

November 8, 2020

November 1st Offertory ~ \$2,569.00
World Missions Collection ~ \$50.00

St. Stephen Church

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Holy Rosary Rectory
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Pastor

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Current and past bulletins

may be viewed at

St. Stephen's website:

<https://ststephenic.diojeffcity.org/>

Email: churchst.stephen@gmail.com

Scripture Readings for November 15, 2020

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 (157A): A worthy wife has value far beyond pearls. She deserves payment for her labor and praise for her work: "Let her works praise her at the city gates."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5: "Blessed are those who fear the Lord."

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6: According to Paul, Christians are children of light. They belong not to dark nor to night but, rather, to day and light. They should be awake, sober, and alert.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21: Jesus told the parable about a man who went on a journey and gave his servants money. On his return, he said to the one who made the greatest profit, "Well done...I will give you great responsibilities."

~ PARISH NEWS ~

- **St. Stephen's new website:** Please read Donna Long's column for more information on our new website. Thank you, Donna, for your hard work!
- **A note to our Ushers:** Because it's difficult to find available space in Church, we are asking if our ushers could help parishioners find available pew spaces before Mass each Sunday.
- **Saturday and Sunday's Masses:** The Saturday, 5:30 PM Mass at Holy Rosary may be viewed at "Greg Oligschlaeger" Live Facebook page. The 8:00 AM Mass at St. Stephen is being streamed to over-flow seating in the gym or can be viewed at "Greg Oligschlaeger" Live Facebook page. The 9:30 Mass at Holy Rosary can be viewed on YouTube Livestreamed <http://shorturl.at/zNQ57>

~ SCHOOL NEWS ~

- **The Student Liturgy** at 8:20 on Friday, November 13th, will be led by the 7th grade students.
- **Basketball Games:** Tuesday, vs. Mark Twain at Holy Rosary beginning at 6:00; Thursday, vs. S. Shelby AT S. Shelby beginning at 5:30 two games each night - 7th grade girls and then 8th grade girls.

NEXT WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE AT ST. STEPHEN & HOLY ROSARY

Day	Time	Intention
Sunday 11/8	*St. Stephen	8:00 AM Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
	***Holy Rosary	9:30 AM Bertha Williams
Monday		No Scripture Service
Tuesday		7:30 AM Mark Saunders
Wednesday		7:30 AM Liv.+Dec'd Dan & Maggie Lillis Fam.
Thursday		7:30 AM Joe Ralph Buckman
Friday		7:30 AM Pauline Quinn
Saturday	**Holy Rosary	5:30 PM Becky Labuary Underwood
Sunday 11/15	*St. Stephen	8:00 AM Judy Hagan, John Kramer
	***Holy Rosary	9:30 AM Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary

*St. Stephen Mass can be viewed on Facebook @ "Greg Oligschlaeger"
**Holy Rosary 5:30 PM Mass can be viewed on Facebook @ "Greg Oligschlaeger"
***Holy Rosary 9:30 PM Mass can be viewed on YouTube Livestreamed <http://shorturl.at/zNQ57>

RECONCILIATION

4:00-5:00 PM Saturdays at Holy Rosary
7:15-7:45 AM Sundays at St. Stephen
Or by appointment, 735-4718

~ PASTOR'S NOTES ~



Dear Parishioners,

Psalms 42:2 "As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God."

I often tease about the 'Holy Days of Deer Season', and yet as the rifle season begins this next weekend, I believe that there are some excellent and relevant comparisons between the discipline of the hunt and the enrichment of our spiritual life. Think of the preparation it takes to deer hunt well. The scouting, looking for the signs, setting up the blind or stands, and finding the deer paths and where the deer bed down, takes a lot of time. **Prayer** is our preparation to understand God's will for us. Think of how much more you may get out of Mass when you get there early and prepare by reading the scriptures ahead of time and being quiet so you might encounter the Lord. When we prepare ourselves, it is more likely that we will recognize more of the signs of God's work around us. God wants to be with us. There is no chance that God will snort and run the other way when we see God.

It takes patience to deer hunt. This is a great lesson for spiritual life. Just as hunting happens on the animal's schedule and depends on the climate and other elements. We need to be patient and allow God's providence to happen in God's time. Isn't it ironic that people can sit in a deer stand for 8 hours at a time to wait for the prey and yet have a hard time understanding why their prayers were not immediately answered by God? God knows what is best for us and sometimes the climate is not right to grant our request. Sometimes that longing for the Lord helps us to better appreciate God's grace when the prayer is answered. Hunters will sit in terrible weather waiting for the trophy buck, but will have difficulty giving an hour to the Lord at Mass. Hunting can teach us **the lesson of how to wait well** for the prize. The prize of God's help and Salvation at Mass is greater than any prize Boone & Crocket or Pope & Young could award. Our Gospel reading this Sunday calls us to: "Stay awake and be ready for you know neither the day nor hour when the Lord will come" [Matthew 25:13].

Finally many hunters witness to me about how close to God they feel in the midst God's creation. Long hours waiting for game give them excellent opportunities to pray and give thanks to God. I agree. It is a blessed moment to arrive to your stand in the dark and watch the woods come alive. I'm sure each hunter could come up with similar analogies to the tranquility of hunting and one's spiritual life that I have shared here. I pray that you **become enlivened in faith through your hunting season retreat**. In this month of Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to God for all our blessings. Let this deer season not be a distraction from Mass and our spiritual life, but rather enrich our faith and help us to set goals for how we will pray and serve God in the busy-ness of life. Let us pray for God's blessing and safety for all hunters through this deer season.

Remember also to pray for our Veterans this week. Their sacrifice away from home and family as well as their gruesome witness of war is often forgotten once the conflict is ended. Their military service to our country changed their lives as they knew it. Let us pray in gratitude for their service to our country and in compassion for how war may have affected them. All this month we pray for those who have died and on Wednesday we remember the people who have died in war. *Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen*

Prayers and blessings,

~ THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM ~

Our parish family welcomes this morning Clara Jean Threlkeld, daughter of Alex and Melissa Threlkeld. Her godparents are Joe and Nancy Shively. May her life in Christ be filled with all His blessings.

~ PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER ~

Trent Zeiger, Jackie Ryan, Rose Shinn, Hazel Smith, Jim Schnitzler, Sue Gilbert, Natalee Amos, Rosemary Evans, Deanna Buckman, Nick Hays, Kenny Ryan, Bonnie Ess, John Kendrick, Fr. Michael Penn, Charlotte Schneider, Logan Maher, Glenda Staton, Troy Ritter, Michael Kellerman, Terry Kendrick, Dc. Mike Long, Barbara Kendrick, Mark Leake, William P. Smith, Connie Kendrick, Nick Mudd, P. A. Turnbull, Teresa Ritter Toland, Tim Quinn, Daniel Patrick Mudd, Bonnie Werner

For all who are ill, especially those who are awaiting surgery or seriously ill, and for their caregivers and for those who have died, we pray to the Lord.

~ FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD ALONG WITH DONNA ~

- New Parish Websites: It has taken some time, but the new websites are now available. I encourage you to check them out. The websites are wonderful and will be a great tool for our parishes to keep us all connected. You may see some minor details that need updated. If you are the chair of a committee and you need your name and contact information listed or updated, please contact me, I am the website administrator for both parishes. These websites are fluid and can be changed and updated as we move forward. We haven't had many events of late, but if you have photos of recent (2019) events please email me a copy of the photo and I may be able to use it to update some photos that are stock from the Diocese to personalize the websites for Holy Rosary and St. Stephen. I am working on updating Google so that when you search for the websites for each church you will find them. Holy Rosary's Website: https://holyroary.diojeffcity.org/; St. Stephen's Website: https://ststephenic.diojeffcity.org/
Social Media: I have a new Facebook page titled Holy Rosary/St. Stephen Faith Formation. I will be posting faith formation opportunities for all ages on this page. The page is still in the planning and development stage right now. I plan for this page to be a faith formation information resource for both Holy Rosary and St. Stephen Parishes.
FORMED: Father Michael McGivney is a documentary that brings to life the story of one of America's most extraordinary Catholic priests. Fr. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus, a mutual benefit society that today remains the world's largest Catholic lay organization with 1.8 million members in 13 nations. This film offers a rare glimpse into to life of an extraordinary priest and visionary leader.
To inquire about faith formation/religious education, contact Donna Long anytime at donnalong.hrss@gmail.com or call me at the rectory, 735-4718. My office hours are 8:00 AM to Noon, Monday through Friday

~ K OF C NEWS ~

- The November KC meeting will be held Thursday, December 3rd with the rosary at 7:00 PM, followed by the meeting. All are welcome to join with the Knights praying the rosary.
The Family Fully Alive booklets: The St. Stephen KC's have purchased these booklets for families in our parish, designed to help families place God and the Catholic faith at the center of their lives, year around. The books are on the literature table in the vestibule. The theme for November is "The Community of Saints".

~ D OF I NEWS ~

The next meeting will be November 12th at 5:30 PM in the Knights of Columbus Hall. All members are encouraged to attend.

~ DIOCESAN CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL ~

The St. Stephen parish goal for 2021 is \$9,000 and the diocese goal is \$2,450,000. As of November 2nd, we have received \$2,867.00 of our goal. Please prayerfully consider making a donation - gifts of any size are appreciated. Thank you to everyone who has already responded

~ WEEKLY MONDAY NOON ROSARY AT ST. STEPHEN ~

The rosary will be prayed each Monday at 12:00 noon at St. Stephen for both parishes to petition for an end to the pandemic, its victims, and any other intention requested. Social distancing will be maintained.

POPE FRANCIS AND BISHOP McKNIGHT'S NOVEMBER PRAYER INTENTIONS

You are invited and encouraged to unite your prayer intentions with those of Pope Francis and Bishop McKnight's October intentions:

Intention of Pope Francis

"We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind."

Intention of Bishop McKnight

"For a greater sense of gratitude to God for all blessings received, and a greater sense of our responsibility for the mission of the Church in our parishes."

~ CHRISTMAS IS CARING ~

Holy Rosary and St. Stephen are again helping with Christmas is Caring. The Hometown Volunteers take applications through NECAC from families who may need help providing Christmas presents and food for their families. We usually help anywhere from 70-90 local families, as well as deliver fruit baskets to everyone living in senior housing. The students at Holy Rosary and the public school participate in a non-perishable food drive the week after Thanksgiving. Those items are then distributed to the families along with a turkey, potatoes, bread, laundry soap, toilet paper and other essentials. Each child in participating families receives one outfit, underwear, socks and 3 Christmas presents. Applicants fill out a list with sizes and requests for presents. The week before Thanksgiving there will be tags at the entrances of the Church with gift requests for the children. These gifts can be put in the baskets at the entrances marked for "Christmas is Caring". All donations need to be in by December 11th. Distribution will be December 22nd. Monetary donations can be mailed to Shannon Quinn 622 James Lane, Monroe City or dropped in the collection basket and marked "Christmas is Caring". My phone number is 573-289-6894.

~ PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL ~

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. until further notice. Everyone is welcome to come at any time during those 12 hours for prayer and adoration. Adoration contacts - Phyllis Campbell, 573-795-2290 or Howard & Linda Willard, 573-735-4552

Liturgy Appointments

November 8 - Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sacristan	Danny Adam
Rosary	Gares Family
Music	Beth Whelan & Julienne Burns
Song Leader	Lee Anderson
Servers	Kyle Hays & Michael Spalding
Lector	Kaye Spalding
Communion Ministers	Rose McNally, Marie Puroil
Counters	Eric Keller, Sam Smith

November 15 - Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sacristan	Doug & Julie Orf
Rosary	Maureen Lemongelli
Music	Sr. Sue Walker
Song Leader	Judy Irons
Servers	Cole Hays & Rylie Mulvaney
Lector	Shane Spalding
Communion Ministers	Lee & Kathy Anderson
Counters	Eric Keller, Shane Spalding

November 22 - Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Sacristan	Kathy Anderson
Rosary	Rose McNally
Music	Debby Quinn & Jan Adam
Song Leader	Beth Whelan
Servers	Natalie Shively & Caitlin Shively
Lector	Kay Turnbull
Communion Ministers	Phil Whelan, Rose McNally
Counters	Eric Keller, Kathy Spurgeon

Ushers for November

Tom Hagan, David Hays

* All Liturgy appointees for the Mass, please check with the Sacristan 15 minutes before Mass so all Eucharistic ministries are covered.

Pastoral Council Members: Chair., Amanda Spalding; V. Chair., Doug Orf; Sec'y, Carol Hagan; Members: Lee Anderson, Eric Keller and Danny Sims.

Finance Committee: Monica Otto-Lloyd, Chair.; Tom Hagan, Sec'y; Phil Whelan

K of C's: Grand Knight: Ed Born; Deputy Grand Knight, Kevin Long; Recording Secretary, Michael Maher; Financial Secretary, Shane Spalding

Altar Society Officers: Pres., Lynn Ogle, Treas., Julie Hays

Picnic Committee: Coordinators, David & Julie Hays; Treas., Shane Spalding

Cemetery Committee: Pres., Joe Puroil; Treas., Marie Puroil, Dwayne Williams, Matt Hays, Shane Spalding.

Prayer for Our Veterans

God of peace, we pray for those who have served our nation and have laid down their lives

to protect and defend our freedom.

We pray for those who have fought,

whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war,

whose nights are haunted by memories too painful for the light of day.

We pray for those who serve us now, especially for those in harm's way.

Shield them from danger and bring them home.

Turn the hearts and minds of our leaders and our enemies

to the work of justice and a harvest of peace.

Spare the poor, Lord, spare the poor!

May the peace You left us, the peace You gave us,

be the peace that sustains, the peace that saves us.

Christ Jesus, hear us! Lord Jesus, hear our prayer!

Amen."