

December 13, 2020

St. Stephen Church

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Holy Rosary Rectory
(573) 735-4718

Pastor

Rev. Greg Oligschlaeger

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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 December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 (11B): With help from the prophet Nathan, King David decided to build a house for the Lord to dwell in. "Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29: "For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27: According to Paul, the gospel reveals the mystery hidden for long ages but now, at God's command, is made manifest in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38: The angel addressed Mary, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." When Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord," she became a model for all.

November 29th Offertory ~ \$990.00

Campaign for Human Development ~ \$60.00

~ PARISH NEWS ~

- **Poinsettias for Christmas:** Donations of Poinsettias in memory of a loved one would be greatly appreciated. The Church will be decorated next Sunday, December 20th.
- **KC Fundraiser:** The Indian Creek Knights will be selling St. Stephen Church themed Christmas ornaments (\$20) and a "Keep Christ in Christmas" car or refrigerator magnet (\$5) before and after Mass next Sunday, December 13th.
- **Missalettes** are in the entry of Church for any who would like to pick one up to be used at home or brought with them to Mass during this time of caution.
- **Thank you to all** who clean the Church in preparation for our Christmas celebration.
- **The 2021 calendars** are in the vestibule on the bulletin table. Please help yourselves.
- **The next Finance Committee meeting** will be Thursday, January 7th at 6:00 PM in Holy Rosary's parish office.
- **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, the 8:00 AM Mass at St. Stephen and the Sunday 9:30 AM Mass at Holy Rosary can be viewed at "Greg Oligschlaeger" Live Facebook page. There is seating available in the Gym for St. Stephen's 8:00 AM Mass, allowing a good amount of social distancing.

~ SCHOOL NEWS ~

- **The Student Liturgy** at 8:20 on Friday December 18th, will be led by the third grade students.
- **End of the First Semester:** The first half of this school year will end on Friday, December 18th. All students will be dismissed at 3:00 for the Christmas holidays. Classes will resume on Monday, January 4th, 2021.
- **We have had a very successful** school year considering all of the challenges brought to us through COVID. We continue to encourage everyone to follow the precautionary protocols to slow the spread of this virus.
- **Basketball:** The last games of the season will be played this week in the Monroe City Tournament. The girls are having a very successful season.

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

Day	Time	Intention
Sunday 12/13	*St. Stephen	8:00 AM John Ivan & Ella Tewell Carolyn Whelan
	*Holy Rosary	9:30 AM Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
Monday		No Scripture Service
Tuesday		7:30 AM Jack Campbell
Wednesday		7:30 AM Mark Saunders
Thursday		7:30 AM Rita Jo Kendrick
Friday	Student Liturgy	8:20 AM Pauline Quinn
Saturday	*Holy Rosary	5:30 PM Chris Couch Matt & Lorene Hays
Sunday 12/20	*St. Stephen	8:00 AM Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
	*Holy Rosary	9:30 AM Rita Jo Kendrick & Family

*St. Stephen & Holy Rosary Masses can be viewed on Facebook @ "Greg Oligschlaeger"

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,

Today is *Gaudete* Sunday, which means "Rejoice" a translation of the first word of the Entrance antiphon of today's Mass that proclaims: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! The Lord is near." [Philippians 4:4]. Penitential violet vestments are replaced with rose vestments, a color of joy. We light the third candle of the Advent wreath that is rose in color.

After today, our scripture readings change from the focus of the second coming of Christ to the approaching celebration of Christmas--the Incarnation of the Son of God. After today, the readings and prayers at Mass refer to the greatest of all God's action in human history - God himself becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ. We rejoice in the hope of salvation.

On Thursday of this week, the Church will begin using the O Antiphons as part of the Evening Prayer. We are familiar with the antiphons in the hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". Each verse is one the ancient titles and biblical names for the coming Messiah. Starting on December 17th and each of the 7 days until Christmas Eve, we address our prayer: **O Wisdom** (12/17); **O Sacred Lord** (12/18); **O Flower of Jesse's Stem** (12/19); **O Key of David** (12/20); **O Radiant Dawn** (12/21); **O King of all Nations** (12/22); **O Emmanuel** (12/23).

We will decorate both churches next Sunday, December 20th. Your help would be greatly appreciated. It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas. It's wonderful how our liturgical worship guides us well in truly celebrating Christmas. Paul tells us in today's second reading: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks...Do not quench the Holy Spirit...Refrain from every kind of evil." [1 Thessalonians. 5:16-20]

Don't fret or be too tense. All that **needs** to get finished to celebrate the birth of the Lord will take place. We may not be able to celebrate with all the people and family we want to be with this year, but we need to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known. Come Lord Jesus, Come!

Prayers and blessings,

Christmas Eve & Day Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24, 3:00 p.m. at Holy Rosary

Thursday, December 24, 5:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary

Thursday, December 24, 8:00 p.m. at St. Stephen

Thursday, December 24, Midnight, at Holy Rosary

Friday, December 25, 9:30 a.m. at Holy Rosary

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Thursday, December 31, 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephen

Friday, January 1, 2021, 9:00 a.m. at Holy Rosary

~ FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE ~

Our parish family joins family and friends in mourning the death of Tom Quinn whose Funeral Mass and burial was at St. Stephen on December 10th. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

~ PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER ~

Father, Your love is as wide as the oceans, As deep as the sea, and as tall as the heavens. May Your Spirit rise like a mighty wave and come and restore those who are ill. You are the water of life, You are a fresh spring, You are healing rain to all those who are in need.

Come Lord Jesus!

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, Pete Schuman, 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, Regina Hays

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 ~

- PSR/Youth Group Announcement: Due to the increasing numbers of positive Covid-19 diagnoses in our community, all PSR (K-12) and Youth Group activities for December 2020 have been canceled. At this time, PSR and Youth Group activities will resume in January 2021.
Job Opportunity: Now hiring! Totus Tuus Missionaries for 2021: Are you a Catholic young adult interested in bringing the Gospel to kids and teens across our diocese? Please consider applying to be a Totus Tuus missionary. Download the materials below and return your application to the Office of Youth Ministry and Religious Ed. Hiring is on a rolling basis, so the earlier the better! The application packet includes a job description, application, and instructions for a letter of recommendation. Totus Tuus Missionaries serve from May 27 - Aug 1. This is a full-time, paid position. Visit https://diojeffcity.org/totus-tuus/ to find out more.
FORMED.org: Mary of Nazareth - As part of your Advent preparation FORMED offers this film on the life of Mary, Mother of Christ, from her childhood through the Resurrection of Jesus. The movie underscores her special role in God's plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Christ, and the tremendous suffering that she endured in union with his Passion and Death, as well as her serene joy at his Resurrection. (FORMED suggests parents preview before watching with children) You can also watch FORMED's daily Advent reflections - The Road to Bethlehem.
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 January KC meeting will be held Thursday, January 7th 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 December is "Joy".

~ DIOCESAN CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL ~

The St. Stephen parish goal for 2021 is \$9,000 and the diocese goal is \$2,450,000. As of December 7th, we have received commitments of \$7,122.00 which is 79% of our goal. Please prayerfully consider making a donation - gifts of any size are appreciated. Thank you to everyone who has already responded.

~ 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

POPE FRANCIS AND BISHOP MCKNIGHT'S DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

Intention of Pope Francis

"We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer."

Intention of Bishop McKnight

"For the sons and daughters of the Church: that we may be the light of God's love for the world by our sacrificial gifts for those in need, especially the children of our world."

~ 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.

~ PRAYERS FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS ~

Please remember during this Christmas season parishioners who are in the nursing home at Monroe City Manor Care Center, 1010 Highway 24 and 36 East, Monroe City, MO 63456:

Totty Burditt, Kathy Wilper, Jeanette Price, Shirley Lorenson, Julie Leake, Eddie Watson, Juanita Pfanner, Verna Fortner, Kenny Ryan, Rusty Adam, Frankie Maddox.

Liturgy Appointments

December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent

Table with 2 columns: Liturgical role and Name. Roles include Sacristan, Rosary, Music, Song Leader, Servers, Lector, Communion Ministers, and Counters.

December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Table with 2 columns: Liturgical role and Name. Roles include Sacristan, Rosary, Music, Song Leader, Servers, Lector, Communion Ministers, and Counters.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Mass @ 8:00 PM

(There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin table for liturgy volunteers.)

December 27 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Table with 2 columns: Liturgical role and Name. Roles include Sacristan, Rosary, Music, Song Leader, Servers, Lector, Communion Ministers, and Counters.

Ushers for December

Don Hays, Keith 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, Dan Buckman.

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS MANGER

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed. All make the sign of the cross as the leader says: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth. One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, i.e., Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8). Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. The leader prays with hands joined: "God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever."

R/. Amen.

- From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers