

*For to us a
Child is born,*

*to us a Son
is given.*

- Isaiah 9:6

St. Stephen Catholic Church

44 Britton Street, West Salem, Ohio 44287

419-853-4946 · www.ststephen.ws

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 28, 2025

A Word from Deacon Pete:

Hello Everyone,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas. Once again, I get to write this article about a week and a half before the day that you are reading this.

I hope that you have had a chance to start reading the book that the parish gave to everyone for a Christmas present. Here is a paragraph written by Matthew Kelly for the introduction of the book.

“Twenty-five years ago, I wrote *Rediscover Catholicism*. What you are about to read was one part of that book. It describes the path my spiritual mentor invited me to walk in my teens, and I consider myself astoundingly blessed that by some grace I had the courage to step away from the crowd and follow his counsel.

Step by step I was taught how to establish a vibrant spiritual life. The result was a joy that defies explanation and is unlike anything the world has to offer. It is a joy that isn't dependent on fortunate circumstances. It is a joy that can coexist with sorrow, walk hand-in-hand with suffering, and sit quietly in the shadow of pain. It does not vanish in the presence of grief or uncertainty. It is a joy that reminds us that something wonderful is about to happen.”

Those words about suffering and pain are very meaningful coming from a man who has gone through multiple treatments for cancer. I hope that each of us will take the time to read this book prayerfully.

May we all have a wonderfully spiritual New Year!

Deacon Pete

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 27	4:00pm	For the People
Sunday, December 28	10:30am	Nick Belovics +
Monday, December 29	8:00am	For the People
Wednesday, December 31	4:00pm	Carrie Daddona +
Thursday, January 1	9:00am	Clayton Mole +
Saturday, January 3	4:00pm	For the People
Sunday, January 4	10:30am	Dianne Pachasa +

Year-End Contribution Statements:

If you would like a statement of your contributions to St. Stephen's in 2025, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room or call the office at 419-853-4946.

Ladies Guild:

There is no Ladies Guild meeting in January. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 2 at 6:30pm in Hackman Hall—Door #3.

Readings for the Week of December 28, 2025

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a; 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18

Thursday Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Num 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Friday Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and

Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28

Saturday 1 Jn 2:29--3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 2:1-12

The Week Ahead

Saturday, December 27

3:00pm Reconciliation

4:00pm Mass

7:00pm AA

Sunday, December 28

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9:15am **NO PSR**

9:45am Rosary

10:30am Mass

Offertory Counter Team 4

Monday, December 29

8:00am Mass

Tuesday, December 30

Wednesday, December 31

4:00pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary

5:30pm NO Meals & More

Thursday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary

8:15am Rosary

9:00am Mass

Office Closed

Friday, January 2

Office Closed

Saturday, January 3

3:00pm Reconciliation

3:00pm First Saturday Devotion

4:00pm Mass

7:00pm AA

Sunday, January 4

Epiphany of the Lord

9:15am PSR

9:45am Rosary

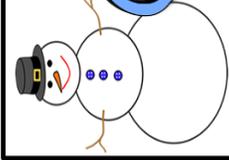
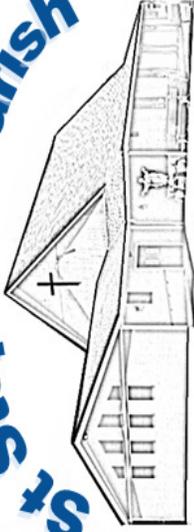
10:30am Mass

Offertory Counter Team 5

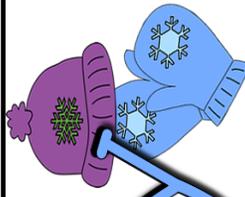


Meals & More:

There is no Meals & More dinner this week.



January



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>**Don't Forget to Order Soup from the Ladies Guild</p> 				<p>1 New Years Day Holy Day of Obligation Solemnity of Mary Rosary 8:15am Mass 9:00am</p> 	2	3 First Saturday Devotion 3:00pm Reconciliation 4:00pm Mass 7:00pm AA
4 9:15am PSR 9:45am Rosary 10:30am Mass	5 8:00am Mass	6	7 1:00—8:00pm Adoration 4:00pm Mass 5:30pm Meals & More	8 8:00am Mass	9	10 3:00pm Reconciliation 4:00pm Mass 7:00pm AA
11 9:15am PSR 9:45am Rosary 10:30am Mass	12 8:00am Mass 6:00pm Men's Prayer Group	13	14 1:00—8:00pm Adoration 4:00pm Mass 5:30pm Meals & More	15 8:00am Mass	16	17 3:00pm Reconciliation 4:00pm Mass 7:00pm AA Easter Candy Pre-Order Forms & displays out
18 9:15am PSR 9:45am Rosary 10:30am Mass Easter Candy Pre-Order Forms & displays out	19 8:00am Mass 7:00pm PPC Meeting	20	21 1:00—8:00pm Adoration 4:00pm Mass 5:30pm Meals & More	22 8:00am Mass	23	24 3:00pm Reconciliation 4:00pm Mass 7:00pm AA
25 9:15am PSR 9:45am Rosary 10:30am Mass Soup orders due	26 8:00am Mass 6:00pm Men's Prayer Group	27	28 1:00—8:00pm Adoration 4:00pm Mass 5:30pm Meals & More	29 8:00am Mass	30	31 3:00pm Reconciliation 4:00pm Mass 7:00pm AA *Soup Sale Pickup*



Please Remember the Sick in Your Prayers: Mighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of Your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to You in Your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christopher Adamson, Nikita Arnold, Ron Boehm, Ed Brazis, Pat Brown, Kerry Cullin, Jim Emmert, Laura Fryman, Sandra Green, Richard Guenther, Ingrid Hankinson, Joan Johnson, Carol Jones, Margie Keep, Laurel King, June Kost, Lois Norton, Jaimie Packard, Mia Preston, Betty Ross, Heather Smith, and those on our prayer board.

Collection Report

December 21, 2025:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offertory:	\$2,250.00	\$2,020.00	\$230.00
Parish Use Only	\$395.00	\$960.00	-\$565.00
Total:	\$2,645.00	\$2,980.00	-\$335.00
Immaculate Conception	\$30.00		
Christmas	\$30.00		
Retirement for Religious	\$105.00		

Happy Birthday!!!

Be sure to wish a "Happy Birthday" to the following members of our parish!!

- Laura Kusa (January 1),
- Daniel Hennessey (January 2),
- Michael Paulo (January 2),
- Kimberly Leighton (January 3)



Mary's Plea:

Why do we pray the Rosary for the conversion of Russia? Sister Lucy, the eldest Seer from Fatima, said in 1957 that, "Russia will be the instrument of chastisement chosen by Heaven to punish the whole world if we do not beforehand obtain the conversion of that poor nation." Our Lady of Fatima said that if her requests, particularly the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart, were not heeded, then Russia would "spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, and various nations will be annihilated." We have seen this plainly in our world. Pope Francis, in unity with all the bishops of the world and all the faithful, consecrated Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25, 2022. We MUST continue to pray for the conversion of Russia. Communism, which preaches there is no God, has taught the world to replace God with entertainment, and demeaned the role and dignity of marriage, mothers, and fathers!

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, 1:00-8:00pm

"In order to evangelize the world, we need experts in celebration, adoration and contemplation of the Holy Eucharist."



-Saint John Paul II,
Message for World Mission Sunday, 2004



First Saturday Devotion: The next First Saturday Devotion will be at 3:00pm on Saturday, January 3rd. Everyone is invited to attend. Crissy King is organizing the endeavor. She has pamphlets available with more information. She also can be reached at 216-308-1434.

Altar Flowers:

Besides those listed in last week's bulletin, Christmas flowers are in loving memory of the following:
Anthony Duplaga, Jr.
Ruth Duplaga
Francis E. Norton
Deceased Member of the Sass Family
Deceased Members of the Slobnick Family

Angel Scholarships:

The Catholic Community Foundation thanks everyone who has supported the Angel Scholarship Fund (ASF) over the past four years. In 2024, a total of 7,166 Ohio state taxpayers claimed a dollar-for-dollar credit for their ASF donation, and 10,866 Angel Scholarships were awarded to deserving students across our Diocese this school year!
Donations are now being accepted for the 2025 tax year. If you have already made your "no net cost" donation for this year, we thank you very much! Otherwise, please consider turning your taxes into tuition and become a student's angel today.
Please go to the Catholic Community Foundation website: <https://www.catholiccommunity.org/support/catholic-education/angel-scholarship-fund>.



New to the Parish?

We welcome all newcomers to our parish and encourage everyone to register and get involved. If you need to register or update your information, clip the form below from the bulletin, complete the information, and drop it in the offertory basket. Someone from the office will reach out to you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am new to St. Stephen: _____ Updating Info _____

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Patricia Foradori

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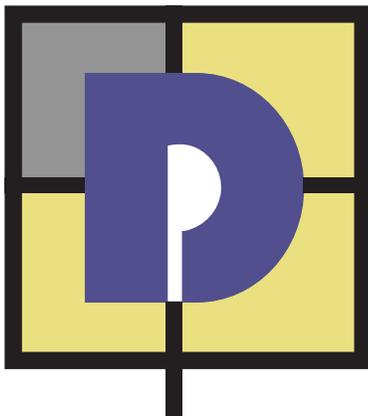
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