

September 24th, 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 boundless mercy and generosity of God

25th Sunday Readings: Isaiah 55:6-9, Philipians 1:20c-24, 27a and Matthew 20:1-16a

Isaiah 55:6-9 : This reading is from the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. It exhorts readers to seek the Lord while He is near and to forsake wickedness and unrighteous thoughts. It also illustrates the transcendence of God's thoughts and ways above human thoughts and ways, reminding us of the unsearchable wisdom and mercy of God.

Philipians 1:20c-24, 27a: This reading is from St. Paul's letter to the Philipians in the New Testament. In this passage, Paul expresses his internal struggle between his desire to depart this life and be with Christ, which is far better, and his need to remain in the flesh for the sake of the Philipians. He also urges the Philipians to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

Matthew 20:1-16a: This reading from the Gospel of Matthew presents the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. In this parable, a landowner hires laborers at different times throughout the day but pays them all the same wage – a denarius, the typical daily wage at that time. This parable illustrates the generous and gracious nature of God, where the last will be first and the first will be last, emphasizing God's grace and generosity.

Reflection: Today's readings emphasize the boundless mercy and generosity of God and we are encouraged to seek God earnestly and to live lives worthy of the Gospel. We are reminded that it's never too late to turn to God, and God's grace is available to everyone, regardless of when we come to faith. The importance of living in a manner that reflects Christian values and virtues, embodying the generosity and grace depicted in the parable, and fostering a community where everyone is valued and respected.

La infinita misericordia y generosidad de Dios

Lecturas del Domingo 25: Isaías 55:6-9, Filipenses 1:20c-24, 27a y Mateo 20:1-16a

Isaías 55:6-9: Esta lectura es del libro de Isaías en el Antiguo Testamento. Exhorta a los lectores a buscar al Señor mientras está cerca y a abandonar la maldad y los pensamientos injustos. También ilustra la trascendencia de los pensamientos y caminos de Dios sobre los pensamientos y caminos humanos, recordándonos la insondable sabiduría y misericordia de Dios.

Filipenses 1:20c-24, 27a: Esta lectura es de la carta de San Pablo a los Filipenses en el Nuevo Testamento. En este pasaje, Pablo expresa su lucha interna entre su deseo de partir de esta vida y estar con Cristo, lo cual es mucho mejor, y su necesidad de permanecer en la carne por el bien de los Filipenses. También insta a los Filipenses a conducirse de una manera digna del Evangelio de Cristo.

Mateo 20:1-16a: Esta lectura del Evangelio de Mateo presenta la Parábola de los Trabajadores en la Viña. En esta parábola, un terrateniente contrata obreros en diferentes momentos del día, pero les paga a todos el mismo salario: un denario, el salario diario típico de esa época. Esta parábola ilustra la naturaleza generosa y bondadosa de Dios, donde los últimos serán los primeros y los primeros serán los últimos, enfatizando la gracia y generosidad de Dios.

Reflexión: Las lecturas de hoy enfatizan la infinita misericordia y generosidad de Dios y se nos anima a buscar a Dios con sinceridad y a vivir vidas dignas del Evangelio. Se nos recuerda que nunca es tarde para volvernos a Dios, y la gracia de Dios está disponible para todos, sin importar cuándo lleguemos a la fe. Es importante vivir de una manera que refleje los valores y virtudes cristianas, encarnando la generosidad y gracia descritas en la parábola, y fomentando una comunidad donde todos son valorados y respetados.

St. Stephen's Catholic Church
Midland, Texas

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24th, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

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 Valentino Pio Trevino By Parents & Bernadette Woodburn By Family
7:00pm †Alfonso & †Pureza Herrera By Ana Riano

Monday September 25th

7:00am Saul Pena By Maria Esther
5:30pm †Gabriel Alvarez By Family & Thomas E. Schneider (8th Death Anniv.) By Ana & Kelsi Schneider

Tuesday September 26th– Saints Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs

7:00am Ngozi Emembolu (HB) By Family
5:30pm Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart By Lopez Family

Wednesday September 27th– St. Vincent de Paul, Priest

7:00am Saul Pena By Maria Esther
12:15pm Charles Heap By Family
5:30pm †Maegan Sanders By Family

Thursday September 28th– St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, Martyr

7:00am Carmen Elena Villa By Maria Esther
5:30pm Addy Ruiz By Family

Friday September 29th– Saints Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels

7:00am †Nancy Pulte By Emembolu Family
12:15pm Edith Reeves By Godmother
5:30pm Michael Edwards By Family

Saturday September 30th– Saint Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:00am Becky & Fernando By Friend
5:00pm Maisley Phillips By Edward Family

Sunday October 1st– 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am †Sue Wiesman By A.J. & Marilyn Wachsmann
10:00am Altar Servers of St. Stephen's By Parish
12:00pm Por la Parroquia
5:00pm James Fink (Baptism Anniv.) By Godparents
7:00pm †Olivia Sanchez Jasso By Adele Dominguez

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 Flaynegg, Quincy Jackson Jr., Terri Padilla, M. Gloria Escobedo– Chong, Elia R., Mateo F., Albert Lopez, Ty Hawkins, Ramona Hawkins, Tammy Seidenberger, 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., Mila Thorn, Britani Thorn, & Jake Thorn.

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!

Collection Totals for last week will be in
next weekends bulletin. Sorry for the
inconvenience.

God and Father, we ask
you to be with young
people as they experience
sorrow and joy. Protect
them from the dangers that
are present in our world
today. Give them and their
families the courage to
follow you as they journey
through life. Amen.

St. Stephen's Catholic Church
SAINTS ALIVE

Youth
GROUP

FAITH • FUN • FOOD • FELLOWSHIP

EVERY TUESDAY • 6:30PM - 8:00PM

Invite a Friend

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WELCOME

Eucharistic, Marian, an Absolute Blast & Much More!

FOR MORE DETAILS EMAIL
youthministryss@gmail.com
OR CALL BRIDGET COSTELLO
432-520-7394 ext 1010

*"If I do not become a saint I have done nothing."
-St. Dominic Savio*



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

Is in need of large size baby lotion and wash, diapers 4, 5, and 6, pull-ups size 2T, 3T, 4T, and 5T, Thank you for helping those in need to take care of their little ones.

HEALING MASS

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

Diocese of San Angelo : Position Available

The Diocese of San Angelo is accepting applications for the Associate Director of Formation. This position assists the Director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. The Associate Director's primary responsibilities include assisting in providing formation, leadership training, and evangelization and catechesis training opportunities for Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education/Faith Formation. Secondary responsibilities include assisting in providing formation and training opportunities for catechists, integrating a family perspective in ministry. This person should be strongly committed to the Catholic faith. Master's degree in theology, catechesis, pastoral studies, or related field and 3 to 5 years' experience at the parish or diocesan level are strongly desired. Hours include both traditional office hours and some evenings and weekends. Periodic travel throughout the diocese will also be required. For complete job descriptions, please visit <https://sanangelodiocese.org/job-openings>. Resumes and/or applications may be submitted to Deacon Marc Mata, 804 Ford St., San Angelo, TX 76905 or at mmata@sanangelodiocese.org. Position is open until filled.

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!

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. Can we update our post in the bulletin with following. Your St. Stephens Knight of Columbus council 12657 will be collecting funds for the purchase of Coats for Kids for Christmas on October 7th and 8th. Please consider donating generously. Also, starting September 26 we will be praying a rosary on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm in the church. All are welcome!

Diocese of San Angelo: Position Available

The Diocese of San Angelo is accepting applications for the Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. This position assists the Director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. The Associate Director's primary responsibilities will be focus on youth, young adult and campus ministry. This person should be strongly committed to their Catholic Faith and ministry Master's degree in theology, catechesis, pastoral studies, or related field and 3 to 5 years' experience at the parish or diocesan level are strongly desired. Hours include both traditional office hours and some evenings and weekends. Periodic travel throughout the diocese will also be required. For complete job descriptions, please visit <https://sanangelodiocese.org/job-openings>. Resumes and/or applications may be submitted to Deacon Marc Mata, 804 Ford St., San Angelo, TX 76905 or at mmata@sanangelodiocese.org. Position is open until filled.

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!

ENGLISH OCIA, formerly known as RCIA, will start on Tuesday September 19, 2023 at 6:30-8:45 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 8:45 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>.



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!

We would like to Thank everyone who has donated items so far!

LOST AND FOUND

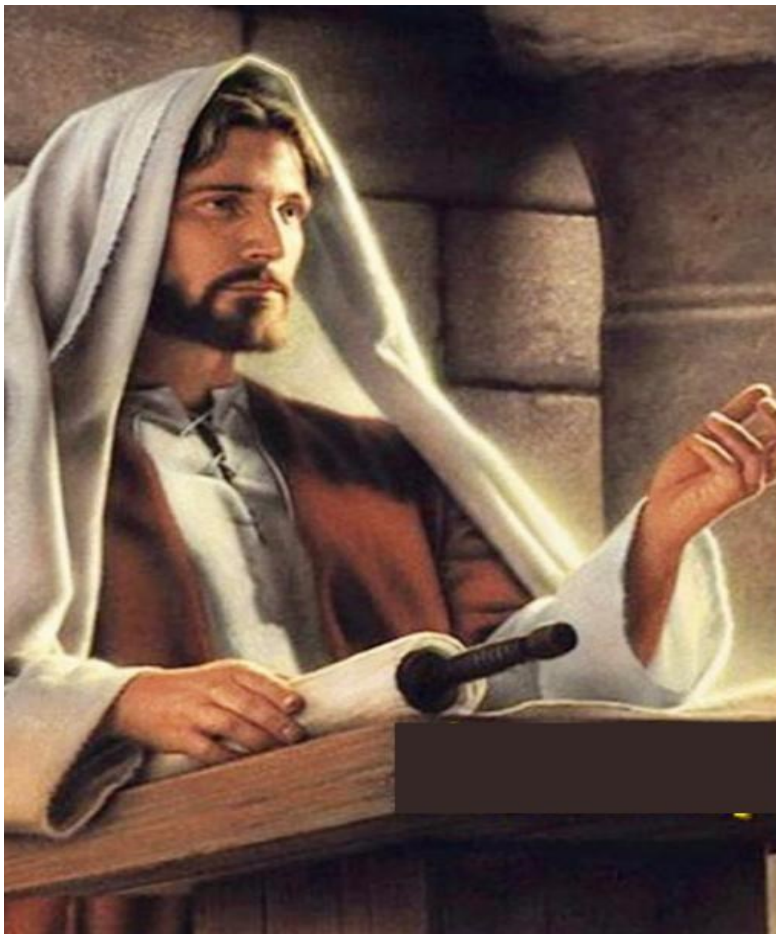
The Parish Office has been holding onto miscellaneous items found over time and going forward will only hold any items found on the property for two weeks. If you have lost an item in the past please contact the Parish office to describe and claim. Items left unclaimed over a two week period will be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

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

ADVERTISEMENTS

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



**MINISTERIO:
MUJERES DE FE Y ESPERANZA
TE INVITAN**

MINI RETIRO DE MUJERES

TEMA:

Convocados Por Tu Palabra!

***Sábado 30 de Septiembre, 2023
8:30 am - 12:00 pm***

**ST STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
4601 NEELY AVE
MIDLAND, TX 79707**

**PARA INFORMACIÓN:
MARITE ARREDONDO +1 (432) 270-7717
MARIA VÁSQUEZ +1(432) 296-1897
SOCO CUIEL +1 (432) 967-7656**

Donativo : \$15

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	8 families	\$ 4,626.72
Gas	3 families	\$ 525.39
Water	3 families	\$ 2,183.86
Rent	16 families	\$ 32,063.95
Transportation	1 family	\$ 584.14
Medical	2 families	\$ 841.00
TOTAL		\$ 40,825.06

In the past two weeks we have been able to assist three elderly people better their lives through finding better housing. The first man, 86 years of age was living in an apartment. Lately he had taken a couple of falls in his apartment. His was frightened to live alone. What would happen if he fell and could not get help? He thought of moving into an assisted living facility but did not think he could afford it on his retirement and Social Security. A friend of Helping Hands came to his assistance. She phoned several assisted living facilities in Midland and found that he made enough money to afford one of the better facilities in Midland. While he could afford the month-to-month fee that would pay for room, utilities and food, he did not have the money necessary to move in. We were happy to oblige and the man moved into his new home a week later. We spoke with him last week. He was happy and felt secure in his new environment.

A week ago we received a call from a motel manager. An elderly man had been living in his motel for several months; however as motel rates continued to increase he was no longer able to pay the rates. The motel discounted his rate for as long as it could, but finally the owners said that they could no longer grant him the discount. The manager asked what options were available. We steered him toward the Midland County Housing Authority and they were able to offer him a room in one of their facilities where rates are based on income. The only problem is that the room would not be available for one month. We offered to cover his motel expense for that month, and asked that he use his money for move in expenses into his new home.

An 84-year-old woman found a place to live at Santa Rita Retirement Village, again, a place where rent is based on income. She had been living in an apartment that she could no longer afford so the new opportunity was a stroke of luck. Unfortunately, at 84 she was unable to move her possessions by herself. She has no family in Midland. She called the Crisis Intervention Unit, who called us. Community service volunteers offered to provide the labor for the actual move, and an old friend of Helping Hands offered to provide his truck to us at no charge. She was moved into her new home Saturday.

What blessings for all of these seniors and for us! A lot of the work that we are able to accomplish is done so because of the efforts of people such as you, who see a need and respond to it. We are grateful for your help and we are thankful that we are able to respond. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



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



SCAN HERE

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

ST. STEPHEN'S FALL FESTIVAL

WHEN: OCTOBER 21, 2023

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

WHERE: PARISH HALL

ENTRANCE FEE PER FAMILY: BAG OF CANDY

CAKE WALK, PRIZE WHEEL, PHOTO BOOTH
COSTUME CONTEST, BAKE SALE, FOOD COURT
SILENT AUCTION, LIVE MUSIC & MORE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED/SERVICE HOURS AVAILABLE

SPONSORED BY: St. Stephen's Women's Organization

***CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED**



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