

# ST. STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR PARISH

Immaculate Heart of Mary + St. John the Baptist + St. Stephen Protomartyr

## WEEKLY BULLETIN: December 28, 2025

### Welcome!

We are so glad that you have joined us for Mass. You matter to God, and you matter to us.

If you haven't been to a Catholic Mass, before, know that we use several different postures for prayer: standing, sitting, and kneeling. You can follow along and do what everyone else does, standing when they stand, and so on.

We believe that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, so we kneel to express adoration of God-With-Us. If it is hard for you to kneel, you can sit instead.

At Communion, if you are not Catholic or not ready to receive the Eucharist, you can come forward with your arms folded to receive a blessing instead

*God Bless You!*

### Our Churches

St. Stephen Protomartyr (SSP) 3949 Wilmington, St. Louis, MO 63116  
Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) 4092 Blow, St. Louis, MO 63116  
St. John the Baptist (SJB) 4200 Delor, St. Louis, MO 63116

### Masses

Saturdays 4pm @ SSP  
Sundays 7am @ SJB • 10am @ IHM • 4:30 @ SSP  
Weekdays 6:30am @ SJB  
Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 8am @ IHM  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am @ SSP

### Main Office

3949 WILMINGTON AVE., ST. LOUIS, MO 63116  
MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-3PM  
314-481-1133 • [WWW.SSPSTL.ORG](http://WWW.SSPSTL.ORG)

### St. Stephen Protomartyr School

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### Maintenance Team

Jim Sciaroni, Maintenance Mgr  
Arturo Cruz, Nate Scott, Fidencio Tomas, Mercy Job

Please join us in singing the entrance hymn. The lyrics for the music chosen for 10 AM Mass are printed below, all other Mass lyrics can be found in the *Breaking Bread* hymnal

## ENTRANCE SONG

*Please Stand*

### O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

**O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God All glory in the highest O come, let us adore Him O come, let us adore Him O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord!

3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

## GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL RITE

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

## FIRST READING (Sirach 3) *Please Be Seated*

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins —a house raised in justice to you.

*The word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

## How We Pray

At every Mass, the prayers of the priest are almost always spoken in the plural—"we," "us," and "our"—even when you attend alone. This reminds us that the Mass is never a private prayer; it is always the prayer of the whole Church, united on earth and in heaven.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM (PSALM 128)

**Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

1. Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

2. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

3. Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

## SECOND READING (COLOSSIANS 3)

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*The word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Please Stand

## GOSPEL (MT 2)

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

Matthew

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, Out of Egypt I called my son. When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, He shall be called a Nazorean.

*The Gospel of The Lord*

**Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ**

### How We Pray

The Sign of the Cross is made at the very beginning and end of Mass to show that our prayer is grounded in the Trinity. Everything we do in the liturgy—from the first song to the final blessing—is offered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

## HOMILY

The priest will now preach the homily, explaining the day's Scriptures and applying them to life today.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Please Stand

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

## OFFERTORY SONG

Please Be Seated

### LOVE GOES ON

1. Love is patient, love is kind, never ending, never ending; slow to anger, rich in mercy, love goes on beyond all time.
2. Love is faithful, love is true, ever joyful and forgiving; love endures when life is over, love is old and love is new.
3. Love alone has shaped our soul, and our hearts are always restless until love becomes our purpose, new creation to unfold.
4. Love our journey, love our goal. Though our faith may move the mountains, love alone can heal the broken; only love will make us whole.

continued...

5. Love, our Savior's one command: "Love the way that I have loved you," with a towel and a basin, washing feet with servant hands.

6. There are three gifts that remain when all other things have perished. Only faith, hope, love enduring, and the greatest gift is love.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Please Stand*

Pray, brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

## HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and Earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.

## OUR FATHER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin, and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope, and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**For the Kingdom the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**

## SIGN OF PEACE

*At this time the congregation will offer one another a sign of peace; some embracing, some shaking hands, etc. This gesture flows from Christ's teaching to make peace with others as we approach the altar.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace

*Please Kneel*

Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world; blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION

*At this time the congregation will come forward to receive the Blessed Sacrament in communion. If you are not Catholic or are not prepared to receive the Eucharist you are invited to cross your hands over your chest and come forward for a blessing.*

## COMMUNION SONG 1

**HERE AT THIS TABLE**

**Come and be filled Here at this table Food for all who**

**hunger and drink for all who thirst Drink of his love**

**Wine of salvation You shall live forever in Jesus Christ**

**the Lord**

1. You who labor for justice You who labor for peace You who steady the plow in the field of the Lord

2. You with lives full of pain You who sorrow and weep You, beloved of Christ Come to him Come to him!

3. Children of ev'ry color in ev'ry land You are his own He gathers you gently Don't you grow weary For when you run You run with the Lord!

## FINAL BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Bow your heads for the blessing.

The response after each prayer is: **Amen.**

The Mass is ended, go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING SONG

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

**We are companions on the journey, Breaking bread and sharing life; And in the love we bear is the hope we share for we believe in the love of our God, We believe in the love of our God.**

1. No longer strangers to each other, No longer strangers in God's House; We are fed and we are nourished by the strength of those who care, By the strength of those who care.

2. We have been gifted each other, And we are called by the Word of the Lord: To act with justice, to love tenderly And to walk humbly with our God, To walk humbly with our God.

## Daily Readings

**Mon:** 1 John 2:3-11, Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6, Luke 2:32, Luke 2:22-35, **Tues:** 1 John 2:12-17, Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, Luke 2:36-40, **Wed:** 1 John 2:18-21, Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13, John 1:14a, 12a, John 1:1-18 **Thurs:** Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8, Galatians 4:4-7, Hebrews 1:1-2, Luke 2:16-21, **Fri:** 1 John 2:22-28, Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, Hebrews 1:1-2, John 1:19-28, **Sat:** 1 John 2:29-3:6, Psalm 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6, John 1:14a, 12a, John 1:29-34

## PASTOR'S NOTE

I thought you should know...



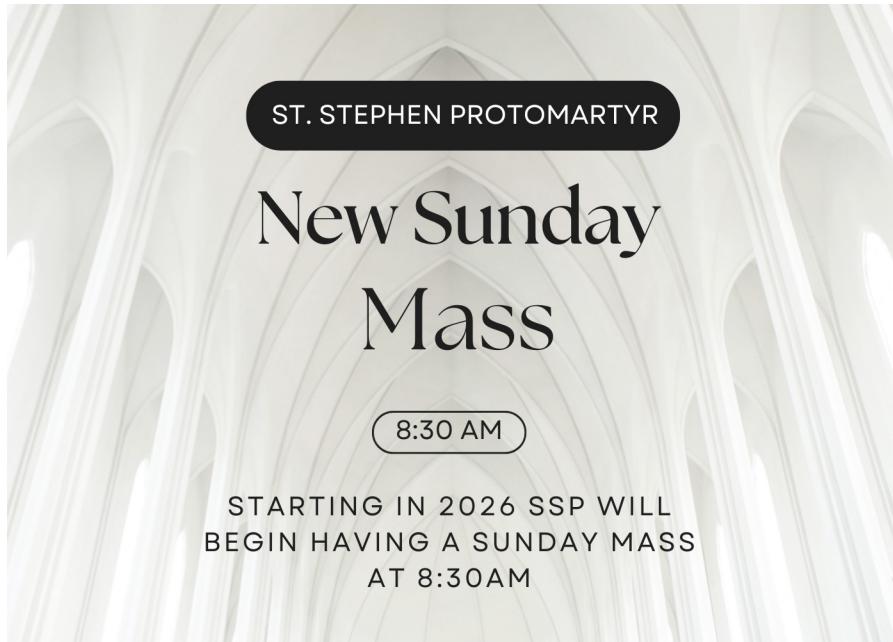
Thank you to everyone who made Christmas at our parish a beautiful and prayerful celebration. And a special thank you to everyone who invited someone, whether or not they came. You planted a seed; the Lord will make it grow.

Remember that we're adding a new Mass time starting next weekend. We'll have an additional Mass at 8:30 am at SSP through Easter on April 5. Hopefully this experiment will help us understand what Mass times will best serve our parish vision: "Become a thriving parish of growing disciples of Jesus Christ in south Saint Louis."

This Thursday, New Years Day, is a Holy Day of Obligation, our celebration of Mary, the Mother of God. You can join us at 8 am at IHM or noon at SJB on January 1. Or you can be wild and crazy like me and bring in the new year praying with our 11:55 pm Mass at SSP on December 31, 2024. God bless you!

## MASS MINISTERS, JANUARY 3 - JANUARY 4

	Altar Server	LECTORS	EUCARISTIC MINISTERS
SAT 4pm SSP CHURCH	Juliana Indelicato Isabel Tomas	Thom Pancella Beth Schlegel	
SUN 7am SJB CHURCH	John Benz	Dooty Folz Frank Rosario	
SUN 8:30am SSP CHURCH	N/A	Bob Dowd Mary Raber	
SUN 10am IHM CHURCH	John Lian Jack Fete	Mary Poletti-Lappe Becky Will	
SUN 4:30pm SSP CHURCH	Blaine Bauer Cora Lorenz	Tim Lorenz Mary Anne Dundon	Katie Cunniff Sara Dannan



THANK YOU TO ALL SERVE  
TOGETHER VOLUNTEERS  
THAT LIT UP THE NIGHT FOR  
THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
AT SSM CARDINAL GLENNON!  
THANK YOU FOR LIGHTING  
UP GLENNON! YOU HAVE  
MADE A DIFFERENCE!

## LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

...for our sick and recovering and their caregivers — Frank Gion, Buddy Horrell, Kathleen Moody, Garry Winter, Rev Ronald Chochol, Quinn Mattingly, Gary Stoff, Grace Forti, Kathy Ruggeri, Margie (Niebling) Yanko, Mary Bentrup Gherardini, Paula Bonn, JoAnn Welby, Joseph Thang, Pat Merz, Marie Weber... and those who are homebound or no longer living in their homes.

## HAVE A BULLETIN SUBMISSION?

Email [bulletin@sspstl.org](mailto:bulletin@sspstl.org) or call 314-481-1133, x303. Items must be received by Monday before 8 a.m.

## MASSES, CELEBRANTS & INTENTIONS

SSP = St. Stephen Protomartyr Church  
IHM = Immaculate Heart of Mary Church  
SJB = St. John the Baptist Church

### Monday, December 29

SJB 6:30am Fr. Aaron Nord Helen Pikul+  
IHM 8:00am Fr. Tim Foley Stephen Mueller

### Tuesday, December 30

SJB 6:30am Fr. Aaron Nord Rev. Urban Knoll +  
SSP 8:00am Fr. Tim Foley Margie Niebling Yanko (health)

### Wednesday, December 31

SJB 6:30am Fr. Aaron Nord Intentions of the Holy Father  
IHM 8:00am Fr. Tim Foley Roth & Mayopoulos Families  
SSP 11:55pm Fr. Aaron Nord Our Parish Family

### Thursday, January 1

SJB 6:30am No Mass  
SSP 8:00am Fr. Tim Foley Our Parish Family  
SJB 12:00pm Fr. Aaron Nord Our Parish Family

### Friday, January 2

SJB 6:30am Fr. Aaron Nord Intentions of the Holy Father  
SSP 8:00am Fr. Tim Foley Margie Niebling Yanko (health)  
SJB 6 pm Confession with Adoration

### Saturday, January 3

IHM 8:00am Fr. Aaron Nord Intentions of the Holy Father  
SSP 3:00pm Confessions  
SSP 4:00pm Fr. Tim Foley Stephen Fieseler +

### Sunday, January 4

SJB 7:00am Fr. Aaron Nord Our Parish Family  
SSP 8:30am Fr. Aaron Nord Our Parish Family  
SJB 7:45am Confessions  
IHM 9:30am Confessions, 9:35am Rosary  
IHM 10:00am Fr. Aaron Nord Aleen Huck +  
SSP 4:30pm Tim Foley Jane B. Roth +

## CALENDAR

For more information, please refer to — or subscribe to — our calendar at  
[www.sspstl.org/ssp-calendars](http://www.sspstl.org/ssp-calendars) or call the parish office at  
314-481-1133.

Mon. Dec 29	10am Weekly Bible Study @ SJB Conference Room 1pm Plarn Group @ IHM Rectory Basement
Tues. Dec 30	9am Exercise and Balance Class @ IHM Cafeteria 10am Quilters @ IHM Rectory Meeting Room 1pm Men's Small Group Meeting @ IHM Rectory Basement 6pm Our Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions @ IHM Chapel 6pm The Well Small Group @ SJB 6pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting @ IHM Cafeteria 6:15pm Lectio Divina @ IHM Chapel
Wed. Dec 31	11:55pm New Year's Eve Mass @ SSP
Thurs. Jan 1	8am New Year's Mass @ IHM 8am Quilters @ SJB Quilters Room 12pm New Year's Mass @ SJB 6pm Weekly Bible Study Group 2 @ SJB Conference Room 7pm South City Young Adults Meeting @ IHM
Fri. Jan 2	9am Exercise @ IHM Cafeteria 6pm Benediction and Rosary @ SJB 6pm First Friday Sacred Heart Devotions @ SJB
Sat. Jan 3	8:30am First Saturday Devotions @ IHM
Sun. Jan 4	8am Small Group Bible Study @ SJB 10am Children's Liturgy of the Word @ IHM 11:30am OCIA Class @ IHM Rectory Meeting Room 4:30pm Children's Liturgy of the Word @ SSP

Interested in more parish events and local opportunities? Join our Flocknote community: <https://saintstephenstl.org/weekly-update>



## CONTRIBUTIONS

December 8- December 14, 2025

General Parish Funds..... \$11,527.73  
Archdiocesan Collections..... \$1,245.00  
St. Vincent de Paul Society ..... \$628.00  
39% of these funds were donated online  
Sign up for online giving at  
[www.osvhub.com/saint-stephen-stl](http://www.osvhub.com/saint-stephen-stl)

## NEED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE?

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is here to help. Call 314-289-6101, x1181, if you or someone you know needs emergency assistance with utilities or food. A Vincentian will return your call within one to two days. All calls are confidential.

# Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

DECEMBER 31:

SSP 11:55PM

JANUARY 1

IHM 8:00AM

SJB 12:00PM