

February 14, 2021



### St. Stephen Church

27519 Monroe Rd. 533, Monroe City, MO 63456

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<https://ststephenic.diojeffcity.org/>

Email: [churchst.stephen@gmail.com](mailto:churchst.stephen@gmail.com)

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2021

*The First Sunday of Lent*

**First Reading:** *Genesis 9:8-15 (23B):* After the great flood, God told Noah of the covenant between heaven and earth. Never again would a flood destroy the earth. To mark this covenant, the Lord set up a rainbow in the sky.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9:* "Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant."

**Second Reading:** *1 Peter 3:18-22:* As the ark saved a chosen few in Noah's day, so does baptism by faith save God's chosen today. Baptism is "an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

**Gospel:** *Mark 1:12-15:* The Spirit sent Jesus to the desert to fast and pray for forty days. Afterwards, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming "the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

#### ~ PARISH NEWS ~

- **KC Swinkey Sausage Fundraiser:** The Swinkey KC's will have their pork sausage available right after 8:00 AM Mass on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, while supplies last, in the Swinkey Gym. Suggested donation are \$20 for a 5 lb. bundle or \$5 for 1 lb. It comes in either links (salt and pepper flavoring) or bulk (salt and pepper or sage flavoring).
- **The next Finance Committee meeting** will be Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in Holy Rosary's parish office.
- **The next Parish Council meeting** will be Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the gym.
- **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.

#### 2021 Lenten Regulations

As another Lenten journey of conversion begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 17, and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 1, Holy Mother Church calls all Catholics to a deeper spirit of penance, fasting, almsgiving and prayer, "which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others" (Catechism of the Catholic Church Nos. 1434 and 1969).

To foster a greater spirit of penance, of reparation for sin, to encourage self-denial, and so guide us more closely in the footsteps of Christ, Holy Mother Church reminds us of the following obligations of fast and abstinence during Lent and also admonishes us all to deeper prayer and worship.

**1a) Abstinence:** all persons who have already celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

**1b) Fasting:** everyone, from the celebration of their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is generally understood to mean eating only one full meal each day. Two other partial meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken; but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. Voluntary fasting on other weekdays of Lent is highly recommended. But please note: when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, neither the law of fasting nor the law of abstinence obliges. These are minimal penitential practices and should not be lightly excused. If in doubt, please consult your parish priest. Other recommended forms of fasting, as regards alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, internet use, and social entertainment, are of true spiritual value and strongly encouraged.

**2. Almsgiving:** The act of giving to the poor, in the most ancient tradition of the Church, is an expression of penance, a witness of fraternal charity, and an expression of Lenten conversion. Therefore, all Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church: through regular stewardship to their parish, support of charities, and their generous response to the diocesan Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

**3. Prayer:** In order to deepen one's love for Christ, Catholics are urged all the more to participate in the sacramental life of the Church during Lent by attending daily Mass and frequenting the sacrament of Penance.

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

Day	Time	Intention
Sunday 2/14	*St. Stephen	8:00 AM Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
	*Holy Rosary	9:30 AM Phil & Donna Thompson & Family
Monday		No Scripture Service
Tuesday		7:30 AM Nick Hays
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>		
Wednesday	*Holy Rosary	6:30 AM Rita Jo Kendrick
	Student Liturgy	8:20 AM Gerry Spalding
	*St. Stephen	6:30 PM Cele Kendrick
Thursday		7:30 AM The Miller Cousins
Friday		7:30 AM Ina, Bernard & Greg Mudd
Saturday	*Holy Rosary	5:30 PM Nick Hays
Sunday 2/21	*St. Stephen	8:00 AM Families of St. Stephen & Holy Rosary
	*Holy Rosary	9:30 AM Longina Bimentel

\*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

February 7<sup>th</sup> Offertory ~ \$2,976.00

#### SUNDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please pick up a missalette from the entry** this morning as we will begin singing new service music at Mass, the Heritage Mass, found at #888.
- **Those who had pictures taken** for our new directory may pick up their copy in the vestibule. After all are distributed, any extra may be purchased for \$10.

#### ~ PASTOR'S NOTES ~

Dear Parishioners,

Tuesday of this week is Mardi Gras - the last day before your Lenten Fast. Ash Wednesday is the next day. Traditionally, Mardi Gras [Fat Tuesday] is the day we eat up or drink down all the food that we will be fasting from in Lent. I always encourage people to make good use of this day because it calls us to be prepared for Lent. One must know what you will be doing for Lent in order to feast on it the day before. Take some time to pray about what you will offer to God in regard to all **three of the Lenten disciplines of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.**

Please note the schedule for the Ash Wednesday Mass times in the bulletin. We have a **6:30 AM Mass** at Holy Rosary Church this year. The rules for fasting and abstinence are also included for your review. Please take the disciplines of Lent to heart and work at it. They lead us to a greater awareness of our need to sacrifice as Jesus calls us to do.

Jesus spent 40 days in the desert fasting and praying, preparing for His ministry. While secluded from the daily routine of the world, He was not protected from all distractions. He was tempted by the devil. Your 40 days of Lent will not, by any means, be free from distractions. You will not be able to take 40 days away from your regular and often hectic routine. **Do something radical in this Year of St. Joseph to set off this season of Lent. What could you do that would make every day of Lent different this year?** This Lent I'm going to drink black coffee (without cream or sugar) and do an hour of prayer starting at 6 AM (5 days a week) for all 40 days.

You will have your daily schedule, but let your mind see these days as different from the rest of the year. Here are some ideas: 1) Take some extra time to pray. 2) Seek the counsel of a spiritual director or some inspirational spiritual reading like the Bible, "The Word Among Us", a daily Christian reflection from the internet, and/or use the Lenten reflection booklets provided at church. 3) Come to Mass during the week. 4) Spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. 5) Make sure you go to Confession and receive the Sacrament of Penance. 6) Connect your fasting to be reminders to pray for someone or to do an act of charity.

As your pastor, I would be glad to spend 15 minutes or more with you, in person or over the phone, to help you to design your Lenten 40 Day Retreat. We begin this Wednesday! Have a fun Mardi Gras and a blessed Season of Lent.

Prayers and blessings,

#### ~ 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.

~ PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER ~

Father, we lift up those today that are fighting disease and ailments, whether in mind or body. When they want to give up, give them fresh strength and courage. Comfort them in times of pain, give them peace in times of fear and bless them with your healing touch. 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.

~ SCHOOL NEWS ~

- **Classes will not be held** on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, as Presidents Day is celebrated.
- **All students** will attend Mass at 8:30 AM on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will lead the Mass.
- **Mass on Friday**, February 19<sup>th</sup>, will be held at 7:30 AM, not at 8:20.
- **Classes will not be held** on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, as all teachers attend a Faculty Retreat Day.

~ FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD ALONG WITH DONNA ~

PSR/Youth Groups:

- **We need help** with Sunday breakfasts for grades 7 - 12 PSR students. If you would like to help our Youth Ministry Program by providing a breakfast item, please call Jane Vollrath at 573-406-8889.
- **Simon Scholarship: Simon Scholarship** The William H. (Bill) Simon Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to Catholic students who are in financial need for the purpose of attending an accredited college or university of the student's choice. Applications for the 2021-2022 Simon Scholarship are being accepted through March 31, 2021. The application can be found under the NEWS tab of both parishes' websites. Go to <https://holyroary.diojeffcity.org> or <https://ststephenic.diojeffcity.org>.
- **FORMED.org:** FORMED.org For Lent, 40 Days to Grace and Glory. Sign up for daily Lenten reflections with Dr. Tim Gray in your email from FORMED - <https://formed.org/lent>. Each day you will receive a short video via your email which features Dr. Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your Christian life. These daily Lenten reflections are free to you through our Parish's FORMED subscription. You can find a list of what FORMED has to offer based on the Liturgical Calendar. To find the list for February 2021 go to the parish website, on the menu click on the Parish Life→Faith Formation; scroll down until you find "Monthly Themes on FORMED". You will find a list of what to watch, read, and listen for the days listed for the month.
- **Happy St. Valentine Day!** St. Valentine of Rome is a third century Roman saint and is commonly associated with "courtly love". He was a priest during the reign of Claudius II. Valentine was arrested for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Valentine tried to convert Claudius to Christianity. Claudius sentenced Valentine to death unless he renounced his faith. He healed his jailer's blind daughter. On the day of Valentine's death, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine". There are many variations of the story of St. Valentine. He is the patron of Love, Young People, and Happy Marriages. [https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=159](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=159). For more on St. Valentine see <https://catholicstraightanswers.com/who-is-st-valentine-and-how-is-he-connected-to-valentines-day/>.
- **To inquire about faith formation** and 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 or you can call my cell 573-406-4994.

POPE FRANCIS AND BISHOP McKNIGHT'S

~ FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTIONS ~

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

**Intention of Pope Francis**

"We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded."

**Intention of Bishop McKnight**

"For parents: May they have the spiritual and material resources they need to provide their children a home in which charity and mercy are practiced, and knowledge of our faith is shared."

~ DIOCESAN CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL ~

The St. Stephen parish goal for 2021 is \$9,000 and the diocese goal is \$2,450,000. As of February 9<sup>th</sup>, we have received commitments of \$9,027.00, reaching our goal. Thank you to everyone who have responded!

~ K OF C NEWS ~

- **The March KC meeting** will be held Thursday, March 4<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 February is "The Sacrament of Marriage".

~ PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER POSITION IS OPEN ~

After 21 years of faithful and dedicated service to St. Stephen Parish as our parish secretary and bookkeeper, Pat Kendrick is going to retire from this position as of Friday, March 12, 2021. Any interested person in the St. Stephen Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper position, please contact me, Fr. Greg Oligschlaeger at: 573-735-4718; or by email at: [gregolig@gmail.com](mailto:gregolig@gmail.com). The job is part-time [20 hours per week]. Upon contact, Fr. Greg will give the person a job description and ask for one's resume. Fr. Greg would like to fill the position by the end of February 2021. The new person's first pay period would begin as early as March 1<sup>st</sup>. That would leave two weeks for Pat to help the new person transition. [Twenty hours a week would not be required those first two weeks.] Please convey to Pat your gratitude for many years of devoted service to our parish.

~ THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH ~

During the Year of St. Joseph, the diocese is focusing on various aspects of St. Joseph each month. February is 'Family as the Domestic Church.' So... What is the 'Domestic Church?' It is a clear reminder that it is within the frame of our family where we first learn about God. Pray that St. Joseph guide us in nurturing our domestic Church!

Liturgy Appointments

**February 14 – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sacristan	Danny Adam
Rosary	Glenn Bichsel
Music	Beth Whelan & Julienne Burns
Song Leader	Lee Anderson
Servers	Natalie Shively & Caitlin Shively
Lector	Kaye Spalding
Communion Ministers	Marie Purol & Nancy Shively
Counters	Doug Orf & Sam Smith

**February 17 – Ash Wednesday Mass @ St. Stephen @ 6:30 PM**

(A sign-up sheet for liturgy volunteers is on the bulletin table in the vestibule)

**February 21 – First Sunday of Lent**

Sacristan	Doug & Julie Orf
Rosary	Gares Family
Music	Sr. Sue Walker
Song Leader	Judy Irons
Servers	Mari Gares & Sophie Gares
Lector	Kay Turnbull
Communion Ministers	Amanda Spalding & Kaye Spalding
Counters	Doug Orf & Shane Spalding

**February 28 – Second Sunday of Lent**

Sacristan	Kathy Anderson
Rosary	Nancy Shively
Music	Jan Adam & Debby Quinn
Song Leader	Beth Whelan
Servers	Taitym Foltz & Bradi Keller
Lector	Kathy Anderson
Communion Ministers	Phil Whelan & Deanna Buckman
Counters	Doug Orf & Dan Adam

**Ushers for February**

Ted Irons & John Jansen

\* 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, Susan Winking

**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 Purol; Treas., Marie Purol, Dwayne Williams, Matt Hays, Shane Spalding, Dan Buckman.