



# St. Stephen's Parish

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## December 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent

The prophet Isaiah foretold the day when God would send a new kind of king to His people, one who would rule with justice and wisdom and one who would be filled with the Spirit of the Lord Himself. John the Baptist heralded the arrival of this just ruler in our Lord, Jesus Christ. Let us listen to John's call to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ by reflecting upon our own failings and asking for the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.



### Saturday, December 6 (5:00 pm)

Deceased Members of the John & Christine Turck  
Family by The Family

### Sunday, December 7 (8:30 am)

Theresa Woodhouse by Mark & Cookie Woodhouse

### Monday, December 8 (8:30 am)

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION**

Bill Murphy 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by Pauline Murphy

### Tuesday, December 9 (8:15 am)

Ken Bush by Robert Kirschner

### Wednesday, December 10 (11:00 am)

FUNERAL MASS FOR MARIE CAMPEAU

### Thursday, December 11 (8:15 am)

Richard Boliver by Norma Monnat

### Friday, December 12 (8:15 am)

Special Intention

### Saturday, December 13 (5:00 pm)

Lisa Chisholm, Kathy Widrick & Kevin Widrick by The  
Family

### Sunday, December 14 (8:30 am)

Beth Ann Meyer & Shirley Boliver LaTray by Bruce  
Boliver Family

### Pray for the Sick

Bernice Ardison, Mary Knight, Bruce Tabolt, Bruce Chapman, Peter VerSchneider, Bill Gracey, Caitlin Taylor, Corbin Pominville, Priscilla Boliver, Kristi Lehman Marques, Deb Hartshorn, Alice Moore, Julie Fuller, Venetha Houppert, Tom Pate, Casey Kloster, John Lashbrooks, and all ill at home, in the hospital, or nursing homes.

### Your Support for The Parish

Envelopes: \$ 9,605.80  
Plate: \$ 673.00

### FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the belief that Mary was preserve from original sin from the fist moment of her conception, preparing her to be the Mother of Jesus. This feast highlights God's saving grace at work in Mary and invites us to honor her faithful cooperation with Gods' plan as we prepare for Christ coming. Mass will be at 8:30 am at St. Stephen's on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and at 5:30 pm at St. Francis Solanus.

### SANCTUARY CANDLE



The Sanctuary Candle is lit in memory of Carl Ritz, Sr. 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary requested by his family.

### FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary and in front of the statues of Mary, Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph are in celebration of the 46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Luis and Mirna Jimenez.

## A CHRISTMAS STORY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Please join us at St. Vicent De Paul's Oratory in Belfort on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm for this beautiful Advent service preparing for the birth of our Lord by listening to the Word and joining in song and prayer. Deacon Robert Uttendorfsky will provide the message.

## THANK YOU

Dear Parishioners of St. Stephen's,

Thank you for your remarkable generosity during this year's Coat & Blanket Drive held in conjunction with the Maple & Mistletoe Christmas Celebration. Together, we collected 56 coats, 41 blankets, and an assortment of hats, gloves, scarves, and other warm winter items. Your kindness will help keep many of our neighbors in need warm during the cold months ahead.

We will be partnering with the Lewis County Department of Social Services, which works closely with schools, community organizations, and nonprofits throughout the North Country, to ensure these donations reach the individuals and families who need them most.

Thank you once again for embracing the true spirit of generosity this Christmas season. Your compassion continues to strengthen our parish and our community.

With gratitude,  
The Maple & Mistletoe Planning Committee

## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GRADES 6-12

Movie Night Sunday, December 14, 6:00- 8:00 pm in the church hall featuring the film "King of Kings"! Wear your pajamas if you like, bring a pillow and invite friends! Popcorn and Snacks will be provided!

## LUNCHEON DISHES

If you have dishes to pick up from a luncheon, they can be found in the Rectory vestibule. Our parish is so fortunate to have so many great cooks willing to donate food for this important ministry!

## GIVING TREE

Please return all gifts with the tag attached to the church by Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>!

## BEAVER RIVER CENTRAL SCHOOL ADVENT CONCERT

Beaver River Central will hold its annual Advent Concert at St. Stephen's on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. All are invited to attend and enjoy this beautiful concert as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

## ALPHA UPDATE

St. Stephen's hosted a pilot Alpha this fall, and participants have given the experience a resounding "thumbs up!" Alpha is a wonderful approach to enabling our dynamic parish to grow and thrive, rather than merely "coasting" into the future.

During a series of sessions groups explored the foundations of the Christian faith in an honest and non-judgmental environment. Recent participants have named that the program strengthened their faith, solidified friendships, and inspired them to continue to deepen their relationship with God through Jesus.

Profound gratitude is extended to the culinary team whose hard work and radical hospitality were deeply appreciated. With Janice Purcell at the helm, Dorrie Boliver, Carol Hoch, Ethel Hoch, Sherry McFadden, Janet Turck, and their helpers, including Vickie Golden, prepared incredible meals.

We look forward to hosting another Alpha beginning February 4<sup>th</sup> and at least a couple of Alphas each year going forward. When announcements are made that registration is open, sign up right away as the program is designed for small groups and is expected to fill quickly. We're eager to accommodate absolutely everyone on one of the many Alphas in our future. Keep in mind that there are many ways to being participates, including serving on the culinary/hospitality front, on the prayer team, and as musicians.

Interested? We sure hope so!! Stay tuned for more announcements after Christmas!



## SINGING AT BROOKSIDE

Music Ministry will be singing at Brookside on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The group will be leaving the church parking lot at 5:55 pm.

**2026 calendars are now available. A special thanks to Jim Scanlon and Scanlon Funeral Home for providing them to our parishioners.**