

July 23rd, 2023

Rev. Bala Anthony Govindu
Pastor

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Kevin Lenius

Deacons: Leonard Hendon, Luis

Mata, Fidel Saldivar

Director of Religious Education:

Gretchen Lara

Music Director: Gabriel Salgado

Youth Ministry Director: Noe

Carrasco



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www.sscmidland.com

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Midland, Texas 79707

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Dear Beloved Friends and Family of St. Stephens,

I am overjoyed and deeply humbled to return to our parish, St. Stephens, after six years away serving other communities. As I reflect upon this new chapter in my life, I cannot help but fondly remember the many lessons and experiences that shaped me during my earlier tenure here under the wise and nurturing guidance of Msgr. James Bridges. His devotion to our parish, unwavering commitment to our community, and his steadfast friendship were nothing short of inspirational and have greatly influenced my pastoral journey.

Through his example, I learned that the essence of pastoral ministry lies in a servant's heart; a heart willing to give, to love, and to dedicate itself in service to others. And it is in this spirit that I am coming back to you, as a servant pastor, eager to serve each and every one of you. I am excited to embark on this journey with you and, as I do, I ask for your prayers and support. The Church, at its heart, is a community of faith, a family bound not by blood but by the love of Christ. Like any family, our parish needs the participation of all its members to thrive. I invite each one of you to share your ideas and suggestions, to offer your unique perspectives and talents to strengthen our spiritual and financial foundations. It is through our collective efforts that we can truly make our parish vibrant and welcoming, as we share in our varied tasks, just as we do in our homes. The Holy Spirit has indeed bestowed upon us a plethora of gifts, each one unique and valuable. I urge you to use these gifts to enhance our community and aid in its growth. Each act of service, no matter how small, contributes to the grand design of our divine purpose. As we come together once again, let us remind ourselves of the love and respect that underpins our faith community. Our shared commitment to the teachings of Christ, and to treating each other with dignity and love, lies at the heart of our spiritual journey.

As we move forward, may we continue to grow and strengthen our bonds of fellowship, reflecting the love of Christ in all that we do.

In Christ's love,

Fr. Bala Anthony Govindu

Queridos amigos y familiares amados de San Esteban,

Estoy lleno de alegría y profundamente humilde al regresar a nuestra parroquia, St. Stephens, después de seis años sirviendo a otras comunidades. Mientras reflexiono sobre este nuevo capítulo en mi vida, no puedo evitar recordar con cariño las muchas lecciones y experiencias que me moldearon durante mi anterior mandato aquí bajo la sabia y amorosa guía del Monseñor James Bridges. Su devoción a nuestra parroquia, su compromiso inquebrantable con nuestra comunidad y su amistad firme fueron verdaderamente inspiradores y han influido enormemente en mi camino pastoral.

A través de su ejemplo, aprendí que la esencia del ministerio pastoral radica en un corazón de siervo; un corazón dispuesto a dar, a amar y a dedicarse al servicio de los demás. Y es con este espíritu que regreso a ustedes, como un pastor servidor, ansioso por servir a cada uno de ustedes. Estoy emocionado por embarcarme en este viaje con ustedes y, al hacerlo, les pido sus oraciones y apoyo.

La Iglesia, en su esencia, es una comunidad de fe, una familia unida no por la sangre, sino por el amor de Cristo. Como cualquier familia, nuestra parroquia necesita la participación de todos sus miembros para prosperar. Los invito a cada uno de ustedes a compartir sus ideas y sugerencias, a ofrecer sus perspectivas y talentos únicos para fortalecer nuestras bases espirituales y financieras. Es a través de nuestros esfuerzos colectivos que realmente podemos hacer de nuestra parroquia un lugar vibrante y acogedor, al compartir nuestras tareas diversas, así como lo hacemos en nuestros hogares. El Espíritu Santo ciertamente nos ha otorgado una plétora de dones, cada uno único y valioso. Les insto a utilizar estos dones para mejorar nuestra comunidad y contribuir a su crecimiento. Cada acto de servicio, por pequeño que sea, contribuye al gran diseño de nuestro propósito divino.

A medida que nos reunimos una vez más, recordémosnos el amor y el respeto que sustentan nuestra comunidad de fe. Nuestro compromiso compartido con las enseñanzas de Cristo y con tratarnos mutuamente con dignidad y amor, se encuentra en el corazón de nuestro viaje espiritual.

A medida que avanzamos, que sigamos creciendo y fortaleciendo nuestros lazos de compañerismo, reflejando el amor de Cristo en todo lo que hacemos.

En el amor de Cristo,

Fr. Bala Anthony Govindu

St. Stephen's Catholic Church
Midland, Texas

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 23rd, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday July 23rd – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am For the Parish
12:00pm †Claudio Arias By Familia
5:00pm Marcellino Trevino by Mother

Monday July 24th– St. Sharbel Makhult, Priest

7:00am †Carol Clay by Terry Repman
5:30pm All the Dearly Departed by Thuan Nguyen

Tuesday July 25th– St. James, Apostle

7:00am Terry Repman by Donna Reker
5:30pm †Margarito Montes by Family

Wednesday July 26th– Saints Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00am †Bill Wohlfeld by Anne Salsbury
5:30pm †Joe Carrasco (HB) by Hortencia Carrasco

Thursday July 27th

7:00am Jaime Lucas by Terry Repman
5:30pm †Stephen McCarthy by Sheila McCarthy

Friday July 28th

7:00am †Karen McLane by Louise Kuzmich
5:30pm Ramirez Family

Saturday July 29th– Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus

8:00am Thanksgiving to Mother Mary & St. Lucy By Natalia Heredia
5:00pm †Jaine Sainz By Husband & Sainz Family

Sunday July 30th – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am For the Parish
12:00pm †Manuel Ortega Wife & Children
5:00pm †Danilo Santibanez By Family

Last Week Collections

Week of 07.17.23-07.23.23

Contributions:	Cash	Checks	Totals
1st Collection	\$ 6,365.33	\$10,846.00	\$17,211.33
		0	
2nd collection for Honduran Partnership	\$ 2,024.89	\$2,095.00	\$4,119.89
Online	\$ 6,513.00		\$6,513.00
Online Giving for Honduran Partnership	\$ 745.00		\$745.00
Mailed-In Contributions	\$ 3,540.00		\$3540.00
		GRAND TOTAL	\$32,129.22

Please pray for the following: Jeremy Wright, Christian Loya, Chuck Carter, Diana Paredez, Denise Ealy, Michelle Rios, Clara Maria, Deepak Dey, Luis Martin Rodriguez, Rolando De Casa, Juan Raul Torres, Aracely Silva, Sonia Castillo & family, Joseph R. Kiowski, Mary Helen Smith, Brandon Taylor, Stephanie Maestas, Baby Sarah, Frankie Hartter, Henk Klaucke, Elizabeth Fritzl, Patricia Loira, Paulo Cesar, Regis, Sonia, Sanae, Joseph Mary Fasi, Alvaro Ramos & family, Joe T., Chris W., Cindy M., Kathleen S., Anthony R., Roberto L., Vasquez family, Isaiah & Victoria, Esther Estrada, Cecilia Livingston, Valerie Fink, Vanessa V. Betty, Randall, Beth B. Marcus, Marcus Jr. Mica & Brittany V., Eddie L., Aileen Paris Rodriguez, Karen Howe, Shashini Kumari, John Walker, Elizabeth Fritzl, Sammy R., Macaria R., Beth B, Lynda Sanchez., Anita P., Martha P., John W. Grace, Carly P., Olivia V., Frank Hartter, Fermin Salgado, Sokolowski family, Maria Salgado, J.J Hord, Bennie Hawkins, Justina Flaynegg, Quincy Jackson Jr., Terri Padilla, M. Gloria Escobedo– Chong, Elia R., Mateo F., Albert Lopez, Ty Hawkins, Ramona Hawkins, Tammy Seidenberger, Cecilia Levington, Maria Ramirez, Socorro M., Christina M., Virginia M., Ian V., Emma Elia R., Frankie Hartter, Mario Ramirez, Axton, & Sarah Beth Carrasco.

Email frontdesk@ssccmidland.com or call the office at 520-7394 to be added to the prayer list! If someone needs to be removed from prayer list please contact the office to remove request.

Upcoming Baptismal Classes / Próximas clases bautismales:

**August 13, 2023 /
13 de Agosto del 2023
English : 2:00 - 4:30pm
Español: 2:30 - 5:00pm**

**Please come by the Office and present
a Driver's License to Register**

**Por favor vengan a la oficina
parroquial y presenten la licencia para
registrarse**

ST. STEPHEN'S CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

8:15 AM to 8:45 AM 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM 4:15 PM to 4:45 PM

MON-FRI:

6:45 AM to 6:55 AM 5:00 PM to 5:25 PM

SATURDAY:

7:45 AM to 7:55 AM 4:00 PM to 4:45 PM

Anytime by appointment

SAVE THE DATE

We invite you to attend The New Pastor Installation Mass for Fr. Bala Anthony Govindu by Bishop Michael Sis on The Feast of the Assumption, Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 7pm. Welcome Reception to follow after Mass in the Gloria Denman Ballroom.

SE NECESITAN COORDINADORES DE MISAS:

Necesitamos Coordinadores de Misa para bodas y funerales. No es necesario que sea un coordinador de Misa, ya que lo capacitaremos. Si está interesado por favor póngase en contacto con Diane Grenvik por mensaje de texto a 432-234-7821 o Viviana Martinez a 817-249-9095.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

St. Stephen's will be holding a training session for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC's) on August 26th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in classroom #11. Are you a fully initiated Catholic (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) in good standing, and a registered member of the Parish? Do you have a deep love for the Eucharist? If you answered "Yes" to all of these questions, please consider joining this important and very special ministry! Please RSVP via email, call, or text (see contact below), as soon as possible so we have enough handout material for everyone. You will need to fill out and bring with you an Application Form (available in the Foyer, at the Parish Office, or you can download from the St. Stephen's website). For more information, please speak with our Priests, Deacons, Mass Coordinators, or contact:

Marcos Ybarra	Gina Ybarra
432-638-9097	432-230-4426
Raidermug@yahoo.com	gmybarra@yahoo.com

BULLETIN AD DEADLINE

If you would like to make an announcement for your ministry or event please email:

bulletin@ssccmidland.com as far in advance as possible.

The bulletin deadline is **Tuesday at 10:00am**. We encourage you to get any announcements to us the week before to ensure we have space for your message. Thank you!

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

Please lock the door and turn the lights to the areas of the church facility you or your group use for a meeting or function. It is good stewardship to ensure the lights and AC/Heat are turned off after using the church's facilities. We appreciate your cooperation in helping mitigate unnecessary costs in utilities by your attention to this matter.

FIRST RESPONDERS

Are you a first responder, doctor or nurse that regularly attends St. Stephen's? If so, please contact the Parish Business Manager, Amanda Treviño at (432)230-2687 or Mandy@ssccmidland.com

PROJECT RACHEL

Project Rachel is a ministry that offers compassion and healing to men and women that have experienced the tragic loss of a child through abortion. We offer confidential weekend retreats where individuals can find God's love and forgiveness which can renew one's relationship with God and His Church. The next retreat is scheduled for July 2023 (Fri-Sun). If you have had an abortion or encouraged an abortion and are looking for healing, please call (432) 236-9883 or email projectrachel@sanangelodiocese.org. We are also looking for individuals that would like to join our prayer team. If you feel called to this, please email prayprojectrachel@yahoo.com

El Proyecto Raquel es un ministerio que ofrece compasión y sanación a hombres y mujeres que han experimentado la trágica pérdida de un hijo (a) a través del aborto. Ofrecemos retiros confidenciales de fin de semana donde las personas pueden encontrar el amor y el perdón de Dios para renovar su relación con Dios y Su Iglesia. El próximo retiro está programado para julio de 2023 (viernes-domingo). Si ha tenido un aborto o ha alentado uno y está buscando sanación, llame al (432) 236-9883 o envíe un correo electrónico a projectrachel@sanangelodiocese.org. También estamos buscando personas que deseen unirse a nuestro equipo de oración. Si se siente llamado (a) a esto, envíe un correo electrónico a prayprojectrachel@yahoo.com

LEGACY RANCH- COMMUNION SERVICE

If you have a loved one at Legacy Ranch in Midland and would like them to receive Communion please call the office for more information. (432)520-7394

LOST AND FOUND

The Parish Office has been holding onto miscellaneous items found over time and going forward will only hold any items found on the property for two weeks. If you have lost an item in the past please contact the Parish office to describe and claim. Items left unclaimed over a two week period will be donated or sold.

BECOME A REGISTERED PARISHIONER

New Parishioners are welcomed! To become a Parishioner, Please register on our website ssccmidland.com

MASS COORDINATORS NEEDED

We are in need of Mass Coordinators for weddings and funerals. You do not have to be a Mass Coordinator as we will train you. If interested, Please contact Diana Grenvik by texting 432.234.7821

PROJECT RACHEL - HEALING AFTER ABORTION

Have you or someone you love suffered from the loss of a child through abortion? We are here to help. Confidential Weekend retreats and counseling after abortion. For more information call 432.236.9883 or email projectrachel@sanangelodiocese.org

MISSION APPEAL

On the weekend of July 29-30, 2023 our parish will host a speaker for the Alliance for International Monasticism (AIM USA). Once a year, as part of the Missionary Cooperative Plan throughout the United States, each parish in the diocese welcomes a member or an associate of a religious community involved in missionary work. Father Victor Schinstock, OSB from Conception Abbey, Conception, MO. is this year's representatives who will share with you some of the work of AIM USA. AIM USA has formed an alliance between 140 US and Canadian monasteries with over 450 Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America and Eastern Europe. These Benedictine and Cistercian women and men form centers of prayer, education, health and agriculture in some of the poorest regions of the world. Please respond to this appeal with openness and generosity.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

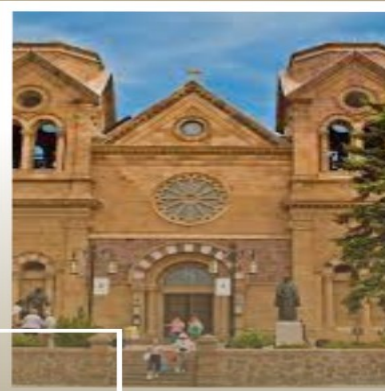
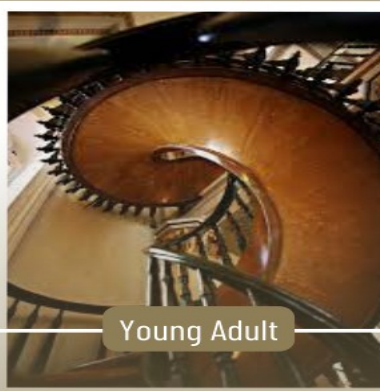
If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, please consider registering for this 13-week GriefShare course. The next session will be held on Tuesdays from August 1st to October 24th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. To register please visit the following link on your computer or smart device:
<https://ststephensmidland.com/griefshare>

Mujeres de Fe y Esperanza te invita
Mini Retiro de Mujeres

SABADO 29 DE JULIO, 2023
8:30 AM- 12:00 PM
DONATIVO: \$15

Tema:
Personaje Extraordinario

Iglesia St. Stephen's
4601 Neely Ave, Midland, Tx 79707

Young Adult

PILGRIMAGE

Friday, August 18

Depart St. Ann's @ 4pm
 Carpool to Our Lady of
 Guadalupe Abbey
 Stop in Roswell, NM for late
 dinner

Saturday, August 19

Breakfast in Abbey
 Trip to Loretto Chapel
 Trip to Chimayo Sanctuary
 lunch in Sante Fe
 Confession available
 Light dinner in Abbey

Sunday, August 20

Breakfast in Abbey
 Sunday Mass at
 Basilica Cathedral of
 St. Francis of Assisi
 Visit Basilica
 late lunch in Roswell,
 NM

Book Now

\$150/person covers room in Abbey,
 transportation, and Loretto Chapel



Helping Hands of Midland
1301 Brinson Lane
Midland Tx.
(432) 520-8900

www.helpinghandsmidland.com



Because we feel it is important that you know how and where your donations to Helping Hands are spent, here is what was done last week:

Electricity	7 families	\$ 2,633.37
Gas	2 families	\$ 171.88
Rent	15 families	\$ 34,520.60
Medical	1 family	\$ 900.00
Total		\$ 38,225.85

We received a call from a woman concerned about her neighbor. She had seen the recently-widowed neighbor and the widow's three children loading up a U-Haul. When asked, the widow explained that the family had gotten several months behind on their mortgage during her late husband's illness. While she had not been served with foreclosure papers yet, she knew they were coming any day now. She had no idea where the family would go from there, but she was preparing to move nonetheless.

The concerned neighbor approached us and when she gave us the name of the woman we immediately recognized her as a member of a family we had helped with medical expenses in the past.

We met with the woman the next day. Her husband has been diagnosed with cancer three years earlier. At the time he had a job and medical insurance. After surgery and chemotherapy, the cancer went into remission, however he was no longer physically able to perform his job and so he was terminated and given a small disability check. Less than a year later the cancer came raging back. With no medical insurance, every last penny that they had between their Social Security disability and her job went to his pain medications, medical bills, food and utilities. There was simply not enough left for the mortgage. He passed away three months ago, at the age of 49. What pain and heartache this family has been through, losing their beloved husband and father at such a young age!

The mortgage company agreed to work with the widow if she could pay half of the past due amount. We were happy to pay the entire past due amount. With her paycheck and her job and her late husband's Social Security, she will be able to keep on top of her bills and support herself and her children. Her mortgage payment is far less than rent on any decent apartment in Midland, and she will be able to keep her children and their pet dog in the home they have lived in for so many years.

Special thanks and blessings to all of you whose donations made it possible to keep this family in their home. Thank you very much!



The Rome Boys would very much like to put up a "Jesus I Trust In You" billboard in Midland and we need your help! There are a variety of ways listed below that you can help! Mention "Midland Billboard" when giving! Or, you can go to www.Romeboys.org and look for the heading "Support Us".

God bless you! You can give via PayPal:

https://www.paypal.com/donatehosted?button_id=NYKSBEH9G85QW&source=url

Mail a check to:

Rome Boys PO Box 207
Rowena, TX 76875

Or become a monthly or yearly donor on Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/romeboys>

THE LIFE CENTER

The Life Center is in need of the following items; size 5 and 6 diapers, toddler pull-ups and baby wipes

Adoration is coming back to our parish

Monday - Friday 7:30am-9:00pm



For more information, to schedule a Holy hour or if The Lord is asking you to spend an hour with him once a week, prayerfully, consider it please contact Linda Foster at 559-8888 There are Paper Sign-Up sheets in Foyer or you may scan the QR code to sign up today:



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ST. STEPHEN'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH