

December 27, 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 January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of The Lord

First Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6 (20ABC):* Darkness covers the earth, and heavy clouds hang over the people. But the light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines bright.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13:* "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

Second Reading: *Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6:* In Christ Jesus, Gentiles and Jews are co-heirs of the family fortune and co-sharers in the saving promise.

Gospel: *Matthew 2:1-12:* The magi from the east followed the star until it stopped still over the house. They entered, found the child with Mary, prostrated themselves, and did him homage.

December 20th Offertory ~ \$2,694.00

Christmas Seminary & Priest's Retirement ~ \$25.00

~ PARISH NEWS ~

- **The vigil Mass** of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, will be celebrated at St. Stephen Thursday, December 31st at 6:30 PM at St. Stephen. Fr. Mike Quinn will be filling in for Fr. Greg. There is a liturgy volunteer paper on the bulletin table in the vestibule. Thank you, again!
- **The 2021 Offertory Envelopes** are in the entry of St. Stephen for parishioners to pick up.
- **Thank you to all** who decorated the Church in preparation for our Christmas celebration.
- **The next Finance Committee meeting** will be Thursday, January 7th at 6:00 PM in Holy Rosary's parish office.
- **The next Parish Council meeting** will be Tuesday, February 9th 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.

~ 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".*

~ 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.

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

Day	Time	Intention
Sunday 12/27	*St. Stephen	8:00 AM Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
	*Holy Rosary	9:30 AM Brandon Devlin & Linda Shively
Monday		No Scripture Service
Tuesday		7:30 AM Harry & Rosie Kendrick & Family
Wednesday		7:30 AM Lyle Campbell
Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God		
Thursday	*St. Stephen	6:30 PM Joe Paul Williams
		The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Friday	*Holy Rosary	9:00 AM Cele Kendrick
Saturday	*Holy Rosary	5:30 PM Seth Hays
Sunday 1/3	*St. Stephen	8:00 AM Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
	*Holy Rosary	9:30 AM William & Mandy Painter & 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,



I really enjoy the Feast of the Holy Family that we celebrate today. God has blest me with a wonderful family and my years away from home helped me to appreciate all the more what the faith-filled, healthy, loving, and formative household in which I was raised. One blessing from this awful pandemic may be that the stay-at-home precautions in March and April required us to **stay at home** and thus required us to spend time together as family. (Granted that also had its challenges!) Since we were required to stop all the events and meetings that kept us on the run and had people going in every direction, we spent time together. Many families appreciated meals together, family outings, and video and board games. After experiencing a less hectic schedule, it is my hope, as your pastor, that families now make time together a priority. I pray that we may reschedule, or rather less-schedule, our lives accordingly and seek the intercession of the Holy Family to help us to choose well.

I enjoy the Feast of the Holy Family because the Church today encourages us to live the virtues that Mary, Joseph and Jesus lived in their home. The Holy Family was perfect but that does not mean they did not experience hardship and struggles. Most of Jesus' childhood the Holy Family were "on the run" and were away from their home at Nazareth. The intercession of St. Joseph as the patron saint of families will guide us through the rough times and hopefully cause us to pause and reflect on the joys of family life. Pope Francis has declared this year the **Year of St. Joseph** and encourages us to model our life after Joseph's obedience to God's will.

In our society today, not every household has a positive experience of family. For some of us, our home life is very difficult and something to endure until we can be on our own. This Feast of the Holy Family is a beacon of light and grace-filled reassurance to all families - even seemingly broken families. Let us pray to God through the intercession of the Holy Family to build up what may be lacking in our homes; to invigorate the virtues of faith in our homes; and to continue to support parents and children as they share their faith, cooperate with one another, and sacrifice for each other. May the same love of God shown in the Holy Family radiate upon your family helping to heal some relationships and strengthening bonds in all family relationships.

Have a Blessed, Happy and **Healthy 2021! Remember the Solemnity of the Mary Mother of the Church, the octave of Christmas, is on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.** Please check the Mass times in this bulletin. Next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Bring holy water bottles, if you have them, to be filled so you can all bless your homes next week as is the tradition when the Wise Men come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Prayers and blessings,

~ 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 ~

- I hope you are having a wonderful Christmas season. I pray that each of you enjoy peace and joy in the New Year. Blessings to you all, Donna.
- **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/biy-registration>. There is no cost for the podcast.
- **FORMED.org:** *The Fourth Wise Man* stars Martin Sheen as Artaban, a young Magi who sells his valuable possessions and spends his life looking for Jesus the King. He leaves his home carrying his gifts of 3 precious jewels for the baby Messiah to follow the star but misses the caravan of The Three Wise Men. Artaban continues his search spending his wealth helping the poor and unfortunate until, at the end of his life, he finds Jesus---at his trial. Will Artaban ever get to present his gifts to the King?
- 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.

**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."

~ 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 Lorenson,
Julie Leake, Juanita Pfanner, Verna Fortner,
Kenny Ryan, Rusty Adam, Frankie Maddox.

~ PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL ~

- **Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th** and **New Year's Day, Friday, January 1st** we will NOT have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- **After January 1st** we have several hours open for someone to commit to on a permanent basis. Tuesday, 11 AM - noon Friday, 2-3 PM and 7-8 PM
- **If you would like to commit** to taking one of those 3 hours, please call Phyllis Campbell 573-795-2290. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will continue to 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.

~ 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 22nd, 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.

Liturgical Appointments

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	Doug & Julie Orf
Counters	Danny Sims, Matt Hays

December 31 – Vigil Mass of The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 6:30 PM

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

January 3 – The Epiphany of The Lord

Sacristan	Doug & Julie Orf
Rosary	Nancy Shively
Music	Debby Quinn & Beth Whelan
Song Leader	Whitney Pfaff
Servers	Maddi Gares & Annie Willingham
Lector	Frank Lemongelli
Communion Ministers	Lee & Kathy Anderson
Counters	Carol Hagan, Ted & Judy Irons

January 10 – The Baptism of the Lord

Sacristan	Kathy Anderson
Rosary	Katie Underhill
Music	Beth Whelan & Julianne Burns
Song Leader	Lee Anderson
Servers	Ben Lemongelli & Chloe Puro
Lector	Greg Maher
Communion Ministers	Marie Puro, Nancy Shively
Counters	Carol Hagan, Sally Lemongelli

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.

The Feast Of The Holy Family

On this feast of the Holy Family, our Gospel shows us Joseph and Mary's flight into Egypt, pursuing their mission to protect the Christ child. This story prompts me to say something about the Christian family's mission.

The family is, above all, the forum in which both parents and children are able to discern their missions. It is perfectly good, of course, if deep bonds and rich emotions are cultivated within the family, but those relationships and passions must cede to something that is more spiritually focused.

A biblical prioritization of values helps us to see what typically goes wrong with families. When something other than mission is dominant—a son's athletic achievement, a daughter's success at university, etc.—family relationships actually become strained. The paradox is this: precisely in the measure that everyone in the family focuses on God's call for one another, the family becomes more loving and peaceful.

John Paul II admirably summed up what I've been driving at when he spoke of the family as an *ecclesiola* (a little church). At its best, he implies, the family is a place where God is worshiped and where the discernment of God's mission is of paramount importance.

(Bishop Robert Baron's Meditation on The Feast of The Holy Family)