

September 17th, 2023

Rev. Bala Anthony Govindu
Pastor

Deacons: Leonard Hendon, Luis
Mata, Fidel Saldivar
Director of Religious Education:
Gretchen Lara
Music Director: Gabriel Salgado



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The Radical Call to Forgiveness

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Today's readings from Sirach, Romans, and the Gospel of Matthew offer a powerful message about the transformative power of forgiveness.

First Reading: Sirach 27:30—28:7: The Book of Sirach offers a practical philosophy of life, steeped in wisdom. Today's passage begins by describing how wrath and anger are hateful things, yet sinners love to hold on to them. In very straightforward terms, Sirach urges us to forgive our neighbor's injustices, so that when we pray, our own sins may be forgiven. The lesson is clear: harboring resentment is akin to building walls around our hearts. These walls not only separate us from others but also from God's love and grace. Sirach invites us to break down these barriers by practicing forgiveness.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9: Paul's message to the Romans further illuminates the theme of forgiveness by emphasizing the connectedness of all in Christ. He reminds us that we do not live for ourselves and we do not die for ourselves; whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. Our lives are intertwined in a way that transcends our earthly understanding. This interconnection implies a shared responsibility, to not only live for ourselves but to be conscious of how our actions, including the act of forgiveness or lack thereof, impact the wider community and, ultimately, our relationship with God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35: In the Gospel, Peter asks Jesus how often one must forgive. Jesus' response, to forgive "seventy times seven" times, seems almost outrageous in its scope. Through the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus further emphasizes the gravity of unforgiveness. The servant who is forgiven a massive debt but turns around and fails to forgive another a much smaller one finds himself in torment. The message is unequivocal: as we have been forgiven, so must we forgive.

El Llamado Radical al Perdón

Queridas hermanas y hermanos en Cristo: Las lecturas de hoy de Sirácides, Romanos y el Evangelio de Mateo nos ofrecen un poderoso mensaje sobre el poder transformador del perdón.

Primera Lectura: Sirácides 27:30—28:7: El Libro de Sirácides ofrece una filosofía práctica de la vida, impregnada de sabiduría. El pasaje de hoy comienza describiendo cómo la ira y el enojo son cosas odiosas, pero los pecadores aman aferrarse a ellas. En términos muy claros, Sirácides nos insta a perdonar las injusticias de nuestro prójimo, para que cuando recemos, nuestros propios pecados sean perdonados. La lección es clara: albergar resentimiento es como construir muros alrededor de nuestros corazones. Estos muros no solo nos separan de los demás, sino también del amor y la gracia de Dios. Sirácides nos invita a derribar estas barreras practicando el perdón.

Segunda Lectura: Romanos 14:7-9: El mensaje de Pablo a los romanos ilumina aún más el tema del perdón al enfatizar la interconexión de todos en Cristo. Nos recuerda que no vivimos para nosotros mismos y no morimos para nosotros mismos; ya sea que vivamos o muramos, somos del Señor. Nuestras vidas están entrelazadas de una manera que trasciende nuestro entendimiento terrenal. Esta interconexión implica una responsabilidad compartida, de no solo vivir para nosotros mismos, sino de ser conscientes de cómo nuestras acciones, incluido el acto de perdonar o no hacerlo, impactan a la comunidad en general y, en última instancia, nuestra relación con Dios.

Lectura del Evangelio: Mateo 18:21-35: En el Evangelio, Pedro pregunta a Jesús cuántas veces se debe perdonar. La respuesta de Jesús, de perdonar "setenta veces siete" veces, parece casi escandalosa en su alcance. A través de la parábola del siervo sin misericordia, Jesús enfatiza aún más la gravedad de la falta de perdón. El siervo que es perdonado de una deuda masiva pero luego no perdona a otro una mucho más pequeña se encuentra en tormento. El mensaje es inequívoco: como se nos ha perdonado, así debemos perdonar.

St. Stephen's Catholic Church
Midland, Texas

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17th, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday September 17th– 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am †Madalyn LaMonica (HB) By Daughter Mandy
10:00am Mary Truex By Family
12:00pm †Pablo & †Guadalupe Gonzalez By Hijos
5:00pm For the Parish
7:00pm †Saul & †Ana Isabelle Riano By Ana Riano

Monday September 18th

7:00am †Bill Wohlfeld By Friends
5:30pm Kevin Lee Garcia By Joanna Loya

Tuesday September 19th– St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr

7:00am Javier & Susan Guebara By Staff
5:30pm †Brandon Barger By Family

Wednesday September 20th– Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, & Paul Chong Ha-Sang, & Companions, Martyrs

7:00am Pena Family By Maria Esther
12:15pm Daniel Edwards By Family
5:30pm †Abel & †Viola Acosta By Family

Thursday September 21st– St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

7:00am †Yolanda Mendez By Family
5:30pm †Manuela Solano By Hortencia Carrasco

Friday September 22nd

7:00am †Bill Wohlfeld By Friends
12:15pm Melissa Phillips By Family
5:30pm Pena Family By Maria Esther

Saturday September 23rd– St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

8:00am Saul Pena By Maria Esther
5:00pm †Elidia & †Valente Jimenez By Laura Hernandez

Sunday September 24th– 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am Luke Thomas By Family
10:00am For the Parish
12:00pm †Claudio Arias By Familia
5:00pm Bernadette Woodburn By Family
7:00pm †Alfonso & †Pureza Herrera By Ana Riano

Upcoming Baptismal Classes / Próximas clases bautismales:

**October 8th, 2023 /
8 de Octubre 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: 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, 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, Zac Curtis, Dayton Martinez, Contreras-Holguin family, Marisela R., Michael R., Luna R., Oscar O., Estela O. Brisa O, Joel Ybarra, Erica Hernandez, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, the Cáceres family. Evan Lujan, Jonathan Jaquez, Linda Q., & John V.

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 09.04.23-09.10.23

Contributions:	Cash	Checks	Totals
Sat. 5pm 1st collection	\$737.00	\$2,252.00	\$2,989.00
Sun. 8am 1st collection	\$884.00	\$3,122.74	\$4,006.74
Sun. 10am 1st collection	\$1,357.43	\$4,151.00	\$5,508.43
Sun. 12pm 1st collection	\$2,514.19	\$925.00	\$3,439.19
Sun. 5pm 1st collection	\$1,621.25	\$4,440.00	\$6,061.25
Sun. 7pm 1st collection	\$214.00	\$0.00	\$214.00
Online Giving	\$4,748.00	\$0.00	\$4,748.00
Mailed-In Contributions	\$2,135.00		\$2,135.00
Healing Masses	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
Daily Masses	\$1,738.88	\$25.00	\$1,763.88
		GRAND TOTAL	\$27,606.71

2nd Collection– Helping Hands	\$154.00	\$5,155.00	\$5,309
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



ADORATION IS HERE AT OUR PARISH

Adoration hours are
Monday– Friday 7:30am-10:00pm.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHTS

Tuesday youth nights for High School students (ages 14 -17) will be every Tuesday @ 6:30pm in the youth building.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

The middle school youth ministry will be merging with the 7th & 8th grade CCD program, which will meet every Wednesday @6:45pm beginning September 13th. This will be taking place of the Sunday middle school youth nights, so please be sure to register through the CCD program if you want your kids to attend.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

If you would like to learn more about our young adult ministry, please email youthministry@ssccmidland.com.

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

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING AND PARENT MEETING

This fall there will be two mandatory trainings for altar servers in grades 3 to 9. These trainings are open for any youth who have received their holy Communion and are interested in joining this ministry at St. Stephen's Parish. This is a beautiful ministry for female and male youth. We are grateful for the dedication of those who are presently part of this special ministry and we are inviting all youth who may have an interest to join us. There is always pizza after every training. There will also be a parent meeting from 2:00 to 2:45 on Sunday Sept. 17. This parent meeting is for all servers. Sunday Sept. 17, 2023 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm Sanctuary of the Church' 2:00pm to 2:45 pm Parent Meeting in the Chapel Sunday Oct. 15, 2023 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm Sanctuary of the Church

For additional information or questions please contact:
Anne Hobbs
432-934-3192
behobbs47@gmail.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

HEALING MASS

Healing Mass will be every First Saturday @ 7:00pm in English and cada cuatro Sabado en Espanol @ 7:00pm

What We Believe

THE BEAUTY OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

EXPLORE THE AMAZING RICHES OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH



What is the Catholic Church all about? What does it mean to be Catholic? What do Catholics actually believe? Join us as we explore these topics.

Our 11 Week study session started September the 13th and will continue every Wednesday from 9:30-11:00 A.M. Class material can be purchased at the office for \$25. Please join us in St. Stephen's classroom #2. For more information, please call 432-559-2658 or 432-312-

CAPACITACIÓN DE MONAGUILLOS Y REUNIÓN DE PADRES

Este otoño habrá dos capacitaciones obligatorias para monaguillos en los grados 3 a 9. Estos entrenamientos están abiertos para cualquier joven que haya recibido su Sagrada Comunión y esté interesado en unirse a este ministerio en la Parroquia de San Esteban. Este es un hermoso ministerio para jóvenes femeninos y masculinos. Estamos agradecidos por la dedicación de aquellos que actualmente forman parte de este ministerio especial e invitamos a todos los jóvenes que puedan tener interés a unirse a nosotros. Siempre hay pizza después de cada entrenamiento. También habrá una reunión de padres de 2:00 a 2:45 el domingo 17 de septiembre. Esta reunión principal es para todos los servidores. Domingo 17 de septiembre de 2023 1:30 pm a 3:00 pm Santuario de la Iglesia' 2:00pm a 2:45 pm Reunión de padres en la capilla Domingo 15 de octubre de 2023 1:30 pm a 3:00 pm Santuario de la Iglesia

Para obtener información adicional o preguntas, póngase en contacto con:
Anne Hobbs
432-934-3192
behobbs47@gmail.com

Save the Date! ST. STEPHEN'S FALL FESTIVAL

Hosted by St. Stephen's Women's Organization

WHEN: OCTOBER 21, 2023

TIME: 6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

WHERE: PARISH HALL

ENTRANCE FEE PER FAMILY: BAG OF CANDY

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND JOIN US!



ENGLISH OCIA, formerly known as RCIA, will start on Tuesday September 19, 2023 at 6:30-6:45 PM in our Parlor.

ENGLISH ADULT CONFIRMATION will start Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Ballroom.

If you haven't signed up already please either call the parish office, 520-7394 and fill out form at <https://ststephensmidland.com/adult-inquirer-form>.

INGLÉS OCIA, anteriormente conocida como RICA, comenzará el martes 19 de septiembre de 2023 de 6:30 a 6:45 p. m. en nuestro salón.

LA CONFIRMACIÓN DE ADULTOS EN INGLÉS comenzará el martes 26 de septiembre de 2023 a las 7:00 p. m. en el salón de baile.

Si aún no se ha registrado, llame a la oficina parroquial al 520-7394 y complete el formulario en <https://ststephensmidland.com/adult-inquirer-form>.



St. Stephen's Women's Organization

The St. Stephen's Women's Organization would like to invite ALL women of our parish to join us at our next meeting to be held on October 9, 2023 @ 6:30 PM in the Parlor. We serve our parish by preparing receptions for special events, preparing meals, organizing and hosting the Fall Festival, Christmas Dinner and Dance, Fish Fry and more. We also serve at the 10:00 mass once per month to usher, EM and lector. We are currently planning our Fall Festival and Dress an Angel events and would love to have your smiling face join us in serving our beautiful parish community! For more information please contact Vice President Carmen Rodelo @ 432-978-7723, President Gina Ybarra @ 432-230-4426 or any member of the organization! We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

ADVERTISEMENTS

If you would like to advertise your business in our bulletin please call the office or email bulletin@ssccmidland.com for more information.

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!

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.

CCD NEWS

Mondays (Spanish) 6:15pm-7:45pm & Wednesday (English) K-6th 5:30pm-6:30pm & 7th -12th 6:45pm-8:00pm. We also ask if anyone would like to donate to our Catechist Wishlist listed below:

Pencils, pens, crayons, markers, glue, glue sticks, notebooks, scissors, paper, snacks, construction paper, religious rewards, rosaries, etc. Thank you in advance!

KNIGHT'S OF COLUMBUS NEWS:

The Knights of Columbus would like to extend an invitation to all practicing Catholic men 18 years or older that are parishioners of St. Stephens to join the largest Catholic fraternity worldwide. At the Knights of Columbus, we teach men lessons in Charity, Unity and Fraternity. We are Catholic men striving to strengthen our families and communities in faith, to strengthen family bonds, to protect those that cannot protect themselves, and to serve those who need help - whether they are next door or halfway around the world. We put our faith into action! If you would like to learn more, please visit our website at <http://www.kofc.org/join> or you can visit with Marcos Ybarra, our Grand Knight @ 432-638-9097 or any Knight wearing a green vest. Your St. Stephens Knight of Columbus council 12657 will be collecting funds for the purchase of Coats for Kids for Christmas on September 23 & 24. Please consider donating generously. Also, starting September 26 we will be praying a rosary on Tuesday evenings at 8 pm in the church. All are welcome!



Guadalupe Radio Network

Fishers of Men' Dinner

Saturday, Oct 7, 2023
7pm-9pm

Odessa Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
305 E 5th St - Odessa, TX 79761

Honorees: Sondra and Toby Eoff

Benediction: Bishop Michael Sis



Keynote Speaker: Msgr Charles Pope



GRNTICKETS@GRNOnline.com
1-88-784-3476

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:

Electric	5 families	\$ 2,111.84
Water	2 families	\$ 722.11
Rent	18 families	\$ 35,559.96
Total		\$ 38,393.91

Last week we met with Laura, a 40-year-old woman who called our helpline in need of assistance with her rent. She said the reason she was behind was that she was raising 6 of her brother's children and the expense of getting them all situated and ready to go back to school devastated her financially. Laura is divorced, with grown children and lives in a house that she was saving up money to buy, however the savings soon vanished when she assumed responsibility for the kids.

Her brother and his wife have 10 children together however the mother has a long history of not taking care of the children and CPS has been involved in numerous occasions. Both were arrested and spent time in jail (surprisingly, according to Laura, drugs are not a factor). Laura took 6 of the kids and her mother took the other 4.

When we met with Laura, her brother had been released the day before and is staying with her until he can find a job and a place to stay. Per CPS, the mother cannot get custody of the kids until she takes parenting classes, which she refuses to do. Laura is filing for custody.

She brought one of the children with her to the meeting, a boy of perhaps 8 or 9. He looked at her adoringly during the meeting and what he told me he most loved about her was that she always made sure he had a toothbrush and toothpaste.

Our hearts went out to Laura, but we felt good about the future she would be able to provide for the children. We helped her with 4 months of rent to help her adjust to her changed lifestyle and also provide a good Christmas for the kids. We pray for this family and especially for those children who have already been through so much at such a young age.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need a volunteer to pick up the bread and pastries at the United on Midland Drive and Wadley on Monday and/or Friday before 9:30 am and bring it to our location at 1301 Brinson Lane. If interested please call Mary (432) 528-6265 anytime.

Dear Parishioners of St. Stephen's Parish,

As a member, and current president of St. Stephen's Parish Council I am writing this letter to all members of our parish.

Our council members are here to serve the needs of our pastor Father Bala and the entire parish community. As your representatives we want to be sure you know who we are and how to contact us should you feel the need. We like to hear about things you enjoy and appreciate, things you are concerned about and any suggestions you may have to help our parish grow in spirituality and community.

Listed below are the names and contact information for each of our current Officers:

Liz Madrid	President	432-352-1961
Elsa Torres	Vice-President	432-661-2888
Gina Ybarra	Secretary	432-230-4426

We will be distributing our complete members list soon. We encourage all parishioners to be involved in the activities and ministries of our St. Stephen's Catholic Community. This includes considering running for membership on the Parish Council as positions become available.

In peace and love,

Liz Madrid

You then, are the body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27

Queridos feligreses de la parroquia de San Esteban,

Como miembro, y en la actualidad, presidente del Consejo Parroquial de San Esteban, escribo esta carta a todos los miembros de nuestra parroquia.

Nuestros miembros del consejo están aquí para servir a las necesidades de nuestro párroco, el Padre Bala, y de toda la comunidad parroquial. Como sus representantes, queremos asegurarnos de que sepa quiénes somos y cómo contactarnos si siente la necesidad. Nos gusta escuchar sobre las cosas que disfrutas y aprecias, las cosas que te preocupan y cualquier sugerencia que puedas tener para ayudar a nuestra parroquia a crecer en espiritualidad y comunidad. A continuación se enumeran los nombres y la información de contacto de cada uno de nuestros oficiales actuales:

Liz Madrid	Presidenta	432-352-1961
Elsa Torres	Vice presidenta	432-661-2888
Gina Ybarra	Secretaria	432-230-4426

Pronto pondremos nuestra lista completa de miembros. Alentamos a todos los feligreses a participar en las actividades y ministerios de nuestra Comunidad Católica de San Esteban. Esto incluye considerar postularse para ser miembro del Consejo Parroquial a medida que haya puestos disponibles.

En paz y amor,

Liz Madrid

Tú, entonces, eres el cuerpo de Cristo. Cada uno de ustedes es miembro de ella: 1 Corinthians 12:27

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

**Location: The Gloria
Denman Ballroom**



NOVEMBER TRAINING

SAVE THE DATE

**ALL PARISHIONERS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**



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



ST. STEPHEN'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH