

December 20, 2020

December 13<sup>th</sup> Offertory ~ \$2,168.00  
Christmas Seminary & Priest's Retirement ~ \$35.00

**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](mailto:churchst.stephen@gmail.com)

**Scripture Readings for December 27, 2020**

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

**First Reading:** *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3:* Abram and Sarah put faith in the Lord, and gave the name Isaac to their son. Your descendants shall be as numerous as the stars in the heavens.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9:* "The Lord remembers his covenant forever."

**Second Reading:** *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19:* The descendants of Abraham and Sarah are "as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore." Abraham's faith was tested

**Gospel:** *Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40:* Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be consecrated. Simeon, a holy and pious man, took the child in his arms, and Anna, the prophetess, gave thanks to God.

**Have a Wonderful Christmas Celebration!**

**~ PARISH NEWS ~**

- **Thank you** to Dan Buckman for volunteering to help with the Cemetery Committee.
- **Poinsettias for Christmas:** Donations of Poinsettias in memory of a loved one would be greatly appreciated. The Church will be decorated today, Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **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.
- **The 2021 Offertory Envelopes** are in the entry of St. Stephen for parishioners to pick up.
- **Thank you to all** who cleaned the Church in preparation for our Christmas celebration.
- **The next Finance Committee meeting** will be Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in Holy Rosary's parish office.
- **The next Parish Council meeting** will be Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the gym.
- **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.

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

Day	Time	Intention
Sunday 12/20	*St. Stephen	8:00 AM Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
	*Holy Rosary	9:30 AM Rita Jo Kendrick & Family
Monday		No Scripture Service
Tuesday		7:30 AM Gene & Margaret Hughes
Wednesday		7:30 AM Rink Benson
		<b>Christmas Eve</b>
Thursday	*Holy Rosary	3:00 AM Joe Ralph Buckman
	*Holy Rosary	5:30 PM Ina, Bernard & Greg Mudd
	*St. Stephen	8:00 PM Cele Kendrick
	*Holy Rosary	Midnight Nancy Yates
		<b>Christmas Day</b>
Friday	*Holy Rosary	9:30 AM Tom & Lucile Hays & Family Seth Hays
Saturday	*Holy Rosary	5:30 PM Becky Labuary Underwood Lanny Neyens
Sunday 12/27	*St. Stephen	8:00 AM Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
	*Holy Rosary	9:30 AM Brandon Devlin & Linda Shively

\*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

**SUNDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

All help would be appreciated this morning after Mass in bringing the Nativity set down from the choir loft and the trees from the rectory. Please check with Marie Purool as to the time of decorating the Church today.

**~ PASTOR'S NOTES ~**



Dear Parishioners,

Just 5 days until Christmas. I hope to spend only one of them shopping.

I love the Christmas season. The Christmas season begins with Christmas Eve Mass. As I was growing up, only school Christmas parties and office parties were celebrated before Christmas. It was Christmas day and the days after Christmas that we got together with family and friends to celebrate. I have fond memories of having people over to our house and going to friends and relative's homes to see their Christmas tree and play games, cards and have some Christmas goodies and Christmas cheer. This year the Christmas season lasts until January 10<sup>th</sup>. The Octave of Christmas goes on for the eight days after Christmas Eve, where every Mass that week is celebrated as if it were Christmas Day. We celebrate the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God on that eighth day. The Feast of Epiphany is January 3<sup>rd</sup> and we will have a special celebration at Mass on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> the traditional day of The Epiphany.

Celebrate Christmas well and celebrate often! If the Christmas tree dries out and needs to come down you can still leave up the lights on the house and the other decorations through the celebration of Epiphany: the arrival of the Three Wise men. To continue the celebration of Christmas, take the Kings away from the Nativity set and have them move each day gradually through the room(s) until they reach Jesus in the manger on January 3<sup>th</sup>. Celebrate a special meal or give a final gift on the Feast of Epiphany. [It is a tradition to bless homes on Epiphany but I'll talk more about that next week.] The Christmas Season helps us appreciate the spiritual meaning of Christmas and takes the emphasis away from the material and puts the focus on the expressions of faith, hope, and joy and the experience of Christ's peace in the world and in our family and friends. We need those virtues in an abundance during this Covid year of 2020.

In today's Gospel Mary accepts her vocation in life; to be the Mother of God. The Gospel at Mass this past Friday told of our patron St. Joseph's call to be the husband of Mary and the guardian, teacher, and provider for Jesus. Mary and Joseph cooperated with God's will and thus helped to save the world. The celebration of Christmas is a reminder to all of us to pray that we may do God's will and to seek to live our vocation to the fullest. On Christmas day, the diocese asks us to take up a collection to help support the men in our diocese who are discerning God's call to priesthood. Each parish is assessed an amount to help educate and support our seminarians. This year's assessment for our parish is \$1,597.00. Your contribution to the seven men studying for priesthood in our diocese will help us to pay that assessment. Please be generous and remember to pray for these seven men as they seek to do God's will. Deacon Derek Hooper will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Jefferson City on June 5, 2021.

Come Lord Jesus, Come! Have a Blessed Christmas!

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

~ 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.

~ SCHOOL NEWS ~

- The last day of the first semester of this school year ended on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume after the holidays on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be given to all students on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Student Liturgy at 8:20 on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, will be led by volunteers from different classes.

~ FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD ALONG WITH DONNA ~

- Happy Fourth week of Advent! I wish you all a joyful and blessed Christmas.
- 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.
- The Bible in a Year: (Begins January 1, 2021) Fr. Mike Schmitz with Ascension Press is offering The Bible in a Year. Each podcast episode is 20-25 minutes long and includes 2-3 scripture readings, a reflection by Fr. Mike Schmitz, and guided prayer. A downloadable reading plan is included. Sign up at <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/bi-y-registration>. There is no cost for the podcast.
- FORMED.org: Joseph of Nazareth: The Story of the Man Closest to Christ: (A feature film on the story of St. Joseph.) God gave him the most daunting task ever asked of a man - to be the husband of the woman who would give birth to the Messiah and the father and protector of this Holy Family. Joseph is a man of faith who must grapple greatly with the profound mysteries of the miraculous conception, the Virgin Birth, the Incarnation of the Son of God, and the incredible challenges of protecting and raising Jesus amidst the threats on his life from the moment of his birth and beyond. 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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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, Shirley Lorensen, Julie Leake, Juanita Pfanner, Verna Fortner, Kenny Ryan, Rusty Adam, Frankie Maddox.

~ 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

December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sacristan	Doug & Julie Orf
Rosary	Gares Family
Music	Sr. Sue Walker
Song Leader	Judy Irons
Servers	Tyler Hays & Jacob Anderson
Lector	Julie Hays
Communion Ministers	Beth Whelan, Deanna Buckman
Counters	David & Julie Hays

December 24 – Christmas Eve Mass @ 8:00 PM

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

Sacristan	
Music	Julienne Burns
Song Leader	Beth Whelan
Servers	
Lector	Jim Burns
Communion Ministers	Mark Leake

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

Sacristan	Danny Adam
Rosary	Maureen Lemongelli
Music	Debby Quinn & Jan Adam
Song Leader	Beth Whelan
Servers	Averie Hays & Anna Lemongelli
Lector	Judy Irons
Communion Ministers	Lee & Kathy Anderson
Counters	Danny Sims, Matt Hays

January 3 – The Epiphany of The Lord

Sacristan	Doug & Julie Orf
Rosary	Nancy Shively
Music	Debby Quinn
Song Leader	Julienne Burns
Servers	Maddi Gares & Annie Willingham
Lector	Frank Lemongelli
Communion Ministers	Doug & Julie Orf
Counters	Carol Hagan & Ted & Judy Irons

Ushers for December

Don Hays, Keith Hays

Ushers for January

Matt Hay, Phil 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 Puro; Treas., Marie Puro, Dwayne Williams, Matt Hays, Shane Spalding, Dan Buckman.