

December 6, 2020

St. Stephen Church

27519 Monroe Rd. 533
Monroe City, MO 63456
Holy Rosary Rectory
(573) 735-4718

Pastor

Rev. Greg Oligschlaeger

Email: gregolig@gmail.com

Deacon Mike Long

Email: deaconmikelong@gmail.com

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 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: *Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 (8B):* The spirit of the Lord God enabled Isaiah to proclaim good news to the poor, healing to the brokenhearted, liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners.

Responsorial Psalm: *Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54:* "My soul rejoices in my God."

Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24:* Paul exhorted the faithful of Thessalonica to "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

Gospel: *John 1:6-8, 19-28:* John the Baptizer was not the light but testified to it. He declared himself "the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord."

November 29th Offertory ~ \$990.00

Campaign for Human Development ~ \$60.00

~ PARISH NEWS ~

- **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.
- **Cleaning the Church for Christmas:** There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin table in preparation for cleaning the Church the week of December 6th - 12th. It is divided into 5 areas, so one or two ladies may choose a time to clean a section and avoid contact with others.
- **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.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 8, 8:20 a.m. at Holy Rosary

Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m. at St. Stephen

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

New Year's Eve Schedule

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

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

Day	Time	Intention
Sunday 12/6	*St. Stephen 8:00 AM	Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
	*Holy Rosary 9:30 AM	George & Juanita Yates & Family
Monday		No Scripture Service
		<u>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</u>
Tuesday	*Holy Rosary 8:20 AM	Phil & Donna Thompson & Family
	*St. Stephen 6:30 PM	Gerry Spalding
Wednesday		7:30 AM Lawrence & Rose Bono
Thursday		7:30 AM Purgatorial Society
Friday		7:30 AM Jack Quinn
Saturday	*Holy Rosary 5:30 PM	Dede Yager & Kenny Fulton
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

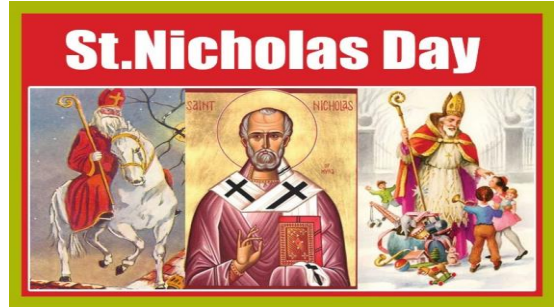
*St. Stephen & Holy Rosary Masses can be viewed on Facebook @ "Greg Oligschlaeger"

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,

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"... we hear in the first reading and the gospel today. On this Second Sunday of Advent, I pray that you are having a Blessed Advent Season. It is truly a challenge to remove or step over the clutter that preparing for Christmas can put in the path of our ability to meet the Lord. It is even more difficult to pause and remember to let Christ come to us. How can we allow the Lord to shape our lives and thus level the hills, fill-in the valleys, and make straight the pathway to our God? So, we continue to pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Notice our Advent celebrations this week. This weekend-Sunday, December 6th, we celebrate the **Feast of St. Nicholas**. St. Nicholas is the 4th century saint who inspired our modern figure of Santa Claus. Bishop Nicholas was interested in making sure that families had enough to eat and a good place to live. He ministered in a way that helped children to be successful in life and so that the elderly lived out their lives with dignity and respect. St. Nicholas was known for giving children small gifts—some candy or a toy. His kindness, which always managed to surprise the children, touched their hearts and they learned from this holy man what a beautiful thing it is to be charitable. St. Nicholas Day is the day I put up Christmas stockings at the rectory and hope St. Nicholas leaves something in the stocking or in my shoe.

The **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** is on Tuesday, December 8th. On this day we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary because on the day she was conceived in St. Anna's womb, God favored her with a special grace to be free from Original Sin. Mary's decision at the Annunciation to cooperate with that Grace has blessed humankind. This is a great solemnity of the Church and an important Advent celebration. (Check this bulletin for Mass times.)

Friday, December 12th is the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. We celebrate this apparition of Blessed Virgin Mary that took place in the neighboring country of Mexico. She is the "Patroness of the Americas" and "Protector of Unborn Children". After the Blessed Mother's Apparition in 1531, in just 10 years, all of Mexico converted to Catholicism.

These feasts of the Church, when celebrated well, help us to mold us into the vessels God has created us to be. We 'Prepare the Way of the Lord' so that we might truly have a Merry Christmas. "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

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, 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, 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 Advent Study: Advent: How exactly are we preparing our hearts for the greatest gift we have ever been given? Advent, a 4-episode study, explores the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the event surrounding the arrival of Jesus. This study offers an opportunity to experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas. It includes a leader and study guide if you are meeting as a couple, with family or friends as a group either in-person or virtually, or even to study on your own.
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 November 30th, we have received commitments of \$6,922.00 which is 77% 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.

~ CHRISTMAS IS CARING ~

Holy Rosary and St. Stephens are again helping with Christmas is Caring. 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.

~ THANK YOU ~

The Cemetery Committee would like to thank David and Michelle Wilson for the donation of a new flag at the Cemetery.

~ 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.

~ 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 6 - Second Sunday of Advent

Table with 2 columns: Role and Name. Roles include Sacristan, Rosary, Music, Song Leader, Servers, Lector, Communion Ministers, and Counters. Names include Danny Adam, Katie Underhill, Debby Quinn & Jan Adam, Whitney Pfaff, Taitym Foltz & Bradi Keller, Jim Burns, Doug & Julie Orf, and Danny Sims, Jim & Julianne Burns.

December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Table with 2 columns: Role and Name. Roles include Mass @ St. Stephen @ 6:30 PM (Sign-up sheet on the bulletin table), Sacristan, Music, and Song Leader. Names include Doug & Julie Orf, Julianne Burns, and Beth Whelan.

December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent

Table with 2 columns: Role and Name. Roles include Sacristan, Rosary, Music, Song Leader, Servers, Lector, Communion Ministers, and Counters. Names include Danny Adam, Glenn Bichsel, Beth Whelan & Julianne Burns, Lee Anderson, Ella Hays & Emily Spalding, Carol Hagan, Kaye Spalding, Phil Whelan, and Danny Sims, Mary Lou Dawson.

December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Table with 2 columns: Role and Name. Roles include Sacristan, Rosary, Music, Song Leader, Servers, Lector, Communion Ministers, and Counters. Names include Doug & Julie Orf, Gares Family, Sr. Sue Walker, Judy Irons, Tyler Hays & Jacob Anderson, Julie Hays, Beth Whelan, Deanna Buckman, and Danny Sims, David & Julie Hays.

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 Puro; Treas., Marie Puro, Dwayne Williams, Matt Hays, Shane Spalding.