



Online Giving

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ELECTRONIC GIVERS

We would like to thank the families who are currently giving electronically. You may not see these fellow parishioners place an envelope in the basket every week, but their consistent giving does not go unnoticed in our parish office.

Each month our parish receives a steady and predictable stream of income from those donors who have made the commitment to give to God first by having a designated contribution automatically transferred to our parish through our Online Giving Program.

If you would like to learn more about this easy, safe and secure way of giving, please contact Laura, in our parish office, or go to our online giving site givecentral.org



Meetings/Events

Sunday, April 21st - EASTER SUNDAY

5:00 AM Mass of the Resurrection with Procession
in Polish
Easter Sunday Masses 7 AM, 8:30 AM, 10 AM,
11:30 AM (English), 1 PM (Polish)

****No 6:15 PM Mass on Easter Sunday**

Monday, April 22nd

Parish & RE Offices Closed

Tuesday, April 23rd

9:00 AM *Parish Office Reopens
**9:00 AM - 8:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
Parish Office**
10:30 AM - Moms & Tots Rm #156
2:00 PM Seniors Board Mtg. #125
5:00 PM - English Communion Pictures #166/167
6:00 PM - Youth Room Open & Bible Study Youth Room

Wednesday, April 24th

Men's Club Fundraiser Gatto's Restaurant
**8:30 AM - 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
Parish Office**
6:30 PM - Scouts Training #153
7:00 PM - Adult Choir Church/Music Room
8:00 PM AA Pol #161

Thursday, April 25th

8:30 AM - 6:30 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Daily Chapel with Rosary @ 8:30am
4:30 PM - Children's Choir Church
6:00 PM - Youth Ministry Youth Room & PLC
(Open Gym)
6:30 PM - Benediction Daily Chapel followed
by Divine Mercy Prayers
7:00 PM Baptism Prep #125/126

Friday, April 26th

**8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
Parish Office**
8:45 AM - Scripture Study #126
8:00 PM AA Pol #161

Saturday, April 27th

Baby Nursing #153
Narthex...Creation Care Team Presentation
Narthex...Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
8:00 AM - AA #158/159
11:00 AM Polish 1st Communion
**12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
Parish Office**
1:30 PM Special Needs 1st Comm Daily Chapel

Sunday, April 28th

Baby Nursing #153
Narthex...Creation Care Team Presentation
Narthex...Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Growing With God Graduation
& Easter Program PLC
10:00 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word
11:00 AM Parish Registration Rm 125
3:00 PM - Baptism
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Youth Ministry Youth Room

Greeters Schedule April 27th - 28th



5PM - Julie Lacerna, Dolores Soverino,
Mary Tafoya
8:30AM - Eileen Tyrrell, Mike Tyrrell, Jeanne Upreti
10AM - Mark Losey, Anna Williams, Pauline Cotrano
11:30AM - Natalie Simms, Jackie Szmanski, B.J. Witry

Easter Table Prayer

Creator God and Lord of Life, You who call forth from the darkness of death all those who love You, we rejoice, on this Easter Sunday, in the resurrection from the dead of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Visit our home and this table with Your bright blessing of peace and life.

We pause in the midst of this prayer to remember all those of our family who live now in You and who await the final and glorious resurrection of the dead.

(Pause for silent reflection to remember those who have died.)

May they and we, because of our faith in You, our God, taste in the victory of life over death.

May the Risen Christ, our Lord and Savior, be our guest as we celebrate His resurrection with this Easter Sunday dinner.

Bless those whose work to prepare this meal which has truly been a work of prayer, and bless all of us who shall share it with Easter love and joy.

May You, then, bless this table and this food, and each of us in Your holy name. Amen.



Mass Intentions

Sunday, April 21st - EASTER SUNDAY

5:00 am Mass of the Resurrection with Procession in Polish
 7:00 am
 8:30 am The Mass Intentions on Easter are for the
 10 am Intentions of our Parishioners,
 11:30 am their Families and our Benefactors.
 1pm

There will be no 6:15PM Mass on Easter Sunday

Monday, April 22nd

8:00 am	Ed Walsh	Family
	Salvatore & Polma Spalla	Spalla Family
	Rev. Casimir S. Paul	Orawiec Family

Tuesday, April 23rd

8:00 am	Adeline O'Brien	Bern Daly Family
	Joanne Chess	Bill & Arlene Beavan
	Kathleen Haggerty	Ed Haggerty

Wednesday, April 24th

8:00 am	Purgatorial Society	
	Daniel H. Groves	Fred & Luanne Frus
	Casimir & Stella Piorkowski	Jennie Freed

Thursday, April 25th

8:00 am	Julia and Joseph Stalcup	Den, Joe, & Linda Stalcup
	Wedding Anniversary of Josie & Jack Rosenkranz	
	Felicja Czajewska	Henry Czajewski

Friday, April 26th

8:00 am	Chuck Blunk	Jennie Freed
	Joanne Chess	Obiala Family
	Jeremiah Toomey	Ventrice Family

Saturday, April 27th

8:00 am	Marion Kummer	Mr. & Mrs. M. Sorensen
	Joanne Chess	Karen Opyd
5:00 pm	Rudy & Frances Grabowski	Family
	Helen Sobol	Family
	Barb Onak	Dcn. Chuck & Terese McFarland
	Daniel Gainer	Ventrice Family
	Jack & Judy Regan	Friends
	50 th Wedding Anniversary of Ted & Carolyn Glaser	

Sunday, April 28th

7:00 am	Henry W. Michalski	Dolores Michalski
	Parishioners of Saint Stephen's	
8:30 am	Bobby Kelley	Family
	Thomas Rogan	Family
10:00 am	John J. O'Connor	Betty O'Connor
	Dan Donovan	Family
	Jean Dobersztyn	Theresa Coffey & Family
11:30 am	Italy Cumbo	Dcn. Chuck & Terese McFarland
	Toni Rafferty	Barbara Black
1:00 pm	Wanda Jastrzebska	Family
6:15 pm	Guadalupe Z. Franchini	Kristina Mulica
	Joe Piccolo	Mr. & Mrs. D'Allio



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

Maria Ariza	Howard Kuzelka
Kristen Baldyga	Ruth Martinez
Kristen Caldwell	Dave Newquist
Peggy Castro	Tim O'Connell
Karen Cole	Stacie Pavalon Lentz
Matt Creen	Deacon Pablo Perez
Daniel Clausen	Joe and Joan Ricciuti
Ken Dellorto	Joe & Terri Schulte
Bridget Dougal	Don Schmidt
Bill Galvin	Margaret Schmidt
Sharon Grill	Natalie Sims
Larry Hersh	Rachel Swallow
Steve Kizaric	Louis Tassone
Rex Knapp	Helen Zimmerman

Marriage Banns

We pray for those engaged to be married

Nicholas Matysik & Kristen Sharkey - III



Lt. Michael Balcerzak	Major 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



alleluia!
Christ has Risen!

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 choose. Donating through GiveCentral is a way to simplify your giving and is environmentally 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 are 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.

Don't forget to get your "Queen of Hearts" Tickets!!!

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