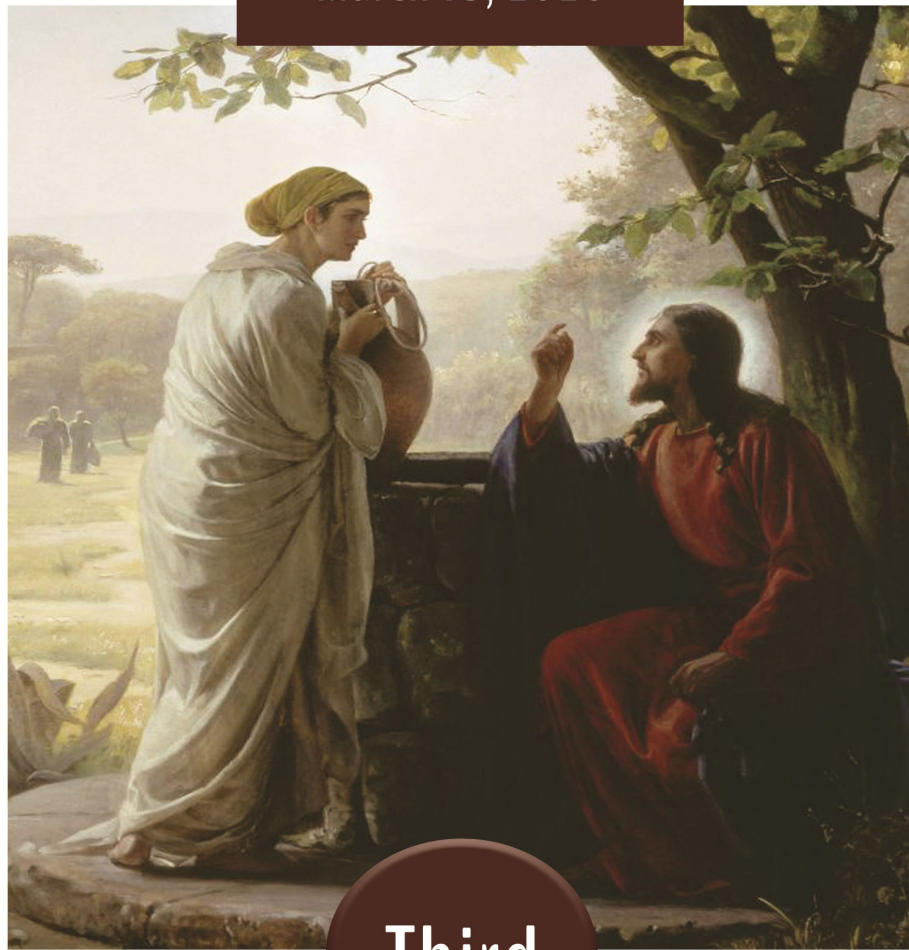


St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr Catholic Church

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

March 15, 2020



Third

Sunday of Lent

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.
Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

John 4:7

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



Visit our Facebook page for the latest information. [https:// www.facebook.com/StStephenTinley](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

Business Manager

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Barbara Black

Maintenance Director

Dean Thompson

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Laura Uher

Bulletin Editor/Social Media

Sandra Quintana

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 Sandra at the parish office 708-342-2400.

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.

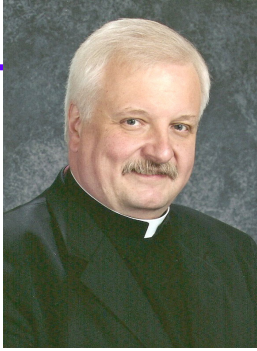
Confessions - Saturdays after the 8AM Mass or by appointment.

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.

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim. Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Pro Labore Dei, a Catholic sponsored organization, serving the poor in the Robbins area, is in dire need of sandwiches for distribution to the poor next Saturday, March, 21st. We have agreed to make the 200 plus sandwiches that Pro Labore Dei needs. So, we are in need of volunteers who would be willing to help us in making these sandwiches. We will be making them next Saturday morning, March 21st, starting at 9AM in the parish life center. Any help you can give us would be greatly appreciated. Just come to the parish center at 9AM!

I want to thank everyone for your patience and understanding as we instituted the directives from the archdiocese concerning the Corona Virus/COVID-19 this past weekend. They will be in place until further notice.

This weekend we welcome the Cardinal Joseph Bernardin School Athletic Program, who will be joining us for the 10AM Mass today. Thank you for joining us in prayer.

This Tuesday, March 17th, is Election Day. We, here at St. Stephen's, will be the new voting location for seven local precincts in our immediate area. The polling places will be in our Parish Life Center and the polls will be open from 6AM until 7PM. I encourage everyone to remember to vote!!

Let Us Continue Our Journey Through Lent!



Archidiecezja Chicago

W dalszym ciągu z niepokojem monitorujemy pytanie dotyczące rozprzestrzeniania się Coronavirus/COVID-19. Ze względów ostrożności następujące wytyczne, opracowane przez Komitet ds. Kultu Bożego USCCB, mają zostać natychmiast wdrożone we wszystkich parafiach Archidiecezji Chicago.

Wszyscy kapłani, diakoni, ministranci oraz nadzwyczajni safarze Komunii Świętej, muszą umyć ręce przed Mszą św. oraz stosować antybakteryjny roztwór na bazie alkoholu przed i po rozdaniu Komunii

Świętej.

Wszyscy proszeni są o powstrzymanie się od kontaktu fizycznego podczas Znaku Pokoju (uwaga: Znak Pokoju można wymienić bez kontaktu fizycznego)

Powstrzymaj się od rozdawania Komunii Świętej wiernym z kielicha.

Biorąc pod uwagę częstotliwość bezpośredniego kontaktu ze śliną podczas rozdawania Komunii Świętej „na język”, każda osoba powinna dołożyć wszelkich starań, aby w tym czasie przyjąć Komunię Świętą ze czcią w otwartych rękach.

Powstrzymaj się od trzymania się za ręce podczas Modlitwy Pańskiej.

Powstrzymaj się od używania kropielnicy z wodą święconą.

Jeśli jesteś chory lub doświadczasz objawów choroby, nie jesteś zobowiązany do uczęszczania we Mszy św., a nawet z miłosierdzia i roztropności, nie powinienes w niej uczestniczyć w trosce o innych wiernych. Kościół pozwala opuścić Mszę z poważnych powodów, takich jak choroba.

Te środki ostrożności i procedury będą obowiązywać do odwołania.

SPOTKANIE Z SAMARYTANKĄ

W trzecią niedzielę Wielkiego Postu liturgia kościoła stawia nam przed oczami niezwykle spotkanie Jezusa z Samarytanką. Jest to dla nas okazja aby się zastanowić nad naszym spotkaniem z drugim człowiekiem. Jak ono wygląda? Czy jest okazją do twórczej rozmowy? Czy może w naszym postępowaniu unikamy niektórych ludzi.

Trzeba się cieszyć, że w naszych czasach, mimo zamknięcia się rodzin przy własnym telewizorze i z własnymi sprawami, jeszcze jakieś kontakty międzyludzkie istnieją. Ludzie spotykają się z okazji różnych uroczystości rodzinnych, takich jak imieniny, chrzty, śluby, pogrzeby. Znaleźć można spotkania organizowane przez władze samorządowe czy państwowe...

Cieszą kontakty dzieci mieszkających dalej od rodziny ze swoimi rodzicami czy rodzeństwem. Godne podziwu jest spotkanie się członków rodzin na wieczerzy wigilijnej przed Bożym Narodzeniem. Niektórzy przemierzają wtedy setki kilometrów, by tylko zobaczyć się z najbliższymi, by spożyć razem kolację i złożyć sobie życzenia. Są to dobre kontakty.

Warto wspomnieć o kontaktach z chorymi, przebywającymi w domach czy szpitalach. Dobrze, że nie utrudniają tych wizyt dyrekcje placówek medycznych, nie stwarzają – jak to było kiedyś – wygórowanych ograniczeń. Człowiek chory nawet lepiej poddaje się leczeniu, gdy ma świadomość, że ktoś o nim pamięta i go odwiedza.

Mówiąc o kontaktach z ludźmi, trzeba wspomnieć o kontaktach Jana Pawła II z Polakami oraz innymi narodami świata. Ile radości, ile podniesienia na duchu dały nam spotkania pielgrzymkowe z Ojcem Świętym. Przecież mogło być jak dawniej, kiedy to papież niechętnie opuszczał Watykan. Jan Paweł II rozumiał dobrze wartość spotkania z bliźnimi. Pozostaje mieć nadzieję, że jego następcy będą nadal brali z niego przykład.

Dotychczas pokrótce wskazałem na niektóre tylko pozytywne przykłady kontaktów międzyludzkich. Niestety czasem pojawia się też niechęć do kontaktów, omijanie drugich. Problem ten nie jest nowy, jest znany już od wieków. Jego ślady znajdujemy w dzisiejszej Ewangelii:

Nadeszła tam kobieta z Samarii, aby zaczerpnąć wody. Jezus rzekł do niej: «Daj Mi pić». Jego uczniowie bowiem udali się przedtem do miasta dla zakupu żywności. Na to rzekła do Niego Samarytanka: «Jakże Ty, będąc Żydem, prosisz mnie, Samarytankę, bym Ci dała się napić?». Żydzi bowiem nie utrzymują stosunków z Samarytanami.

I tu Jezus przełamał niechęć Żydów do Samarytan. Żydzi ich omijali. Żaden Żyd nie wdałby się w rozmowę z kobietą pochodzenia samarytańskiego i nigdy nie prosiłby jej o wodę. Nie pozwoliłaby mu na to jego duma. Nic dziwnego, że nawet uczniowie Jezusa byli zdumieni, że rozmawia On z Samarytanką.

Takie uprzedzenia do drugich powtarzają się od wieków. Stąd omijanie ludzi. Dzieje się tak również w naszym życiu. Ile tego omijania się jest w naszych rodzinach. Znamy sytuacje, w których siostra omija siostrę, brat omija brata, nawet dzieci dorosłe omijają swoich rodziców z byle jakiego powodu.

A spojrzmy na uprzedzenia na tle religijnym. Wciąż daleko do sympatii międzywyznaniowej i ewangelicznego patrzenia na prawosławnych, ewangelików, baptystów, metodystów czy adwentystów. Z przykrością obserwuje się nasz stosunek do świadków Jehowy. Nie zgadzamy się z tym, co oni głoszą, ale nie można ich upokarzać. Jezus nie upokorzył Samarytanki, lecz życzliwie z nią rozmawiał. Interesująco skomentował tę sytuację egzegeta ks. prof. Stanisław Grzybek:

Samarytanka ani jej rodacy nie szukali Chrystusa. To On sam ich znalazł, to On sam się do nich przybliżył, to On obalił wszelkie bariery, jakie oddzielały Samarytan od Żydów, niwecząc tym samym dawne zwyczaje, uświęcone długowiekową tradycją. Dobrowolnie i świadomie podszedł do człowieka ze swoją łaską. Uczniowie Chrystusa dziwili się, kiedy wrócili z miasta, że Jezus rozmawia z niewiastą samarytańską. W ich pojęciu, jak i w pojęciu wszystkich Żydów, Samarytanie byli społecznością zniechęconą, niegodną uwagi. Wydarzenie to utwierdza nas w przekonaniu, że dla Chrystusa nie jest ważna rasa, pochodzenie, język czy kolor skóry, ważne jest tylko to, że każdy człowiek potrzebuje zbawienia.

Tak, dla Chrystusa nie była ważna rasa, narodowość. A ile w nas uprzedzeń?

Przykład pozytywny. W jednym z polskich muzeów znajduje się wzruszająca rzeźba. Oto polska pielęgniarka w pozie kłęczącej opatruje leżącego na ziemi niemieckiego żołnierza, który został ranny w walce z partyzantami AK. Dla niej nie była ważna narodowość i to, że może przed chwilą z jego rąk zginął lub został ranny polski partyzant. To był żołnierz potrzebujący pomocy (rzeźba w Muzeum Regionalnym Braci Chmielarskich w Krzepicach).

Korzystając z dzisiejszej Ewangelii, uczmy się nie omijać drugich i zwalczać wszelkie uprzedzenia. Niech Wielki Post będzie czasem naszego powrotu do tej Chrystusowej postawy. Może i On czeka na nas przy jakiejś studni? Może taką studnię będą dobrze przeżyte rekolekcje wielkopostne? Może taką studnię będzie sakrament pokuty?

To będzie najlepsze przygotowanie się do przeżycia Triduum Paschalnego i Wielkanocy.



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.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

As part of our Lenten journey we invite you to join us for a special time of prayer reconciliation and healing. Individual confessions will be heard. Come by yourself, come as a family, or invite a friend who has not experienced the sacrament of Reconciliation in some time. Join us as we experience the gracious mercy of God's love! The sacrament of penance is an experience of the gift of God's boundless mercy.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend our Lenten Parish Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, March 31st, at 7:30PM. Several additional priests will be available to hear private confessions and help us prepare our hearts for the passion, death and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Since we will have additional priests available, we encourage everyone to avail themselves of this opportunity to share in the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this time and not wait until the last Saturday, April 4th, that confessions will be heard.



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

Our Baptismal Preparation Class for the month of March will take place next Thursday, March 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.

To register for the baptismal class, please go to our parish website, ststephentinley.com. For more information please contact the parish office.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



We continue to monitor with concern the questions that are arising about the spread of Coronavirus/COVID-19. As a matter of prudence, the following guidelines, based on guidance from the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship, are to be implemented in all parishes within the Archdiocese of Chicago effective immediately.

All Priests, Deacons, Altar Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must wash their hands before Mass begins and use an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution before and after distributing Holy Communion.

During all Masses and liturgies:

- Everyone is asked to refrain from physical contact during the Sign of Peace (note: the Sign of Peace can be exchanged without physical contact)
- Refrain from distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful via the chalice.
- Given the frequency of direct contact with saliva in the distribution of Holy Communion on the tongue, we are asking everyone to receive Holy Communion reverently in open hands for the time being.
- Refrain from holding hands during the Lord's Prayer.
- Refrain from using Holy Water fonts.

If you are sick or are experiencing symptoms of sickness, you are not obliged to attend Mass, and even that out of charity you ought not to attend. The Church allows for you to miss Mass for serious reasons like illness.

These precautions and procedures will be in place until further notice.

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 preceded 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 8:30AM in the chapel, in English.





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.

Week 3	March 15th	March 16th	March 17th	March 18th	March 19th	March 20th	March 21st
Reflection For the Day	Lord, give me the living water that I may never thirst again.	With the Lord is kindness and redemption.	Return to the Lord with your whole heart.	The Lord has the words of everlasting life.	You will have a son and you are to name Him Jesus.	 You shall love your neighbor as yourself.	Wash me from my guilt; cleanse me from my sin.
Suggested Activity	Make this the week you try to attend daily Mass.	Lord, give me the courage to ask for Your help.	Pray to St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland.	As winter ends, let hope spring into your heart.	Honor St. Joseph today.	Invite a neighbor to attend Stations with you.	Lent is half over; how are you doing on your Lenten goals?

OPERATION RICE BOWL

During Lent our Parish is participating 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.



"CRS has changed my life—and the life of my family," says Gaudencia, Yvone's aunt. "Before, I could tell Yvone wasn't healthy. But now, she's active." Gaudencia is proud of what she's learned from the CRS program about healthy eating habits. She has taught her family to vary what they eat and include vegetables with every meal.

Yvone's grandfather, Eliakim, suffers from diabetes. The improved diet has helped make him healthier. "What I have learned is really good, and I have seen positive changes in my health," says Eliakim. "I have benefited a lot from Gaudencia's participation with CRS."

Eliakim also thinks the improved diet gives his grandchildren more energy for school and play. If the family is ever short an ingredient or has extra food, they borrow from and share with neighbors in the spirit of community. It's that spirit—and good nutrition—that gives Yvone, her family and friends, a strong foundation from which to pursue their dreams and live a healthier life.

The same is true for Maria Ana and her fellow students in Honduras. It is hard to study and concentrate in school if you are hungry. That's why CRS provides daily lunches and snacks at Maria Ana's school. Using ingredients from CRS—like rice, beans and milk—and vegetables donated by local families, the students' mothers volunteer at the school to make lunch and a snack for the students. Students will often bring containers to school with them, and save much of their lunch to take home and share with their families.

"With the food that CRS is providing, we are able to get what we need to do our best at school—and at home," Maria Ana says.



For Trinh in Vietnam, meals at home are one of her favorite things. "It is a time that is joyful," she says. "It makes me feel warm in my heart."

Trinh's favorite foods are vegetables. But just like Yvone and Maria Ana, Trinh's family works to ensure that she and her siblings have well-balanced, nutritious meals. Because fish and meat are not always available, Trinh's family sometimes leaves the house at night and wades in the deep water nearby to catch snails for food. Trinh loves to eat snails—a good source of protein and extra income. "They are chewy and crunchy," she says.

Visit crsricebowl.org for more information.



PRAYING THE LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

It is significant that Jesus prayed from the cross. Here he was, experiencing the worst torture a human being can endure, and through it all – he prayed. The prayers of Christ from the cross serve as an excellent model for our praying during this Season of Lent.

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

Jesus of Nazareth is looking down from the cross just after he was crucified between two criminals. He sees the soldiers who have mocked, scourged, and tortured him, and who have just nailed him to the cross. But is Jesus not also thinking of his Apostles and companions who have deserted him? Right up to his final hours on earth, Jesus preaches forgiveness.

Are you holding bitterness and resentment in your heart? Who has wronged you? Are you struggling to forgive? If you can't bring yourself to forgive them, ask God to do the forgiving for you. Forgiveness is for our own benefit.

Almighty God, to whom your crucified Son prayed for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing, grant that we, too, may be included in that prayer. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace: in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior. Amen.

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Now it is not just the religious leaders or the soldiers that mock Jesus, but even one of the criminals. But the criminal on the right speaks up for Jesus, explaining the two criminals are receiving their just due, whereas "this man has done nothing wrong." Then, turning to Jesus, he asks, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." What wonderful faith this repentant sinner has in Jesus. This expression offers us hope for salvation, for if we turn our hearts and prayers to Him and accept his forgiveness, we will also be with Jesus Christ at the end of our lives.

We pray for those who are suffering from their own decisions. Rather than judge them, love them. Remember we all need grace, and our past mistakes do not necessarily dictate our future. Focus on the life beyond this life, and how God's love draws us to where we need to be. Trust those who are wandering to God's care.

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to the repentant thief the joy of paradise, enable us by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive your grace in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

"Jesus said to his mother: 'Woman, this is your son.'"

Then he said to the disciple: 'This is your mother.'"

Jesus and Mary are together again. What sorrow must fill Mary's heart, to see her Son mocked, tortured, and crucified. The good son that He is, Jesus is concerned about taking care of his mother.

Are you so consumed with your own pain that you are neglecting those closest to you? What do your dearest loved ones need from you? Do you know how they're doing? Pray for them. Love them deeply. Show them your concern.

O Blessed Savior, who in your hour of greatest suffering expressed compassion for your mother and made arrangements for her care, grant that we who seek to follow your example may show our concern for the needs of others, reaching out to provide for those who suffer in our human family. Hear this our prayer for your mercy's sake. Amen.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

One is struck by the anguished tone of this expression. This cry is from the painful heart of the human Jesus who must

feel deserted by His Father and the Holy Spirit, not to mention his earthly companions the Apostles. Jesus feels separated from his Father. He is now all alone, and he must face death by himself.

Jesus completely lives the human experience as we do, and by doing so, frees us from the clutches of sin.

Where and when do you feel rejected and forsaken? Remind yourself that we are never alone. In the darkest valley, God is with us.

O Lord, I call for help by day, and in the night. Listen to my prayer. My soul is troubled. Lord, do not hide your face from me.

"I thirst."

Jesus is now in shock. The wounds inflicted upon him in the scourging, the crowning with thorns, losing blood on the three-hour walk through the city of Jerusalem to Golgotha, and the nailing upon the cross are now taking their toll.

This passage implies there is more than just physical thirst. Jesus also thirsts in a spiritual sense. He thirsts for love. He thirsts for the love of his Father, who has left him unaided during this dreadful hour when He must fulfill his mission all alone. And he thirsts for the love and salvation of his people, the human race.

O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy, leading us to bring this same relief to others. Amen.

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished."

These words are Jesus' recognition that his suffering is over and his task is completed. Jesus is obedient to the Father and gives his love for mankind by redeeming us with His death on the Cross. The phrase "It is finished" carries a sense of accomplishment. When Jesus died, He "handed over" the Spirit. Jesus remained in control to the end, and it is He who handed over his Spirit.

What needs finishing in your life? What have you begun, but not completed? What is God's calling for you – his unique mission? Are you following it? If not, what stands in the way?

O Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto death. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness, O Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Jesus was obedient to His Father to the end, and his final words before his death on the Cross was a prayer to His Father. His own mission and that of His Father on the Cross: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life."

What do you need to release into God's hands? Have you been trying to control outcomes and other people? Let them go. Release them into the hands of your loving Father. Are you concerned about your future? Your past? Are you confused about your present situation? Are you struggling emotionally? Spiritually? Relationally? Physically? Surrender all to God.

Father, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended his spirit, grant that we, too, following his example, may in all of life and at the moment of our death entrust our lives into your faithful hands of love. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. Amen.

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 call 708-342-2400.



GREETERS NEEDED

St. Stephen's Greeters Ministry is looking for friendly, welcoming people who would be willing to greet our parishioners and visitors before the Sunday Masses. All that is needed is a friendly smile and a welcoming spirit, and a willingness to be at Mass twenty minutes early. Greeters are scheduled on a revolving basis for the Mass times of their choice. The new schedule for the second quarter of 2020 is being prepared.

If you would like to join this ministry please contact Tom Mitus at 708-479-6980 or tomsfo@comcast.net.

If you are currently a Greeter and would like a change to your schedule, please contact Tom.

MARCH 28TH 4-7:00PM



Venturing Crew

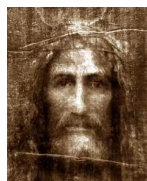
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Pasta & Salad
Bar

\$10 / \$5 FOR 10YRS & UNDER / 4YRS & UNDER FREE

Angel Hair, Penne, Cavatappi, Elbow, Red Sauce, Alfredo, Olive Oil Pesto, Aioli, Cheddar Cheese, Meatballs, Grilled Chicken Strips, Chicken Nuggets, Salad, Dessert

ST. STEPHENS CHURCH, 17500 84TH AVE., TINLEY PARK



SACRED CLOTHS OF THE PASSION EXHIBIT AND PRESENTATION

St. Alexander Church, 7025 W. 126th St., Palos Heights is inviting everyone to a meditation on the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ, on this Thursday, March 19th.

Mr. Richard Bernatchez will present "Sacred Cloths" which deals with *The Shroud of Turin* and the *Sudarium of Orvieto*. He will have full size Shroud images, both positive and negative, and artifacts of crucifixion. The exhibit will be held from 6PM-9PM, with a presentation taking place at 7PM.

More information at www.stalexanderpalos.org

ELECTION DAY TUESDAY

This Tuesday, March 17th, is Election Day. We will be the new voting location for seven local precincts. The polls will be open from 6AM until 7PM.

Remember to vote!!





BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS

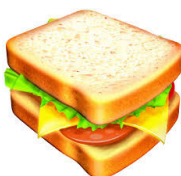
Our Baptismal Preparation Class for the month of March will take place on Thursday, March 28th at 7PM.

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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! JOIN THE SANDWICH BRIGADE

Pro Labore Dei, a Catholic sponsored organization, serving the poor in the Robbins area, is in dire need of sandwiches for distribution to the poor next March, 21st.



We have agreed to make the 200 plus sandwiches that Pro Labore Dei needs. So, we are in need of volunteers who would be willing to help us in making these sandwiches. We will be making them next Saturday morning, March 28th, starting at 9AM in the parish life center. Any help you can give us would be greatly appreciated. Just come to the parish center at 9AM!



ARE YOU MOVING?

Every month we receive back many mailings from the post office for parishioners who have moved, either within the parish or out of the parish, and have not notified us. These return mailings are costly to us. We have to pay the postage to mail them and then a fee to have them returned. We need your help! If you move, we ask that you notify the parish office in a timely manner. We would like to keep our files as current as possible.



TAX REFUNDS & TITHING

Are you receiving a tax refund this year? Have you considered giving a percentage of it back to your parish? Even if you are not yet able to give a full 5% or 10% tithe to your parish on a regular basis many Catholics find that tithing on unexpected income – a tax refund, winnings at the Casino, or an inheritance – is a great first step to experiencing the joy and contentment that come when we really do give as God has asked us to give.

Try it yourself and feel the joy.



QUEEN OF HEARTS WEEKLY WINNER

T. Testolin - #19

Three of Hearts

Pot Rolls Over

**Next drawing will take place
on Wednesday, March 18th.**

BINGO - BINGO - BINGO

Our next bingo will take place on Sunday, March 22nd, 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.



BINGO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of individuals 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 CANTATA

Save the Date! On Sunday, March 29th at 3PM the combined Music & Proclaimers ministries of St. Emeric and St. Christopher under the direction of Phil & Amy Switalski will present "We Were There" a Lenten Cantata by Pepper Choplin.



A cantata is a vocal composition with an instrumental accompaniment (a Chamber Orchestra), typically in several movements, often involving a choir.

This is a very moving musical presentation of our Lord's Passion. Enhance your Lenten journey by attending this beautiful work. The performance will take place at St. Christopher Church, 147th and Keeler, Midlothian. A freewill offering will be taken up. For more information (708) 388-8190.



"HELP BUILD HOPE SAVE THE DATE"

Housing is the basic necessity of every human being along with food and water. Sadly, many people are without a simple decent place to live safely and in dignity.

Please join fellow St. Stephen parishioners for the 2nd Annual Multi-Parish Mission Project "Help Build Hope."

Together with the assistance of Crossroads Missions, eight local parishes (St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Francis of Assisi, St. George, St. Julie Billiart, St. Michael, St. Stephen, Our Lady of the Woods, and Incarnation) aim to assist Habitat for Humanity through fundraising for building materials and by constructing the house framing.

The walls will be constructed in St. Michael's parking lot in Orland Park on build day and then transported to the home site where Habitat for Humanity will complete the house with other volunteers and skilled tradespeople.

Upon completion, the home will be dedicated to a family in need.

Please join us June 5th, 6th, and 7th, at St. Michael's to help build a house where love can dwell. You don't need special skills or abilities to be a participant. We have roles for children, teens, adults, and seniors. Stay tuned to future bulletins for more information and how to sign up.



AN INVITATION TO A SPIRITUAL INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING

The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart invite spiritually diverse men and women to "Nuns & Nones," an intergenerational gathering of Catholic Sisters and people with no particular religious affiliation who want to feed their spirit and make a difference in our society. The topic for this month's "Nuns & Nones" gathering on March 16th at 6:00PM at St. Francis Woods is "Finding Meaning in Life."

The gatherings will be 6:00 – 7:30PM every third Monday at St. Francis Woods, 9201 W. St. Francis Road, Frankfort, IL 60423.

Please RSVP to sisters@fssh.net so we can plan for food and space needs.



GIFT BEARERS OFFERTORY PROCESSION

The offertory procession symbolizes the fact that the gifts of the bread and wine, and the offertory basket, come from the people. The gifts represent the entire congregation, and the people who bring them to the altar emphasize the fact that, "we," the congregation, are asking the priest to take these gifts and to offer them to God in our name.

Our ushers are always in need of parishioner participation in the carrying of the gifts of the bread, wine, and collection to the altar at each Sunday Mass. Many times, the ushers approach people before Mass and are turned down. Would you like to volunteer to be a gift bearer at a Sunday Mass? Singles, couples and even entire families are invited to participate.



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
SSGT. 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

March 15, 2020 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." (John 4:13)

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us for long. When we build our lives around material possessions, we always want more. True Joy and Peace only come when we follow Jesus; when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered."



<u>Collection</u>	03-08-2020
Regular Sunday	\$17,195.00
Parish Life Center	\$461.00
Sharing	\$94.00
Eastern European	\$610.00
Total	\$18,360.00

Thank You



Creation Care Corner

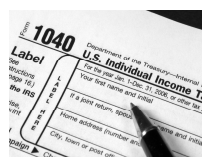
Taking action to protect God's great gift to us, Mother Earth



"The environmental challenge we are undergoing, and it's human roots, concerns and affect us all."
— Pope Francis

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP RECOMMENDATION:

Every appliance comes with two price tags: the purchase price and the cost of operating the product. ENERGY STAR certified appliances help consumers save money on operating costs by reducing energy use without sacrificing performance. Reducing energy use can reduce fossil fuel emissions that warm the planet. Choosing energy-efficient ENERGY STAR products can save families up to 30 percent or \$400 a year. Go to www.energystar.gov for more information.



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 March 21st - March 22nd

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



Meetings/Events

Sunday, March 15th

Meet & Greet - PLC (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 - CJB Athletic Program
10:00 AM - Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:00 AM - Growing with God Preschool Program

Monday, March 16th

Religious Education Classes 4pm & 6pm
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM - Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Election Set Up Day - PLC

Tuesday, March 17th

Religious Education Classes 4pm & 6pm
6:00 AM - 7:00 PM Election Polling Place - PLC
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
8:30 AM - Stations of the Cross (English) - Daily Chapel
7:00 PM - Rosary Daily Chapel (Polish)

Wednesday, March 18th

Religious Education Classes - 4pm & 6pm
8:30 AM - 7:00 PM Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
7:00 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal - Music Room
7:30 PM - Religious Ed Board Meeting #153
8:00 PM - AA Polish #161

Thursday, March 19th

8:30 AM - 6:30 PM - Adoration of Blessed Sacrament -
Daily Chapel - (with Rosary @ 8:30 am)
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM - Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
5:00 PM - Children's Choir Rehearsal - Music Room
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM Benediction Daily Chapel followed
by Divine Mercy Prayers

Friday, March 20th

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Adoration of Blessed Sacrament -
Daily Chapel
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM Queen of Hearts Sales Parish Office
8:45 AM - Scripture Study #126
5:30 PM Exposition of Blessed Sacrament - Church
6:30 PM Stations of the Cross (English) - Church
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Al-Anon Polish #153
7:30 PM Stations of the Cross (Polish) - Church
8:00 PM AA Polish #161

Saturday, March 21st

Narthex...Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM AA #158/159
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Queen of Hearts Ticket Sales
Parish Office

Sunday, March 22nd

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
12:30 PM - Bingo - Doors open at 12:30 pm - Games
start @ 1:30 pm - PLC



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, March 15th

7:00 AM	Helen O'Heir	Karen Opyd
7:00 AM	Parishioners of Saint Stephen's	
8:30 AM	Luke & Mary Marren	Family
8:30 AM	Colleen Barkauskas-Galvin	Taylor & Mom
10:00 AM	Douglas Adams	Elaine Lindenmeyer
10:00AM	Gibbons & Mclean Families	Family
11:30 AM	Antonio Martino	Grandchildren
11:30 AM	Tadeusz Jurkowski	Harriet Czajewski
1:00 PM	Jozef Kowalczyk	Family
6:15 PM	Gerald Paul Smith	Dcn Pete & Jan VanMerkestyn

Monday, March 16th

8:00 AM	Helen Biesen	Jack & Betty Cory
8:00 AM	Joseph Murphy Sr	Bern Daley

Tuesday, March 17th

8:00 AM	Alexander Norella	The Deanching Family
8:00 AM	Ed Walsh	Family

Wednesday, March 18th

8:00 AM	Joseph W Braskey	Dolores Michalski
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Thursday, March 19th

8:00 AM	Salvatore Lamargo	Family
8:00 AM	Jose Norella	The Deanching Family

Friday, March 20th

8:00 AM	Tom Blotnicki	Family
8:00 AM	Jay O'Reilly	Mike Maher

Saturday, March 21th

8:00 AM	Mary Jo Brennan	Pat & Emie Madden
8:00 AM	Kenneth L. Dellorto	Joan Frese
5:00 PM	Theresa Manikowski	Family & Friends
5:00 PM	Don Daley	Bern Daley
5:00 PM	Helen Biesen	Deacon Bill & Andrea Schultz
5:00 PM	Gerry & James Courtney	Franscine Courtney
5:00 PM	John & Jeanette Dygdon	Dygdon Family

Sunday, March 22nd

7:00 AM	Evelyn Lesniewski	Karen Opyd
7:00 AM	Theresa Manikowski	Jenne & Tom Hennessy
8:30 AM	Stanley Mitus	Family
8:30 AM	Joanne Chess	Pauline Cotrano
10:00 AM	Zbigniew Grampe (Healing)	Joe & Grace Dobersztyn
10:00AM	Donat Gosiewski	Harriet Czajewski
11:30 AM	Tom Blotnicki	Family
11:30 AM	Roland & Josephine Haynes	Family
1:00 PM	John Sobol Sr	Family
6:15 PM	Ken Dellorto	Ann & Michael Friar



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

James Pavesich, Albert Wienke



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

**Michael Fleming, Patricia Ruzich,
Karen Opyd**

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.



Prayer for Lent

Loving God,

As the season of Lent unfolds, you call us to return again and again.

As you invite us to reflect on your love made visible in the person of Jesus, align our lives more closely with you through prayer, fasting and generous giving.

Bless our desire to accompany Jesus' suffering here and now in the crucified people of our world.

With your grace, may we live Lent fully and move with transformed hearts into the abundant life of Easter morning.



Amen.

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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