

ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

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.

LITURGICAL UPDATE FROM FATHER RON

A few changes to Mass procedures; worship during Advent & Christmas

S'MORES WITH SANTA!

A visit from Santa with a new twist

GIVING TUESDAY: #IGIVECATHOLIC

Invitation to support upgrade to school public-address system



ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH

3949 Wilmington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116
314-481-1133

Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. to noon
Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays



saintstephenstl.org



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StStephenSTL



StStephenProtomartyr



StStephenProtomartyr

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

***Please send news, photos, or
bulletin articles to Stephanie Wobbe.***

SCHOOL OFFICE

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

D. Greg Sturgill

Principal
ext 320, greg.sturgill@saintstephenstl.org

Amanda Quinn

Administrative Assistant
ext 321, amanda.quinn@saintstephenstl.org

COMING UP AT CHURCH ...

This weekend the “**Little Blue Books**” of daily meditations for Advent are available in at the church entrances. You are welcome to take one home.

Also starting this weekend, our aftercare program would welcome donations of any **family-friendly DVDs** you may no longer have use for. You may drop them in the bin in the back of church.

On **Dec. 5, 2021**, at 1 p.m., **Virginia Herbers**, Director of Mission Formation at Saint Louis University, hosts an Advent Afternoon Reflection called **Hidden Figures in Advent**.

Join us to celebrate **the Feast of the Immaculate Conception** on **Dec. 8, 2021**, at 8 a.m. or 6 p.m.

Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, **Dec. 11**, from 10 a.m. to noon, in our church. **Our second-graders celebrate the sacrament for the first time** on Thursday, **Dec. 16**.

Nightly Novenas begin **Dec. 17** and end **Dec. 23**.

Decorate the church for Christmas on **Dec. 19**, after our 9 a.m. Mass. The more, the MERRIER!

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In the charity of your prayers, please remember the sister of **Denise Poepsel** and the cousin of **David Borgmeyer**, who died recently. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

SUNDAY CONTRIBUTION

Due to early bulletin deadlines, stewardship for the week ending Nov. 21, 2021 will be reported next week.

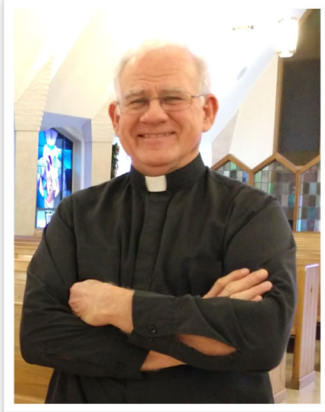
THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

Monday November 29	Tuesday November 30	Wednesday December 1	Thursday December 2	Friday December 3	Saturday December 4	Sunday December 5
No Mass	Mass 8am Giving Tuesday #iGiveCatholic Gala Auction Committee Mtg 7pm	Mass 8am (Gr 6-8) Board of Ed Mtg 7pm	Mass 8am (Gr 1-2)	Mass 8am (Gr 3-5) Parish Staff Mtg 9am S'mores With Santa / Choral Club 6pm	 Mass 4pm	Mass 9am DONUT SUNDAY Advent Afternoon Reflection with Virginia Herbers 1 pm
SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT						

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

I am grateful that our parish and school have weathered this pandemic so well so far.

The young children are now able to be vaccinated, which is a relief to all of us. At the most recent meeting of the Liturgy Committee we had our customary review of the COVID-related precautions we have in place. Please remember that when it comes to these decisions, our primary concern is always your safety. I know other parishes have relaxed restrictions on different timelines, but every parish has its own set of circumstances. We have done very well this past year, and we want to worship in safety. All of our worship-related policies are the unanimous decision of the Liturgy Committee, which includes medical professionals.



You will notice a few changes, beginning with this first weekend of Advent:

- Holy water fonts will be filled.
- The lector will participate in the entrance procession.
- I will return to saying “Let us offer each other a sign of peace,” with the understanding that we will wave or nod to one another as we have generally been doing for a while now.
- At the end of Mass, I and the server will recess down the main aisle to the back of church.
- Ushers will no longer “release” pews at the end of Mass. As you depart, please be mindful of gathering safely, preferably outdoors.

- During Advent we will return to carrying the appropriate number of candles in the entrance procession. Individual adult parishioners will have the opportunity to carry one of the candles. Please contact Mary Regan if you are interested in carrying a candle.

Our adult and children’s choirs will not be singing in person at any of our Christmas Masses. They will be gathering and rehearsing safely and recording prelude music to be shared before each of the Masses.

Another change, not COVID-related, is moving our brief announcements to just before the beginning of Mass. These announcements will be shared by Stephanie Wobbe or Mary Regan from the ambo.

On December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we will celebrate Mass at 8 a.m. and at 6 p.m. (Please note the change from our usual 7 p.m.)

We are planning to celebrate our Christmas Masses at their usual times – 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and 10 a.m. on Christmas. For these Masses, we will be asking for reservations on Signup Genius. Advance knowledge of how many and what size groups to expect allows us to accommodate the maximum number of people our church can safely hold. If there is early overwhelming interest in the 5 p.m. Mass, we will have time to consider various ways to accommodate everyone who wants to worship in person. The Signup Genius will open on December 1.

Because December 26 falls on a Sunday on which the Feast of the Holy Family takes precedence, we will not officially celebrate the feast of our patron St. Stephen this year.

Again, I commend you on your care for one another and for your cooperation. This Advent season, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus, we also look forward to healthy, happy new year and beyond.

Peace,





ADVENT

This Sunday, November 28, begins a new liturgical year, Year C, with the First Sunday of Advent. In Year C we primarily read the Gospel of Luke on Sundays. The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season in all three liturgical years.

Advent has a twofold character. First, it is a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered. Second, it is a season when we also look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Thus Advent is a period for devout and joyful expectation.

The liturgical color for Advent is violet (bluish-purple.) The violet color for Advent is not the purple of Lent, which is symbolic of penance and repentance. During Advent the color is more of a blue-purple, like the sky just before sunrise. This is the time of year when the Church waits in joyful hope to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

GIVING TUESDAY IS *THIS* TUESDAY

Your contribution to our #iGiveCatholic campaign this year will subsidize improvements to our public address system, to make immediate and seamless communication possible in our school buildings.



Visit <https://stl.igivecatholic.org/organizations/ssp> to participate between now and **Nov. 30** (Giving Tuesday). Donations by cash or check can be marked "Giving Tuesday" and dropped in collection or at parish office. Thank you to all who have already donated!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Those wishing to honor a loved one by donating toward flowers in church this Christmas season can use the stewardship envelope or drop an envelope in the collection with the name(s) of those you wish to remember. After the season, donors are welcome to take the flowers home.



'TIS THE SEASON FOR SINGING

Our **Choral Club** is warming up for the holiday season! The singers are looking forward to sharing their joyful talent at various outdoor venues between now and Christmas. See schedule below and on the web at www.saintstephenstl.org/choral-club. All are welcome to show up and sing along!



Dec. 3, 6:25 p.m.-7:55 p.m.

SSP S'mores With Santa (3 groups, 3 time slots)

Dec. 11, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Soulard Market (Grades 3-5)

Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Holy Name Society Meeting (Grades 3-8)

Dec. 15, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

MOBOT Garden Glow (small group from Grades 7-8)

Dec. 18, 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

Kiener Plaza (Grades 6-8)

Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

MOBOT Garden Glow (small group from Grades 7-8)

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11 • **Tuesday, St. Andrew:** Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 4:18-22 • **Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37 • **Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 & 9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27 • **Friday, St. Francis Xavier:** Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31 • **Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 • **Second Sunday of Advent:** Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

MY HARSHTEST JUDGE: ME

We can't get that photograph out of our minds. It might have been a picture or video of a lost child in Afghanistan or Haiti or Sudan, or a boy homeless on the streets of an American city, or a girl in desperate need of medical care her family can't afford. Those eyes could be the eyes of our own child; the crooked smile could be that of our own son or daughter or the child next door. It's clear that we've failed these children ...

We recognize the number on our phone immediately. What trouble did he or she get into this time? We let the number ring through. Later, we learn what happened. If we had only taken the call ...

We lost it. We were having a bad day — and decided everyone around us should have a bad day, too. It was a simple mistake, an innocent joke we took the wrong way, an accident. And we blew up. We took no prisoners. The silence after our blast was worse than the tears and awkwardness that followed. And we felt awful ...

In today's Gospel, Jesus foretells the "Son of Man" coming in judgment, but in many ways, God's judgment has already come upon us. The theologian Gerhard Lohfrink writes in *Is This All There Is?* that we "pass judgment on ourselves in the face of the 'victims' we have created and implacably rise before our eyes in death: the many we have not helped, even though we could have; the many we could have consoled and did not; those for whom we could have been models of faith and were anything but; the many we overlooked, disappointed, shamed, despised, or led astray and misled; the many we exploited for our own purposes." May this Advent season be a season of "judgment" in which we are able to see God in the faces of those we have hurt, let down, or victimized — and may our "judgment" lead to our redemption before the God of mercy and forgiveness.

From *Connections*, November 2021



May God bless all in our community celebrating a birthday in December!

Kenneth Aubuchon	Hayley Stengel	Lou Roeder
Quan Minh Cao	Jamie Baker	Cheryl Kunkel
Charlotte Hogan	Ellie Jablonowski	Karen Peters
Dianne Neels	Matt O'Neil	Michelle Bauer
Mary Ann O'Connell	Ben Schulte	Lhotse Carrera
Jill Summary	Morgan Baker	Carol Anne Lorenz
Mary Ann Whalen	Kim Chamberlain	Kathy Souders
Wilson Ward	Larry Driscoll	Nahom Hagos
Sam Biermann	Carol Frederick	Tom Brown
Amanda Lee	Jeff Marsek	Nicholas Doeschot
Dan Murphy	John Welby	Marge Ulrich
Kregg Kraus	Kevin Childers	Anthony Alewel
Bob Oppelt	Gloria Wessels	Christine Ward
Jason Chierek	Anna Comerford	Michael Cuniff
Gloria Schmidt	Hendrix Fyvie	Anthony Kuenzel
Sue Schwent	John Grimaud	Zachary Mueller
Valerie Shelton	Stephen Guillot	Hannah Rettig
Betsy Stoff	Chris McGeehan	Steven Stolte
Harper Summary	Steven Bernstetter	Scott Armstrong
Jane Galbierz	Violet Borgmeyer	Gregory Fournelle
Sebastian Resmann	Bill Cordia	David Mung
John Schrader	Noelle Renick	Carolynne Metz
Michael Smith	Elise Aasgaard	Claire Paule
Virginia Zenthoefer	Loretta Buehler	Scott Reibe
Jason Hackett	Kerry Geist	Nia Owens
Salvatore Polizzi	Connor Hanlon	Oscar Lehmuth
Carol Sestric	Joseph Kenny	Eleanor Marcum
Bob Westrich	Michael Raic	Victor Raic
Joseph Ehrhard	Tracy Stengel	Margot Rataj
Cameron Granda	Sharon Reibe	Chad Wilcox
Anthony Hargraves	Kerri Reynolds	Stephanie Westermayer
Carol Massmann	Jey Carrera	

ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR GIRL SCOUTS PRESENT

S'mores With Santa

DEC 3, 6PM-8PM



Where?

St. Stephen Protomartyr School (3929 Wilmington Ave., 63116)
Outdoors on the Parish Center lot; indoor restrooms available

What?

Photo opportunities with Santa • The sweet sounds of the SSP Choral Club
S'mores & hot cocoa 'round the firepit • Christmas crafts • And more!

A little fine print ...

Please keep in mind the recommendations of our local health department and maintain social distance as much as possible. Face masks are required when going indoors to use restrooms. All activities are outdoors, so please dress for the weather. The event will be cancelled in the case of dangerously icy conditions or dangerously cold temperatures. **News of cancellation will be posted at www.saintstephenstl.org/smores-with-santa.** In the event of cancellation, we will consider your payment to be a donation to the St. Stephen's Girl Scouts.

Make Your Reservation!

We cannot guarantee s'mores kits will be available for walk-ins or reservations received after **NOVEMBER 30.**

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of people _____ X \$5 each = \$ _____ (Maximum charge of \$20 / family)

Send cash or check payable to "St. Stephen Girl Scouts" to school office or mail to
S'mores With Santa, c/o St. Stephen Protomartyr, 3949 Wilmington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116
Questions? Contact Gina at 314-598-0241



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 29

No Mass

Tuesday, November 30

8 a.m. — Msgr. Joseph Boher

Wednesday, December 1

8 a.m. — Bill Jost

Thursday, December 2

8 a.m. — John Kopff

Friday, December 3

8 a.m. — Rev. John Ghio

Saturday, December 4

4 p.m. — Karen Daum

Sunday, December 5

9 a.m. — Our Parishioners

OUR SICK AND RECOVERING

Joshua Aasgaard

Liz Bentrup

Bill Dorsam

Ann Dosenbach

Harley Gardner

Paul Heidbrier

Lois Herberts

Dolores Jones

Stephen Jones

Sue Kriegshauser

Thomas Lorenz

Jan Oppelt

John Pond

Madge Potrzeboski

Virginia Zenthoefer

OUR HOMEBOUND

Art Petersen

OUR FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

Derek Hirtz

Sam May

Tristan Moylan

Brian Schoellhorn

Chris Schrader

Dylan Schulte

Mitch Sollmann

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

Eucharist

Saturday: Mass, 4 p.m.

Sunday: Mass, 9 a.m.

Tuesday-Friday: Mass, 8 a.m.

Reconciliation

Please call Father Ron at 314-481-1133, ext. 305, 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 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 Mary Regan at 314-481-1133, ext 311.

Marriage

Please contact Mary Regan at 314-481-1133, ext 311, 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 Mary Regan at 314-481-1133, ext 311.

Parish School of Religion

PSR offers formal classes in our Catholic faith for children aged 4 years through high school. Classes are held on the campus of St. John the Baptist Parish. To enroll, contact the PSR director at 314-773-3070.

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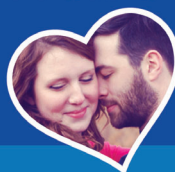
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