

ST. STEVEN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

24827 S. DOBSON RD, SUN LAKES, AZ 85248 480-895-9266

www.saintstevensparish.org

I SHALL GET UP AND GO TO MY FATHER

We are midway into the season of Lent. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as "Laetare Sunday" when the Church invites us to "rejoice" as we enter into the second and final part of our Lenten observances. In "Year C", the Readings at the liturgy invite us to reflect on the "New creation" status we acquire when we experience a redeeming encounter with Christ. In the First Reading, as Joshua and the people of Israel were on the verge of entering in order to possess the promised land, God assured Joshua that He had removed from them the reproaches of Egypt. Like Israel that underwent a forty year period of transformation into a notation dedicated to God, so do we hope to be a new creation after our forty days of fasting and abstinence as well as a transforming experience of Christ's glorious resurrection at Easter.

This is the point St Paul elucidates in the Second Reading when he declared "whoever is in Christ is a new creation, the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. It is a revival of this new creation that we seek in the practices of fasting, prayer and almsgiving during the Holy season of lent. The revival of the new creation we became when we died with Christ at our baptism.

St Luke, through the parable of the prodigal son achieves thematic cohesion with the other Reading in the forgiveness and restoration to sonship offered to and received by the "Prodigal father" who represents God in the story. After this serially dissident son had requested for and taken his share of his father's wealth to squander in a foreign land on a life of debauchery, an unplanned-for experience of famine and bankruptcy stung him into consciousness as he recollected that even the servants in his father's house lived above his current state. This prompted him to make a decision to return to his father as a repentant servant. It is likely that he would have continued to drift away from the warmth of his father's love if he had not met with hard times. Sometimes, it takes a few consequences of sin to sting us into spiritual consciousness that can be followed by a committed resolve to return to our Father through the sacrament of reconciliation.

Luke exposed the extravagant mercy of God in this story by recounting that it was the father, rather than the son, who first saw his son and ran to him. Even reconciliation with God is always initiated and sustained by the Father who is quick to forgive and restore us to righteousness once we respond positively to His Divine invitation. Acts of penance and reconciliation are rewarded by the Father with forgiveness and restoration to sonship.

In direct contrast to the father's extravagant love is the passive but vicious indifference of the older son. He must have been there when his younger sibling erroneously asked for his share of their father's estate. The parable did not say what his counsel was to his brother. A good brother would have cared to find his younger sibling as he wasted his resources in a foreign land and perhaps dragged him home for reconciliation with his father. Instead, when his brother returned, he referred to him as "your son" rather than "my brother" and accused the unfortunate fellow of squandering his fathers wealth on prostitutes while he labored without end to sustain it. Indifference to the life situation of any brethren who is drifting away from the love of God should never be the attitude of any Christian. By virtue of our vocation as Christians, we are obligated to make disciples of all nations. Thus, the spiritual state of life of our neighbor is our business and we ought to demonstrate concern when anyone we know is not where God wants them to be.

May we be drawn again and again to the love of the Father when sin seeks to estrange us from it and come Easter, may we experience the joy of restoration that comes after reconciliation with God who has made us a new creation.

Please be kind and may God bless you.

Fr. Manasseh



Join us for a prayerful journey through the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 4pm. Let us walk with Christ in His Passion and deepen our Lenten reflection.



FINAL FRIDAY SOUP SUPPER (after Stations of the Cross)

April 4th

LENTEN FISH FRY DINNER FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE AND

ST STEVENS GREAT HALL

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Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 4pm and first Sunday of each month at 10am (only) will incorporate the use of incense.

(April 5th & 6th)

St. Steven's Parish
Lenten Retreat
March 31st & April 1st
3:00pm - 5:00pm
All parishioners are
encouraged to attend
Fr. Clement Attah, VC



Holy Thursday Mass: 7:00pm

Good Friday:

12:00pm Stations of the Cross3:00pm Good Friday Service

Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass: 7:30pm

Easter Sunday masses:

5:30am Sunrise Mass - Courtyard

8:00am Mass - Church & Hall

10:00am Mass - Church & Hall

Easter Monday Mass 9am (no 8am)

Help Shape the Future of Faith!

Our parish is seeking a <u>Catechetical Coordinator</u> to lead and grow our Religious Education, OCIA, Ongoing Faith Formation, and Youth Ministry programs. This role involves guiding children, youth, and adults on their faith journey, coordinating catechists, and fostering a vibrant faith community.

Ideal candidates should have:

- *A strong Catholic faith and commitment to Church teachings
- *Experience in catechesis, faith formation, or ministry leadership
- *Excellent organizational and communication skills
- *A passion for mentoring and inspiring others in their faith

Join us in making a lasting impact! To apply or learn more, please visit the church website (saintstevensparish.org) to see a full job description and print the job application.

MASS INTENTIONS March 29th— April 6th

3/29/2025 Saturday	4:00pm	(D) Joseph Trong Dang	Fr. Wilfred
3/30/2025 Sunday	8:00am	(D) Robert Douglas	Fr. Manasseh
3/31/2025 Monday		(D) Carl Racicik (D) Enrique G. Serna	Fr. Wilfred Fr. Pierre
4/1/2025Tuesday	8:00am	(D) James D. Murphy	Fr. Wilfred
4/2/2025 Wednesday	8:00am	(D) Cynthia Gordon	Fr. Manasseh
4/3/2025 Thursday 4/4/2025 Friday 4/5/2025 Saturday 4/6/2025 Sunday	8:00am 8:00am 4:00pm 8:00am 10:00am	(D) Paula Svoboda(SI) Russ Scott(D) Paul DeRose(D) Dave & Debbie Dingeldi(D) Betty Griesbeck	Fr. Manasseh Fr. Wilfred Fr. Wilfred ne Fr. Manasseh Fr. Wilfred

Volunteer Sacristans Needed!

We are looking for dedicated volunteers to serve as sacristans, helping to prepare the altar and sacred items for Mass. If you have a heart for service and would like to assist in this important ministry, we would love to have you! Training will be provided. Please call the church office at 480-895-9266

OUR STAFF

Debbie Eastman

Parish Manager Debbie@ststevensaz.org

Andrew Gaitan Audio/Video Andrew@ststevensaz.org

Peggy Surat Liturgy Coordinator Peggy@ststevensaz.org

Ronald Clavecilla Music Coordinator Ron@ststevensaz.org

Donna Markopoulos Admin. Assistant/Receptionist Donna@ststevensaz.org

> Liz Fenn Admin. Assistant Liz@ststevensaz.org

Tom Juran Maintenance mrtom@ststevensaz.org

Don Young Maintenance Donald@ststevensaz.org

OFFICE & GIFT SHOP HOURS:

MONDAY -THURSDAY 8:30AM-4:30PM

FRIDAY 8:30AM—2:00PM

Closed for lunch 12:00pm-1:00pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays 8:00am Saturday 4:00 pm Sunday 8:00am & 10:00am

CONFESSION

Saturday 2:45 pm - 3:45 pm Finance Council Keith Murfield 480-536-2670 **Pastoral Council** Jane Douglas 480-319-3130

MINISTRIES

Altar Servers Arts & Environment Audio/Visual Bible Study for Women

Deacon David Runyan Liz Fenn Andrew Gaitan Vivian Arendt Gretchen Chismar or

deacondavid@ststevensaz.org 480-883-6664 480-895-9266 x1120 480-387-9500

Saturday Women's Bible Studies Jina Chismar

Divine Mercy Cenacle **Eucharistic Ministers Event Coordinator** Gift Shop **Grief Support** Hospitality Lectors Legion of Mary Library **Liturgy Coordinator** Martha's **Money Counters**

Lyne Boucher Judy Thompson Marie Sarro Becky Terracino Bette Wheaton John Caravella Virginia Sigillo Ruben Chairez Vicki Kaiser Peggy Surat Nikki Galovich/Marie Sarro Vivian Arendt

480-694-3582 or 602-418-1596 480-612-4746 602-999-5015 jacthomp1@gmail.com mariesarro20@gmail.com 480-895-9266 480-802-6982 520-423-9244 sigillovirginia@gmail.com 480-326-5628 vkaiser_rn@yahoo.com 623-289-6196 / peggy@ststevensaz.org 480-287-1292 / 516-458-7952 480-387-9500 Dennis: 480-250-9813 or



Ministry of the Sick

Music Coordinator Patriotic Rosary **Prayer Line**

Ronald Clavecilla Harry Hyra Barb Schuler

Dennis McMullen or

Ron Mancuso

ron@ststevensaz.org 480-802-0992 773-720-1080

Ron: 480-381-3636

Respect Life Respect Life Sacristans Seven Sisters Apostolate Spirit Fire Prayer Group Spirit Fire Prayer Teams St. Steven's Giving Garden Saint Vincent de Paul Help Line Dick & Barbara Hubbard Anne DeRose Tom Juran Lyne Boucher Corinne McKee Marie DiBone Lyne Boucher Ann Hill

TUESDAY. APRIL 1ST

8:00AM - LITURGY MASS

3-5PM LENTEN RETREAT—CHURCH

480-878-8527 480-802-9127 mrtom@ststevensaz.org 480-612-4746 978-888-5532 623-217-6633 480-612-4746 623-289-6744 (press 7 to leave message)

ststeven@svdpaz.org

ORGANIZATIONS

American Heritage Girls (AHG) Crystal Card Project Knights of Columbus Ladies Guild Maggie's Place

SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH

CLASSROOM2

10:30 WOMENS BIBLE STUDIES—

Theresa Walton 509-496-9500 Gail Frickson 480-785-6608 Dan Halloran 530-913-0705 Pam Bianchi 206-817-1697 480-203-5583 **Amy Sailors**

FRIDAY April 4th 8:00AM LITURGY MASS

11:00am Patriotic Rosary - Hall 4PM: STATIONS OF THE CROSS-Church

5pm: Lenten Soup Supper-Hall

10:30 Women's Bible Studies-Rm2

2:45-3:45 LITURGY CONFESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND

8:00AM—LITURGY MASS SATURDAY, April 5th 10:30AM—LEGION OF MARY RM2 9:30am SVDP Meeting—Foyer

11:00AM STAFF MEETING—OFFICE CLOSED 1:30PM SVDP DISTRICT 12 MEETING— **CLASSROOM 2**

2:00PM END OF LIFE SEMINAR, PART 2—HALL **4:00PM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ELEMENTARY-**RMS 1,2 3 HALL & CHURCH

6:00 PM CHOIR PRACTICE—CHURCH

4:00PM LITURGY MASS

SUNDAY, April 6th 8:00AM LITURGY MASS

> 10:00AM LITURGY MASS 11:00am OCIA CLASS

2:45-3:45PM LITURGY CONFESIONS **4:00PM LITURGY MASS** SUNDAY, March 30th 8:00AM - Liturgy Mass 10:00Am - Liturgy Mass 11:00am OCIA Class **SVDP 5th Sunday Collections during all**

Saturday & Sunday masses

MONDAY March 31st

8:00 AM LITURGY MASS 9:00AM GRIEF SUPPORT—CLASSRM 3 9:30AM DIVINE MERCY PRAYER —FOYER 1PM:SVDP AUDIT—CLASSROOM 1 **2PM: SPIRIT FIRE CHARISMATIC GROUP—CLASSRM 3** 3-5PM LENTEN RETREAT—CHURCH

THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD 8:00AM LITURGY MASS 8:45AM RESPECT LIFE PRESENTATION—HALL **Calendar Subject to Change - check with** individual ministry to confirm dates/times

BLESSED ALWAYS GIFT SHOP



Prepare your hearts and homes for Lent and Easter! Visit our church gift shop for beautiful devotional items, gifts, and decorations that inspire faith.

La-Z-Boy Power Lift Recliner

FREE to Someone in Need!

A generous parishioner is offering a La-Z-Boy power lift recliner in great condition to someone who truly needs it. This chair provides comfortable seating, smooth power lifting assistance, and is perfect for individuals with mobility challenges. Please contact Bill Flinn (Sun Lakes Resident) at 602-430-7542

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Would you like to be able to talk with your friends, family and acquaintances about the abortion issue with confidence? The Abortion Dialogue Academy (ADA) will be presenting a free 1 hour presentation for parishioners so you can better talk about the abortion issue.

April 3rd, 8:45am, in the Great Hall after the 8:00am Mass.

Please RSVP to 480 878-8257, please leave a message. You can certainly come even if you don't RSVP, we would just like to have some idea of how many to set up for. Thank you. Any questions call Anne DeRose 480 802-9127 or Barbara/Dick Hubbard 480 878-8257

PARISH REGISTRATION:

Those living in the area and regular participants in the liturgy are asked to register as members of the parish. Simply attending Mass does not make one a registered member. To register just contact the parish office or Registration forms can be found online at

Parish Registration - St. Steven's Roman Catholic Church - Sun Lakes, Arizona (saintstevensparish.org)

STEWARDSHIP

Your financial support funds ministries as well as our daily operations at St. Steven's. Your contributions enable us to maintain a safe, spiritual, and inspiring environment. If you wish, you may register for online giving (Please see our website at www.saintstevensparish.org), or you may place your gift in the offering

Mass Readings for Sunday, 30 March 2025 - Lenten

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Second Scrutiny of the Elect

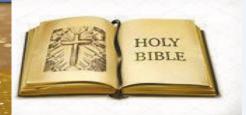
Lenten Mass Readings

First Reading: Joshua 5: 9a, 10-12

Psalms: Psalms 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7
Second Reading: Second Corinthians 5: 17-21

VBG: Luke 15: 18

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3,11-32



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Wilfred Yinah, VC Parochial Administrator frwilfred@ststevensaz.org Rev. Manasseh Iorchir, VC
Parochial Vicar

frmanasseh@ststevensaz.org

Dcn. David Runyan

Deacon
deacondavid @ststevensaz.org



Our heartfelt prayers and best wishes go out to all our candidates preparing for their Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. May this special journey of faith bring them closer to God's love and blessings. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them always.

St. Stevens is eagerly looking forward to a vibrant new year of religious education, OCIA and sacrament preparation, welcoming new participants of all ages. Details of classes to become available soon.



Saturday, April 5th 10:30-12pm, Classroom 2

We would like to invite you to a casual coffee chat where you'll be introduced to Walking with Purpose, a Saturday women's Bible study group that helps you grow in faith and friendship. It's a no pressure way to meet women, ask questions, and see if it's a good fit for you! Come as you are, bring a friend, and enjoy a cup of coffee with great company.

Bishop Dolan named Mental Health Hero

Bishop Dolan opened the diocese's first Office of Mental Health Ministry on Dec. 13, 2022, less than four months after he was installed as the Bishop of Phoenix. His efforts have been recognized nationally and internationally, including acknowledgment by the Vatican in Rome. Locally, the impact of the Office of Mental Health Ministry, which places an emphasis on education, accompaniment and advocacy, has been instrumental in breaking stigma and building community awareness and connection.









Make a gift to the CDA

When you donate to the Charity and Development Appeal, you are supporting more than 70 charities and ministries, bringing hope and healing to people throughout the Diocese of Phoenix.

<u>NULLITY MINISTER TRAINING:</u> The Diocese of Phoenix is offering Nullity Minister training, which is a ministry that assists catholic couples with their petition for an annulment. A registration form, which is available in the narthex or the parish office, needs to be completed and approved by Fr. Wilfred. The training dates are 5/2, 5/9, 5/16 and 5/30 and the first three sessions can be done either in person or on-line. Please reach out to Fr. Wilfred for further info.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

We need a few more outstanding people to help with taking the Eucharist to homebound parishioners.

Would you like to help? This is a very rewarding ministry. It brings joy to those homebound and makes them feel a part of the church. It also brings endless satisfaction to you, the minister. And for those individuals who are homebound and would like Communion at home, you may also contact us.

Dennis McMullen at 480-250-9813 or

Ron Mancuso at 480-381-3636

ALTAR SERVERS ARE NEEDED

for all masses

Training is Monday-Friday by appointment with Deacon David Runyan. Adult Altar Servers serve weekday and weekends. Youth Altar Servers, ages 9 and older, usually serve weekend Masses.

Call the office to schedule with Deacon David

480-895-9266

St. Steven's Women's Studies brings you END Of LIFE Talks

Dr. Margaret Hart a professed religious and medical doctor will be offering St. Steven's parishioners two *End of Life* talks to equip you with the information you need on the church's stance regarding medical decisions and issues.

Session II <u>Paperwork needed for Medical facilities</u> 4/2 2-3:30PM Hall

Sister Edith Mary (Dr. Hart) is currently serving at *Immaculate Heart of Mary Family Health Clinic* in Chandler, AZ a non-profit primary care clinic serving those with and without insurance.

Participants will be given time to have their specific questions answered. Please join us for this important event. Invite anyone who may be a caregiver of a practicing Catholic too.

Tow your business with a print and nour parish bulletin and/or a ligital ad featured on varishes Online.com.

Contact Vivian Arendt: arendtviv@gmail.com if you have questions.



Book Club Invitation

Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, April 9th at 2pm in the parish library where we will discuss 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory

For further details, please contact Vicki at vkaiser_rn@yahoo.com

COME VISIT YOUR PARISH LIBRARY IN CLASSROOM 3

We have over 1500 books/DVDs/ CDs for you to browse and borrow! We also offer free books to keep! Library Hours: Open during all office hours Mon-Fri & Sat/Sun after masses

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SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE

We are in great need of Hospitality Ministers at all masses. Our Ministers greet parishioners and assist them into and within the church. If interested please contact the front office 480-895-9266 St Steven's Conference









QR Code:



Legion of Mary-The purpose of the Legion of Mary is to help its members get into heaven.

Come and pray the rosary with us on Wednesdays at 10:00am in classroom 2 or call Ruben of the Legion of Mary at 480-326-5628. We also invite you to sign up for The Enthronement of the Sacred **Heart of Jesus Ceremony** in your home by our priests.

Link: https://pushpay.com/g/ <u>ststevensconferen</u>ce

Blue envelopes in the pews:



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (SYDP)



TO SERVE THE POOR:

Call or Text Cathy for details 480-201-1331

MESA DINING ROOM ---

2ND TUESDAY AND 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH MEET AT 7:30 AM - CHURCH PARKING LOT



A safe, confidential, nonjudgmental environment guided by our **Roman Catholic Faith:** walking with you on your grief journey. **Group Meetings are the**

1st & 3rd Mondays 9am - 10:30 am Room 3 other Mondays by appt. **Contact Bette Wheaton** 480-802-6982 wmydesk@aol.com

Interested in becoming a LECTOR?

Contact our lead Lector Virginia for training 480-440-2569 or email Virginia at sigillovirginia@gmail.com



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