

SAINT STEVEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



[He said to them], "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" - Lk 4:21-22

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MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY—FRIDAY

8:00 A.M.

SATURDAY

4:00 P.M. (vigil)

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

HOLY DAYS

8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

CONFESSION

SATURDAY

3:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.



PRIEST

Rev. Eric Houseknecht,
Parochial Administrator

DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Richard Corwin
Rev. Mr. David Runyan

Mission

Through actively living the sacraments, our community is made new by Christ to love God and one another.

ADORATION

MONDAY—THURSDAY (only)

8:30, 9:30, 10:30 a.m.

1:30 & 2:30 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (Noon)

Friday—Closed

GIFT SHOP HOURS

MONDAY—THURSDAY

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (Noon)

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

The word of the LORD came to me, saying:
Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you. (Jer 1:4-5)

PSALM:

I will sing of your salvation. (Ps 71)

SECOND READING:

So faith, hope, love remain, these three;
but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor 13:13)

GOSPEL:

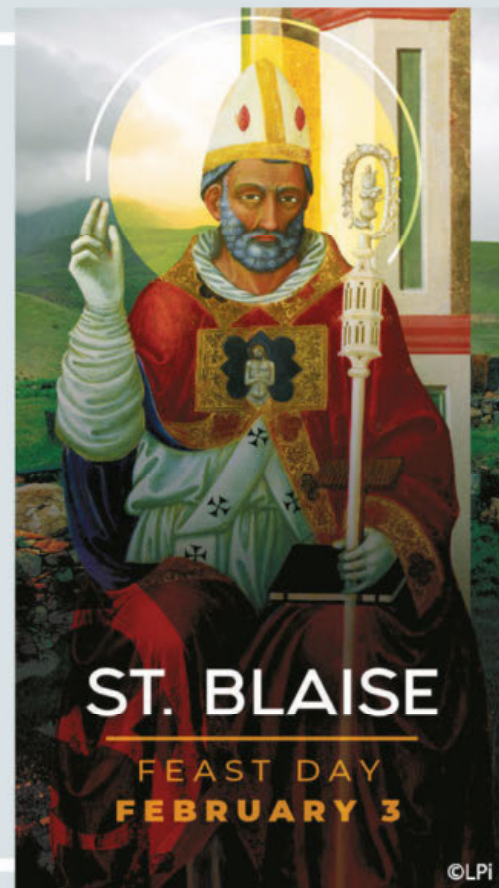
And he said, "Amen, I say to you,
no prophet is accepted in his own native place." (Lk 4:24)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 30, 2022

- Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week
- Monday: St. John Bosco, Priest
- Wednesday: The Presentation of the Lord;
World Day for Consecrated Life
- Thursday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
- Saturday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
- Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs



Saint of the Week

You may be familiar with the annual "blessing of throats" that many parishes in the United States use to commemorate the beloved bishop and martyr. St. Blaise lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. Due to religious persecution, he was forced to flee and hide in a cave in the back country in order to save his life.

History has it that one day a group of hunters stumbled upon where St. Blaise was living. They found the bishop kneeling in prayer, surrounded by wolves, lions and bears that he had tamed. The legend has it that as the hunters dragged Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command, the child was able to cough up the bone and thus lived.

Today we remember the saint on his feast day by taking two candles, crossing them against the throat, and saying the following prayer:

Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS & CELEBRANTS

Weekend of Jan. 29th & 30th—[5th Sunday in OT]

4:00 pm ✕ Paul Hester..... Fr. Eric
8:00 am *Pro Populo* Fr. Eric
10:00 am ✕ Susan Sitko..... Fr. Eric

Monday, Jan. 31st—[Memorial—Saint John Bosco, Priest]

8:00 am ✕ Francine Nadeau..... Fr. Eric

Tuesday, Feb. 1st—[4]

8:00 am ✕ Eleanor “Ellie” Swierk..... Fr. Eric

Wednesday, Feb. 2nd—[F— The Presentation of the Lord]

8:00 am ✕ Lottie Lewandowski Fr. Eric

Thursday, Feb. 3rd—[4]

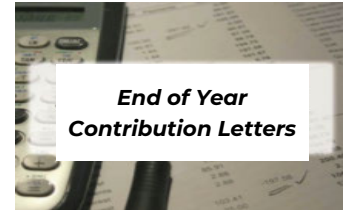
8:00 am (S.I.) Natalie Gray Fr. Eric

Friday, Feb. 4th—[4]

8:00 am ✕ Phyllis Sadler..... Fr. Dave

Weekend of Feb. 5th & 6th—[6th Sunday in OT]]

4:00 pm ✕ Maria Tu Thi Dang Fr. Eric
8:00 am *Pro Populo* Fr. Eric
10:00 am ✕ Steven Muller..... Fr. Eric



**End of Year
Contribution Letters**

Due to continued problems with snail mail, we will only be **e-mailed** or issuing a **printed copy** that can be picked up during regular Office Hours:

**Monday—Thursday
9am—Noon**

Please phone ahead and give us time to print your letter.

480-895-9266

Thank you!

ST STEVEN'S WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

February-March 2022 — Thursdays 1:30-3:30 PM — Facilitator: Vivian Arendt

15 participant maximum — Registration required

Call the Office M-Th between 9-12 noon — 480-895-9266

What does it mean to Love Courageously? Scripture has much to teach us about who we are as women and how we are called to follow Christ. For 2000 years the church has pondered the role of women and she has much to reveal to us. With ‘The Woman’, Mary, as our model, we will explore together our unique path to holiness as women.

You will need a **Catholic Bible**, **The Catechism of the Catholic Church**, the workbook **Courageous Love** by Stacy Mitch (**available in the St. Steven's gift shop**), and an openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit in your heart.



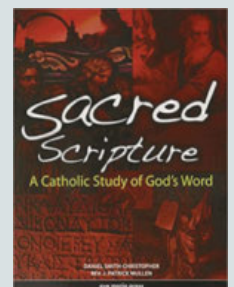
ST STEVEN'S CLASS ON SACRED SCRIPTURE

February-March 2022 — Mondays 1:30-3:30 PM — Instructor: Fr. Eric

Registration required — Call the Office M-Th between 9-12 noon — 480-895-9266

This introduction to the biblical texts is both a companion for prayerful study and a survey of the context, message, and authorship of each book. It also provides a plan for reading and studying the Bible in concert with the Holy Spirit and Church teaching.

You will need a **Catholic Bible**, **The Catechism of the Catholic Church**, and the workbook **Sacred Scripture** (**available in the St. Steven's gift shop**).



LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Prophets possess an intimate knowledge of God and act on their experience of God. Prophetic messages usually challenge the status quo and draw us up and out of ourselves, focusing us on the bigger picture. We often think of ourselves and our own needs first. When we listen to someone speak, we judge the merit of the message by its degree of usefulness. If the message or vision contains no personal benefit or profit but a call to stretch and grow, we can become indignant. Prophets are usually the ones whose message challenges us and calls us to see things differently and love more perfectly and deeply. God is love. When listening to St. Paul speak about love we witness the unfolding of this type of unconditional, other centered, self-sacrificial perfect God. It is an invitation to life, freedom, and happiness that can be offered to us only by God. Jesus, who is God and Love incarnate, calls us to this richer expression of love. Are we ready to listen and be challenged and stretched?

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it."

JAMES 1:5

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Thank you!



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

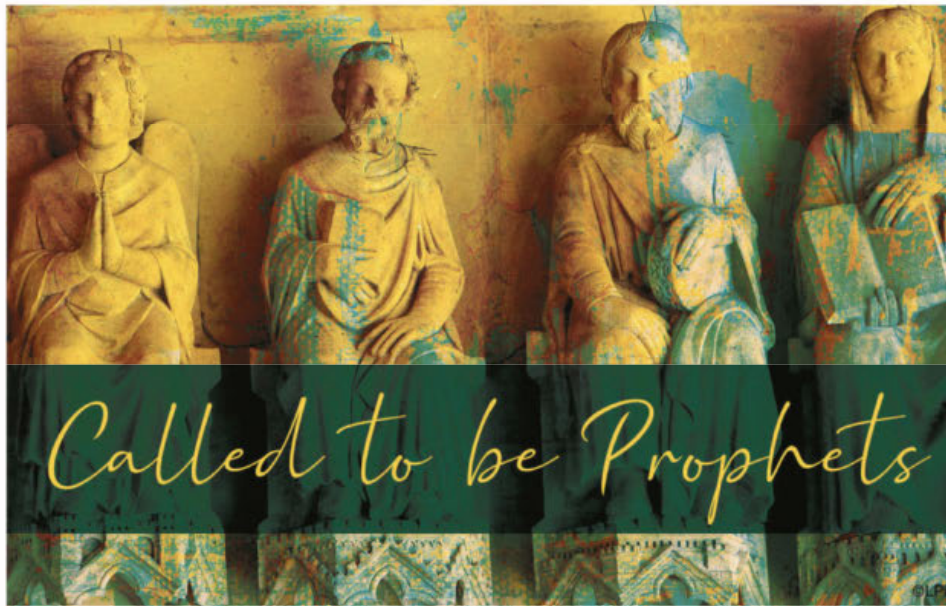


GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

St. Oscar Romero (1917-1980) was a "Salvadoran Roman Catholic archbishop who was a vocal critic of the violent activities of government armed forces, right-wing groups, and leftist guerrillas involved in El Salvador's civil conflict (Encyclopedia Britannica)." As a voice of the voiceless, he was an outspoken champion of the poor who were the ones most affected by the civil unrest and violence. His advocacy provoked several attempts on his life. Nonetheless, St. Oscar Romero was convinced that before all else his faith in the resurrected Christ and the values of the Gospel trumped any earthly concern or worry. He walked with complete confidence and trust. On March 24, 1980, St. Oscar Romero was assassinated while celebrating Mass. Such is often the fate of those who challenge the socio-political agendas of the day.

We may look at the example of witness of St. Oscar Romero as something extraordinary. In one sense it is. Through the power of God, an ordinary human being did extraordinary things. But, in and of himself, St. Oscar Romero was simply a humble, loving



servant of God. Oscar knew not only the power of love but the risk that comes when loving unconditionally. The beauty of God's message was able to shine in and through him because he was able to step out of the way and be a vessel. One can assume that for St. Oscar Romero, one's earthly life has no merit when faith, integrity, conviction, zeal and love are jettisoned. Fear and apprehension had no grip on this man who not only saw but spoke the truth.

Do we speak the truth? It makes us feel good to speak of God as

love. But have we ever considered the ramifications of this radical message? There are assaults on human life occurring daily. More and more the value and worth of a human being is being reduced and minimized. We are becoming widgets in the production of life. In our whole simple humble ways, we too are called to be prophets. Knowing who you are and what is within your means to do, how can you make God's love real, stand up for what is right, and give witness to the sacredness of all that is around you?

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.

- Lk 4:28-30

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FIRST CORINTHIANS AND THE STEWARDSHIP OF SOCIAL MEDIA

"Love is patient, love is kind ..." As familiar as these words are, they never seem to stray into the territory of becoming trite or silly. At their core they communicate a truth about us and about our Creator that never fails to inspire.

But despite the fact that you've probably heard it at many weddings over time, First Corinthians isn't just for newlyweds. It wasn't written for married folks. It's for every single one of us, in every state of life and every social situation, in every country and culture and language across the globe.

Which means that First Corinthians is even for the online world. It's for Facebook and Twitter and Instagram and all the other platforms I'm forgetting (there seems to be a new one every day, doesn't there?).

A sense of division — whether rooted in politics, culture or anything else — is growing in our world, and it's never more obvious than when we observe interactions online. It is far easier, after all, to remember what love is when a human being of flesh and blood stands before us. When all we see is an avatar or a profile picture on a screen — especially accompanied by an opinion with which we vehemently disagree — even the most loving Christians can throw First Corinthians out the window.

As everyday stewards we know that we are charged to be not only gracious but grateful. We receive others but we also give thanks for what they bring to us — even if that's an opportunity to "strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts."

So before the next time you post anything online, I suggest giving First Corinthians a read — and remember, love never fails.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

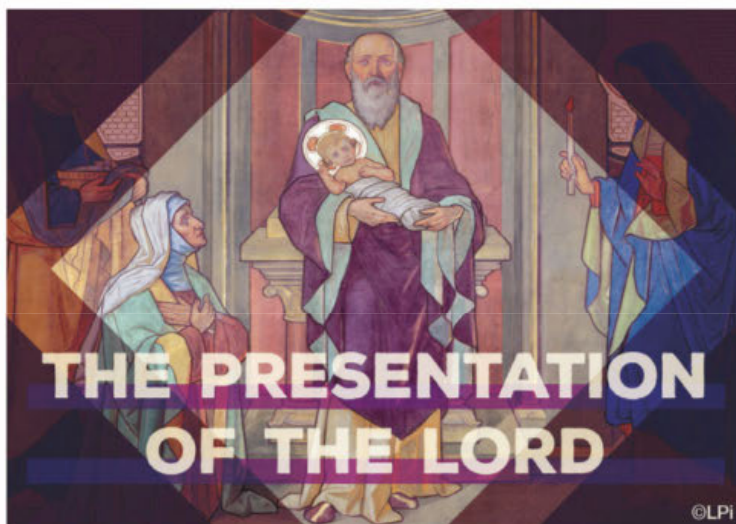
I'VE HEARD PEOPLE CALL JESUS' CONCEPTION BY THE HOLY SPIRIT BEING "IMMACULATELY CONCEIVED." IS THAT WHAT THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IS?

While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception."

The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "arc" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the

"New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!





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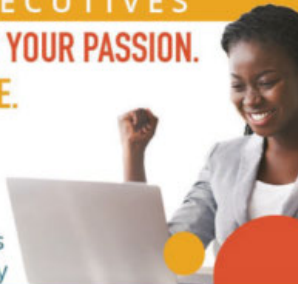
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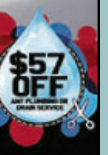
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