

ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR PARISH

February 14, 2021 • 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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 • **Sts. Mary & Joseph Chapel** 6304 Minnesota, St. Louis, MO 63111
www.saintstephenstl.org  @sspstl  @stsmariandjosephchapel  @StStephenProtomartyr  @StStephenSTL  @sspstl

Father Ronald J. Hopmeir, Pastor — info@saintstephenstl.org • 314-481-1133, #1

Mary Regan, Pastoral Associate — mary.regan@saintstephenstl.org • 314-481-1133, #2

June Tessin, Office Manager / Bookkeeper — june.tessin@saintstephenstl.org • 314-481-1133, #3

Mary Paule, Child Safety Coordinator / Secretary — mary.paule@saintstephenstl.org • 314-481-1133, #4

Stephen E. Jones, Music Director — stephen.dolores@sbcglobal.net

Bob Wiley, Facilities Manager — bob.wiley@saintstephenstl.org

Stephanie Wobbe, Communications & Marketing Coordinator — stephanie.wobbe@saintstephenstl.org • 314-660-1548

Denise Dowd, Sts. Mary & Joseph Chapel Wedding Venue — weddings.stsmariandjoseph@gmail.com • 314-517-3998

SCHOOL OFFICE 3929 Wilmington, St. Louis, MO 63116
www.saintstephenstl.org/school  @SSPCatholicSchool

Greg Sturgill, Principal — greg.sturgill@saintstephenstl.org • 314-752-4700

Amanda Quinn, Administrative Assistant — amanda.quinn@saintstephenstl.org • 314-752-4700

STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."
— 1 Corinthians 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list?

If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God.

Before making a decision, ask yourself, "Am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

February 7 Contribution	\$ 3,608.00
Online giving contribution	\$ 2,182.00
Total weekly contribution	\$ 5,790.00
R & I	\$ 485.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 435.00
St. Vincent de Paul, SSP	\$ 87.00
1st Offering	\$ 5.00
St. Louis Review	\$ 35.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 30.00
Central & Eastern Europe	\$ 30.00
Candlemas Day	\$ 226.00

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1 & 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a & 2, 3ac-4, 3b & 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21
Ash Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32
1st Sunday in Lent: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In the charity of your prayers, please remember **the mother of Dennis Jenkerson**, who died recently. May her soul rest in peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Ashes are an ancient sign of repentance as found in the Bible in several places. The one that most people remember is from Jonah "... king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes." (Jonah 3:5)

On Ash Wednesday, the season of Lent will begin with the ancient practice of marking the baptized with ashes as a public and communal act of penance. Ash Wednesday will be slightly different in this year. Because of the coronavirus, it is important that physical contact be avoided in the distribution of ashes. Instead of ashes being traced on our foreheads by the hand of a priest or minister we can receive ashes that are sprinkled on the top of our head. This eliminates the priest or minister touching every person. This sprinkling is permitted by our rites and is an ancient Biblical image.

The other difference this year is that after blessing the ashes Father will recite the formula to all present: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Father or the minister will then put on their masks, cleanse their hands, and sprinkle ashes on each person's head without saying anything. The distribution will be done just like the reception of Communion, with Father and the minister coming to you. If you prefer not to be sprinkled with ashes, cross your arms across your chest and Father will continue to the next person. This is a fitting and safe way to continue receiving ashes as we begin Lent this year. We may look a little cleaner, but we can still repent and believe in the Gospel. We will still bear ashes home to begin our Lenten practices

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

Monday February 15	Tuesday February 16	Wednesday February 17	Thursday February 18	Friday February 19	Saturday February 20	Sunday February 21
PARISH OFFICE & SCHOOL CLOSED PRESIDENTS' DAY	Mass 8 a.m. Finance Mtg 7 p.m.	Mass 8 a.m. Staff Mtg 9 a.m. ASH WEDNESDAY Mass 7 p.m.	Mass 8 a.m. Cecil Whittaker's PTO Dine-Around	Mass With Students 8 a.m.	Mass 4 p.m.	Mass 9 a.m.

St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish 2021 Lent and Holy Week Schedule

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

(All will be live streamed on our YouTube channel and our Facebook page)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ➤ Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 | Mass and Distribution of Ashes: 8 AM and 7 PM |
| ➤ Stations of the Cross | Friday Afternoons at 2 PM |
| ➤ Palm Sunday, March 28 | Begin in church at both weekend Masses |
| ➤ Holy Thursday, April 1 | Morning Prayer 8 AM
Chrism Mass at Cathedral 10 AM
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7 PM
Night Prayer 9:30 PM |
| ➤ Good Friday, April 2 | Morning Prayer 8 AM
Stations of the Cross 3 PM
Celebration of the Lord's Passion 7 PM
Tenebrae 9:30 PM |
| ➤ Holy Saturday, April 3 | Morning Prayer 8 AM |
| ➤ Easter Vigil, April 3 | Celebration of the Great Easter Vigil 8 PM |
| ➤ Easter Sunday, April 4 | Mass times to be determined |

SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

- Rice Bowls with Lenten Calendars
- Little Black Books
- Daily Lenten Reflections on the SSP Facebook page and through Morning Reflections Flocknote
- *From Ashes to Glory*. This is a self-directed virtual retreat for Lent by Dan Schutte. See the bulletin or Nightly News Flocknote for more information.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

- Saturday, March 20 Parish Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 11 AM - 1PM

LENT

If you are looking to nourish your soul this Lent ... **there is something for everyone on our website.**

In addition to the Little Black Books, we are also offering Lenten reflections / meditations / practices from a few other sources.

Visit www.saintstephenstl.org/lent-easter beginning on Ash Wednesday for easy access to:

- Our year-round Daily Reflections, from Mary Regan and other members of our community.
- Daily Lenten reflections from Bishop Barron of Word on Fire.
- Lenten reflections from a series called "Emily Dickinson and the Poetry of Lent," which features Scripture, poetry, and daily challenges.

In addition to these devotionals, there is a wealth of information pertaining to our Lenten / Triduum / Easter liturgies and prayer services. All of these will be live-streamed, if you are unable to attend in person. You can click the name of the event for a direct link to the scheduled live-stream on our YouTube channel.

Lastly, **we are gathering information about your plans for attending some of our liturgies.** You can click the link to the survey which appears on our Lent & Easter web page or you can provide the following information on paper and drop at the office or in the collection basket next weekend. To the best of your knowledge, please indicate whether you expect to attend each liturgy and the number of people who would likely be in your group.

Note: It is challenging for us to plan for Easter morning Mass before having an idea of how many will be attending. Therefore, our question for that day is open-ended. The responses to this survey will guide us in our plans for Easter morning, which we will share with you as soon as possible.

Your name: _____

Do you plan to attend in person? How many in your group?

Holy Thursday, 4/1, 7 p.m. Yes / No Number: _____

Good Friday, 4/2, 7 p.m. Yes / No Number: _____

Easter Vigil, 4/3, 8 p.m. Yes / No Number: _____

Easter morning Mass, 4/4, times TBD
Yes / No Number: _____

EASTER FLOWERS

We are again accepting donations for Easter flowers for the church in honor of living or deceased members of the parish or your family. Mark your donation "**Easter Flowers**" and list the names of those you wish to remember. Include your name as well.

You can also donate to the Easter Flowers fund through our Online Giving platform: www.osvhub.com/saint-stephen-stl/funds/easter-flowers

At the end of the season, the flowers may be taken home by those who made a donation.

DAN SCHUTTE LENTEN RETREAT

We are pleased to have learned of a Lenten retreat facilitated by Dan Schutte called **From Ashes to Glory.**

Unlike our Advent retreat, which we were able to offer as a group event through the parish, **this is set up on an individual basis as a self-directed retreat.** Each person pays for their own retreat and then receives the link to the videos and their own materials. The cost is \$100 per person, which (although it may seem steep) is reasonable when compared to similar retreat offerings. **We as a parish are not sponsoring this retreat but wanted to let you know about it.**

For more information, visit www.danschuttemusic.com/wordpressstore/events-2.

If the cost would preclude you from participating, there is limited financial aid available. Please contact Mary Regan at mary.regan@saintstephenstl.org.

A NOTE FROM THE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

SSP Parents / Athletes:

Taking into consideration all factors, **the Athletic Association has decided to pass on the spring sport seasons this year** (baseball, softball, track & field). The "icing on the cake" is the twice-a-month testing required by the City of St. Louis for all coaches / players for all city parishes. Certainly not the only variable in our decision making, but it played a significant role in the final determination.

We really hope for great things and a return to "normalcy" next year.

Thanks for your continued support.

SSP Athletic Association

A LEPER FOR THE TIME BEING

A painful moment recounted in *The Christian Century* [August 19, 2018]:

He had been a minister for 25 years. He was a generous colleague to other clergy in the area, serving on committees and attending ordinations and installations. He had friends in other churches — or so he thought.

Then a dispute erupted in his church resulting in public charges, counter charges, angry public meetings, and critical articles in the local newspaper. A long, ugly, drawn-out legal process tore the parish apart. Seeing him at meetings, his fellow clergy were friendly — but distant. After all, they had their own churches — and skins — to worry about.

In time, the issues were resolved and the parish was healing. At their next gathering, his fellow ministers greeted him warmly, clapping him on the back, shaking his hand. One minister offered a prayer of thanksgiving that all had ended well.

Later at the meeting, the minister stood and asked to speak. He didn't talk about the issue his parish had faced or the long legal process. He told his brother and sister ministers "about the silence at the center of the noise" — about the phone that never rang in a gesture of friendship, his feeling of being deserted by friends and colleagues in ministry."

"Where were you?" he asked. "I didn't expect you to take a stand alongside me. It wasn't your battle. I did expect your friendship, your offers of prayer, a shared cup of coffee. We could have talked about something else. Or we could just sit together for a bit, not saying anything. Where were you?"

A minister who was there remembers, "There was a silence and downcast faces. In our silence, we were ashamed. And, I hope, recalled our better selves, as ministers and as people."

Our attitudes and perceptions can reduce others to "lepers": those we avoid for fear of being caught up in their problems or crises, those who we don't those who don't "fit" our image of class and decorum, those whose politics or religion or race or gender seem to threaten our own. We exile these "lepers" to the margins of society outside our gates; we dismiss them with simplistic labels and unfair stereotypes; we reject them as too "unclean" to be part of our lives and our world. The Christ who heals lepers comes to heal us, as well, of our debilitating sense of self that

blinds us to the sacredness and dignity of those we demean as "lepers," to heal us of our own "leprosy" so that we are able to realize again that God extends his compassion and grace even to the likes of us. Before God, no one is a leper, no one is beyond the reach of God's healing mercy and compassion; all of us are sons and daughters of God; all of us are made in the sacred image of the God of justice, peace and reconciliation.

From *Connections*, February 2021

CECIL WHITTAKER'S DINE-AROUND

Eat at Cecil Whittaker's on **Thursday, Feb. 18**, between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. to benefit our PTO!

There are three participating locations:

- 6018 S. Grand, 314-352-7277
- 9040 Gravois, 314-544-2900
- 3429 Watson Rd., 314-644-0515

Mention SSP for credit!

8TH GRADE PLAY: A BIG HIT!

The St. Stephen Protomartyr Class of 2021 thanks you!

We hope you enjoyed the performance of "Virtually Ever After" as much as they enjoyed making it! Your purchases of tickets and raffle chances have made it possible for the class to fund their traditional Mystery Trip and graduation celebration.

Raffle winners:

- Set Builder's Basket: **Andy Sciaroni**
- Royal Relaxation #1 (Verve): **Michelle Dougherty**
- Royal Relaxation #2: **Krista Schoellhorn**
- Puss in Some Kind of Shoes: **Rachael Fogerty**
- Stick With Kate Gift Certificate: **Maureen Stroer**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Thanks to our PTO leadership — **Ann Marie Guntli, Jill Pace, Holly Seher, Amy Cervantes, Kae Schoellhorn, Maureen Stroer, Becky Lamperti, Michelle Darden, Kathy Warren, Felicia Spencer, and Chad Wilcox** for a fantastic Catholic Schools Week!

Visit www.saintstephenstl.org/catholic-schools-week for a recap of the week's activities in photos and videos.

Catholic education is alive and very well at St. Stephen Protomaryr!



CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

January 31-
February 6
#CSW21



February 14, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 15

Private Mass

Tuesday, February 16

8 a.m. — Rev. Robert Heimos

Wednesday, February 17

8 a.m. — Suzi Beck

Thursday, February 18

8 a.m. — Jim Pratt

Friday, February 19

8 a.m. — Msgr. Joseph Boher

Saturday, February 20

4 p.m. — Ernie Sciaroni

Sunday, February 21

9 a.m. — John & Cecelia Hopmeir

PLEASE PRAY

for our sick and recovering ...

Joshua Aasgaard	Harley Gardner	Steve Moylan
Liz Bentrup	Jan Haffer	Grace Phillips
Ann Dosenbach	Paul Heidbrier	Bernard Vance
Larry Esswein	Tim Krueger	Virginia Zenthoefer
Beverly Gardner	Thomas Lorenz	

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.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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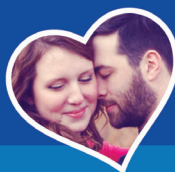
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