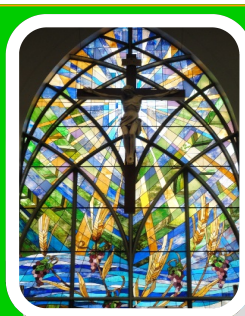


St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr Catholic Church

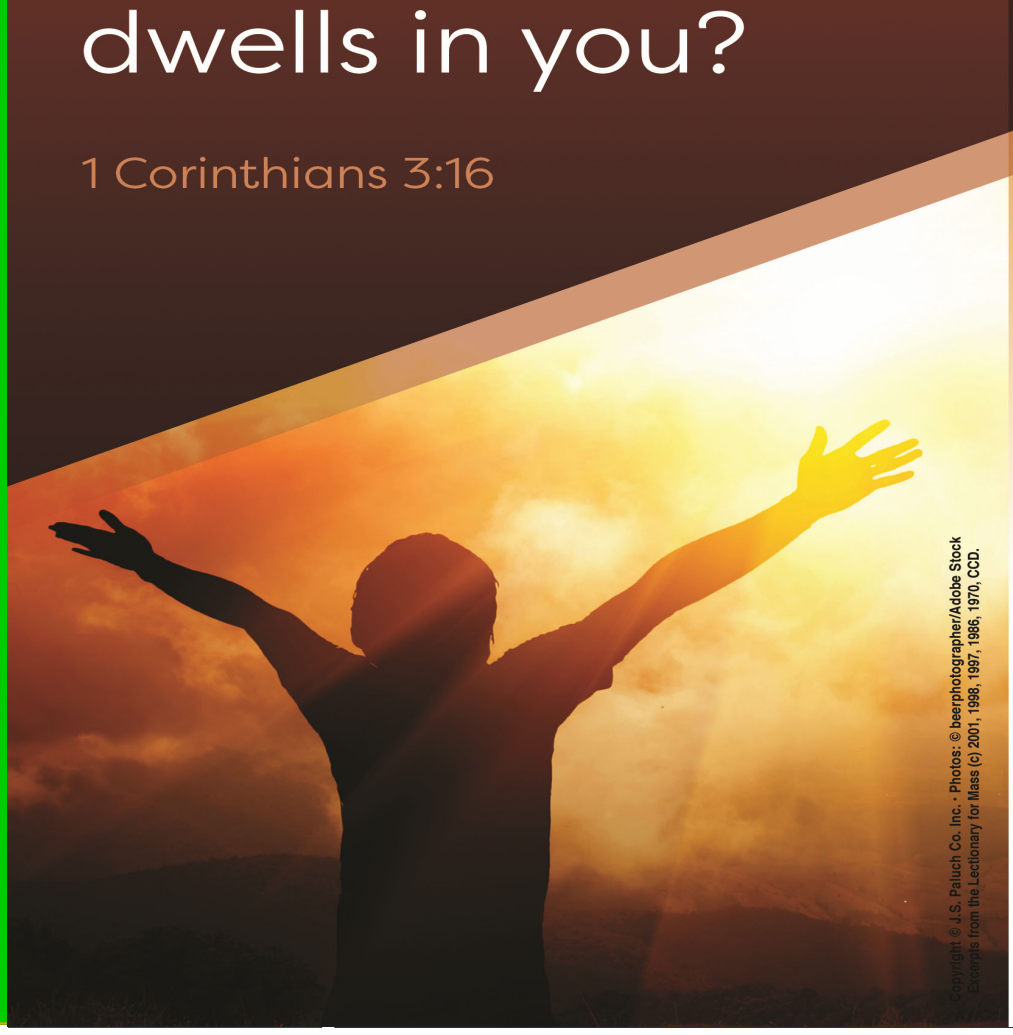
17500 84th Avenue, Tinley Park, Illinois 60487
708-342-2400

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 23 2020



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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 - 8:00pm | Friday 8:30am - 6pm
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

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Parish School (CJB)
9250 West 167th Street, Orland Hills, IL 60487
Phone: 708-403-6525 | web: cjbschool.org | email: info@cjbschool.org

Like us on: facebook. Visit our Facebook page for the latest information. https:// www.facebook.com/StStephenTinley

Pastor
Rev. Thomas A. Bernas

Associate Pastor
Rev. Miroslaw Kulesa

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. James Finno

Deacons
Robert Conlin
William Engler
Chuck McFarland
William Schultz
Pete Van Merkestyn

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Adult Formation
Barbara Black

Maintenance Director
Dean Thompson

Director of Music and Liturgy
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Morning Receptionist
Noreen Galvin

Religious Ed. Admin. Assistant
Dee Zvejnieks

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 must be prescheduled and 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.

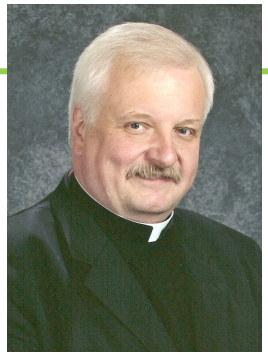
Confessions - Saturdays after the 8AM Mass or by appointment.

New parishioners are invited to register:

- After the 10am Mass on the 1st and 3rd 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 **Grief 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,

The last two contrasts offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at "an eye for an eye" as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as "complete." We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

This Wednesday begins the Season of Lent. It is time to begin our journey of renewal, repentance and return to the Lord. I invite everyone to journey with us through this Lenten Season. Together we will journey to Jerusalem with our Lord as we look to Holy Week and Easter. Now is the time to begin. Now is the time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. I pray that this Lenten Season will truly be a special time for you. United in prayer and action we now enter this Lenten Season.

The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday hold no significance if we don't commit ourselves to doing something special or different in this Season of Lent to bring ourselves closer to our God. The challenge given us as we begin our Lenten journey is to "Turn away from sin and remain faithful to the Gospel." What is your response? What will you do or not do to deepen your relationship with your God?

On Ash Wednesday we will have an expanded schedule of liturgies. Masses on Ash Wednesday will be at 6AM, 8AM, 12 Noon, and 7:30PM in English and 6PM in Polish. We will also be having an Ash Wednesday Prayer Service at 4:15PM.

Joining us on Ash Wednesday is a great way to begin your journey through Lent. I am also asking that you extend an invitation to your family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors, who may not be coming to church on a regular basis, to join us for our Ash Wednesday liturgies. Often it is a personal invitation that brings people back to the Church. Lent offers the perfect opportunity for us all to "Return to the Lord with all our hearts."

In this Season of Lent we will be offering a variety of opportunities for personal prayer and reflection. In addition to our weekend liturgies, I would like to invite everyone to join us this Lent for our weekday Masses at 8AM, Monday through Saturday.

The traditional Lenten practice of remembering and praying upon the last steps of Christ to His crucifixion are called the Stations of the Cross. We will be offering the traditional Stations of the Cross every Tuesday in Lent after the 8AM morning Mass, in the chapel, and on Fridays at 6:30PM, in the church. The Stations of the Cross will be preceeded by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 5:30PM. Everyone is invited to come and spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Stations of the Cross in Polish will be held at 7:30PM.

This Lent our parish is once again participating in the "Operation Rice Bowl" Program. For over thirty years, Operation Rice Bowl has been extending the love of the Catholic community in the U.S. to our neighbors in developing nations around the world. Inserted in today's bulletin is a Home Calendar Guide and Rice Bowl for your family. We are asking everyone to join us this Lent in participating in "Operation Rice Bowl." Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can make a difference in the lives of those most in need around the world. More information and additional resources concerning "Operation Rice Bowl" can be found at crsricebowl.org

This year is a Leap Year and we have an extra day, February 29th, added to the calendar this year. All the young people of our parish in grades 2nd through 8th, are invited to a special Leap Year Open Gym and Games Night this Friday, February 28th, from 6PM until 9PM in our Parish Life Center. All those planning on attending are asked to call the Religious Education Office at 708-342-1544 or email Sandi Morgan, our DRE, at sandi@ststephentinley.com

Let us begin our Lenten Journey to Easter!

From Our Associate Pastor

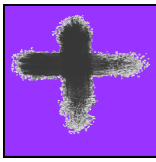
Przed nami ostatnie dni karnawał, za kilka dni rozpoczniemy święty czas Wielkiego Postu. Czas przygotowania do spotkania z Chrystusem Zmartwychwstałym, ale również czas szczególnego pochylenia się nad Bożym prawem.

Pierwsze pytanie, które się nasuwa po przeczytaniu dzisiejszej Ewangelii, to pytanie o prawo. Jezus mówi o tym, co uczniowie słyszeli: „Słyszeliście, że wprowadzono takie i takie prawo, a Ja wam powiadam o innej zasadzie".

Rodzą się jednak kolejne pytania: Po co w ogóle jest prawo? Po co musiało być jakiekolwiek prawo? Czyż nie lepiej byłoby, gdyby każdy rządził po swojemu? Gdyby każdy odpłacał innym według swojego uznania? Czy nie ma w nas jakiejś chęci, woli, pragnienia, żeby być wolnym? Komu służy prawo? A może jesteśmy niewolnikamiprawniczych tyranów albo ludzi, którzy mają*idée fixe*, żeby wszystkich innych podporządkować pewnym normom prawnym? Do końca nie wiadomo, jaka była przyczyna powstania zasady „oko za oko, ząb za ząb", którą to nazywamy prawem odwetu, talionu (*lex talionis*). Na pewno jednak jest coś w tym, że prawo to miało powstrzymać ludzi przed stosowaniem jeszcze okrutniejszej zemsty, bo ktoś mógłby tak bardzo mścić się na drugim, że za jedno oko wyłupałby dwa, za jedną rękę odrąbał obie. W pewnym sensie prawo to miało chronić drugiego człowieka. Ale znów można zapytać: Jak to chronić? Mam chronić zbrodniarza? Mam chronić kogoś, kto zrobił coś złego? Z jednej strony tak, gdyż człowiek, który popełnia zło, też jest człowiekiem i nie można go niszczyć. Trzeba również chronić go przed samym sobą i przed tym, co robi, ale z drugiej strony trzeba chronić ofiarę – mnie, który cierpię z tego powodu, że inny mnie zaatakował; trzeba ochronić mnie przed moim własnym gniewem, przed chęcią zemsty, która się we mnie rodzi, która nie jest racjonalna, która nie jest logiczna, która niesie w sobie tak wielki ładunek emocjonalny, że może zrobić krzywdę nie tylko drugiemu, ale i mnie samemu. Po latach może bym żałował, może bym narze-kał, że postąpiłem tak, a nie inaczej. Można więc powiedzieć, że prawo jako takie, prawo odpłaty drugiemu człowiekowi według miary zła, którego się doznało, to w pewnym sensie prawo miłosierdzia czy – dokładniej mówiąc – prawo nie tylko sprawiedliwości, ale też miłosierdzia, dobroci. Prawo, które ma służyć temu, żebyśmy zarówno ja, jak i ten drugi człowiek nie zostali opanowani przez chęć zemsty.

Jezus w tym fragmencie Ewangelii zmienia jednak tę zasadę, pokazuje, że można inaczej. Dlaczego to czyni? Przecież tamto prawo było dane ojcom, było objawione przez Boga, było zapowiedziane w Starym Testamencie, ogłoszone przez Mojżesza i proklamowane jako boskie... Czemu Jezus je zmienia? Mamy tu do czynienia z dwojaką sytuacją. Po pierwsze: jeżeli Jezus coś zmienia, to znaczy, że Bóg do tej pory dopuszczał do tego, żeby obowiązujące prawo było gorsze, niedoskonałe. Bóg jest cierpliwy. Można powiedzieć, że stosuje wobec człowieka różne standardy prawa, w zależności od tego, jak człowiek się rozwija. Teraz człowiek rozwinął się na tyle, że można mu ogłosić nowe prawo, coś więcej. To „coś więcej" polega na tym, że jeśli ludzie będą to prawo stosować, to staną się synami Ojca Najwyższego. Jeśli będą doskonali, to będą doskonali, jak On jest doskonały. Świetnie tutaj Pan Jezus pokazuje, że normalnie ludzie zachowują się tak, że odpowiadają złem na zło, dobrem na dobro, pozdrawiają tych, którzy ich pozdrawiają, pożyczają tym, którzy im pożyczają, i to jest normalne – wydaje się – ludzkie. Jezus przekracza to, chce pokazać coś więcej, można powiedzieć: boskie prawo. W tym sensie słuchacze Jezusa, uczniowie, chrześcijanie są kimś więcej. Można powiedzieć: są lepszą częścią społeczeństwa. Ci, którzy przyjmują słowa Jezusa i żyją nimi, są lepszą częścią społeczeństwa. A na czym to bycie lepszym polega? Polega ono przede wszystkim na tym, żeby na zło odpowiadać dobrem. Wszystkie poszczególne ewangeliczne zalecenia: nadstawić drugi policzek, iść dwa tysiące kroków, odstąpić nie tylko szatę, ale i płaszcz, dawać temu, kto prosi, wskazują jeden konkretny kierunek: chodzi o to, żeby na zło odpowiadać dobrem. Kiedy na zło odpowiem dobrem, to zatamuję zło. Doskonale wiemy, jak czasem człwiek wpada w spiralę zła, jak ona potrafi wciągać całe społeczeństwa i rodziny. Chodzi o to, żeby człowiek był w stanie powiedzieć „nie", żeby był w stanie na zło odpowiedzieć dobrem. Święty Paweł ujmie to później świetnie w Liście do Rzymian: „Nie daj się zwyciężyć złu, ale zło dobrem zwyciężaj".

Problem jest tylko jeden. Trzeba się zachwycić Ewangelią, dostrzec, że ta Ewangelia jest naprawdę piękna. Myślę, że gdzieś podskórnie każdy człowiek, który ma dobre, proste, szczere sumienie, czuje, że to prawo jest rewelacyjne. To jest rewelacyjne być tak pięknym, mocnym i dobrym, żeby umieć innych traktować tak, jak ich traktuje Pan Bóg. Skąd wziąć taką siłę? Jak znaleźć w sobie siłę do takiego postępowania, kiedy cały duch, całe ciało wołają o zemstę, wołają o sprawiedliwość, krzyczą z niesprawiedliwości? A Jezus mówi, że trzeba wybaczać, mówi, że trzeba miłować nieprzyjaciół... Jak poradzić sobie ze sobą? Jak zwyciężyć tego ducha zemsty? Jak poskromić ciało, które chciałoby uderzyć w tego, który mnie niszczy? W czasie ostatniej wieczerzy Jezus powie: „Miłujcie się wzajemnie tak, jak Ja was umiłowałem". Nie wiem. Nie wiem, jaki jest na to sposób. Czuję, domyślam się i jestem przekonany, że jedyna droga to iść w stronę Jezusa: starać się Go poznawać, kochać Go coraz bardziej. Pozwalać się kochać przez Niego i być bliżej Niego. A im człowiek będzie bliżej Pana Boga, tym więcej odkryje w sobie boskości, dzięki której będzie w stanie miłować również nieprzyjaciół.



W najbliższą środę 26 lutego obchodzić będziemy Środę Popielcową. Msze w tym dniu odprawiane będę w następującej kolejności: 6 am, 8 am, 12PM, 6 PM w języku polskim oraz o 7:30. Serdecznie zapraszamy do wspólnej modlitwy.

ASH WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is an old tradition of the church, dating back to the eighth century, in which the faithful receive blessed ashes made from the palms of last year's Palm Sunday. The ashes remind us of our mortality and call us to repentance. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstaining from meat for Catholics, as we begin the Season of Lent.

Our Mass Schedule for Ash Wednesday is: 6AM, 8AM, 12 Noon & 7:30PM in English and 6PM in Polish. There will also be a prayer service at 4:15PM.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

As we enter into the Season of Lent, we want to remind you of our Lenten regulations:

- Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics, 14 years old and older, on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.
- Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age and not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted, if necessary, to maintain strength according to one's needs. But eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

The Season of Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. By the threefold discipline of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, the Church observes Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. All of the faithful should undertake serious practice of these three traditions.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The traditional Lenten practice of remembering and praying upon the last steps of Christ to His crucifixion, the Stations of the Cross, will be held every Friday during Lent at 6:30PM.

The Stations of the Cross will be preceeded by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 5:30PM. Everyone is welcome to join us for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Stations of the Cross.

The Stations of the Cross in Polish will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:30PM and on Tuesdays at 8:45AM in the chapel, in English.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

During Lent our Parish will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that invites us to encounter the needs of the world with the hope of the Resurrection.

We will reflect on how this encounter can be transformative. We will see how our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving can respond to Pope Francis's invitation to *Share the Journey* by supporting those worldwide who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities.

As we prepare for this holy season, it is especially important to come together as a parish and reflect on the crosses of hunger, poverty and war that our brothers and sisters forced to flee their homes carry. In so doing, we pledge to stand alongside these members of our human family, supporting them as the Gospel calls us to do.

Please consider these suggestions in your Lenten plan:

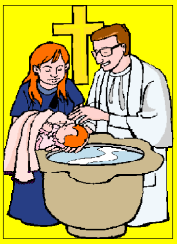
- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar daily to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey—and guide your Lenten almsgiving.
- Prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Visit **crsricebowl.org** to watch videos of the people and communities you support through your Lenten gifts to CRS Rice Bowl.

As we look ahead to our Lenten journey, may our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms an offering of peace, and our prayers a reflection of humble and grateful hearts. We ask the Holy Spirit to accompany us as we spend these forty days reflecting on what it means to emerge from the desert ready to encounter the needs of the world with the hope of the Resurrection.

PALM BURNING SERVICE

We will have three Palm Burning Services this year: two on Monday at 5:15PM and 6PM and one on Tuesday at 8:30AM. Everyone is welcome to attend and share in this tradition of our faith. We will be holding these Palm Burning Services outside the church.

In addition to prayers and Scripture readings, the Service will include the burning of last year's palm branches. These palm branch ashes will then be distributed to the faithful on Ash Wednesday.



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Our Baptismal Preparation Class for the month of February will take place this Thursday, February 27th 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

The Saint Stephen's Young @ Heart Group is extending an open invitation to everyone to join them for a special morning of fun, food and entertainment, tomorrow/Monday, February 24th, starting at 10AM.

Entertainment will be provided by Phil and Amy. They are best known for their work as a husband/wife duo specializing in Broadway and Nostalgic music.

A special lunch featuring pizza from Joey's in Orland Park, a salad and a special dessert will be served.

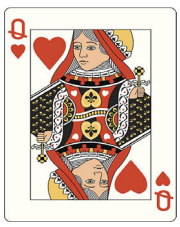
Cost of the ticket is $8.00 per person. Tickets will be available in the narthex of the church this weekend. You can also call Pat Burke at (708) 444-1706 or Helen Agresti at (708) 214-6154 to put in a reservation for the pizza lunch. See you then!!!

BINGO - BINGO - BINGO

Our next bingo will take place on Sunday, March 8th, in our Parish Life Center. Doors will open at 12:30PM, and the games will begin at 1:30PM.

Cost of admission is $20 per person and includes your cards for the regular games and the coverall. Pull tabs and refreshments are available as well.

We hope you will join us for a fun-filled afternoon of bingo. All proceeds from the bingos will be used to help pay off the mortgage on the parish life center.



QUEEN OF HEARTS WEEKLY WINNER

Bill Daly - #48
Four of Spades
Pot Rolls Over
Next drawing will take place on Wednesday, March 4th.
No drawing next week because of Ash Wednesday

LENTEN TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

On Thursday March 26th, our music ministry will lead a Taizé prayer service in church at 7pm. The service features candlelight, periods of shared silence, short songs ("Jesus, Remember Me" is a familiar song from the Taizé community), petitions and scripture. It's a great addition to our Lenten prayer life.

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz, a Reformed Protestant.

Taizé has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation. Owing to the founder's commitment, since its inception the community has evolved into an important site for Catholic–Lutheran ecumenism. A Catholic, Brother Alois, succeeded as prior after his predecessor's death in 2005.

The community, though Western European in origin, has sought to include people and traditions worldwide. They have sought to demonstrate this in the music and prayers where songs are sung in many languages, and have included chants and icons from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. The music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated and sometimes also sung in canon. Earlier Taizé community music was conceived and composed by Jacques Berthier. Later Joseph Gelineau became a major contributor to the music.

Ecumenical services based on this model are held in many churches throughout the world.

The service will last approximately 50-60 minutes. For more information contact david@ststephentinley.com or by calling 708.342.2400

LEAP YEAR OPEN GYM & GAMES NIGHT

All the young people of our parish in grades 2 through 8, are invited to an special Leap Year Open Gym and Games Night this Friday, February 28th, from 6PM until 9PM in our Parish Life Center.

All those planning on attending are asked to call the Religious Education Office at 708-342-1544 or email Sandi Morgan, our DRE, at sandi@ststephentinley.com

SAINT JOSEPH DINNER

Our annual Saint Joseph Dinner will take place on Saturday, March 14th, in our Parish Life Center. Doors will open at 6PM and dinner will be served at 6:30PM. Cost of the dinner is $20 per person for adults and $8 for children 5 to 12. Children 4 and under are free.

The dinner will include: Fried Chicken, Eggplant Parmesan, Italian Sausage & Peppers, Roasted Potatoes, Stuffed Shells, Salad, and Dessert. Bring your own bottle of wine. Soda and water will be available for purchase.

Advance purchase of tickets is required. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Tickets for the dinner are available after all the weekend Masses in the narthex of the church and in the parish office.

For more information, please contact Theresa at 708-522-4340.

CARDINAL JOSEPH BERNARDIN SCHOOL PRESENTS

"Let The Good Times Roll"

Casino Night!

Friday, March 6, 2020

6:30PM - 12 AM

DiNolfo's Banquets
of Homer Glen
14447 West 159th Street
Homer Glen, Illinois

Tickets $75 per person

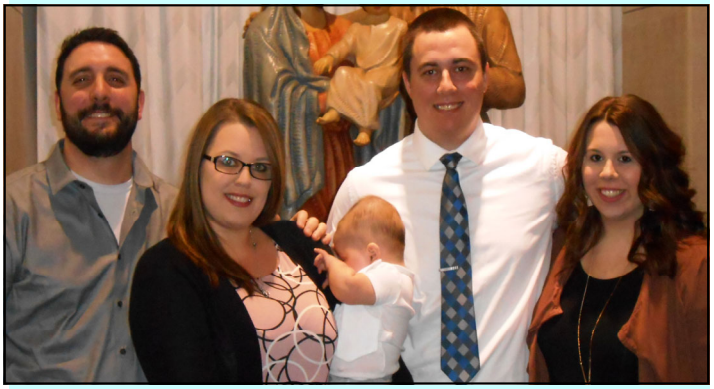
Come and Bet on Education
Enjoy an evening of Casino Games, raffles, auctions, dinner, open bar, dancing, and entertainment, while raising funds for Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Catholic School.

Purchase Tickets and Reserve Casino Chips at cjbgala20.givesmart.com

RECENTLY BAPTIZED AT SAINT STEPHEN'S

We would like to welcome to our parish family these children who were recently baptized here at Saint Stephen's.

Dominick Arthur Kalinka



Adam Florian Bruno

Kelsey Summer Vaughan

We're Searching for Volunteers

BINGO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of parishioners who would be willing to help us by volunteering to work at our bingos. There are a variety of volunteer options available.

Bingos are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. If you can help us, please call Sandra at the parish office.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR

Through the six weeks of Lent, we encourage you to use this devotional calendar to prepare for Christ's death and resurrection. The Parish Worship Team is providing our parish with daily suggestions throughout the Season of Lent, as suggestions to help make this time of Lent a time of preparation for Easter.

Put the Word of the Lord in your heart!

	Ash Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	February 26th	February 27th	February 28th	February 29th
Reflection For the Day	Have mercy on me. Cleanse me from my sin.	Keep the Lord's commandments and you will live.	Seek good and the Lord will be with you.	The Lord will guide you always. He will renew your strength.
Suggested Activity	Attend Mass or Services to receive ashes.	What are you doing for the Lord?	Attend the Stations of the Cross on Fridays.	As Lent begins, make your own examination of conscience.

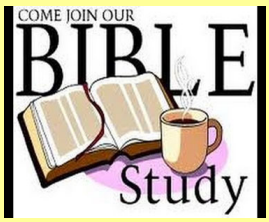
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COME, FOLLOW ME...

and heal our world

2020 Annual Catholic Appeal

This weekend, our parish will be following-up on the Annual Catholic Appeal in-pew Commitment Weekend. Please remember that the Annual Catholic Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift payable in installments. The Annual Catholic Appeal theme, "Come, follow me… and heal our world," was selected to remind us to continue to answer Jesus' call to follow Him in thought, word and deed by providing the necessary contribution to fund ministries and services to share God's love with many others in our parish and our archdiocese. Each pledge makes a difference! All parishes communities participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our parishes, schools, and ministries to deliver needed services. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.



SCRIPTURE STUDY

Scripture Study will soon begin the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Romans is St. Paul's most theologically developed letter; it has been called his greatest work, but many find this epistle difficult to understand. It explores the significance of Christ's sacrificial death. That is why it would be a great idea to join our study of this wonderful work. You may have run across these quotes: "I am not ashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God leading everyone who believes in it to salvation." "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may judge what is God's will, what is good, pleasing and perfect." "Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer."

So please join us as we study and explore Scripture. We meet on Friday mornings in Room 126 from 8:45 AM until 10 AM. You can join Scripture Study any time. We are a very welcoming group; we learn from each other and from our facilitator and have meaningful, interesting and at times fun discussions. This class is for you whether you are new to Scripture or not. If you would like more information please contact Tom Mitus, O.F.S., at 708-479-6980, or e-mail: tomsfo@comcast.net.

GROWING WITH GOD PROGRAM

Recently the students of our Growing With God program joined us in prayer at the 10AM Mass by singing a song after Communion. Our Growing with God Program is a preschool level faith based program that meets every Sunday during the 10AM Mass. For more information about the program, please contact Connie Lambke at the parish office.

FROZEN JR.

Recently, the students of Cardinal Bernardin School staged a production of Disney's Frozen Jr.

The students worked really hard and it was a great performance.

Congratulations to the cast and crew on a job well done!

BEYOND DIVORCE
Divorced and Hurting?

Divorce is painful and often shattering. Divorce does change every aspect of a person's life. If you would like help in managing these changes, St. George will be offering a 10-session study/discussion group using the book - ***Divorce and Beyond***

Those who have suffered a divorce or are in the process are invited to register. The group will meet on dates to be determined at the first meeting.

Please register by March 1st by contacting Deacon Joe at jtruesdale@archchicago.org or 708-614-0286.

BREAKFAST WITH A CUP OF SPIRITUALITY

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, 9201 W. St. Francis Rd, Frankfort, iinvite you to join them for *Breakfast with a Cup or Spirituality*, on Saturday, March 14th, from 9:30-11:00AM.

The presentation, *"The Many Names for Jesus"* will look at our favorite names for Jesus that we most often use in prayer. They will also note the many names used in the prophecies in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, their meaning, and their fulfillment in Jesus.

Donation: $15.00.per person To make reservations call 815-464-3886 or email: marilyn.renninger@fssh.net

EXTRAORDIANRY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

In 1971 extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist were first permitted in the United States. At that time the Congregation of the Sacraments responded to a request of the American bishops to allow laypersons to assist priests in giving Holy Communion.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are first and foremost a member of the Body of Christ, one of the holy people of God. In Baptism we all were claimed by Christ as one of Christ's own and marked with the sign of the cross. Through the waters of Baptism we died with Christ to all that was not of God and were cleansed of all that could separate us from God. In Confirmation we were anointed with Chrism as one who shares in the priestly, prophetic and royal ministry of Jesus, the Anointed One, the Christ.

In our life as Christians, we participate deeply in that ministry in many ways. The fullest and most central expression of our ministry as baptized Christians is our participation in the celebration of the Eucharist, first and foremost as a member of the worshipping assembly.

As Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, we are called to further service of the Body of Christ, the Church, as we share the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ with God's people. Like all ministry, this is a great honor and a great responsibility. We undertake it with the intention to grow in our devotion to the liturgy, to the Church that celebrates it, and, most importantly, to the Lord, through whom, with whom and in whom we live and move and have our being. We are called to a most beautiful ministry. As a witness and a sign of the "Eucharist," you represent the local faith community, the parish, and the universal church.

We are in need of additional Extraordinary Ministers of Communion to serve at our weekend liturgies. Becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Communion is a great way to become involved in the life of our parish. The time commitment is minimal and your assistance would benefit our parish community.

To become an Extraordinary Minister of Communion you must: be at least sixteen years old; be a Catholic in good standing having received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation); have a love for the Eucharist and for sharing your faith through this ministry; and have an acceptance of this call as a gift and an opportunity to be of service.

The archdiocese will be holding training classes for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion here at Saint Stephen's on Thursdays, March 5th and 12th.

This ministry is always welcoming of anyone who would be willing to commit themselves in sharing the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ to others. If interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please contact Sandra at the parish office.

LITTLE BLACK BOOK FOR LENT

In 1999, Bishop Ken Untener of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw decided to create a Little Black Book, which would use the prayer tradition of Lectio Divina to help people pray the Passion of Our Lord.

On the right-hand side of the book, there is a verse from the Passion and a reflection. You are invited to spend "six minutes a day" with this Little Book, letting God speaks to you would be like a "buffet table" with a variety of items: Catholic customs and traditions, the saint of the day, historical tidbits and other interesting information.

The Little Black Book is available to parishioners in the narthex of our church. Everyone is asked to devote more time to prayer during Lent and The Little Black Book can be used daily to help us spend time with the Lord.

Please take one and use it to pray daily during Lent. A $1 donation is requested to cover the cost of The Little Black Book.

Lt. Michael Balcerzak
L/Cpl Benjamin Brasher
Capt. Anthony J. Cesaro
Major Vincent Cesaro
Capt. Michael Chimienti
SPC E4 Joseph Clavio
Lt. Dylan Conover
Jacob Elliott USN
LCMR Amanda Griffith
Sgt. Evan Grober
Major Michael Gryczk
Lt. Dan Kniaz
Msgt. Laura Langley
Sgt. Joseph Malone
Capt. Christopher Mazurek
Daniel C. McDonald, USN
Sgt. Matthew O'Boyle
Lt. Elizabeth Ernst-Signore
Jack Ryan, USN
LCDR Marilyn Walsh
Major Thomas Walsh

STEWARDSHIP

February 23, 2020 - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you…" (Matthew 5:44)

Love your enemies, easier said than done, no doubt. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from "me" and moves it towards God and others. It allows us to have a little more empathy for "our enemy."
When we pray for others, even "our enemies," maybe it softens their hearts as well.

Parish Giving

Collection	02/16/2020
Regular Sunday	$18,378.55
Ash Wednesday	
Parish Life Center	$50.00
Angel Fund	$25.00
Sharing	$85.00
Latin America	$10.00
Total	**$18,548.55**

Givecentral	January 2020
Sunday Collections	$17,979.50
Sharing	$170.00
Parish Life Center	$651.00
Christmas	$115.00
Building Fund	$864.00

Thank You

Creation Care Corner

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

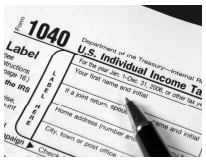
"The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself…"
— Pope Benedict XVI

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION

WHAT YOU EAT MATTERS!

Meat production accounts for about 15% of climate warming greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Most meat comes from factory farms that are heavily polluting. Cutting back or changing the mix of meats you eat can have a big environmental impact, and can improve your health. Here is EWG's comparison of CO_2 emissions/unit of meat to your plate:

- Chicken rated as the best meat
- Pork, turkey, farmed salmon and cheese are almost 2x worse than chicken
- Beef is 4x worse than chicken
- Lamb is 5x worse than chicken
- Lentils, dry beans, yogurt, peanut butter, rice, nuts, tofu, milk & potatoes are **+2x better** than chicken.



YOUR 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 2020.

Example: Total income is $42,653. Charitable contributions are $1,250. $1,250 divided by $42,653 equals .0293. Move the decimal and see that the percent that was given to charity was 2.9%

Greeters Schedule

February 29th, - March 1st

5PM - Mary Berger, Jean Coughlin, Julie Lacerna
8:30AM - Tom Mitus, Jim O'Donnell
10AM - Pauline Cotrano, Mark Losey, Anna Williams
11:30AM - Natalie Sims, Jackie Szymanski, B. J. Witry

Meetings/Events

Sunday, February 23rd
Narthex...Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
Narthex - Senior Young @ Heart Luncheon Ticket Sales
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
10:00 AM - Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:00 AM - Growing with God Preschool Program
Bingo - Doors open at 12:30 pm
Games start @ 1:30 pm - PLC

Monday, February 24th
Palm Burning Service - 5:15PM pm & 6 pm - Outside
Religious Education Classes 4-5:30 pm & 6-7:30 pm
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM Queen of Hearts SalesParish Office
10:00 AM Seniors Young at Heart - General Member Meeting - PLC

Tuesday, February 25th
8:30AM - Palm Burning Service
Religious Education Classes 4-5:30 pm & 6-7:30 pm
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
5:30 PM -CJB Basketball Practice - PLC
6:00 PM Rosary Daily Chapel (English)
7:00 PM Rosary Daily Chapel (Polish)

Wednesday, February 26th
Ash Wednesday Masses - 6am, 8 am, Noon, 6 pm (Polish), 7:30 pm; Prayer Service @ 4:15 pm
8:30 AM - 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
4:00 PM - CJB Basketball Practice - PLC
8:00 PM - AA Polish #161

Thursday, February 27th
8:30 AM - 6:30 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
5:00 PM - Children's Choir Rehearsal - Music Room
6:30 PM - Benediction Daily Chapel
7:00 PM - Baptism Prep #125/126

Friday, February 28th
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
8:45 AM - Scripture Study #126
6:30PM - Stations of the Cross - English
6:00PM - Open Gym & Games Night
7:30PM - Stations of the Cross - Polish
7:00 PM - Al-Anon Polish #153
8:00 PM - AA Pol #161

Saturday, February 29th
Narthex...Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM AA #158/159
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM First Holy Communion Family Formation Day - PLC & Large Meeting Room
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales Parish Office

Sunday, March 1st
Lent Family Faith Formation (after 10:00 AM Mass) PLC
Meet & Greet - (immediately after 10 am Mass)
Narthex...Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
10:00 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:00 AM Growing with God Preschool Program
10:00 AM Second Grade Family Mass

LEAVING A LEGACY

A young man was surprised to find his sick and elderly grandfather planting a small peach tree in his backyard. When the young man asked his grandfather why he was planting the tree, the old man replied,
"Son, all my life I have eaten the fruit from trees that other people have planted. I figure I have an obligation to make sure there is some fruit around for others to enjoy."

FOUR WAYS TO LEAVE A LEGACY

Did you know there are four easy ways for you to remember your parish in your will?

1. **A Specific Bequest –** You can designate a certain amount of cash or specific assets to the parish.
2. **A Residual Bequest –** You can plan for the parish to receive all or a portion of your estate **after** other specific bequests have been distributed.
3. **A Percentage Bequest –** You can designate a certain percentage of the estate to go to the parish.
4. **A Contingent Bequest –** You can make the parish the recipient of a bequest if others named in your will are not living at the time of your death.

No matter how you decide to remember your parish, a gift from your will accomplishes several key benefits.

- It sends a strong message to your heirs that the Church played an important role in your life.
- It guarantees that your generosity to the Church will be continued even after you are gone.
- It provides important assistance to our parish.
- It may even provide tax benefits for your heirs.

Talk to your attorney or financial counselor today about the best way for you to remember our parish in your will or trust.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 23rd

7:00 AM	Mary Ann Riccelli	Karen Opyd
7:00AM	Parishioners of Saint Stephen's	
8:30 AM	Marie Balestri	Rox & Tony Pantano
8:30 AM	Hugh Twomey	Family
10:00 AM	Mary O'Dowell	Family
10:00 AM	Gibbons & McLean Families	Family
11:30 AM	Alfons Nosek	Children
11:30 AM	Peter Alinder	Young At Heart
1:00 PM	Henry Ostrowski	Wife
6:15 PM	Raymond Norbot	Family

Monday, February 24th

8:00 AM	Stephen Finno	Family
8:00 AM	Joseph Sarbieski	Family

Tuesday, February 25th

8:00 AM	Catherine Catanzara	Family
8:00 AM	Randy Rucka	Dcn Pete & Jan Van Merkestn

Wednesday, February 26th - ASH WEDNESDAY

6:00 AM		
8:00 AM	Sharon Grill	Bob & Nancy Belling
8:00 AM	Tim & David Newquist	Family
12:00 PM	Gus M Graziano	Family
12:00 PM	Theresa Manikowski	Family & Friends
6:00 PM		
7:30 PM	Kathleen Gallegos	Family

Thursday, February 27th

8:00 AM	Bob & Nancy Belling	Wedding Anniversary8:00
AM	Byron Grober	Chloe Jane

Friday, February 28th

8:00 AM	Benedicto Deanching	The Deanching Family
8:00 AM	Brian Wehmer	O'Malley Family

Saturday, February 29th

8:00 AM	Kathleen Gallegos	Husband
5:00 PM	Jean Magiera	Family
5:00 PM	John Glover	Yedwofski Family
5:00 PM	Theresa Manikowski	Family & Friends
5:00 PM	Bob O'Heir	

Sunday, March 1st

7:00 AM	Noreen Tierney	Pat Frejlich
7:00AM	Parishioners of Saint Stephen's	
8:30 AM	James Savarino	Bob & Beth Stepps
8:30 AM	James McInnes	Dayle O' Reilly
10:00 AM	Vera Paul	Barbara Black
10:00 AM	Connie Siemiawski	Falsey Family
11:30 AM	Travis Karn	Papa Family
11:30 AM	Paul O'Connell	Barb O'Connell
1:00 PM	Emily Haynes	Family
6:15 PM	Guilermina Soto De Avila	Family Caceres
6:15 PM	Stephen L Mercaitis	Pat & Emie Madden

BORN INTO Eternal Life

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

Joseph Scalia

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

James (Jay) O'Reilly, Ken Dellorto, Michael Fleming, Patricia Ruzich

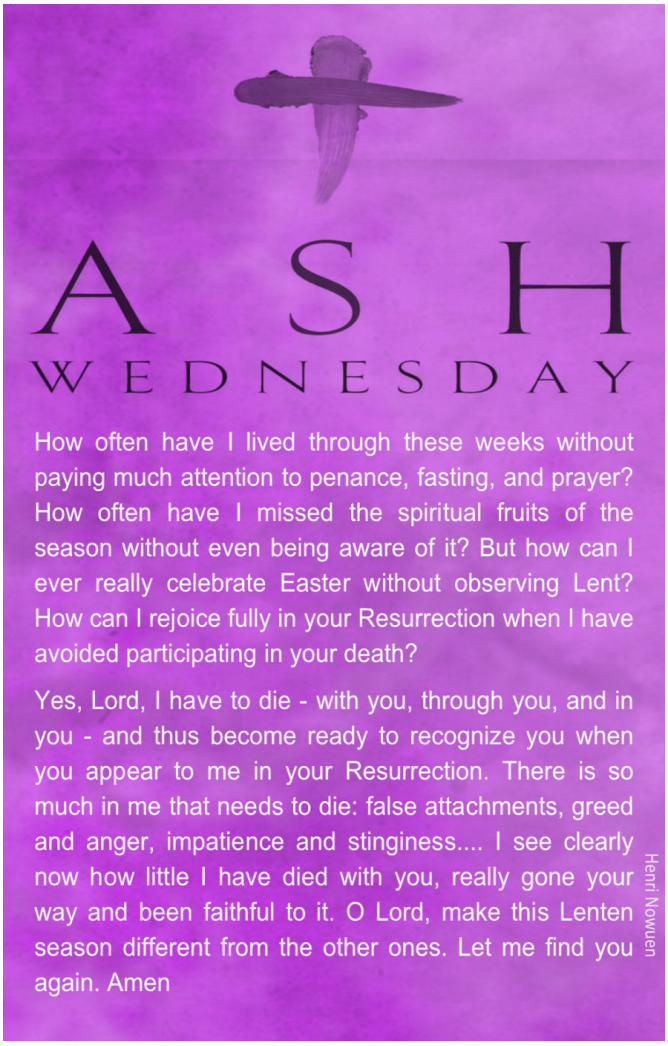
Prayer Requests

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.



Weekend Masses: Saturday, 5PM and Sunday, 7AM, 8:30AM, 10AM, 11:30AM, & 6:15PM. 1PM in Polish
Daily Mass 8AM - Monday through Saturday
Sacrament of Reconciliation - Saturdays starting at 8:30AM *and by appointment*
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Thursdays 8:30AM - 6:30PM and Fridays 8:30AM - 3:30PM
Benediction & Divine Mercy Prayers - Thursdays at 6:30PM
Rosary 6PM - 2nd and last Tuesday of the month in English - 7PM every Tuesday in Polish

---

W ciągu całego roku Msza Św. w niedziele w języku polskim jest o godz. 1pm
Pierwszy piątek miesiąca: Spowiedź od 6:30PM-7:30PM - Msza o 7:30pm
Pierwsza sobota miesiąca: od godz. 7:00-9:30pm

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 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.

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brushes his teeth
with ADVERTISED toothpaste
washes with ADVERTISED soap
puts on ADVERTISED clothes
drinks a cup
of ADVERTISED coffee
drives to work
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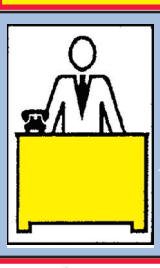
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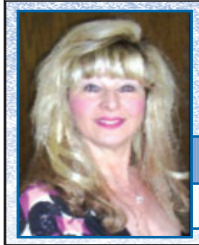
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