



St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr Catholic Church

*17500 84th Avenue, Tinley Park, Illinois 60487
708-342-2400*

PSALM 90:14

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and gladness
all our days.

***Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time***

SEPTEMBER 8, 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 | Sunday 9:30am—1:00pm

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

Director of Music and Liturgy

David Boyle

Morning Receptionist

Noreen Galvin

Director of Religious Education

Sandi Morgan

Assoc. Director of Religious Ed.

Leslie Krauledis

Religious Ed. Admin. Assistant

Dee Zvejnieks

Religious Education Secretary

CJB Interim Principal

James Antos

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. Baptisms can also be celebrated with the Parish Family at one of our weekend Masses. Please contact Fr. Tom in the parish office for the necessary preparations. A baptism preparation class is required to have your child baptized at St. Stephen's. New parishioners are required to register.

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. For more information, please contact the parish office.

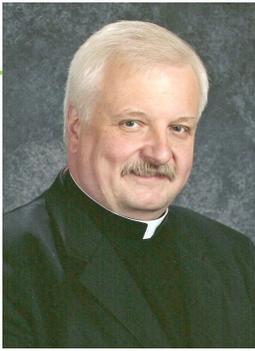
Confessions - Saturdays after the 8AM Mass or by appointment.

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's 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,

In Luke's Gospel this weekend, Jesus is speaking to people gathered at the table about the difficulties of following him. This group of people is suspicious about Jesus, looking to catch him doing something wrong. Jesus speaks to them in parables, emphasizing that although there is a right way to be a disciple and enter into the kingdom of his Father, it is a difficult path to follow. Many, even some of the guests at the table, reject the invitation. So Jesus turns to the crowds and speaks to them of discipleship. Jesus explains that, when it comes to making a choice for the Kingdom of God, nothing can get in the way. When Jesus describes "hating" one's father and mother, he is not talking about feelings. Rather, he is emphasizing very strongly that choosing to be a disciple means that everything else - family, money, your own life - must come second. In Matthew's version of this story, Jesus refers not to "hating" father or mother, but to *loving them more* than Jesus. Jesus makes it very clear that being a disciple is not easy. It means to bear one's own cross. These difficult sayings of Jesus are followed by two brief parables, a person constructing a tower and a king marching into battle, that make an obvious point—don't start what you cannot finish. Discipleship is difficult and is something we can commit to only if we are prepared to put the Kingdom of God before everything else.

This weekend we celebrate Grandparents Day. The history of Grandparents Day goes back to 1956 and a West Virginia mother named Marian McQuade. While helping to organize a community celebration for those over 80, she became aware of the many nursing home residents who were forgotten by their families. She wanted a holiday to bring attention to these forgotten individuals and to honor all grandparents. In 1973, West Virginia became the first state to have such a day. McQuade and others then shifted their efforts to the national level, achieving success in 1978. In 1978, Congress passed legislation declaring the first Sunday after Labor Day as Grandparents Day. President Jimmy Carter signed it into law and the rest is history. Although the date may change from year to year, it is always celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

The purpose of the holiday is to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children, and to help children become aware of the strength, information, and guidance older people can offer. So on this special Grandparents Day, we wish all of our grandparents, great grandparents, and great, great grandparents, all the best. We thank you for all you have done and continue to do for your grandchildren. May God bless you with health, happiness, and shower you with His love. Happy Grandparents Day!!!!

This week we are beginning our Religious Education Program for the 2019-2020 school year. We are awaiting the return of the students and we are looking forward to a great year. Sharing our faith with our children is one of the most important gifts we can give them. And here at Saint Stephen's we take that responsibility seriously. It is our intention to offer the best program we can to help the children learn about Jesus and deepen our relationship with Him. We also want them to learn about and experience the many rich traditions and practices of our Church as well. I ask you to remember our students and catechists as they embark on this new school year.

If, by some chance, you have not registered your child/children for our program, it is still not too late. Registrations are still being accepted at the Religious Education Office. In order to properly prepare for all of our students, children registered this week will begin classes starting next week.

In an effort to enhance and expand our Religious Education Programs, we are making some changes to our Children's Liturgy of the Word and "Growing with God" programs. Both of these programs provide additional opportunities for our children to learn more about Jesus and their faith in a different setting. If you don't know what these programs are, there is a brief synopsis of both programs included in this week's bulletin. Basically the Children's Liturgy of the Word ministry is to proclaim the weekly Mass readings to children in language that is meaningful to them along with provide a discussion of the scriptures, which is geared to their age and developmental abilities. This program will run most Sunday's from October through May. The "Growing with God" program is an early childhood Religious Education Program for children ages 3 through kindergarten age. This fun-filled class provides the children a time to be with others their own age and learn about the weekly Gospel and our Catholic traditions in a way that is age appropriate. The children play, pray, do a craft, have music time and have a snack. Classes will meet during the 10AM Mass on most Sundays throughout the school year.

I am excited about the changes and improvements we have made to these two programs. For those who have participated in these programs in the past, you will see some new and exciting things happening. To those of you who may be new to the program, we are working on providing the best possible experience for your child/children. I think these programs will give us the opportunity to work with the youngest members of our community in a special way. Registrations for both programs are now being accepted.

Since we have expanded these programs to offer more, we are in need of additional people to help with the programs. If you can help us one Sunday a month, that would be great. Please call the Religious Education Office this week. Training and material are provided. I hope we can count on your support and assistance.

I would also like to also encourage all parents of children from pre-school age through third grade to register your child/children for either of these programs so we can make the necessary preparations for the start of both of these programs. For more information, please contact the Religious Education Office.

Happy Grandparents Day!!!

NIE MOŻE BYĆ MOIM UCZNIEM!

Jasne jest dzisiejsze pouczenie Jezusa. Sprowadza się ono do odpowiedzi na zasadnicze pytanie: Czy naprawdę chcecie być Jego uczniami? Jest ono skierowane do wszystkich idących za Nim. Gdybyśmy mieli podgląd na katolickie świątynie na świecie i obserwowali je przez cały dzień, to zobaczylibyśmy, jak wielkie tłumy wciąż podążają za Chrystusem. Ale z tego jeszcze niewiele wynika. Ważna jest bowiem tylko relacja, jaka zachodzi między sercem człowieka a sercem Jezusa. Zbawiciel właśnie o to pyta, dając nam wskazówki, przy pomocy których możemy sobie na to pytanie odpowiedzieć w całej prawdzie.

Mówi najpierw coś, co nie tylko nas zaskakuje, ale też wydaje się sprzeczne z całą Jego nauką, a zwłaszcza z tym, co dotyczy miłości. Stwierdza bowiem: „Jeśli ktoś przychodzi do Mnie, a nie ma w nienawiści swego ojca i matki, żony i dzieci, braci i siostr, nadto i siebie samego, nie może być moim uczniem” (Łk 14,26). Na innym miejscu poucza: „Kto kocha ojca lub matkę bardziej niż Mnie, nie jest Mnie godzien” (Mt 10,37). O co zatem Jezusowi chodzi? On wcale nie zabrania nam kochać naszych bliskich, ale zdecydowanie i jednoznacznie wskazuje, że jeśli chcemy być rzeczywiście Jego uczniami, to On musi być dla nas najważniejszy! Nikt i nic nie może Go przesłaniać, nawet gdyby to było najbliższe naszemu sercu. A przecież wiemy, że najbliższe są właśnie więzy krwi, szczególnie te łączące rodziców i dzieci. Jeśli jednak ktoś lub coś będzie dla nas znaczyć więcej niż Jezus, to choćbyśmy uważali się za wierzących i przychodzili na świętą Eucharystię, to nie staniemy się Jego uczniami. Trzeba zatem, abyśmy rozważyli, kto w naszym życiu jest naprawdę najważniejszy.

Chrystus wypowiada dzisiaj jeszcze jedno bardzo trudne zdanie: „Kto nie nosi swego krzyża, a idzie za Mną, ten nie może być moim uczniem” (Łk 14,27). A więc drugi warunek, jaki musimy spełnić, aby rzeczywiście być Jego uczniami, to naprawdę wziąć na ramiona swój krzyż – a więc to wszystko, co przynależy do całego naszego istnienia, czego nie potrafimy zmienić, a co jest wymagające, bolesne i wiąże się z cierpieniem zarówno fizycznym, jak i duchowym.

Chrystus pyta, czy bez buntu bierzemy na swe ramiona to wszystko, co nas przerasta. Jeśli opuszczamy ręce, jeśli wąpimy czy buntujemy się, to nie jesteśmy Jego uczniami. On bowiem swoim życiem pokazał nam, jak należy ten krzyż dźwigać, sam wziął go na siebie z miłości do nas. A kiedy krzyż Go przytłoczył, zanościł błagalną modlitwę do Ojca – przepełnioną cierpieniem, ale także pełną ufności i zawierzenia: „Ojcze, jeśli chcesz, zabierz ode Mnie ten kielich! Jednak nie moja wola, lecz Twoja niech się stanie!” (Łk 22,42). Teraz natomiast wzywa nas, abyśmy w chwilach, kiedy tak bardzo przygniata nas krzyż, wpatrzeni w Niego, powtarzali słowa tej trudnej, ale pięknej i pomocnej modlitwy.

W ostatnim zdaniu dzisiejszej Ewangelii słyszymy trzecią wskazówkę Jezusa: „nikt z was, kto nie wyrzeka się wszystkiego, co posiada, nie może być moim uczniem” (Łk 14,33). Spróbujmy sobie to wyjaśnić, bo nie oznacza to wcale, że nie możemy niczego posiadać. Chodzi o to, abyśmy dysponując czymkolwiek, nie uważali się za absolutnych właścicieli, którzy sądzą, że mogą tym rozporządzać w dowolny sposób. Bardzo dobrze nam to obrazuje drugie czytanie. Święty Paweł przywiązał się do Onezyma – niegdyś niewolnika u Filemona – którego doprowadził do chrztu i który oddawał mu usługi w trudach znoszonych dla głoszenia Ewangelii. Jednak odsyła go do Filemona, zaznaczając, że liczy na to, że ten przyjmie go „już nie jako niewolnika”, czyli swoją własność, „lecz więcej niż niewolnika, jako brata umiłowanego” (Flm 16).

Dzisiaj wprawdzie niewolnicze systemy już nie istnieją, ale nadal wiele międzyludzkich relacji jest opartych na zasadzie niewolnictwa. Ileż takich sytuacji pojawia się choćby w naszych rodzinnych odniesieniach, kiedy wydaje się nam, że to właśnie my mamy władzę stanowienia o drugim człowieku i zmuszamy go, by postępował wedle naszego widzimisię. Tymczasem Jezus uczy, że jeśli nie wyrzekasz się wszystkiego, co posiadasz, jeśli nie jesteś wolny od jakiegokolwiek formy posiadania, to nie możesz być Jego uczniem.

Kiedy przypatrzymy się tym trzem światłom, jakie ukazał nam dzisiaj Chrystus, to zobaczymy, jak bardzo odstajemy w naszym życiu od tego, czego On naucza. Korzystając jednak ze wskazówek, jakich nam udziela, mamy szansę, by naprawdę stać się Jego uczniami – do czego jesteście wezwani.

Patrząc zatem na Jezusa i wsłuchując się z uwagą w słowo, które do nas kieruje, uczmy się dźwigać nasz codzienny krzyż z coraz większą pokorą i zawierzeniem aż do końca. Pamiętajmy, że tutaj, na ziemi, jesteśmy tylko przechodniami; że wszystko, co posiadamy, otrzymaliśmy od Boga, więc nie wolno nam przywłaszczać sobie tych darów. Nie wolno nam nikogo czynić swoim niewolnikiem. Wzrastajmy w cnocie ubóstwa i nieustannego oddawania Bogu wszystkiego. To bowiem czyni nas ludźmi naprawdę wolnymi. Tylko wówczas będziemy mogli poświęcić nasze życie drugiemu człowiekowi, sami postępować na drodze do zbawienia – a przede wszystkim głosić chwałę Bożą



Religious Education

WELCOME TO OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM STUDENTS

This week we welcome all of our new students and welcome back all our returning students. It is great to be back and have you here with us in our Religious Education Program. We hope you have all had a enjoyable and safe summer. We are looking forward to a great year.

Our mission in our Religious Education Program is to collaborate with parents to form a new generation of Catholics who know and love Jesus and live as His disciples in the community of the Catholic Church. Toward that end we strive to offer a unified, solid, engaging Religious Education Program.

While our children will receive important formation in our parish Religious Education Program, the Church strongly encourages all parents to walk closely with their children as they grow in knowledge and practice of the Catholic Faith.

Although classes begin this week, it is still not too late to register your child/children in our program. Students registering this week will begin classes next week. For more information or to register your child, please contact the Religious Education or Parish offices this week.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED NOW FOR THE FALL

Boys and girls entering fourth grade and up are invited to become an Altar Server. Servers play an important role in our liturgies, and serving allows you to participate in the Mass. Please consider this fun and very important ministry. No experience is necessary; we train you, and you will get lots of help.



This is a great opportunity for boys and girls to provide a valuable service to the St. Stephen's community by being a part of our Eucharistic celebrations each weekend and at weddings.

Training begins after Labor Day. We can't wait to welcome you! Please contact Fr. Tom at the parish office or at frtom@ststephentinley.com

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Our Baptismal Preparation Class for the month of September will take place on Thursday, September 26th, 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. All

parents and godparents planning on attending this class must be preregistered.

To register for the class or for more information please contact the parish office.



OUR SUNDAY PARISH CHOIR NEEDS YOU!!!!

Share your time and talent by joining the St. Stephen Music Ministry. The St. Stephen Music Ministry is always looking for individuals who have a passion for singing and playing music.



The Sunday Parish Choir will resume rehearsals for the coming season on Wednesday, September 25th, at 7PM, in the Music Room. No previous experience is necessary. Generally, the choir will rotate singing at the 10AM and 11:30AM Sunday Masses.

Singers who are not able to commit to weekly service are welcome to join the Festival Choir which will sing at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, the Easter Triduum, and a few other feast days throughout the year.

The Festival Choir rehearsal will begin at a later date and will be announced soon. Email david@ststephentinley.com with any questions or for more information.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The purpose of the Children's Liturgy of the Word ministry is to proclaim the Liturgy of the Word to children in language that is meaningful to them and to provide a discussion of the scriptures, which is geared to their age and developmental abilities. Children's Liturgy of the Word occurs during the 10AM Mass on most Sundays. Children begin Mass with their families; then they are invited to listen to the scriptures in a separate space and then rejoin their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Volunteers are needed to read the scripture passage to the children and to briefly discuss it with them. All reading and materials are provided.

CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS.....parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.....PLEASE HELP US! Are you interested in having a spiritual impact on our next generation of Catholics? Men, this is not just for the ladies. We need spiritual dads desperately! Please consider volunteering for the Children's Liturgy Program and embark upon an exciting journey of faith with the Children of St. Stephen. No special skills are needed, just a desire to inspire children with the Words of Christ. Please consider volunteering as a Leader or an Assistant. Training is provided. Please contact Laura at the parish office.

We would like to begin the Children's Liturgy of the Word, weekly, on the first weekend of October. We could really use your help!!!!



9/11...

NEVER forget



9-11 ANNIVERSARY PRAYER

God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world:
peace in the hearts of all men and women
and peace among the nations of the earth.

Turn to your way of love to those who's hearts and minds
are consumed with hatred.

God of understanding,
overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy,
we seek your light and guidance
as we confront such terrible events.

Comfort and console us, strengthen us in hope,
and give us the wisdom and courage
to work tirelessly for a world
where true peace and love reign
among nations and in the hearts of all.

Father, on this anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks,
we pray that you comfort all those still suffering
from this horrible tragedy.

We pray for the souls of all those who lost their lives in this,
and all, terrorist attacks. And, may all those consumed
by hatred for others, be touched by your divine love.

We pray in Jesus name. Amen

GRANDPARENT'S DAY PRAYER

God of the Ages we praise and thank you.

From generation to generation

You have been our refuge and strength.

You give your gifts of grace for every time, place and season
as we strive within the family to walk in Your ways and
remain close to one another and to you.

We pray that our homes may be schools of Faith,
where we come to know and to love You.

Teach us the Sanctity of human love.

Show us the value of family life and help us to respect all life.

May the young find in the family strong support for their
humanity so that they may grow in truth and love.

May the elderly experience respect, support,
love and care within the family circle.

We give thanks for Grandparents and we pray for them.

We give thanks for they connect us with our heritage
and our roots through the mists of time.

We give thanks for their Christian memory
which inspires and enlightens us.

We give thanks for the example of their faith,
for the witness of their lives, for the constancy of their love,
for the support of their prayers.

Bless all Grandparents and keep them in Your care.

Bless them with peace, health and healing.

Reward them for their Faith and fidelity,
for their work and goodness, for their love and
thoughtfulness, for their gifts and prayers.

Loving God, Bless all our grandparents,
those with us here today, those who cannot be with us
and those who have gone to be with you.

May they heed your call to share their
wisdom and faith with us.

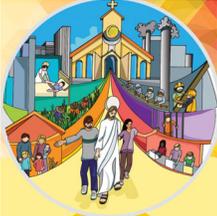
May they have courage and confidence to hand on
your gifts of experience and knowledge of stories,
songs and memories.

May they continue to learn and grow with us day by day.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.





STAY WITH US

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

What is Catechetical Sunday?

The word "catechetical" might be more familiar than you think. Many Catholics have used the word "catechism" for years, and they know it has something to do with the collection of the Church's teachings.

The root word, "catechesis," is from a Greek word meaning "to echo, or resound." Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church's teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.

Catechesis is a distinct and special ministry in the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, "Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church's life . . . her inner growth and correspondence with God's plan depend essentially on catechesis."

This ministry of teaching in the name of the Church has a profound dignity, which is why catechists are formally commissioned by the Church. This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday next weekend, September 15th & 16th. Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry, at the 5PM Saturday Mass and at the 10 AM Sunday Mass.

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. It is only fitting that we set aside a day to highlight this ministry and invite the entire church community to think about our responsibility to share our faith with others.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of additional volunteers to help us with our "Queen of Hearts" Raffle. We need individuals who would be willing to sell our raffle tickets at the Side Street American Tavern, 18401 North Creek Drive. (behind Pop's Beef on 183rd Street.) We are in need of individual who are available on either Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday nights.

If you can assist us, please call Theresa, at 708-522-4340. Thank you in advance for your assistance and support.



"GROWING WITH GOD" PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Did you know that we offer an Early Childhood Religious Education Program "Sunday Pre-School" here at Saint Stephen's which meets during the school year?



Our "Growing with God" Program is for children ages 3 through kindergarten age. Classes meet during the 10AM Mass on most Sundays throughout the school year, while their parents and older siblings attend Mass.

This fun-filled class provides the children a time to be with others their own age and learn about the weekly Gospel and our Catholic traditions in a way that is age appropriate. The children play, pray, do a craft, have music time and have a snack.

At Christmas, they perform songs and a play for families and friends. They also sing a song at select 10AM Masses, perform an Easter Program, and have a Graduation for our Kindergarten students. Our dedicated teachers work hard to make "Sunday School" a fun place to be! Please join us!

Registrations are now being accepted online at the parish website, saintstephentiny.com. Registrations are filled on a first come, first served basis. Class sizes are limited and we cannot overfill the classes. 2019/20 program fee is \$50 per child. Contact Connie Lambke, at connie@ststephentiny.com with any questions.

We ask that you please share this information with anyone who might be interested in the program. All are welcome to join us! .



SAINT STEPHEN'S MEN'S CLUB

All men of the parish are invited to join the St. Stephen's Men's Club. The purpose of the Men's Club is to offer the men of our parish an opportunity to gather socially in a Christian environment. Meetings focus on building community and service projects.

This group generously supports the needs of the parish. Members also are called upon to parish events from time to time.

The Men's Club holds monthly meetings to discuss the needs of the parish and plan upcoming events.

The Men's Club is only as strong as its members. They are looking for new members so they can accomplish their mission and have a great time in the process. The next meeting of the Men's Club will take place this Wednesday, September 11th, at 6:30PM, in the parish office conference rooms. All the men of the parish are invited to attend this meeting. All are welcome!





PATRIOTIC ROSARY

Please come join us in praying the Patriotic Rosary for our country on Wednesday, September 11th. The Patriotic Rosary will be prayed after the 8:30AM Mass outside of our church (weather permitting). It will also be prayed at a special 6:30PM 9-11 Prayer Service, which we be held starting at 6:30PM. All are invited to come join your voices in this powerful prayer for America.

The Patriotic Rosary dedicates one Hail Mary in the traditional rosary to each state of the United States and asks God's protection of and guidance for our country.

The Patriotic Rosary includes intentions for the three branches of our government and our elected officials before each decade. A quotation from an historic American leader such as George Washington is read after the reciting of each mystery, and a patriotic song ends each decade of the rosary.

Come and join us as we pray for our nation and our elected officials state by state.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Parishioners' names and those of their immediate family members will be read at Mass for two weeks and listed in the bulletin for another two weeks. 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.

After the second two weeks, all names will then be added to the Parish Petition Book, which is presented at each Mass.

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

Parishioners who are hospitalized and in need of Pastoral Care should also contact the Parish Office.



JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST Beginning this Saturday, September 14th

St. George Parish, in Tinley Park, will begin the fifth year of a very vibrant and rewarding men's program on September 14th called **That Man is You**

An invitation is being extended to the men of St. Stephen's to participate in this program along with St. George and other neighboring parishes.

That Man Is You (TMIY) is designed to address the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers.

The title for this year's program is "**The Fight of Faith**" and will focus on how we, as Catholic men, can be better equipped to engage in the spiritual battles raging in the world today. Brochures with more specific details about our schedule, discussion topics and objectives are available near the church entrances.

TMIY meets weekly in O'Connell Hall at St. George School on Saturday mornings, September through April. Coffee, fresh pastries, bagels, muffins, fruit & other hot breakfast items are available beginning at 6:30AM, along with smiling faces & good conversation. Our weekly video presentation starts at 7:00AM, followed by small group discussions with typically 6 to 8 men at each table. We always adjourn promptly at 8:00AM because we understand that everyone has busy weekend agendas that need our attention. There is no "course fee" for TMIY, but there is an optional program book available for \$10. We only ask that those attending make a free will donation towards defraying the cost of the breakfast items provided.

St. George Church is located at 6707 W. 175th Street in Tinley Park, just east of Oak Park Avenue.

Here's a chance to make some new friends. Come by and check it out All adult men, 18 and older, are invited and encouraged to attend. There is no requirement to be there every week. Just come whenever you can. We look forward to seeing you there. To learn more about this program, please contact Gary Hendzell at (708) 614-1734 or ghendzell@msn.com.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



The Society of St Vincent de Paul was formed in Paris, France, in 1833 by six college students who were looking to live out the gospel message of taking care of His "least ones," as Jesus Himself spelled out. Members of the Society of St.Vincent de Paul (or "Vincentians") are men and women who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to individuals in need.

The purpose of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference here at St. Stephen's Parish is to reach out to those in need in the community and assist them in all possible ways – always with the spirit of love for the poor. They are energized by the awareness that service to our brother or sister in need is in fact an encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are keenly aware that poverty, suffering and loneliness are present in our communities.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers tangible assistance to those in need on a person-to-person basis. It is this personalized involvement that makes the work of the Society unique. This aid may take the form of intervention, consultation, or through direct dollar or in-kind service. An essential precept of the Society's work is to provide help while conscientiously maintaining the confidentiality and dignity of those who are served.

The Saint Stephen Saint Vincent de Paul Society is dependent on the generosity of our parish family and friends for their funding. We are all called to help.

If you know of someone in need of assistance, please refer them to our confidential phone number: 708-342-2400 extension 205. The phone is monitored daily and a response can be expected within 48 hours.



PARISH WEDDING COORDINATORS NEEDED

Our Parish Wedding Coordinators Ministry is dedicated to providing the bride and groom assistance and support in organizing and assisting at the wedding rehearsal and ceremony within the Parish.

Our wedding coordinators facilitate many of the details and logistics of the wedding liturgy. They are trained in assisting at the liturgies and have a full understanding of liturgical norms that direct planning and preparation.

They are a great assistance to the bride, groom, family members and friends. They are present at the rehearsal, and they are there on the wedding day to ensure that all goes smoothly and reverently. They also assist in the cleanup. They work with the Pastor, deacons and the Director of Liturgy and Music to ensure that wedding celebrations occur with minimal confusion.

We are currently looking for volunteers to assist in this ministry as a Wedding Coordinator here at Saint Stephen's. As a coordinator you would be able to select the wedding that fits your schedule. For more information, or to volunteer, please call or email: Eileen at: 708-415-1485 or Eileenkrippel@gmail.com

ST. STEPHEN'S BLOOD DRIVE



Thursday, September 26th
Parish Life Center, 2:30PM - 7:30PM
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

If you are in good health, please consider sharing the gift of life by donating blood on Thursday September 26th. Donating takes less than one hour and will improve the lives of up to three people. All donors will receive a Chicago Bears long sleeve t-shirt. To sign up, please contact Tim Sajewski at [708-567-2605](tel:708-567-2605) or timsy68@gmail.com.



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L/Cpl Benjamin Brasher
Capt. Anthony J. Cesaro
Major Vincent Cesaro
Capt. Michael Chimienti
PV2 Joseph Clavio
Lt. Dylan Conover
LCMR Amanda Griffith
Jacob Elliott USN
Sgt. Evan Grober

Major Michael Gryczka
Lt. Dan Kniaz
Msgt. Laura Langley
Sgt. Joseph Malone
Capt. Christopher Mazurek
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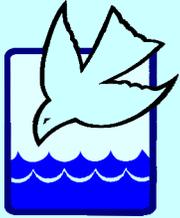
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DHC-VMW2

QUEEN OF HEARTS WEEKLY WINNER

Jack Brady - Card #13
Six of Diamonds - Pot Rolls Over
Next drawing will take place on Wednesday, September 11th.
Did you get your tickets yet?



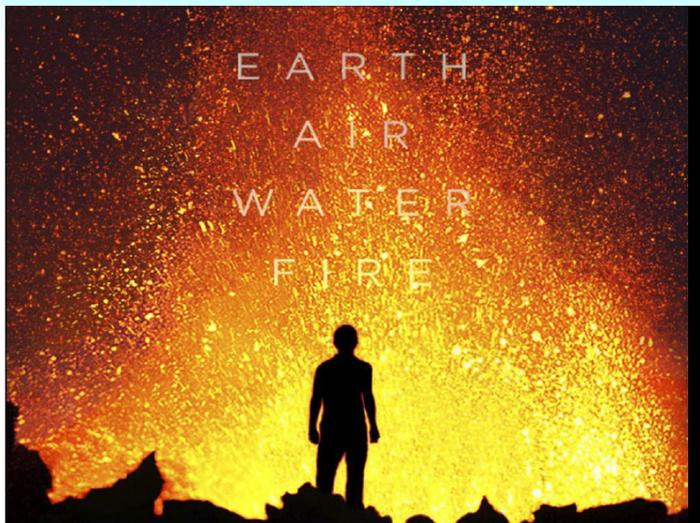


RECENTLY BAPTIZED AT SAINT STEPHEN'S

We would like to welcome to our parish family this child who was recently baptized here at Saint Stephen's.



Mila Mallory Talty



YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE EXCLUSIVE SCREENING OF THE AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY

THE HUMAN ELEMENT

In this riveting and visually rich drama, we follow renowned environmental photographer James Balog as he explores wildfires, hurricanes, sea level rise, a struggling coal mining community, our changing air supply and how humans are impacting aspects of our world.

**Tuesday, September 10
10:00 am and 7:00 pm
St. Elizabeth Seton Church
McBrady Center
9305 W. 167th St., Orland Hills**

Hosted by The Creation Care Teams of St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr Parishes

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Contact Connie Lambke with questions
at connie@ststephentinely.com**



DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

Everyone is invited to St. George Church, 6707 175th Street, Tinley Park, for Solemn Exposition of the Eucharist during a Holy Hour celebrating Divine Mercy, on Friday, September 20th, at 7:00PM. The celebration will include a scripture reading, a homily, time for meditation, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, benediction and the divine praises.

Come spend time with our Lord at this powerful Exposition of the Eucharist to thank Him for His great Mercy and ask for His Mercy for you, your family, friends and the world.



THANK YOU!!

The Knights of Columbus, Fr. C.C. Boyle Council 4698, would like to thank all the parishioners of Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr, for their generous support of their recent "Tootsie Roll Drive."



Monies raised through the "Tootsie Roll Drive" are used to help individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities.



STEWARDSHIP

September 8, 2019 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33)

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

PARISH SUPPORT

Sharing Our Treasure

Thank you for your continued Stewardship in support of St. Stephen's.

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



Collection

09/01/2019

Regular Sunday	\$19,917.00
Sharing	\$201.00
Mission Appeal	\$10.00
Propagation of the Faith	\$10.00
Assumption	\$16.00
All Saints	\$10.00
Seminary Collection	\$40.00
Total	\$20,204.00



*The Holy Family Flowers
this Week are in Honor of
Pam Franckowiak
requested by a Special Friend*

Creation Care Corner



"All of us operate as instruments of God for the Care of Creation."

– Pope Francis

Celebrate the Season of Creation

From Sept. 1 to Oct. 4 each year, the Christian community celebrates the Season of Creation by praying and acting together to protect our common home. We Catholics are uniting with others in the Christian family to protect every creature in God's beautifully complex web of creation. This is a time to celebrate the abundance of life and to refocus our efforts to protect creation in all its glory.

Caring for Creation protects the inheritance the Creator has given us, ... an inheritance essential to our well-being. Pope Benedict XIV told us protecting this inheritance is a way of fulfilling our role as stewards of Creation. Pope Francis urges us to recognize our connectedness with the natural world saying, "Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it." (LS 139)

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure allotted to us. Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus; and where it has been implemented, both givers' and receivers' lives have been changed. Stewardship engenders a spirituality that deepens our relationship with Jesus. Stewardship involves intentional, planned and proportionate giving of our time, talent and treasure. "Give and it shall be given to you. Good measure pressed down, shaken together, running over, will they pour into the fold of your garment. For the measure you measure with will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38) "Above all, let your love for one another be constant, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be mutually hospitable without complaining. As generous distributors of God's manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure you have received." (1 Peter 4: 8-10)

Greeters Schedule *September 14th - September 15th*

5PM - Julie Lacerna, Dolores Soverino,
Mary Tafoya

8:30AM - Eileen Tyrrell, Mike Tyrrell

10AM - Mark Losey, Anna Williams, Pauline Cotrano

11:30AM - Judy Kluchins, Charlene Mueller, Lynn Packert



Meetings/Events

Sunday, September 8th

Narthex...Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales Parish Office
6:00 PM Our Lady of Fatima Statue - Rosary - Chapel

Monday, September 9th

Religious Education Classes
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales Parish Office

Tuesday, September 10th

Religious Education Classes
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales Parish Office
6:00 PM Rosary Daily Chapel

Wednesday, September 11th

Religious Education Classes
8:30 AM Patriotic Rosary - Outside
8:30 AM - 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales Parish Office
6:30 PM Men's Club #125/126
6:30 PM Patriotic Rosary
8:00 PM AA Pol #161

Thursday, September 12th

8:30 AM - 6:30 PM Adoration of Blessed Sac Daily Chapel with Rosary @ 8:30am
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales Parish Office
5:30 PM Meals Program PLC
6:30 PM Benediction Daily Chapel followed by Divine Mercy Prayers

Friday, September 13th

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Adoration of Blessed Sac Daily Chapel
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales Parish Office
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Al-Anon Polish #153
8:00 PM AA Pol #161

Saturday, September 14th

Narthex...Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
8:00 AM AA #158/159
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales Parish Office

Sunday, September 15th

Narthex...Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales Parish Office
3:00 PM Baptism



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Welcome We are happy you are interested in learning about the Catholic faith. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It takes place within the context of the church community, and after a suitable period of formation, culminates in the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. If you are interested in learning more about or becoming part of The Catholic Faith or if you are a Catholic who needs to complete their Sacraments of Initiation, this is the place for you

Who is RCIA for?

The RCIA is for adults who are interested in becoming fully initiated into the Catholic Church. This would include anyone who is not baptized, or a person who was baptized into another faith denomination and would like to become Catholic. It is also for baptized Catholics who have not received the Eucharist (First Communion) and Confirmation.

What is RCIA?

The Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program is one that models the process of conversion and is marked by different stages and rites (ceremonies).

The process is for non-baptized adults (catechumens) and baptized Christians (candidates) to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. RCIA is first and foremost an opportunity for people to develop or deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. During this process each participant will learn about the doctrine of the Catholic faith, and have opportunities to get questions answered. If they should desire, a person may enter into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

If you are ready to begin the process of learning more about becoming Catholic, please contact our parish office. You will be contacted by a staff member who will meet with you to determine the next steps for you. Since everyone's situation is different, the individual circumstances and sacramental needs of each person will be assessed. This is what determines the process to be followed and the time frame involved.

For more information about our RCIA Program, please contact the parish office. Classes begin after Labor Day.

Mass Intentions



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

Sunday, September 8th

7:00 am	Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth Karen Opyd	
8:30 am	Rudy & Anne Kozik	Dayle O'Reilly
	Ben Armijo	Polignone Family
	Luke & Mary Marren	Family
10:00 am	Jean Dobersztyn	Emily Johnson
	Gibbons & McLean Families	McLean Family
	Kay Mueller	Noreen Galvin
	Parishioners of Saint Stephen	
11:30 am	Thomas Henaghan, Jr.	Henaghan, Jr. Family
	Eileen Tess	Family
	Joyce Seidel	Robert Likas
1:00 pm	Casimir Wozniak	Family
	Halina Tylka	
	Intention of the Casimir the Great Polish School	
6:15 pm	John Crawford	Dcn. Pete & Jan VanMerkesten
	Agnes McWalter	Bridget Boyle

Monday, September 9th

8:00 am	In Thanksgiving	Edgar & Levie Dometita
	Blessings for Parish Staff	Anthony Spalla
	Laverne Pilipauskas	Kathy Mrumilnski

Tuesday, September 10th

8:00 am	Catherine Niemi	Barbara Black
	David Newquist	Mr. and Mrs. Runser
	Tim Monahan	Mom & Dad

Wednesday, September 11th

8:00 am	Dick Lindenmeyer	Dcn. Pete & Jan VanMerkesten
	Blessings for Daine Dilepp	Family

Thursday, September 12th

8:00 am	Agnes Manny	Janet Kaminski
	Howard Kuzelka	Jim & Peggy Henzl
	Czeslaw Murzinski	Henry Czajewski

Friday, September 13th

8:00 am	Bernard McMahon	Laakson Family
	David Newquist	8 AM Church Family
	Purgatorial Society	

Saturday, September 14th

8:00 am	Darlene Clark	Mike & Carol Stogin
	Howard Kuzelka	Noreen Galvin
5:00 pm	Jim Dwyer	Marilyn Dwyer
	Michael Alebich	Rox & Tony Pantano
	Christopher Anderson	Aunt Fran
	Ann & Mike Sayko	Susan Sloan
	Theresa Besse	Rose Weinberg
	Don Schmidt	Lenczycki Family

Sunday, September 15th

7:00 am	Gloria Renderman	Keith & Sharon Grill
	Howard Kuzelka	Karen Opyd
8:30 am	Georgie Ann Maloney	Tony & Rox Pantano
	John Catanzaro	Family
10:00 am	Lowell Adams	Mr. & Mrs. R. Lindenmeyer
	Carmella Fanelli	Family
	Deceased Members of Waszak, Porozinski, & Radwan Families	
11:30 am	50th Wedding Anniversary of Jerome & Helen Krupinski	
	Denis Danaher	Family
	Parishioners of Saint Stephen	
1:00 pm	40th Wedding Anniversary of Stanistaw Urawski	
	Karli & Wes Cislak	Family
6:15 pm	Robert Anderson	Theresa Gamino
	Blessings for Brian & Anne Landa Dcn Chuck & Terese McFarland	

Maria Ariza	Ann Lewitke
Kristen Baldyga	Ruth Martinez
Arlene Beavan	Santo Messina
Kristen Caldwell	James Nowlan
Peggy Castro	Tim O'Connell
Karen Cole	Stacie Pavalon Lentz
Matt Creen	Laura Reid
Daniel Clausen	Joe and Joan Ricciuti
Ken Dellorto	Randy Rucka
Bridget Dougal	Joe & Terri Schulte
Bill Galvin	Barbara Scherer
Mary Garbaciak	Margaret Schmidt
Laurie Genardo	Natalie Sims
Sharon Grill	John Soverino
Sally Hartford	Rachel Swallow
Larry Hersh	Louis Tassone
Rich Jaczak	Rosemary Valentas
Steve Kizaric	Michael Wilson
Rex Knapp	Helen Zimmerman



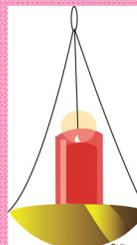
As a Parish Family we pray for those
who have been called from this life
to eternal life in Christ.

**Joan Oakley Finn, Laura Reid,
Stanislaw Kowal**



We pray for those engaged to be married

Thomas Krzysiak & Colleen Wendling—II



The Sanctuary Candle burns

this week

In Memory of Jean Dobersztyn

Requested by Yola Hartmann

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 takes ONLY 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's accepts electronic donations through Byline Bank. To begin this method of donating, you will need to complete and sign the authorization form and attach 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: frtom@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.

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