

# St. Stephen's Parish

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October 17, 2021

Pastor: Rev. Donald J. Manfred  
Deacon: Peter Wooschlager  
Trustees: Susan Gydesen  
Todd Grunert

Reconciliation (Penance): Saturday 4:15 -4:45 PM  
Marriages: Six months' notice  
Baptisms: By Appointment. Godparents must be confirmed and practicing Catholics.

## Mass Intentions This Week

Sat.	Oct.	16	5:00 PM	Kevin Boliver by Kathy Allan & Deacon Mike
Sun.	Oct.	17	8:30 AM	Troy Chartrand by Mom & Dad
Mon. – Wed.	Oct.	18 -20	NO MASS – Fr. Don is away.	
Thur.	Oct.	21	8:15 AM	Special Intention
Fri.	Oct.	22	8:15 AM	Jean Brownell by Her Family
Sat.	Oct.	23	5:00 PM	Pete & Gen Lyndaker by The Family
Sun.	Oct.	24	8:30 AM	Earl Boliver by Charlie & Bessie Chartrand

*Sanctuary candle lit in memory of Jean Brownell by Her Family*

**Pray for the Sick:** Mary Bush, Joe Schack, Jeanne Merry, William (Bill) Davoy Jr., Bernard Ardison, Elizabeth Tabolt Jasinski, Jeff Bruckman, Nicole Brown, and all ill at home, in the hospital or nursing homes.

(The sick that wish to be remembered in prayer will be included on this list only if they agree to have their names included or family members specifically request this). Please call the rectory to have a name included on this list.

## TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The readings this weekend, with their focus on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice, recall the readings of Holy Week. The passage from Isaiah is part of the longer passage we hear on Good Friday, describing the suffering servant. The Gospel foreshadows Holy Thursday's Gospel with Jesus telling his disciples he came to serve, not to be served.

Jesus asks James and John "What do you wish me to do for you?" Their response betrays their self-centeredness. Rather than following their example we look to the author of Hebrews who calls us to approach Jesus to receive mercy and find renewed faith in receiving Him in the Eucharist.

**NEXT WEEKEND** we will celebrate **World Mission Sunday**. Pope Francis invites the entire Church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the world's most vulnerable communities. Please keep the Pope's missions in your prayers and be generous in next week's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

**The Bishop's Fund -** 158 families in our parish have made a gift or pledge of \$14,814 to the 2021 Bishop's Fund Appeal. This represents 75% of parishioners. Our parish goal is to \$19,500. Please use the envelope in the church seats to make your contribution unless you have already received a form in the mail from the Bishop's Fund Office.



# A BLESSED PAST – A FAITHFUL FUTURE

## PLANS FOR A CAPITAL DEBT REDUCTION APPEAL

Six years ago the parish faced a major repair, renovation and restoration project with St Stephen's Church. I am sure all are aware of the extent and expense of this project. Parishioners responded very generously to the appeal conducted at that time making it possible to make the necessary repairs to the church

The Diocese assisted in providing a low interest loan and reduced diocesan assessments. Cash donations and pledge contributions from parishioners and friends of St. Stephen's parish accompanied the loan from the diocese that enabled the work to be completed. Total cost of the project was \$2,180,570.00. Total donations and pledges at the time were \$884,000.00

A present debt of \$914,000.00 remains to be paid. Current pledge gifts should be completed at the end of December this year. After several meetings of the Financial and Pastoral Councils, the decision was made to begin a Debt Reduction Appeal to reduce our parish debt. Bishop LaValley gave the parish a generous gift which has enabled us to hire a professional fund raising firm to assist in this endeavor. Within a few weeks this Debt Reduction appeal will begin with homilies, letters, bulletin announcements and appeals to all parishioners.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU-** To Tracy & Shelly Pominville for work recently done on the front of the church and rebuilding thresholds on the three front steps. The panel on the right side of the middle door was rotted and needed to be replaced. The thresholds were also in bad condition. Thanks to Tracy and Shelly for many volunteer hours of labor and the materials donated.

**OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH..** The Rosary will be prayed this weekend Saturday and Sunday after Mass at the monument of the unborn (weather permitting)

### Prayer for Little Ones Unborn

*Our Father, we thank You for letting us share  
Your gift of life. We know that all Your children are  
precious to You. We pray that You may give special  
protection to little ones not yet born. Guard them from  
those who would do them harm. Permit them to enter  
the world safely, to live in the light of day and to make  
their way to the place You have prepared for them.  
Grant that every mother may welcome her child with  
love, as Mary welcomed her Divine Son.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen*

### **YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE PARISH**

Collection 10/10/21 : \$ 4,272.33  
Needed to meet Budget: \$ 4,476.00  
Restoration : \$ 780.00  
**Thank you for faithful support  
to St. Stephen's Parish**

**With Gratitude...** I would like to thank the many members of the parish for your support, prayers and encouragement during the years of my preparation and for my ordination to the Diaconate. I would especially like to express my gratitude to Father Donald and Deacon Mike Allan for their spiritual support and advice. It has been a very joy filled and humbling experience. I am truly looking forward to this new chapter in my life serving St. Stephen's and St. Francis Solanus' parishes as your deacon. Please continue to pray for me as I do for you. May God bless you all!  
In Christ's Peace, Deacon Peter

### **FAITH FORMATION –**

This weekend, sophomores Chase Brown, Samuel Edick, Matthew Knight, Brayden Monnat, and Ada Simpson signed their enrollment pledge for Confirmation. They join juniors Jacob Boliver, Nico Camporeale, Charles Clement, Aliya Gracey, Montana Grunert, Lydia Kloster, Sklyer Steiner and Braeden Terrillion in learning about their faith in preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Please pray for these students as of they embark on this journey.  
**Confirmation Enrollment-** This year's Confirmation class (Juniors and Sophomores) will gather at the 5:00 Mass this Saturday for the Rite of Enrollment of the new candidates. Following the Mass we will continue in the church hall for dinner, formation and prayer ending at 8:00 pm. Please keep these young men and women in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring.