

# ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR PARISH

December 13, 2020 • Third Sunday of Advent

If you are new to St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish or just visiting — WELCOME!  
For more information or to register in the parish, please call or email the parish office.

## PARISH OFFICE

3949 Wilmington, St. Louis, MO 63116  
[www.saintstephenstl.org](http://www.saintstephenstl.org)

## Sts. Mary & Joseph Chapel

6304 Minnesota, St. Louis, MO 63111

**Father Ronald J. Hopmeir**, Pastor  
[info@saintstephenstl.org](mailto:info@saintstephenstl.org)  
• 314-481-1133, #1

**Mary Regan**, Pastoral Associate  
[mary.regan@saintstephenstl.org](mailto:mary.regan@saintstephenstl.org)  
• 314-481-1133, #2

**June Tessin**, Office Manager / Bookkeeper  
[june.tessin@saintstephenstl.org](mailto:june.tessin@saintstephenstl.org)  
• 314-481-1133, #3

**Mary Paule**, Child Safety Coordinator / Secretary  
[mary.paule@saintstephenstl.org](mailto:mary.paule@saintstephenstl.org)  
• 314-481-1133, #4

**Stephen E. Jones**, Music Director  
[stephen.dolores@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stephen.dolores@sbcglobal.net)

**Bob Wiley**, Facilities Manager  
[bob.wiley@saintstephenstl.org](mailto:bob.wiley@saintstephenstl.org)

**Stephanie Wobbe**, Comms & Mktg Coordinator  
[stephanie.wobbe@saintstephenstl.org](mailto:stephanie.wobbe@saintstephenstl.org)  
• 314-660-1548

**Denise Dowd**, SSMJ Chapel Wedding Venue  
[weddings.stsmaryandjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:weddings.stsmaryandjoseph@gmail.com)  
• 314-517-3998

## SCHOOL OFFICE

3929 Wilmington, St. Louis, MO 63116  
[www.saintstephenstl.org/school](http://www.saintstephenstl.org/school) 📧

**Greg Sturgill**, Principal  
[greg.sturgill@saintstephenstl.org](mailto:greg.sturgill@saintstephenstl.org)  
• 314-752-4700

**Amanda Quinn**, Administrative Assistant  
[amanda.quinn@saintstephenstl.org](mailto:amanda.quinn@saintstephenstl.org)  
• 314-752-4700



**STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER**

*“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18*

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

**SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION**

<b>December 6 Contribution</b>	\$ 10,804.00
Online giving contribution	\$ 2,687.00
<b>Total weekly contribution</b>	<b>\$ 13,491.00</b>
R & I	\$ 690.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 1,133.00
St. Vincent de Paul, SSP	\$ 212.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 30.00
Seminary	\$ 130.00
St. Peter & Paul	\$ 10.00

*Special collection in December is for Kenrick Glennon Seminary.*

**FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

In the charity of your prayers, please remember the **father of Michelle Darden**, and the family of **Leonard Kratzer**, who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



**CONCERT AT SSMJ CANCELLED**

We regret that due to the recent COVID-related restrictions on gatherings, the Christmas concert at the Chapel of Sts. Mary & Joseph, which had been scheduled for **December 18**, is cancelled.

**THIS WEEK’S READINGS**

- Monday:** St. John of the Cross, Memorial: Num 24:2-7, 15-17; Ps 25:4-5, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday:** Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Lk 7:18 –23
- Thursday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
- Friday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
- Saturday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Ps 71:3-4, 5-6, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25
- 4th Sunday of Advent:** 2Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

**THANK YOU!!!**

Thank you to all who contributed on Giving Tuesday to our Tuition Assistance fund. Your donations amounted to \$3,490.00 and are greatly appreciated.



Last year we were able to help approximately 30 families give their children a Catholic Education.

We also thank those who faithfully contribute to Tuition Assistance monthly through the blue Tuition Assistance envelopes or through online giving directed toward Tuition Assistance.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR**

Monday December 14	Tuesday December 15	Wednesday December 16	Thursday December 17	Friday December 18	Saturday December 19	Sunday December 20
NO MASS TODAY	Mass 8 a.m.  Perpetual Help Devotions	Mass With Students 8 a.m.	Mass 8 a.m.  Christmas Novena 7 p.m.	Mass With Students 8 p.m.  Christmas Novena 7 p.m.	Mass 4 p.m.  Christmas Novena 7 p.m.	Mass 9 a.m. Decorate after Mass  Christmas Novena 7 p.m.

## LITURGY UPDATE

The **newest edition of our hymnals** are available in the back of church at all Masses and in a bin on the front porch of the rectory. Please take one to replace last year's edition, which you may recycle at home. Also available are the **Little Blue Books**, with reflections for each day of Advent.

Thank you for being so conscientious about signing up for weekend Masses! Please also remember to let us know if you find, after signing up, that you will not be able to attend or if the number in your group changes. You can make changes to your Signup Genius reservation, but if it's within 24 hours of Mass time, please call Mary at 314-481-1133, Option #2.

We have several special Masses in the coming month for which, even though they may fall on weekdays, we will ask you to please sign up:

- Christmas Eve on Thursday, **December 24**, at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m., and Christmas Day on Friday, **December 25**, at 10 a.m. (We will be sharing some virtually produced music from our adult and children's choirs before all Masses. Anyone who signs up to attend Christmas Masses will receive an email through Signup Genius with more details about how early the music will begin.)
- The Feast of St. Stephen on Saturday, **December 26**, at 9 a.m.
- The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on Friday, **January 1**, at 9 a.m.

**Please note:** The Archbishop's dispensation from attending Sunday and holy day Masses remains in effect. Please stay home if you feel safer doing so. All of our Masses are live-streamed on our YouTube channel.



**Our Christmas Novenas** will be observed nightly from December 17 through December 23. They begin at 7 p.m. and last approximately 30 minutes. The meditative service consists of music and prayers focusing on the O Antiphons.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

We are now accepting donations for flowers in church for this Christmas season in honor of the living and deceased members of the parish or of your family.



You may use the stewardship envelope for Christmas Flowers or mark an envelope "Flowers" and list the name(s) of those you wish to remember. Place your donation in the collection basket or drop it by the parish office. After the Christmas season, donors may take the flowers home.

## DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

**Calling all helpers!** We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, **Dec. 20**, after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Some of our "regulars" are unavailable this year, so we are hoping for a few folks who are able to help set up our large Christmas trees and adorn them with lights (in addition to the other decorating tasks).

Go to [www.signupgenius.com/go/9040848afaa2daafa7-decorate](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040848afaa2daafa7-decorate) to sign up!



## O ANTIPHONS



From December 17 to December 23, the octave before Christmas, the Catholic Church sings the "O Antiphons." These O

Antiphons proclaim the coming of Christ. Each day a different antiphon is sung. Each antiphon uses a different biblical name for Jesus as the Messiah to help us understand who Jesus is. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

- ◆ O Wisdom
- ◆ O Lord of might
- ◆ O Root of Jesse's stem
- ◆ O Key of David
- ◆ O Radiant Dawn
- ◆ O King of Nations
- ◆ O Emmanuel

## Our Inner “John”

At one time or another, we find ourselves lost in a desert. Things have not worked out as planned. We've made mistakes — costly ones perhaps. We've been let down and used. We don't know where to turn or who to trust. But if we listen hard enough, we hear a “voice” crying out to us, a voice that speaks in the oasis of our hearts, directing us to a new spring of hope. A loving spouse, a wise teacher, a generous neighbor, a conscientious boss — all can be that “voice of one crying the desert” that leads us to hope.

We walk a lot of crooked roads in our lives: relationships that for some reason have become strained; demands on our time that have distracted us from being present for those we love; attitudes of bigotry and privilege that have brought strife and pain to others because of their race, gender, culture or creed. Daring to believe we can make a difference, we start “straightening” those crooked roads, making an entry way for justice and reconciliation, for peace and healing to enter our broken world.

There are too many “dark” places in our world — cynicism, despair, avarice, bigotry. We wonder how we could possibly kindle any light on our own — but, somehow, light begins to radiate from our small glowing ember of compassion, our small flame of generosity never seems to go out.

**The coming of Christ calls us to the work of making a straight road for him, of transforming the barren deserts around us into harvests of justice and peace, of reflecting the light of his forgiveness and mercy in our midst. We are all called to this kind of “prophetic” work begun by John at the Jordan River: to use whatever skills and resources we have to bring hope into prisons of despair, joy into deserts of sadness, love into broken hearts and spirits of stone.**

From *Connections*, December 2020

## SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK

A reminder that anyone wishing to celebrate either the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick or the Sacrament of Reconciliation is welcome to make an appointment with **Father Ron** by calling 314-481-1133, Option #1.



## STL CHRISTMAS CAROLS ASSOCIATION

### The St. Louis Christmas

**Association** is a nonprofit who has been caroling for 109 seasons to raise over \$3 million for children's charities in the St. Louis region. This year, the members have created some fun virtual Caroling Telegrams so they can safely spread cheer and continue to raise funds for the kids, who need support now more than ever.



Visit their website — [www.STLChristmasCarols.org](http://www.STLChristmasCarols.org) — to make a fully tax-deductible donation this season (no amount is too small)! When you do, you can order Caroling Telegrams of your choice to be emailed to the recipients of your choice this holiday.

## AROUND TOWN

### Living a Healthy Life in the Workplace with Chronic Conditions — Zoom Workshop

Living with a chronic condition such as diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, pain or anxiety can be a daily challenge. But it doesn't have to be. Sign up today!

Attend a FREE Zoom workshop that meets twice a week for 6 weeks.

**When:** 12 noon—1 PM, Monday and Wednesday, January 25 to March 8.

Introductory meeting January 25 at 12 noon

**Where:** This is a virtual workshop held via Zoom. A link to login to the workshop will be sent once you register for the class.

**To Register:** Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo; 314-657-1670 or [bassoppo-moyos@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:bassoppo-moyos@stlouis-mo.gov)

### Senior Lyft and Mobility Program (SLAM)

- Transportation for Seniors aged 60+ in St. Louis City
- Monthly Credit to use Lyft Ridesharing App for medical appointments, grocery trips, visiting friends and family. Anywhere you want to go!
- Two Ways to Ride:
  - Schedule Rides Directly from your Smart Phone
  - Contact our Concierge Service
- Rides can be scheduled for future or immediate pick-up
- Contact SLAAA at 314-612-5918 for more information

## ACE CARD INFORMATION

The ACE (Aid Catholic Education) program is an on-going fundraiser for the school. Here's how the program works:

- Shop more than 750 top brands for everything on your list.
- You buy a gift card. You get the full value.
- The brand gives back a certain per cent (it differs from company to company.) No extra money comes out of your pocket.
- SSP school earns the money.



The ShopWithScrip company is switching to a new app. Families are encouraged to switch to the new RaiseRight app and pick up right where you left off. Use the same sign-in information. All of the gift cards you purchased and your payment information automatically transfers to the app for easy access.

Questions? Call 1-800-727-4715, option 3, or email support@shopwithscrip.com.

## FIAT WOMEN'S GROUP

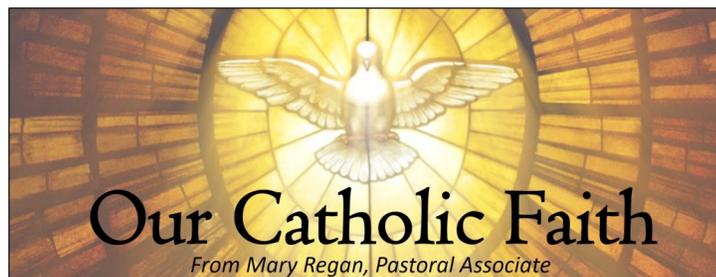
All women are invited for prayer and a talk presented by a Kenrick-Glennon Seminary faculty member on the third Thursday of each month. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meetings are currently held virtually.

On Thursday December 17, the program will include a rosary prayed at 8 a.m. and a talk given by Fr. Mirco Sosio, Spiritual Director.

To receive access to the live rosary prayer group and a link to Fr. Sosio's talk, please sign up for Fiat emails at [www.kenrick.edu/fiat](http://www.kenrick.edu/fiat).

## WORD ON FIRE

You are invited to visit the homepage of our website (scroll down a bit) for links to daily Advent Gospel Reflections from **Bishop Robert Barron**.



## Advent

Advent, from the Latin *ad venire* ("to come to"), is a season of anticipation, expectation, and preparation for the anniversary of Jesus's birth and of the second coming at the end of time.

There is an element of **penance** during this season as we prepare, but it is not as penitential in nature as Lent. This element of penance is expressed by the purple vestments worn at Mass.

The **Advent wreath** is a tradition that many use to remind them that Christmas is coming. The four candles, three purple and one rose, represent the four weeks of Advent. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. It symbolizes rejoicing, as we have come to the midpoint of the season of Advent.

*If you have a topic you would like addressed, contact **Mary** at 314-481-1133, #2, or [mary.regan@saintstephenstl.org](mailto:mary.regan@saintstephenstl.org).*

## WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Please note that the December 4th - 6th virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend has been canceled.

We still have the Restore, Rekindle, Renew Enrichment (3RE) scheduled on Monday and Thursday evenings, beginning on January 18th - February 8th, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. This experience will be offered virtually in the couple's own home!

## Restore, Rekindle, Renew Enrichment (3RE)

7-Session Virtual Enrichment Experience  
Mon/ Thur Evenings: January 18-February 8, 2021  
Starting at 7:00 p.m.

Apply online: <https://stl-wwme.org>  
Or for more Info Call: 314-649-7317

We hope in the near future to once again offer the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends in a hotel.



**SSP PTO**  
**2020 Unique Boutique!**

**Welcome to the PTO Holiday Boutique 2020!**

What in past years has been a festive pre-holiday gathering in our Parish Center is this year (like so many things) a Virtual Extravaganza!

Stroll the "aisles" of the boutique on our website — [www.saintstephenstl.org/pto-2020-unique-boutique](http://www.saintstephenstl.org/pto-2020-unique-boutique) — to support local businesses this holiday season, many of which belong to parishioners and school parents. Invite your family and friends to shop as well!

## PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

There was a surprise for Pre-school students when they returned from PE.



Our 4th Grade helpers adorn our Jesse Tree on a daily basis. Homerooms provide them with the ornaments, biblical in nature, that tell a story from the Creation of the world to the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

## Stay tuned in to our COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS

### WEBSITE [www.saintstephenstl.org](http://www.saintstephenstl.org)

- **School:** [www.saintstephenstl.org/school](http://www.saintstephenstl.org/school)  
*FACTS is our parents' main source of the nitty-gritty, but here you can find more general information.*
- **Livestream:** [www.saintstephenstl.org/live-stream](http://www.saintstephenstl.org/live-stream)  
*Go here to see any of our live streams in real time, including Masses and other events; after their live airing, all videos are available in the archive, at the bottom of the page.*

### YOUTUBE [www.youtube.com/ststephenprotomartyr](http://www.youtube.com/ststephenprotomartyr)

*Includes all live-streamed videos, as well as prayers / songs / meditations, school-related videos, and past Masses. Subscribe to be notified of new videos.*

### FLOCKNOTE [StStephenProtomartyr.flocknote.com](http://StStephenProtomartyr.flocknote.com)

*Our main parish communication tool. Sign up for whichever groups are of interest; unsubscribe at any time. Receive notes via email and/or text.*

- **Daily Reflections:** *Reflections on the day's readings from Mary Regan and parishioners.*
- **Nightly News:** *Born of sheltering in place, parish news and a reflection.*
- **Weekly Bulletin:** *Our weekly church bulletin.*
- **Monthly Update:** *Encapsulation of news & happenings over the past month.*
- **News Alerts:** *Urgent news; used rarely.*
- **Prayer Tree:** *Prayer requests from our community.*

### FACEBOOK

- **Parish:** [www.facebook.com/sspstl](http://www.facebook.com/sspstl)
- **School:** [www.facebook.com/SSPCatholicSchool](http://www.facebook.com/SSPCatholicSchool)
- **Alumni:** [www.facebook.com/groups/StStephenAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/groups/StStephenAlumni)  
*Public group of graduates of St. Stephen and anyone else who's interested.*
- **PTO:** [www.facebook.com/groups/SSPPTO](http://www.facebook.com/groups/SSPPTO)  
*Private group limited to current school parents and staff. Go to group to request to join.*

Questions? Contact **Stephanie Wobbe** at [stephaniewobbe@saintstephenstl.org](mailto:stephaniewobbe@saintstephenstl.org) or 314-660-1548.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, December 14

Private Mass

### Tuesday, December 15

8 a.m. — Lorraine Hempen

### Wednesday, December 16

8 a.m. — N. Edward Forti

### Thursday, December 17

8 a.m. — Leonard Kratzer

### Friday, December 18

8 a.m. — John Kopff

### Saturday, December 19

4 p.m. — Marie Simon  
Marty Bickel

### Sunday, December 20

9 a.m. — Our Parishioners

## PLEASE PRAY

### for our sick and recovering ...

Joshua Aasgaard	Jan Haffer	Grace Phillips
Liz Bentrup	Paul Heidbrier	Charlene Sidorski
Ann Dosenbach	Tim Krueger	Virginia Zenthoefer
Beverly Gardner	Thomas Lorenz	
Harley Gardner	Steve Moylan	

### for our homebound ...

Jack Heffernan	Albertine Honious	Art Petersen
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### for family members serving in the military ...

Derek Hirtz	Ryan O'Neil	Dylan Schulte
Sam May	Brian Schoellhorn	Mitch Sollmann
Tristan Moylan	Chris Schrader	

## DEVOTIONS

Please contact the parish office if you would like to pray privately in the church.

# SAINT STEPHEN

Saint Stephen Protomartyr Parish

### Parish Office Hours

314-481-1133

Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays

### Bulletin Article Deadline

Monday at 12 p.m. prior to the weekend bulletin.

### Sacramental Celebrations

#### Eucharist

Make a reservation to attend **weekend** Masses via the link on our parish website or call Mary at 314-481-1133, option 2

Saturday: Mass, 4 p.m.

Sunday: Mass, 9 a.m.

Tuesday-Friday: Mass, 8 a.m. (no reservations required)

#### Reconciliation

Please call Father Ron to make an appointment.

#### Infant and Child Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated after any weekend Mass.

Parents are asked to call Mary Regan at 314-481-1133, #2, to arrange a date and time.

#### Adult Initiation / Reception into the Catholic Church

Any adult who would like to know more about our Catholic faith, and/or who is interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, please call the parish office.

#### Marriage

Please contact at least six months prior to the planned date of marriage.

#### Anointing of the Sick

We have a communal celebration of this sacrament at the weekend liturgies in the fall and in the spring. If you would like to be anointed before entering the hospital or if you are homebound, please call the office.

#### Parish School of Religion

PSR formal classes in our Catholic Faith

Children: 4 yrs. through 8th grade and high school

Located on the campus of St. John the Baptist Parish.

Call the PSR Director at 314-773-3070.

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For further information, please call the Parish Office.

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