

January 3, 2021

Christmas Eve & December 27th Offertory ~ \$5,538.00
Christmas Seminary & Priest's Retirement ~ \$330.00

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 January 10, 2021

The Baptism of The Lord

First Reading: *Isaiah 55:1-11 (21B):* "All who are thirsty, come to the water!...I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David."

Responsorial Psalm: *Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6:* "You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation."

Second Reading: *1 John 5:1-9:* The Spirit, the water and the blood all testify. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came through water and blood. The Spirit is truth.

Gospel: *Mark 1:7-11:* When John baptized Jesus, the sky opened and the Spirit descended like a dove. A heavenly voice said, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

~ PARISH NEWS ~

- **The 2021 Offertory Envelopes** are in the entry of St. Stephen for parishioners to pick up.
- **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.

~ SCHOOL NEWS ~

- **Classes resume** on Monday, January 4th. Bus service will not be available on this day.
- **Report Cards** will be sent home with students on Thursday, January 7th.
- **The Student Liturgy** at 8:20 on Friday, January 8th, will be led by volunteers from various classes.
- **Lucky Hearts Banquet** will be held **virtually** on Saturday, February 13th. Tickets for the drawing will be sold, prime rib dinners will be available for *carry-out*. Pick up your meal and watch the drawing in the comfort of your own home! More information will follow. You could be a big winner!

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

Day	Time	Intention
Sunday 1/3	*St. Stephen 8:00 AM	Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
	*Holy Rosary 9:30 AM	William & Mandy Painter & Family
Monday		No Scripture Service
Tuesday		7:30 AM Mark Saunders
Wednesday		7:30 AM Liv. + Dec'd Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
Thursday		7:30 AM Rink Benson
Friday	<i>Student Liturgy</i>	9:00 AM Seth Hays
Saturday	*Holy Rosary	5:30 PM Matt & Lorene Hays
Sunday 1/10	*St. Stephen 8:00 AM	Tom & Jack Quinn
	*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,

Happy New Year! I pray that your 2021 may be healthy, holy, a time of healing, and filled with God's joy and blessings. **This weekend we celebrate my favorite of the Christmas feasts: The Epiphany.** This solemnity focuses on the visit of the Magi to the infant Christ. Notice that they are not described as kings (as in the familiar carol) but as *Magi*, a word that suggests arcane knowledge. Also note that the gospel of Matthew does not say there are three of them. King Herod is on guard immediately when he learns that these strangers from the East seek "the newborn king of the Jews" (Matt. 2:2).

Herod is frightened, but the Magi are "overjoyed" (Matt. 2:10) when the star stops and shines over the stable in Bethlehem. Without hesitation they go in and offer Jesus homage giving Him symbolic gifts of **gold, frankincense and myrrh** (gold for a king, incense for the divine, and myrrh for one who is to die.) The same divine wisdom that has guided them to Bethlehem warns these wise men not to return to Herod. The message for the gospel reader is clear. The scribes and the priests who possess the knowledge (they are able to cite scripture and know exactly where the Messiah will be born) do nothing, while these foreigners wisely hasten with great joy and personal expense to greet the newborn king.

I invite each household to bless their home today. Take some holy water from church (and a piece of chalk if you need it) and use the blessing reprinted below, in this bulletin, from the book *Catholic Households and Prayers*.

Wise people still seek Him! In 2021, may we who have seen the light and have been baptized in the light continue to seek our Savior in the Eucharist and in the grace of all the sacraments, in our daily prayers, and continue to look for Christ every day in the people we meet along our life's journey. Don't forget to look for Him in the places and in the people we least expect. Wisdom and not knowledge alone help us to find Him. **On April 10, 2021, our 7th, 8th and 9th grade parishioners will receive those gifts of the Holy Spirit in a profound way in the Sacrament of Confirmation. These gifts would be wonderful gifts to give back to the Lord wherever we find Him on this Epiphany.** We have been given Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Good Counsel, Fortitude, Reverence and Piety as gifts to determine God's will in our life and to share those gifts with others. These gifts would be wonderful gifts to give back to the Lord wherever we find Him on this Epiphany. The year 2021 will have its challenges for all of us (hopefully not as challenging as 2020). With those challenges comes an excellent opportunity to promote peace, justice and God's selfless love. Have a Blessed New Year!

Prayers and blessings,

BLESSING OF THE HOME AND HOUSEHOLD

A popular custom on Epiphany is to bless homes and inscribe the numerals of the New Year over the main door of one's home using chalk. The numerals are separated by the letters CMB which represent the legendary names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar **21+C+M+B+21**. This act symbolizes the hospitality offered to guests. Holy water bottles and pieces of chalk are available at the Holy Water Font.

Lord God of heaven and earth,
You revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation
by the guidance of a star.
Bless this house and all who inhabit it.
Fill us with the light of Christ,
that our concern for others may reflect your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE ~

Our parish family joins the family of Nick Hays in mourning his passing to eternal life. His funeral will be held Monday, January 4th at 10:00 AM at St. Stephen. May his soul and all the souls of 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, 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 pray that you be blessed with gifts of love and peace on this Epiphany and every day throughout this 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: FORMED Now! has a wonderful 9-minute podcast of The Year of St. Joseph https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-year-of-st-joseph. As you may know, Pope Francis declared December 8, 2020 through December 8, 2021 The Year of St. Joseph. This year is dedicated to the foster father of Jesus, St. Joseph. On December 8, 1870 Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church. This is the 150th anniversary of that declaration. I encourage you to watch this video. I found it very interesting and plan to learn as much as I can about St. Joseph in the coming year.
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".

POPE FRANCIS AND BISHOP McKNIGHT'S JANUARY PRAYER INTENTIONS

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

Intention of Pope Francis

"May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all."

Intention of Bishop McKnight

"For those seeking employment; that through the intercession of St. Joseph the Worker, they may find dignified work in supporting themselves and their family."

~ 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.

~ 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.

~ 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 \$7,722.00 which is 86% 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 ~

- 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.

Liturgy Appointments

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

January 17 - Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sacristan Kathy Anderson
Rosary Glenn Bichsel
Music Sr. Sue Walker
Song Leader Judy Irons
Servers Josie Orf & Holden Orf
Lector Desiree Mudd
Communion Ministers Amanda Spalding, Kay Turnbull
Counters Carol Hagan, Ralph & Sherri Lemongelli

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.

Pope Francis' Daily Prayer to St. Joseph
Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.

Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.

My beloved father, all my trust is in you.

Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary,

show me that your goodness is as great as your power.

Amen.