

ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

January 1, 2023

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

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.



Blessed
are you

blessed is the fruit of your womb

ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH

3949 Wilmington Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116
314-481-1133 • info@saintstephenstl.org

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



saintstephenstl.org



SSPstl
SSPCatholicSchool



StStephenSTL



StStephenProtomartyr



StStephenProtomartyr

Father Ronald J. Hopmeir

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Stephanie Oehler Wobbe

Communications & Marketing Coordinator
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*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

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*And Mary kept all these things,
reflecting on them in her heart.*
— Luke 2:19

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. She heard God's message, and immediately said "yes." Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity.

Due to early bulletin deadlines, stewardship information for the week ending Dec. 25 was not available at the time of submission. We will share that information next week.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday, Sts. Basil & Gregory: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28 ● **Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34 ● **Wednesday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:** 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42 ● **Thursday, St. John Neumann:** 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51 ● **Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mt 1:7-11 ● **Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 & 6a & 9b; Jn 2:1-11 ● **Sunday, Epiphany:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

Best wishes to **Lori Wood** and **David Matteson**, who were married at St. Stephen Protomartyr on Saturday, **December 17, 2022.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR

Monday January 2	Tuesday January 3	Wednesday January 4	Thursday January 5	Friday January 6	Saturday January 7	Sunday January 8
NO MASS Quilters 10am-2pm PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	Mass 8am	Mass 8am (Gr. 6-8) Parish Staff Mtg 9am Quilters 10am-2pm Board of Ed Mtg 7pm	Mass 8am (Gr. K-2)	Mass 8am (All School) Epiphany Pageant 2pm	Confessions 3pm Mass 4pm	Mass 8am Mass 10:30am Epiphany Pageant & Choral Club Concert 2pm

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year to all, and may this be a year filled with many of the Lord's blessings.

Peace,



OUR NEWEST STEPHEN MINISTERS

Congratulations to our newest Stephen Ministers, **Julie Esswein** and **Mike Weber**. These lay ministers have completed their training and will join our team of other Stephen Ministers who are providing care for people who are grieving or going through other crises in their lives. Julie and Mike will be commissioned with other Stephen Ministers from Lindenwood Area Senior Ministry on Sunday, **Jan. 8, 2023**, at Southwest Baptist Church.



Join us in thanking God that they have answered his call for this ministry. Please keep them in your prayers as they carry the love of Christ to their care receivers.



As part of "All Things New," the Archdiocese of St. Louis is examining our parishes, schools, ministries and agencies, evaluating our effectiveness in proclaiming the Gospel. Our goal is to "make all things new" by Gospel renewal and to enhance our evangelization to secure a vibrant future for our current students, as well as their children and grandchildren, by creating an educational model that is accessible, affordable, strong in Catholic identity, and more equitable towards our teachers.



As part of this prayerful discernment, Archbishop Rozanski recently sought additional input and feedback from current parish school teachers, staff, and school families about their Catholic school experiences. Nearly 1,900 teachers responded to their survey, and more 10,000 parents and guardians responded to their survey by answering both multiple-choice and open-ended questions.

You can see an overview of all the responses from across the Archdiocese and results of each parish school at allthingsnew.archstl.org. The survey results from our specific school have been sent to our pastor and principal, and parts have been shared with our teachers, staff, and school parents. They have provided excellent and important feedback to the Archbishop regarding your values and desires as they relate to the future of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Thank you to those who participated!

For any questions pertaining to "All Things New," contact allthingsnew@archstl.org.

A THANK YOU NOTE

To the church, school, and families of St. Stephen Protomartyr, we are humbled every year by the kindness and generosity you show those we serve at Saint Martha's. This year was no different. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you.

With grateful hearts,
the staff of Saint Martha's

For it is in giving that we receive ~ St. Francis of Assisi

SSP ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

★ AFC / NFC ★

WATCH PARTY



FOOD. BEER. FELLOWSHIP

JANUARY 29,
2023

DOORS OPEN
AT 1:30 P.M.

\$40

Pay at the Door

Bring  for squares & games of chance

**REGISTER OR VOLUNTEER AT
WWW.SAINTSTEPHENSTL.ORG/AFC-NFC-WATCH-PARTY**

MARY'S "TREASURES"

An American Mennonite minister, Isaac Villegas, writes in the December issue of *The Christian Century* of volunteering last year at a migrant shelter in Tijuana, Mexico.

One day a woman arrived from the Mayan region of Guatemala. She was pregnant, within weeks of her due date. She came to the shelter asking for a pair of shoes.

Together, the woman and Villegas rummaged through the shelter's store of donated clothing. As they poked around, she began to giggle: there was a huge pile of high heels — stilettos and platform shoes. Villegas laughed, too, trying to explain that they were donated by well-meaning Americans who had no idea what it was like to walk through the desert in stilettos. The two eventually found a pair of Nikes that fit her.

Later that evening, Villegas and the other volunteers decided to throw a baby shower for the soon-to-be mom. They sorted through the boxes of clothes, picking out the cutest onesies and baby outfits; they pitched in to purchase a cake and party supplies. The next evening they celebrated the mother-to-be and her child about to be born, Villegas realizes, into a world and society "that couldn't care less about her life or her child's."

A week later, back home in the United States, Villegas received a text from a friend at the shelter with pictures of the newborn. Both mother and child were doing well. The folks at the shelter would care for her until she was ready to try to cross the border with her child for a new life in the United States.

For Isaac Villegas, his encounter with the Mayan mother was an experience of the Christmas mystery:

"This is the world into which Jesus is born, with Mary and Joseph far away from their home, in a neglected corner of society, left to celebrate with strangers. The shepherds from the fields offer the only gifts they have, words: the words of the angels, the promises of God, news of hope. And 'Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart ...'"

"The Christmas gospel is this," Villegas writes, that despite the bewilderment and exhaustion of our lives, "there is joy, there are celebrations, there are baby showers in shelters and people who look out for each other and strangers who do what they can with what they have. The world is held in God's care, every life held by God."

In the course of this New Year, we will encounter Mary and Joseph and their Child in the poor, the fearful, the broken, the despairing and the hurting we will meet. May we resolve this New Year's Day, a day dedicated to the Mother of God, to speak the word of God's compassion and peace readily and gratefully in the generosity and respect we will be called upon to extend to others. May the "holy families" we meet "treasure" in their hearts whatever we are able to provide to them as we would offer to Mary and her Child.

Connections, January 2023

ST STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR
SPORTS
TRIVIA
XXVIII
FEB 4 2023
WWW.SAINTSTEPHENSTL.ORG / SPORTS-TRIVIA



FREE Income Tax Services

St. Louis Tax Assistance Program provides **FREE INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARATION** for individuals and families with incomes up to \$60,000.

SATURDAY TAX SERVICE LOCATIONS

63108 - GRAND CENTER Cardinal Ritter College Prep 701 North Spring Avenue St. Louis, MO 63108 314-325-9941	63111- SOUTH CITY St. Mary's High School 4701 S. Grand Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63111 314-782-7454	63136 - NORTH COUNTY Believers Temple Word Fellowship 2115 Chambers Road St. Louis, MO 63136 323-786-3138
63301 - ST. CHARLES Lewis & Clark Career Center 2400 Zumbahl Road St. Charles, MO 63301 314-643-7875	63136 - FLORISSANT Dr. Charles M. Roach Legacy Center 11015 Old Halls Ferry Road Florissant, MO 63136 314-325-9941	

WEEKDAY TAX SERVICE LOCATIONS

63304 - ST. CHARLES Kisker Road Branch Library 1000 Kisker Road St. Charles, MO 63304 636-447-7323	63114 - OVERLAND Overland Community Center 9225 Lackland St. Louis, MO 63114 314-786-2782	63118 - SOUTH CITY Thomas Dunn Learning Center 3113 Gasconade St. Louis, MO 63118 314-635-8753
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Go to [St. Louis Tax Assistance Program \(stlouistap.org\)](http://stlouistap.org) to make your appointment

TAP does **not** prepare income tax returns for taxpayers who have:

- ◆ Incomes over \$60,000
- ◆ Rental Property

SPONSORS: Believers Temple Word Fellowship, Cardinal Ritter College Prep, City of Overland, Conner Ash PC, MRV Banks, St. Charles City-County Library District, St. Charles School District Adult and Community Education, St. Louis Chapter MSCPA, St. Mary's High School, Thomas Dunn Learning Center, Trinity Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, United Way of Greater St. Louis, Wells Fargo





MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 2

NO MASS

Tuesday, January 3

8 a.m. — Mildred Boerding

Wednesday, January 4

8 a.m. — Rev. Richard Kosgnel

Thursday, January 5

8 a.m. — Mike Block & Family

Friday, January 6

8 a.m. — Bob Welby

Saturday, January 7

4 p.m. — Jan Dorsam

Sunday, January 8

8 a.m. — Nancy Marty

10:30 a.m. — Our Parishioners

OUR SICK AND RECOVERING

Liz Bentrup

Marshall Dennis

Ann Dosenbach

Harley Gardner

Lois Herberts

Julie Immer

Peggy Amsler Meyer

Jan Oppelt

Rita Schweiger

Cathy Torrillo

Helen Willmann

Virginia Zenthoefner

OUR FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

Derek Hirtz

Sam May

Tristan Moylan

Brian Schoellhorn

Dylan Schulte

Mitch Sollmann

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

Eucharist

Saturday: Mass, 4 p.m.

Sunday: Mass, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday-Friday: Mass, 8 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturdays, 3 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

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.