

ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR PARISH

September 5, 2021 • 23rd 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 Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116 • 314-481-1133

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Father Ronald J. Hopmeir, Pastor — ext 305, info@saintstephenstl.org

Mary Regan, Pastoral Associate — ext 311, mary.regan@saintstephenstl.org

June Tessin, Office Manager / Bookkeeper — ext 340, june.tessin@saintstephenstl.org

Mary Paule, Child Safety Coordinator / Secretary — ext 315, mary.paule@saintstephenstl.org

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

Bob Wiley, Facilities Manager — ext 326, bob.wiley@saintstephenstl.org

Stephanie Oehler Wobbe, Communications & Marketing Coordinator — ext 303, stephanie.wobbe@saintstephenstl.org

SCHOOL OFFICE 3929 Wilmington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116 • 314-752-4700

www.saintstephenstl.org/school  [@SSPCatholicSchool](https://www.facebook.com/SSPCatholicSchool)

Greg Sturgill, Principal — ext 320, greg.sturgill@saintstephenstl.org

Amanda Quinn, Administrative Assistant — ext 321, amanda.quinn@saintstephenstl.org

STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, and PRAYER

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" James 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions?

Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson.

When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace.

When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting.

When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

August 29 Contribution	\$ 3,768.00
Online giving contribution	\$ 1,619.00
Total weekly contribution	\$ 5,387.00
Renovation & Improvement	\$ 345.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 445.00
St. Vincent de Paul Society	\$ 60.00
Catholic University	\$ 40.00
Haiti Earthquake Relief	\$ 380.00

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday: Col 1:24—2:3; Ps 62

6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1-2,

8-9, 10-11; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday, Nativity of Mary:

Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 13:6ab, 6c;

Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

Thursday, St. Peter Claver: Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-2,

3-4, 5-6; Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a & 5, 7-8, 11;

Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5 & 6-7;

Lk 6:43-49

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-2,

3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35



HAND SANITIZER GIVEAWAY

St. Stephen's was on the receiving end of a generous donation of hand sanitizer. We've stocked the shelves at school, shared some with the St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to anyone in need, and the rest is yours for the taking. Please help yourself to various-sized bottles in the back of church.



In accordance with city health department guidelines in response to the rising cases of COVID, everyone attending Mass is asked to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.



SAVE THE DATES

In these still-uncertain times, all events should be considered tentatively scheduled and subject to change.

Tues., Sept. 14 — "Men in the Glen" (see facing page)

Sat., Sept. 18 — Mass in the Park (see facing page)

Fri., Sept. 24 — PTO Outdoor Family Movie Night

Sun., Oct. 10 — Sts. Mary & Joseph Open House & Sale

Sat., Oct. 16 — PTO Trivia Night

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

Monday September 6	Tuesday September 7	Wednesday September 8	Thursday September 9	Friday September 10	Saturday September 11	Sunday September 12
No Mass 	Mass 8 a.m. and Perpetual Help Devotions	Mass 8 a.m. (with Grades 6-8)	Mass 8 a.m. (with Grades 1-2)	Mass 8 a.m. (with Grades 3-5)	Mass 4 p.m.	Mass 9 a.m.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Following the example of our patron St. Stephen, we are called to be witnesses of God's love and to be a faith-filled, reconciling parish.

76 TROMBONES?

We are so excited to be starting another year of music education at our school!

Last year, COVID-19 restrictions necessitated our band's moving to individual lessons conducted over Zoom, culminating in two virtual concerts. This year we are moving back to modified group instruction. In addition to welcoming back some former students, we are so pleased to be inviting any new interested students who were unable to join for the first time last year!

The expense of purchasing or renting an instrument is sometimes a prohibitive consideration for any student wishing to join the band. **Do you have any instruments at home that might like a second life with a new musician?** We would love to have a supply of loaner instruments at school so that any interested students can more easily give band a try.

We are looking especially for trumpets, clarinets, flutes, and saxophones **in good playing condition**. Instruments can be brought to the school or parish office. If you have any questions, please contact band instructor **Ann Dolan** at ann.dolan@saintstephenstl.org or 314-752-4700.



"MEN IN THE GLEN"

All men of the parish and school community are invited to the kickoff meeting of the Holy Name Society (Men's Club) on Tuesday, **Sept. 14, 2021**, at 7:30 p.m.

Under normal circumstances, meetings are held in the Parish Hall. However, while weather permits we will meet outside of president **Ted Hartzler's** office (a.k.a. "The Glen") at 3757 Wilmington Ave. Meetings consist of a short prayer service, an efficient discussion of current business, and a culinary offering—in September, that's bratwurst. Visit www.saintstephenstl.org/holy-name-society for future meeting and event dates.

Contact Ted Hartzler at ted@tedhartzlersales.com with any questions.



Good news! The Holy Name Society will be resuming the special tradition of Mass in the Park on the third Saturday in September, but with a few tweaks to ensure the safety of our community.

We will celebrate Mass at our usual location, the Carondelet Park bandstand near Boat Lake, on Saturday, **Sept. 18, 2021**, at 4 p.m. This year, Mass in the Park will be taking some cues from the summertime Concerts in the Park. We are inviting you to bring your own lawn chairs and, if you'd like to stay for dinner afterward, your own picnic-style dinner and beverages for you / your family.

We ask that you sit in family groups and, as when worshipping in church, refrain from eating and drinking during the celebration of Mass.

We understand that this modified event may present challenges for some. We are all hoping for a return to normal next September but in the meantime are glad for the option to celebrate in this "hybrid" way. **Let us know how we can help you.**

As in years past, **parking spots will be available in the area in front of the Boathouse** for those who need to be close. We also encourage you to consider parking along Loughborough.

IF ...

- You anticipate needing **assistance carrying items** to or from your car, or
- You are a high school student looking for a **service opportunity**

... please contact **Mary Regan** at 314-481-1133, ext 311, or mary.regan@saintstephenstl.org.

As always, for those who choose not to worship at Mass in the Park, we will be celebrating Mass in church as usual on Sunday, **Sept. 19**, at 9 a.m.

COMING SOON . . .**St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store Truck Collection Weekend*****Saturday, Oct 23. (12:00-4:00 P.M.) & Sunday, Oct. 24 (9:00-1:00)******St. Stephen Protomartyr Catholic Church -- 3949 Wilmington Ave. 63116******(Time to clean out the attic, basement & garage and put that stuff to good use.)***

Please search your home & tell your neighbors, friends and family that we will be collecting used clothes, shoes, most household items (dishware, eating & cooking utensils, kitchen items, linens, blankets, small appliances, etc.), books (paperback and hardbound), smaller furniture items and any working electronics (please NO tube type TV's or monitors). Please put these items in bags or boxes and take them to the large SVDP Thrift Store truck parked in the Livingston lot on Saturday, Oct. 23 (12:00 noon to 4:00p.m.) or Sunday, Oct. 24 (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.). Someone will be there to take your donations and give you a receipt if you want one. These items will either be resold or recycled at the *St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store* on Kingshighway (next to Burlington Coat Factory). We can take smaller furniture items, but if you have very large furniture items or large appliances, call the Thrift Store (314-881-6006) for pickup at a later date.

Our parish *St. Vincent de Paul Society* will benefit from your donations and will be able to help more of those in need in our neighborhood.

Try shopping at the Thrift Store. GREAT BARGAINS!!!



*Look for this truck on the
Livingston lot.*

*(Sat. Oct. 23 - 12:00 till 4:00 p.m.
& Sunday Oct. 24 - 9:00 a.m. till
1:00 p.m.)*

Questions ... contact Jim Prag

314-504-8216

jp4121@sbcglobal.net

***If you can't donate this weekend here at SSP, you can always
drop off items directly at the SVDP Thrift Store.***

"TO THE WOMAN ON THE NO. 3 TRAIN ..."

On a hot summer morning, a 16-year-old pushed his way on to a crowded New York City subway train. He couldn't get close enough to a pole to hold on to — all he could do was try to keep his balance by placing his palm on the ceiling of the car.

It didn't work.

As the train lurched forward, he and his heavy backpack tumbled into the lap of woman sitting nearby. Not feeling well after a sleepless night, the teen said nothing to the woman as he struggled to get to his feet. The woman was clearly upset.

As the day went on, he felt awful about what had happened and his failure to offer an appropriate apology. Of course, he had no idea who the poor woman was or how to reach her — so he wrote an apology to "the woman I fell onto on the 3 train" that was published in the "Metropolitan Diary" column of *The New York Times* [August 17, 2020]. Published every weekend, "Metropolitan Diary" is delightful collection of stories and anecdotes contributed by readers about living in New York City in all its energy and quirkiness. The teen began his apology: "To the woman I fell onto on the [No.] 3 train that morning: I'm sorry, and I feel awful for the way things turned out."

Retelling the story of his struggle to keep his balance, he wrote:

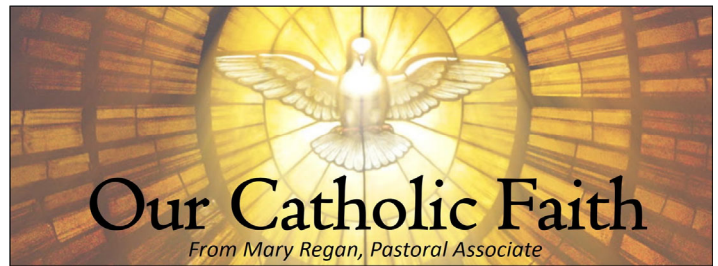
"You had a right to be annoyed with me. Nobody wants a tall 16-year-old with a heavy backpack to tumble onto them on their way to work.

"If you cannot accept my apology, I completely understand. If I had the opportunity to take the ride again, I would hold on to the ceiling with a tighter grip, and, if I lost my balance, apologize in person.

"I wish you a lifetime of peaceful commutes on the No. 3 train. I hope something like that never happens to you again.

"Sincerely, the tall boy who fell on you that morning."

This 16-year-old possesses the gift of "Ephphatha," the ability to put aside his own wants and troubles in order to "listen" to how his actions and attitudes affect others, especially in hurtful and costly ways. Our self-centeredness can make us deaf to the presence of God, isolating us from God's compassion in the midst of conflict and anger, in times of brokenness and hurt. "Ephphatha" is to possess the empathy and generosity of heart to move beyond ourselves to bring peace and healing



The Dignity of Work

As we approach this Labor Day, it is important for us to understand that in the Catholic tradition, work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continued participation in God's creative action. Work is a partnership with God — our share in a divine human collaboration in creation.

Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that if the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected — the right to productive work, and to decent and fair wages.

Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Laborem Exercens* promulgated on Sept. 14, 1981, begins with this blessing, which in part says: "THROUGH WORK man must earn his daily bread and contribute to the continual advance of science and technology and, above all, to elevating unceasingly the cultural and moral level of the society within which he lives in community with those who belong to the same family. And work means any activity by man, whether manual or intellectual, whatever its nature or circumstances; it means any human activity that can and must be recognized as work, in the midst of all the many activities of which man is capable and to which he is predisposed by his very nature, by virtue of humanity itself. ... From the beginning therefore he is called to work. Work is one of the characteristics that distinguish man from the rest of creatures, whose activity for sustaining their lives cannot be called work."

especially to those we have hurt. Throughout the Gospel, Jesus calls us to remain open — "Ephphatha!" — to the possibilities for transformation through compassion, for re-creation through forgiveness, for restoration through realizing our responsibility for our mistakes and failings.

WE SAVED YOU A SEAT!

From Nov. 7-11, 2021, **Mary, Mother of the Church** (5901 Kerth Rd.) will sponsor a parish mission called **"Change Our Hearts!"** The mission will be led by Redemptorist priest **Fr. Peter Schavitz, C.Ss.R.**, a former Mary, Mother of the Church pastor.



Over five nights, Fr. Pete will proclaim the Gospel through his own life, learning, and experience. Each night explores faith topics such as the Bible, Crucifix, Ashes, Bread, and the Altar. The parish mission will be introduced at all weekend Masses on Nov. 6 and 7. Each evening session will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the church. For more information, call 314-894-1373.

All are invited. Kids are welcome (childcare will be provided). Light refreshments will be served afterwards. We look forward to seeing you!

BRATWURST DINNER

The Men's Club of **St. Lucas Lutheran Church** (7100 Morganford Rd.) is sponsoring a Bratwurst Dinner on Sunday, **Sept. 26, 2021**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5 to 12 years of age, and free for children under 5.

Dinners are served family-style — all you can eat!

Starting at 10:30 a.m., carryouts will be available on the Morganford Road side of church.



Way Back When?

1975



CLASS OF 1977'S CONFIRMATION DAY, WITH BISHOP CHARLES KOESTER

September 5, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, September 6

No Mass

Tuesday, September 7

8 a.m. — Bill Jost, Barb Springs

Wednesday, September 8

8 a.m. — Ken Springs

Thursday, September 9

8 a.m. — Jim Gunter

Friday, September 10

8 a.m. — Josephine Anne Wohlestadter

Saturday, September 11

4 p.m. — Our Parishioners

Sunday, September 12

9 a.m. — N. Edward Forti, Lucille Ogar

PLEASE PRAY

for our sick and recovering ...

Joshua Aasgaard	Paul Heidbrier	Steve Moylan
Ann Dosenbach	Lois Herberts	Madge Potrzeboski
Harley Gardner	Thomas Lorenz	Virginia Zenthoefer

for our homebound ...

Art Petersen

for family members serving in the military ...

Derek Hirtz	Brian Schoellhorn	Mitch Sollmann
Sam May	Chris Schrader	
Tristan Moylan	Dylan Schulte	

DEVOTIONS

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

23rd 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

Saturday: Mass, 4 p.m.

Sunday: Mass, 9 a.m.

Tuesday-Friday: Mass, 8 a.m.

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, ext 311, 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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