

*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 Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2026

A Word from Father Jim:

Happy New Year! By the time you are reading this, I will have recently returned from spending three days with a group of Ashland University students at the SEEK Conference in Columbus. SEEK offers college students a powerful opportunity to grow in their faith—celebrating Mass with thousands of peers, praying before the Blessed Sacrament, listening to inspiring speakers, praising God through music, and building community and fellowship. The theme of this year’s conference comes from a favorite saying of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, who was canonized this past September by Pope Leo: *“To the Heights!”* Pier Giorgio is a wonderful patron for our young people. He saw his religious commitment not so much as an obligation, but as a great adventure. He loved hiking in the mountains and is often depicted with a pipe in his mouth, standing at a summit. Yet for Pier Giorgio, faith was not only about encountering God in nature. He was deeply disciplined in prayer and devoted to the sacramental life of the Church.

Living in a time when Fascism was on the rise in Italy, Pier Giorgio openly challenged its false promises, urging others to place their faith in Christ and the Church rather than in political ideologies or dictators. He lived his faith concretely through service to the poor and those on the margins. Tragically, he died at the age of 24 from polio, which he contracted while caring for someone in need. At his funeral, thousands came forward—many of them poor—revealing the profound and often hidden impact of his witness.

I’ll leave you with a few of his quotes that I find particularly inspiring:

- *“True happiness does not consist in the pleasures of this world or in earthly things, but in peace of conscience, which we have only if we are pure of heart and mind.”*
- *“A Catholic cannot help but be happy; sadness should be banished from their souls.”*
- *“In prayer, the soul rises above life’s sadnesses.”*
- *“All around the sick and all around the poor I see a special light which we do not have.”*
- *“The faith given to me in baptism suggests to me surely: By yourself you will do nothing, but if you have God as the center of all your actions, then you will reach the goal.”*

Please continue to pray for our young people, that through the intercession of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati they may follow his example and continue to enliven and build up our Church. Have a blessed and joyful New Year!

Mass Schedule

Saturday, January 3	4:00pm	For the People
Sunday, January 4	10:30am	Dianne Pachasa +
Monday, January 5	8:00am	Peter & Vera Duly +
Wednesday, January 7	4:00pm	Carrie Daddona +
Thursday, January 8	8:00am	Angie Kusa +
Saturday, January 10	4:00pm	For the People
Sunday, January 11	10:30am	Leslie Readinger +

Readings for the Week of January 4, 2026

Sunday	The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 2:1-12
Monday	Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday	1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday	1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday	1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22
Friday	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday	1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday	The Baptism of the Lord Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Mt 3:13-17

The Week Ahead

	Saturday, January 3
3:00pm	Reconciliation
3:00pm	First Saturday Devotion
4:00pm	Mass
7:00pm	AA
	Sunday, January 4
	The Epiphany of the Lord
9:15am	PSR
9:45am	Rosary
10:30am	Mass
	Offertory Counter Team 5
	Monday, January 5
8:00am	Mass
	Tuesday, January 6
	Wednesday, January 7
1:00-8:00pm	Adoration
4:00pm	Mass
5:30pm	Meals & More
	Thursday, January 8
8:00am	Mass
	Friday, January 9
	Saturday, January 10
3:00pm	Reconciliation
4:00pm	Mass
7:00pm	AA
	Sunday, January 11
	The Baptism of the Lord
9:15am	PSR
9:45am	Rosary
10:30am	Mass
	Offertory Counter Team 2

Meals & More Bakers:

Terry DeRodes,
Cecilia Hartman, Carol Millhoan, and Monika Paulo





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, Richard 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 28, 2025:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offertory:	\$3,054.00	\$2,020.00	\$1,034.00
Parish Use Only	\$2,440.00	\$960.00	\$1,480.00
Total:	\$5,494.00	\$2,980.00	\$2,514.00
Christmas	\$3,394.00		
Immaculate Conception	\$25.00		
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$50.00		

Happy Birthday!!!

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

Jennifer Foster (January 7)
Eleanor Vojtech (January 10)



Mary’s Plea:

Our Lord has said regarding why the pope and bishops of the world had to make the consecration of Russia specifically to the IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY is because Christ wants His whole Church to acknowledge the Consecration as a triumph of the Immaculate Heart, so that later on, they will put devotion to Her Immaculate Heart beside devotion to His Sacred Heart.

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.

Soup Sales: Ladies Guild is offering homemade soups in pint or quart sizes. January’s offerings are Ham & Bean, Chicken Noodle, or Stuffed Pepper. Soup will be available for pick up after Masses on January 31 and February 1. Pre-order forms are in the Gathering Room, along with envelopes to prepay for your order. Proceeds from the sale will go to repair the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue at the church entrance.

Please turn in order forms by January 25.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, 1:00-8:00pm

“To keep me from sin and straying from Him, God has used devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. My life vows are destined to be spent in the light irradiating from the tabernacle, and it is to the Heart of Jesus that I dare go for the solution of all my problems.”

- Pope John XXIII



First Saturday Devotion: The next First Saturday Devotion will be at 3:00pm on Saturday, February 7th. 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.

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.

Theology on the Rocks West:

For adults 40 and older, join us on Monday, Jan. 12 from 7:00-8:30pm at the Westside Irish American Club, 8559 Jennings Rd., Olmsted Township. The topic is **“Who is C. S. Lewis? Why, as Catholics do we care?”** Dr. Matt Carey Jordan, VP of Academic Affairs at Borromeo and St. Mary Seminary, has led several Lewis-themed pilgrimages to England and taken people behind the scenes to walk in the footsteps of C.S. Lewis. Join us for an enlightening discussion of the man behind *The Chronicles of Marnia* and *The Screwtape Letters*.

Light appetizers are included and a cash bar is available. Advance tickets are recommended. Register in advance at www.theologyontherockswest.com. Doors open at 6:30pm.



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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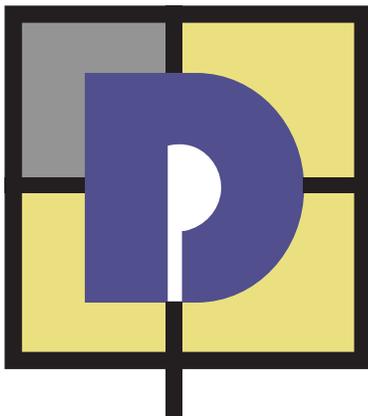
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