

October 1st, 2023**Rev. Bala Anthony Govindu
Pastor**Deacons: Leonard Hendon, Luis
Mata, Fidel SaldivarDirector of Religious Education:
Gretchen Lara

Music Director: Gabriel Salgado

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www.sscmidland.com

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The Power of Transformation: From Rejection to Redemption

Introduction: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today we gather to reflect upon the transformative power of God's love and grace. Our readings from Ezekiel, Philippians, and Matthew remind us of the importance of repentance, humility, and the willingness to change our hearts. Let us open our hearts to the Word of God as we explore the message of transformation and redemption found in these passages.

I. The Call to Repentance (Ezekiel 18:25-28)

Our first reading from the Book of Ezekiel speaks to us about the call to repentance. In this passage, God challenges the idea that the sins of one generation are automatically passed down to the next. He declares, "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?" (Ezekiel 18:25).

God calls us to examine our ways and turn from our sinful paths. He promises that if we repent and turn to Him, we shall live and not die. This passage reminds us that God's justice is rooted in mercy, and He desires that we seek forgiveness and transformation.

II. The Humility of Christ (Philippians 2:1-11)

Our second reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians reveals the ultimate example of humility in the person of Jesus Christ. St. Paul writes, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

Paul reminds us of Jesus' humility, who, though equal with God, emptied Himself and took on the form of a servant. He humbled Himself even to the point of death on a cross. Through Christ's humility and obedience, God exalted Him and gave Him the name above every name.

III. The Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-32)

Our Gospel reading from Matthew presents the Parable of the Two Sons. In this parable, a father asks his two sons to go and work in the vineyard. The first son initially refuses but later goes, while the second son agrees but does not go. Jesus asks, "Which of the two did the will of his father?" The crowd rightly answers, "The first."

This parable teaches us that actions speak louder than words. It's not enough to say we will follow God; we must actually do His will. Repentance involves a change in our hearts that leads to transformation in our actions.

El Poder de la Transformación: De la Rechazo a la Redención

Introducción: Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, hoy nos reunimos para reflexionar sobre el poder transformador del amor y la gracia de Dios. Nuestras lecturas de Ezequiel, Filipenses y Mateo nos recuerdan la importancia del arrepentimiento, la humildad y la disposición para cambiar nuestros corazones. Abramos nuestros corazones a la Palabra de Dios mientras exploramos el mensaje de transformación y redención que se encuentra en estos pasajes.

I. El Llamado al Arrepentimiento (Ezequiel 18:25-28)

Nuestra primera lectura del libro de Ezequiel nos habla del llamado al arrepentimiento. En este pasaje, Dios desafía la idea de que los pecados de una generación se transmiten automáticamente a la siguiente. Él declara: "Dices: 'El camino del Señor no es justo'. Escucha ahora, casa de Israel: ¿No es mi camino el que es justo? ¿No son vuestros caminos los que no son justos?" (Ezequiel 18:25). Dios nos llama a examinar nuestros caminos y apartarnos de nuestros caminos pecaminosos. Promete que si nos arrepentimos y volvemos a Él, viviremos y no moriremos. Este pasaje nos recuerda que la justicia de Dios está arraigada en la misericordia y que desea que busquemos el perdón y la transformación.

II. La Humildad de Cristo (Filipenses 2:1-11)

Nuestra segunda lectura de la carta de San Pablo a los Filipenses revela el ejemplo supremo de humildad en la persona de Jesucristo. San Pablo escribe: "Nada hagan por egoísmo o vanidad personal; más bien, con humildad consideren a los demás como superiores a ustedes mismos. Cada uno debe velar no solo por sus propios intereses, sino también por los intereses de los demás" (Filipenses 2:3-4). Pablo nos recuerda la humildad de Jesús, quien, aunque era igual a Dios, se despojó de sí mismo y tomó la forma de siervo. Se humilló incluso hasta la muerte en la cruz. A través de la humildad y la obediencia de Cristo, Dios lo exaltó y le dio un nombre sobre todo nombre.

III. La Parábola de los Dos Hijos (Mateo 21:28-32)

Nuestra lectura del Evangelio de Mateo presenta la Parábola de los Dos Hijos. En esta parábola, un padre les pide a sus dos hijos que vayan a trabajar en la viña. El primer hijo inicialmente se niega, pero luego va, mientras que el segundo hijo acepta, pero no va. Jesús pregunta: "¿Cuál de los dos hizo la voluntad de su padre?" La multitud responde correctamente: "El primero".

Esta parábola nos enseña que las acciones hablan más alto que las palabras. No basta con decir que seguiremos a Dios; debemos hacer realmente su voluntad. El arrepentimiento implica un cambio en nuestros corazones que conduce a una transformación en nuestras acciones.

St. Stephen's Catholic Church
Midland, Texas

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 1st, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday October 2nd– The Holy Guardian Angels

7:00am †Stephen McCarthy By Sheila McCarthy
5:30pm Giuse By Thuy Le & Thuan Nguyen & †Iris Marlene Graterol Ordaz By Hijos, Hermanos & Familia

Tuesday October 3rd

7:00am Cramen Elena Villa By Maria Esther
5:30pm Rev. Nicholas McNally (Launceston) By Yen Khang Van & †Iris Marlene Graterol Ordaz By Hijos, Hermanos & Familia

Wednesday October 4th– St. Francis of Assisi

7:00am †Bill Wohlfeld By Ngozi Emembolu
12:15pm Thanksgiving to God & Virgin Mary By Rocio Herrera
5:30pm Dottie Sulak By Family

Thursday October 5th– St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin, USA; Blessed

Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

7:00am †Katherine Bisson By Ngozi Emembolu
5:30pm Johnny Carrizales (HB) By Mom, Paz

First Friday October 6th– St. Bruno, Priest; USA, Blessed Marie Rose

Durocher, Virgin

7:00am †Remie Ramos By Fernando & Becky Espino
12:15pm Marcellino Trevino By Mom
5:30pm Carmen Elena Villa By Maria Esther

First Saturday October 7th– Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00am †Enrique Alfonso Herrera By Ana Riano
5:00pm †Elidia & †Valente Jimenez By Laura Hernandez

7:00pm English Healing Mass

Sunday October 8th– 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am †Kendra Delashaw By Anthony Percifull
10:00am Pat (HB) By Jerry Lee Husband
12:00pm †Claudio Arias By Familia
5:00pm For the Parish
7:00pm Dr. Eduardo Salcedo (HB) De Familia

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 vengán 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, 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!



ADORATION IS HERE AT OUR PARISH

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

HEALING MASS

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

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.

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

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. Stephen's 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, our next rosary services will be on October 10 and October 24 at 7 pm in the church. All are welcome!

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT @ 8PM

We will be doing a candlelight and Rosary.

Last Week Collections

Week of 09.11.23-09.17.23

Contributions:	Cash	Checks	Totals
Sat. 5pm 1st collection	\$961.00	\$5,440.00	\$6,401.00
Sun. 8am 1st collection	\$1,154.00	\$2,890.00	\$4,044.00
Sun. 10am 1st collection	\$1,191.08	\$2,261.00	\$3,452.00
Sun. 12pm 1st collection	\$2,661.83	\$690.00	\$3,351.00
Sun. 5pm 1st collection	\$1,104.25	\$1,964.00	\$3,068.25
Sun. 7pm 1st collection	\$737.00	\$107.00	\$844.00
Daily Masses	\$543.57	\$25.00	\$568.57
TOTALS	\$8,352.73	\$13,377.00	\$21,729.73
Online Giving		\$4,601.00	\$4,601.00
Mailed-In Contributions		\$4,090.00	\$4,090.00
		GRAND TOTAL	\$30,420.73

Week of 09.18.23-09.24.23

Contributions:	Cash	Checks	Totals
Sat. 5pm 1st collection	\$938.00	\$2,220.00	\$3,158.93
Sun. 8am 1st collection	\$1,241.51	\$4,035.00	\$5,276.51
Sun. 10am 1st collection	\$1,520.50	\$4,041.00	\$5,561.50
Sun. 12pm 1st collection	\$2,306.53	\$420.00	\$2,726.53
Sun. 5pm 1st collection	\$1,737.00	\$1,572.00	\$3,309.00
Sun. 7pm 1st collection	\$234.00	\$615.00	\$849.00
2nd Collection/ Seminarians	\$3,289.11	\$2,410.00	\$5,699.11
Daily Masses	\$377.00	\$50.00	\$427.00
Online Giving		\$3,071.00	\$3,071.00
Mailed-In Contributions		\$160.00	\$160.00
		GRAND TOTAL	\$30,734.25
2nd Collection/ Seminarians	\$3,289.11	\$2,410.00	\$2,410.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**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!

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.

ENGLISH OCIA, formerly known as RCIA, Started on Tuesday September 19, 2023 at 6:30-8:45 PM in our Parlor.

OCIA, anteriormente conocida como RICA, comenzará el martes 19 de septiembre de 2023 de 6:30 a 8:45 p. m. en nuestro salón.

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>.

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

ST. STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Presents their Annual

Trunk OR TREAT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
From 6pm- 7:30pm
4601 Neely Ave.

To register your vehicle to help pass out candy, please call/text Kim Valenzuela @ 432-661-4276

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR A SMALL FEE

For questions or more information please contact Kim 432-661-4276

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!

ADVERTISEMENTS

If you would like to advertise your business in our bulletin please call the office or email

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!

CLUB DANCE

DATE/TIME: Saturday, October 14, 2023/ 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

COST/ATTIRE: \$20.00 per person/Casual

BAND: "ZBD Trio" (C & W, Swing, Variety)

CATERER: NO DINNER SERVED

(Water and Ice Will Be Provided, You May Bring a Snack and a NON-Alcoholic Beverage)

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. NO ALCOHOL MAY BE BROUGHT INTO THE BALLROOM BY

INDIVIDUALS **NOTE: NO BYOB is allowed in the Gloria Denman Ballroom per church policy. For more information, PLEASE CONTACT our Secretary at: permianmusic87@gmail.com. Please do not contact St. Stephen's for information on this function as it is separate from the church. THANK YOU!

TO ALL MINISTRIES:

If you are needing a room / space for your meetings and or functions, PLEASE REQUEST BY GOING TO OUR WEBSITE AND FILL OUT THE FORM

A todos los ministerios:

Si necesita una sala / espacio para sus reuniones y/o funciones, POR FAVOR, SOLICÍTELO ACCEDIENDO A NUESTRA PÁGINA WEB Y RELLENE EL FORMULARIO:

St. Stephen's Facility Space Request Form | (ststephensmidland.com) For any other concerns, please feel free to call the Parish office at 432-520-7394.

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

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	10 families	\$ 3,729.93
Water	4 families	\$ 2,660.86
Rent	22 families	\$ 33,367.02
Transportation	2 families	\$ 2,833.09
Medical	1 family	\$ 225.00
Home Repair	1 family	\$ 2,000.00
TOTAL		\$ 44,815.90

Recently we received a letter with a very generous donation. The letter read:

My husband and I appreciate the way you all manage Helping Hands:

- *How you update the community*
- *How you select recipients*
- *How you try to use every donated item or cash to maximize the benefit.*

I hope we can be regular donors and volunteer time. Thanks for all you do.

What a great letter! This couple certainly has their fingers on the pulse of Helping Hands. We have always felt it key to let everyone know just exactly where our money goes. Since we survive solely on donations from the public we feel obligated to let you know just how your money is spent. Our books are wide open to anyone who cares to look at them. All of our workers are volunteers. There are absolutely no paid salaries. Money to pay utilities, gas for the trucks, garbage disposal etc. are all paid from proceeds from the thrift store, so you can be assured that every penny that you donate to us goes to help the poor. And how blessed we are to be able to do so much each week for our neighbors in need. God bless you for making that happen!

We are careful in selecting recipients. When someone calls our helpline, we ask that they leave the last four digits of their social security number. Most of the benevolent agencies in Midland use Charity Tracker, a computer database that contains each person's past history of getting assistance. It becomes fairly easy to weed out those people who are, or who are trying to be, habitual abusers of the system. Granted there are some people who do require repeated assistance due to age, medical disabilities or other reasons, but they are few. Each person that we meet with is counseled on how to change their living situations to prevent them from getting in that particular situation again. If someone tries to come back again and again and they have done nothing to better their lives then we will decline them. The money is better spent assisting someone who is in a crisis situation over which they have no control.

We work poor. If a piece of office equipment breaks down we look in our store to see if we have a similar item that has been donated to us. If necessary we repair it. We try never to buy new. And again, there are no salaries, so we are most able to maximize the benefits.

How we would love to have this wonderful couple come and volunteer time with us! If anyone is interested in joining our family, all they need do is come on down! We are here Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Or you can call Mary at (432) 528-6265 anytime. Thanks, and God bless!



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

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