

August 6th, 2023**Vol. 42 No. 1****Rev. Bala Anthony Govindu
Pastor**Parochial Vicar: Rev. Kevin Lenius
Deacons: Leonard Hendon, Luis
Mata, Fidel SaldivarDirector of Religious Education:
Gretchen LaraMusic Director: Gabriel Salgado
Youth Ministry Director: Noe

www.sccmidland.com

4601 Neely Avenue
Midland, Texas 79707

Phone #: (432) 520-7394

Fax #: (432) 520-7395

Dear Family Members of St. Stephen's,

I am writing this message from the depths of my heart, as it holds paramount importance to all of us as parishioners of St. Stephen's Church. The subject I wish to address is our role as stewards of God's gifts and our responsibility to tithe – to return to God what rightfully belongs to Him. The Holy Scriptures guide us, saying "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD." (Leviticus 27:30). It is a divine mandate, a sacred act of worship, an expression of our gratitude to the Divine Giver. Not a mere religious obligation, but a joyful offering, an act of love. Each one of us is endowed with immeasurable blessings and graces from our Heavenly Father. Every day we breathe, every moment we live, every talent we possess, every penny we earn - all of it is a gift from above. And when we offer a portion back, we acknowledge God's generosity, and we embrace the rhythm of divine grace and gratitude. Let us reflect on this: What does it mean to be a steward? What does it mean to tithe? And why is it so crucial for our spiritual and communal growth? Tithing is not merely about financial transactions; it is about our relationship with God and our commitment to our Church family. When we tithe, we are contributing to the very lifeblood of our Church, helping it thrive both spiritually and materially. Every penny dedicated to God's work in our church is a seed sown in fertile ground, a demonstration of our faith, trust, and love for God and our fellow believers. It leads to a ripple effect of blessings that permeate every aspect of our community life. My dear brothers and sisters, let's not just contemplate these truths, but let's act upon them. As a member of this beautiful family of St. Stephens, I confess, I have not done as much as I could have, as much as I should have. But today, I stand before you, humbled, and willing to make a change. I am moved by the spirit of God within me, to commit a part of my earnings, to be set aside cheerfully for the upkeep of our church, for serving the poor and the needy, for advancing God's kingdom on earth. I invite you to join me in this mission. Each contribution, no matter how small, when given with love, can bring about significant transformation. When we tithe, we are not losing something; rather, we are gaining something far more valuable - the profound satisfaction of sharing God's blessings, the fulfillment of being His faithful stewards. My dear family of St. Stephens, let us open our hearts and our hands. Let us joyfully participate in the divine dance of giving and receiving, knowing that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) May God bless us as we journey together in stewardship and tithing, growing in love, faith, and service. Amen.

Fr. Bala Anthony Govindu

Queridos miembros de la familia de San Esteban,

Les escribo este mensaje desde lo más profundo de mi corazón, ya que tiene una importancia primordial para todos nosotros como feligreses de la Iglesia de San Esteban. El tema que deseo abordar es nuestro papel como administradores de los dones de Dios y nuestra responsabilidad de diezmar, devolviéndole a Dios lo que legítimamente le pertenece. Las Sagradas Escrituras nos guían, diciendo: "El diezmo de todo lo que la tierra produce, ya sean cereales del suelo o frutos de los árboles, pertenece al SEÑOR; es sagrado para el SEÑOR" (Levítico 27:30). Es un mandato divino, un acto sagrado de adoración, una expresión de gratitud al Divino Dador. No es solo una obligación religiosa, sino una ofrenda gozosa, un acto de amor. Cada uno de nosotros está dotado de bendiciones e gracias inmensurables de nuestro Padre Celestial. Cada día que respiramos, cada momento que vivimos, cada talento que poseemos, cada centavo que ganamos; todo es un regalo del cielo. Y cuando ofrecemos una parte de vuelta, reconocemos la generosidad de Dios y abrazamos el ritmo de la gracia divina y la gratitud. Reflexionemos sobre esto: ¿Qué significa ser un administrador? ¿Qué significa diezmar? ¿Y por qué es tan crucial para nuestro crecimiento espiritual y comunitario? El diezmo no se trata simplemente de transacciones financieras; se trata de nuestra relación con Dios y nuestro compromiso con nuestra familia de la Iglesia. Cuando diezmamos, estamos contribuyendo a la misma vida de nuestra Iglesia, ayudándola a prosperar tanto espiritual como materialmente. Cada centavo dedicado al trabajo de Dios en nuestra iglesia es una semilla sembrada en tierra fértil, una demostración de nuestra fe, confianza y amor por Dios y nuestros hermanos creyentes. Conduce a un efecto multiplicador de bendiciones que impregnan cada aspecto de nuestra vida comunitaria. Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas, no solo reflexionemos sobre estas verdades, sino actuemos en consecuencia. Como miembro de esta hermosa familia de San Esteban, confieso que no he hecho tanto como podría haber hecho, tanto como debería haber hecho. Pero hoy, me presento ante ustedes, humilde y dispuesto a cambiar. Me siento movido por el espíritu de Dios dentro de mí, para comprometer una parte de mis ingresos, para destinarla con alegría al mantenimiento de nuestra iglesia, para servir a los pobres y necesitados, para avanzar en el reino de Dios en la tierra. Los invito a unirse a mí en esta misión. Cada contribución, por pequeña que sea, cuando se da con amor, puede generar una transformación significativa. Cuando diezmamos, no estamos perdiendo algo; más bien, estamos ganando algo mucho más valioso: la profunda satisfacción de compartir las bendiciones de Dios, el cumplimiento de ser fieles administradores suyos. Querida familia de San Esteban, abramos nuestros corazones y nuestras manos. Participemos con alegría en la danza divina de dar y recibir, sabiendo que "hay más dicha en dar que en recibir" (Hechos 20:35). Que Dios nos bendiga mientras viajamos juntos en la administración y el diezmo, creciendo en amor, fe y servicio. Amén.

Padre Bala Anthony Govindu

St. Stephen's Catholic Church
Midland, Texas

The Transfiguration of the Lord

August 6th, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday August 6th – The Transfiguration of the Lord

9:00am Eva Russum (HB) By Family
12:00pm †Claudio Arias By Familia
5:00pm For the Parish

Monday August 7th– St. Sixtus II, Pope, & Companions, Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest

7:00am †Madolyn Lamonica by Amanda Trevino
5:30pm Jude Qualls (HB) By Oma & Uncle Andrew

Tuesday August 8th–St. Dominic, Priest

7:00am †Stephen McCarthy By Sheila McCarthy
5:30pm †Caitlin Pause By Barger Family

Wednesday August 9th– St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin & Martyr

7:00am Ted & Delia By Mom & Dad
5:30pm †Hilario L. Vasquez Jr. By Daughter

Thursday August 10th– St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr

7:00am John & Kathleen By Mom & Dad
5:30pm †Roman Solano By Hortencia Carrasco

Friday August 11th– St. Clare, Virgin

7:00am Martin & Susan By Mom & Dad
5:30pm †Karen McLane By Louise Kuzmich

Saturday August 12th– St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious' BVM

8:00am †Josefina Arellano By Family
5:00pm †Joe & Hortencia Carrasco By Daughter

Sunday August 13th– 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am †Francis M. Logan III By Family
12:00pm Por la Parroquia
5:00pm †Marcedes Kern Logan By Daughter

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**

Please pray for the following: Jeremy Wright, Christian Loya, Chuck Carter, Diana Paredes, 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 Klauke, 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, Valarie 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 Flayngeg, 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, & Luke.

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. Thank you!

Last Week Collections

Week of 07.24.23-07.30.23

Contributions:	Cash	Checks	Totals
Sat. 5pm 1st collection	\$1,037.00	\$3,628.81	\$4,665.81
Sun. 9am 1st collection	\$1,941.96	\$4,471.00	\$6,412.96
Sun. 12pm 1st collection	\$2,342.67	\$825.00	\$3,167.67
Sun. 5pm 1st collection	\$1,642.00	\$2,545.00	\$4,187.00
2nd Collection for AIM Mission Appeal	\$5,584.07	\$1,160.00	\$6,744.07
Online Giving	\$3,488.00		\$3,488.00
Mailed-In Contributions	\$6,081.00		\$6,081.00
GRAND TOTAL			\$34,746.51

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Effective August 2023

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm

Friday 9am-1pm

We will open through lunch every day for your convenience

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

432-638-9097

Raidermug@yahoo.com

Gina Ybarra

432-230-4426

gmybarra@yahoo.com

ST. MICHAEL'S LENT- AUGUST 15- SEPTEMBER 29

The best wingman you'll ever have. The 40 days of St. Michael's Lent leads men through prayer and penance- imitating the practice of St. Francis of Assisi who used this time to prepare for the great feast of the Archangel Michael. For more information contact Steve Robichaud at steverobichaud@sbcglobal.net or (432) 352-5195. or George Ulmo at georgeaulmo@gmail.com or (432)661-7581

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

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

CCD REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN

We will be registering for all grades all of August in the Parish Office. The fee for all grades is \$40. Classes will begin Monday, September 11th in Spanish from 6:15pm-7:45pm. Classes in English will begin Wednesday, September 13th. K-6th is from 5:30pm-6:30pm & 7th-12th is from 6:45pm-8:00pm.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Let us know your areas of interest. Let's serve our Parish Community together. Visit our website Ststephensmidland.com/volunteer to see where you might be interested in volunteering.

Please RSVP



We invite you to attend The New Pastor Installation Mass for Fr. Bala Anthony Govindu on The Feast of The Assumption, Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 7pm

Welcome Reception to follow after mass in The Gloria Denman Ballroom.
PLEASE RSVP BY AUGUST 7TH



Use This QR Code to RSVP



ST. STEPHEN'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

REPRESENTANTES ACREDITADOS PARA LA DIÓCESIS DE SAN ANGELO CLÍNICA DE SERVICIOS LEGALES DE INMIGRACIÓN



IGLESIA CATÓLICA NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE

1401 E GARDEN LANE
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701
9AM A 4PM

CITAS Y INFORMACION

(Por favor, no llame a la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe)

Servicios de Inmigración de la Diócesis de San Angelo

Contacte a Patricia Stokes Santana
o Brianna Dairy @325.212.6192
para mas detalles.

LAS CONSULTAS DE OFICINA Y TELEFÓNICAS Y LOS SERVICIOS
DE INMIGRACIÓN SE PROPORCIONAN POR LAS TARIFAS NORMALES.

Cada 1er y 3er miércoles del mes en Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Hacer una cita es preferible, por favor.

St. Stephen's Women's Organization

"Our mission is to promote the spiritual, physical, and educational welfare of the community of St. Stephen's by putting into action, the spiritual and corporal works of mercy" The St. Stephen's Women's Organization is inviting all ladies of St. Stephen's Parish to join us at our upcoming 1st general meeting on Monday August 14th at 6:30pm in the Parlor. ** Monthly General Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Parlor and we begin with social time (meal) at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:00pm – Please join us **For more information, please contact Vice President Carmen Rodelo at 432-978-7723 or any member of the organization. We look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

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>

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

DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO CURSILLO

Women's English Cursillo 3-day weekend August 24-27th, 2023 at Holy Trinity, Big Spring, Rectora Mary Padilla. & Men's English Cursillo 3- day weekend September 21-24, 2023 at St. Vincent Pallotti, Abilene, Rector Steve Robichaud. For more information contact Steve Robichaud @ (432)352-5195

CLUB DANCE

DATE/TIME: Saturday, August 19, 2023/6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

COST/ATTIRE:\$30.00 per person/Casual

BAND: "Emily & the Rumba Kings" (C & W, Foxtrot, Latin, Swing, Variety)

CATERER: Phoenix Catering

MENU: Chicken Enchiladas with Sour Cream Sauce, Mexican Rice, Charro Beans, Mexican Salad, Margarita Bars, Unsweet & Sweet Tea, Water.

Please remember to make advance reservations, if possible, for this dance

So that we may have an accurate count for our wonderful caterer! **NOTE: NO BYOB is allowed in the Gloria Denman Ballroom per church policy.

Reservations may be mailed to Club Dance, P. O. Box 7421, Midland, TX 79708. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, August 16, 2023. For more information, PLEASE CONTACT our Reservations Coordinator at: permanmusic87@gmail.com. Please do not contact St. Stephens for information on this function as it is separate from the church. THANK YOU!

Historic Beginnings of San Angelo

Sor María de Jesús de Agreda "The Lady in Blue" Annual Celebration Friday, August 11, 7:30 pm Showing of the documentary The Needle and the Thread by producer Victor Mancilla at the Brooks & Bates Theatre Tickets available at www.sanangelopac.org Saturday, August 12th 10 am - Procession from Celebration Bridge followed by dedication of Historic Beginnings of San Angelo site 2 pm - Caravan from the site to the historic painted rocks at the Campbell Ranch in Paint Rock 7 pm - Reception & veneration of relics at St. Joseph's Parish Hall Sunday, August 13, 10 am Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Michael Sis FOR MORE INFORMATION, call 325-227-7777/325-656-5550 or ladyinblue.sjt@gmail.com

HEALING MASS

Our first Healing Mass will be Saturday August 26th @ 7pm in Spanish and in English our Healing Mass with be Saturday September 2nd @7pm.

**ACTIVE
SHOOTER
TRAINING**

**THURSDAY
AUGUST 24, 2023**

**Time: 6:00pm-
7:30pm**

**Location: The
Gloria Denman
Ballroom**

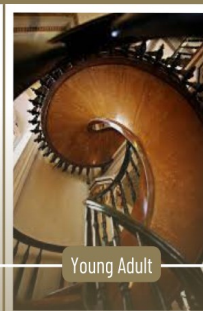
**ALL PARISHIONERS
ARE ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND.**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



**ST. STEPHEN'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**BRING A FRIEND, IT
COULD SAVE THEIR
LIFE ONE DAY.**



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	5 families	\$ 1,145.95
Water	1 family	\$ 500.00
Rent	21 families	\$ 28,747.97
TOTAL		\$ 30,393.92

Homelessness. Such a terrible problem in our country right now. Lately Nextdoor (the neighborhood phone app we use to communicate with our Midland neighbors) has been full of talk about the homeless in our community. There are as many as 30 homeless people in Midland. Blame has been given to APS for not doing their part, and to all of us for not doing more to help these people.

Well, we can honestly say that homeless in Midland is much higher than what is reported. That is because the reported number are those people who live on the streets. You can offer to help them, to give them food, money, and an occasional motel room for a night or two, but then they end up on the streets again. They refuse help from APS.

There is help for the homeless, but only if they want it. We work regularly with the Salvation Army to provide housing for the homeless. The truly homeless...who graciously accept the temporary shelter offered by the Salvation Army and live up to the minimal rules imposed on them to stay at the facility. Eventually these people are able to find jobs and qualify for Section 8 housing assistance. While the Salvation Army houses and cares for them until they reach that point, they lack the funding to take it from there. That is where we come in. We will cover the deposit and first month's rent for anyone coming out of Salvation Army who qualifies to move into an apartment. And what a blessing it is to help them. These people are usually elderly...not the stereotypical deadbeat alcoholic or drug addict. They are oftentimes veterans, people in their sixties and seventies who have fallen on hard times, lost everything, and are seeking to give it another go. We get such joy in participating in their resurrection experience. In the past 2 weeks we have assisted six of these people begin their new lives off the streets.

The 30 people living on the streets that are getting such attention from those on Nextdoor can receive the same help as those mentioned above. They just have to be willing to follow a few simple rules, just like the rest of us do. Please do not fault APS for something over which they have no control. They are a very valued, a very necessary part of our society.

AUGUST TRUCK SCHEDULE

Our trucks will be at St. Ann's on Saturday, August 19 from 9 am until 1 p.m. to pick up your donations.

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.

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!

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.

THE LIFE CENTER

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

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



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**We Thank Peter McDonald of
Universal Paving and Seal Coating &
Bob Gorman of Paving Pro for their
excellent work on the front church
parking lot recently.**



ST. STEPHEN'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH