

WELCOME!

We welcome all of our visitors and guests to St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish. If you would be so kind as to sign the Guest Book found in the vestibule of the Chapel or near the main entrance to the Church, we would appreciate it.

If you would like to register or find out more information about us, please call the parish office at 481-1133 or visit our website at www.saintstephenstl.org.

Our mission statement is: "Following the example of our patron St. Stephen, we are called to be witnesses of God's love and to be a faith-filled, reconciling parish."

Sacrament of Confirmation

On Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with our seventh and eighth graders.

As we pray for our young people in the coming weeks this is a good time for us to re-remember our own Confirmation: what it meant to us then, what it means to us now. Over the years we have seen some changes in the way the sacrament is celebrated. For many of us of a certain age, we remember the "slap" of the bishop and are surprised to know that is no longer a part of the ritual. We remember being sealed with the Sacred Chrism as the bishop said the words "Be sealed with the Gift of the Spirit."

Confirmation, along with Baptism and Eucharist, is a Sacrament of Initiation. With Baptism and Eucharist, Confirmation shapes us as Catholic Christians. We might say that Baptism is birth into the family of the Church. We need the nourishment of Eucharist for our growth and to keep us healthy members of Christ. The breath of Christian life is the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit of God dwelling within us. First received at Baptism, the Gift of the Spirit is celebrated more fully in Confirmation.

As we approach the celebration of Confirmation here at St. Stephen Protomartyr let's take some time to think about the Gift of the Spirit that we received when we were confirmed. To be continued.....

Contribution Statements

Your 2009 contribution statement is available at the rectory. If you want to have it mailed to your home, please drop a self-addressed envelope in the collection basket.

Feast of St. Blaise — February 3

There will be two opportunities for parishioners to have their throats blessed, if they desire. Throats will be blessed after the homily at the 8:00 AM Mass at the Parish Church on Wednesday, February 3. We will also be available to bless throats at 6:00 PM on Wednesday evening, February 3 at the Parish Church.

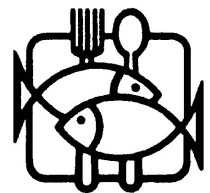
Legends say that St. Blaise was a physician before becoming a bishop. While in prison he miraculously cured a young boy who was choking from a fish bone in his throat. As a result St. Blaise became known as a helper in times of sickness related to the throat. The tradition of blessing throats with two crossed candles on his feast day has been popular for centuries.

It's Fish Fry Time Again!!!

We're putting together our volunteer list to work at the fish fries this year. Ash Wednesday is our first and it's on 2/17!! Please let us know ASAP if you can help us with this Fish-a-licious Fund Raiser for our school. Even if you've worked in the past, PLEASE let us know again so we are sure to have your updated contact information. Only once or every week, we want to hear from you!!

We need these jobs filled every week -

- ◇ Set up...2 Serving shifts...2+Kitchen Shifts
- ◇ Kids Korner
- ◇ Parking Lot
- ◇ Cake preparers/servers
- ◇ Raffle
- ◇ Phone call person
- ◇ Clean up



We have a limited number of jobs for responsible students each week, sign up to be scheduled as well. Email Denise Dowd at dmd1860@aol.com with your name, phone, email address and days & times you are available. We will also have a sign-up table at donut Sunday Feb. 6 & 7 after all the Masses.

Please Note! No Masses at the Chapel

Due to the boiler cracking and therefore no heat at the Chapel of Sts. Mary and Joseph, there will be no Masses or activities at the Chapel or MKC until further notice. All Tuesday morning and Saturday 4 PM Vigil Masses will be at the Parish Church.

Readings for the week

February 1 through February 7, 2010

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14,30;16:5-13 Ps 3:2-7
Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18
Lk 2:22-40

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2,9-17 Ps 32:1-2,5-7 Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12 1Chr 29:10-12 Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11 Ps 18:31,47,50-51 Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9-14 Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Is 6:1-2a,3-8 Ps 138:1-5,7-8 1 Cor 15:1-11
Lk 5:1-11

Women in the Old Testament

There are stories of queens and slaves, assassins and victims of violence, mothers and wives. Each of these women has unique characteristics. Each of their stories is food to help us imagine our own relationship with God.

Join us as we study the experiences of the Women in the Old Testament. This study is for men and women.

Once again we will open two sessions for you to choose from. Monday evenings at 7:00 pm starting Feb. 8 and Thursday mornings at 9:00 am starting Feb. 11.

Contact Mary Regan at 481-1133 or mary0828@sbcglobal.net to sign-up so sufficient materials are available.

Catholic Schools' Week Open House

Today, Sunday, January 31, is the first day of Catholic Schools' Week. We want to share our "good news" with you. St. Stephen Protomartyr School is holding an open house, on Sunday January 31, from noon until 2 PM. All are welcome. As parishioners of St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish, you have helped us continue to offer a quality program. To demonstrate our thanks for your continued support, we invite you to stop by and see what your contributions help provide for our students.

For those families with school age children not attending St. Stephen Protomartyr School, please take time to visit and see if we are the school for your child. Encourage your neighbors with school age children to stop by as well. Opportunities for tuition assistance are available.

Skating Lessons

His six-year-old son had been invited to a number of birthday ice-skating parties where he was the only one who couldn't skate. His dad couldn't skate either, so the boy had to depend on other parents to pull and push him around the ice. His athletically-challenged father feared that he had passed down to his son the DNA for blinking when the ball was thrown toward the bat, for hanging back at pickup basketball games, for falling down on the ice. At least his son was spared from the taunts he had endured when he was six.

So Dad decided to get his son ice-skating lessons. The boy agreed to the Saturday morning lessons stoically if not enthusiastically. The first lessons did not go well; the boy struggled to make some progress, but there was little pleasure or sense of fun. So Dad asked if it would help if he took lessons too. "That would be great, Dad!"

After some procrastinating, Dad finally managed to put aside his own fear of breaking his neck and embarrassing himself in front of an ice-rink full of children. He laced up a pair of skates and joined his son on the ice. At first, it was all he could do to keep himself from falling, but within a few weeks he was making his way around the rink. He didn't look particularly smooth and he could feel the heat rise in his face with every turn toward the bleachers, but he managed to stay on his feet.

Both father and son kept at it. Soon his son was actually smiling — he loved that he was further along than his dad. The six-year-old was never going to be Bobby Orr, but that was OK. He was able to hold his own and no longer hung back when kids invited him to skate or play.

■ *God comes to us in all kinds of "prophets" who call forth from us compassion, generosity, consolation, and peace. God raises up parents and teachers, preachers and ministers, to help us realize our own call to be prophets of God's love and forgiveness, to embrace God's grace enabling us to transform our own Nazareths into God's dwelling places. More often than not, the "prophets" we do not accept are ourselves: we are too fearful, too intimidated, too self-absorbed to realize the responsibility of our baptisms to be teachers, reconcilers and healers in God's compassion. In the spirit of Jesus, let us put aside our fear of falling down on the ice and be willing to risk ridicule and embarrassment to help one another stand tall in the light of God's love.■*

From Connections: January 2010

January 31, 2010 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE and PRAYER

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous."
1 Corinthians 13:4*

Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week's Stewardship	\$ 5,603.20
Weekly Stewardship goal	\$ 10,481.00
Average	\$ 7,366.96
Renovations & Improvements	\$ 15.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 45.00
Earthquake Relief	\$ 625.00

Tuition Assistance

\$85,000.00 Yes, you are seeing correctly. Eighty five thousand dollars is the amount given to school families in need of tuition assistance this school year thanks to the past generosity of those who use the blue tuition envelopes and grants from the Archdiocese. Although we do not want to cut back in aid to our school families, it may be necessary as we look at the decline in contributions to the tuition assistance fund in the last year.

Military Service

If you have a family member serving in the military, we would like to recognize them in the bulletin and pray for them. Please contact the rectory with their name for inclusion in this listing.

ACE Cards

Remember to purchase your ACE cards.



COFFEE & DONUTS

Next Sunday, February 7th, is Donut Sunday

Liturgical Ministries

Lectors

Saturday, February 6, Church of St. Stephen

4:00 PM — M. Mohan, M. Kuppinger

Sunday, February 7

8:00 AM — R. Moylan, C. Prag

10:30 AM — L. Sturm, P. O'Connell

Servers

Saturday, February 6, Church of St. Stephen

4:00 PM — N. Schoenle, M. O'Connell

Sunday, February 7

8:00 AM — TW Brown, V. Massmann

10:30 AM — H. Grindel, M. Klutho

Haitian Earthquake Relief

If you would like to contribute to the Haitian Earthquake Relief effort and have not had the opportunity to do so you may place your donation in an envelope marked for Haiti Earthquake Relief in the collection or the rectory mail slot.

Sts. Peter & Paul Lunch

The Sts. Peter and Paul soup kitchen is cancelled in February due to the Mardi Gras parade and festivities.

Leadership Councils

The **Finance Council** members are: Marty Bickel, John Blaskiewicz, Ann Esswein, Dan Millman, Jim Pashia, Paul Payne, Linda Seemiller, Barb Schlanger and Fr. Ron

This Week at St. Stephen Protomartyr

Sunday January 31	Monday February 1	Tuesday February 2	Wednesday February 3	Thursday February 4	Friday February 5	Saturday February 6
School Open House 12 - 2 pm	Catholic School's Week	Arthritis Exercise Class 9:00 AM Parish Center	All School Mass Blessing of the Throats	Arthritis Exercise Class 9:00 AM	All School Mass	
			6:00 PM Blessings of the Throats.		Tai Chi 9:45-11:00	
			PTO Meeting 6:30 pm		Adult Volleyball Free Play	Lenten Gardens

White House Retreat

Men of the parish are invited to our annual White House retreat beginning with dinner on Thursday, March 25. The retreat will end after lunch on Sunday March 28.

Uncertain financial times can make retreats all the more important. "Come aside and rest a while" (Mk 6:31) Consider making a silent Lenten retreat on the beautiful bluffs of the Mississippi.

Access www.whretreat.org to see the White House facilities and learn more about this Ignation retreat experience. A DVD is also available.

For more information contact:

Dennis Carosello - 351-6219

Larry Esswein - 351-1417

Ron Thenhaus - 832-8395

Ladies of the Parish Annual Retreat

Women of the parish are invited to Our Annual Retreat at King's House in Belleville on April 23 - 25. Enjoy a restful refreshing weekend. Call Doris Jung at 481-4083 for information and reservations.

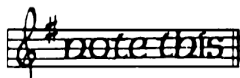
Alumni News

Notre Dame High School has informed St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish of the academic achievement of the following girls who have made the honor roll for semester one.

Kate Peters

Rachel Rone

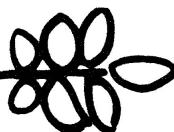
Congratulations!!



Choir Practice

The choir will be singing at Confirmation on Wed., Feb. 10 and at a concert at the CSJ motherhouse on Sun., March 14. We will begin practicing this Thurs., Feb. 4 and continue practicing on Sundays after the 10:30 mass. New members are always welcome to join.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:
EVERYONE GROWS!



News around Town

Theology on Tap - February 1, 2010

The Catholic Church Meets Youtube: What Does One Generation Offer Another? By Fr. Gregory Heille, OP

Milienials, Gen-Xers, Baby Boomers...We hear these generational names thrown around all the time, but what do they mean for the Church? Can Catholics of different generations learn from each other, or are we doomed to misunderstandings? What does each generation have to offer?

All events are held at the Schlafly Tap Room, 2100 Locust. Admission is FREE. The presentations will begin at 6:30 pm, so be sure to come early to buy drinks and find a seat. More info. Contact Aquinas Institute of Theology at 314.256.8804 or admissions@al.edu.

Catholic Singles

The Catholic Singles Alumni Club is looking for single or married players 18-45 to join their volleyball league. All skill levels are welcome. Play near Maryland Heights on Sunday evenings. Interested? Contact Don at 729-1235 .

The Catholic Singles Alumni Club invites you to our next Eat and Greet at the Brunswick Zone in Valley Park Friday, February 5 starting at 6:30 PM. We will have food available as well. For more info contact Steve at 966-0724

Pro-Life Square Dance

The annual Our Lady of Sorrows Pro-Life Square Dance will take place on Saturday, February 6, 2010 in Faenger Hall. Doors open at 7:30 pm dancing from 8:00 until 11:00 pm. Cost is \$25 per couple or \$13 per person, which includes beer, soda and snacks. Fifty-fifty and raffle also available. Please call Vicki, 351-9102 or Diane, 832-1376 for more information.

Mouse Races

Friday, February 12th, St. Raphael Gym, 6000 Jamieson. Doors Open at 6:30 pm. First race at 7:00 pm. \$15.00 per table 8 per table. Price includes Beer, Soda and Snacks! Benefit the Class of 2010. Contact Lester Knopp @352.4067 for reservations.

South Grand Senior Ministry

APPLY FOR THE MISSOURI PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

The Missouri Property Tax Credit Claim (also known as "Circuit Breaker") gives credit to certain senior citizens and 100 percent disabled individuals for a portion of the real estate taxes or rent they have paid for the year. The credit is for a maximum of \$750 for renters and \$1,100 for owners who owned and occupied their home. The actual credit is based on the amount of real estate taxes or rent paid and total household income.

In order to qualify:

If you are single -- the maximum annual income limit is \$27,500 for renters and \$30,000 for homeowners.

Married taxpayers -- can earn up to \$29,500 annually if renters or \$34,000 if homeowners.

You or your spouse must be 65 or over as of December 31, 2009; OR you or your spouse must be 100% disabled as a result of military service, regardless of age; OR you or your spouse must be a disabled person; OR you must be a surviving spouse at least age 60 receiving Social Security benefits.

You must have paid property tax on or rented the homestead you occupied during 2009. This also includes a room in a nursing home or an apartment.

If you meet all of these qualifications, complete Form MO-PTC. AARP provides free Tax-Aide sites from February 1 through the middle of April for older taxpayers. In addition to MO-PTC, they also provide one-on-one counseling to help individuals prepare tax forms 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ and other standard schedules.

Listed below are a few of the neighboring AARP sites:

- Carondelet Library, 6800 Michigan, Wednesdays 12-3 pm, Call for appointment: 525-1660
- Carpenter Library, 3309 S. Grand, Mondays 9:30 am -12:30 pm, Call for appointment: 525-1660
- Buder Library, 4401 Hampton, Mondays and Thursdays 9:30 am -12:30 pm, Call for appointment: 525-1660

Many of the senior centers provide free assistance with the Property Tax Credit forms starting in February, including Five Star Senior Center, 664-1008, Carondelet Senior Center, 353-9425 and Bevo Community Center, 352-0141.

Leigh Manalang, Senior Ministry Coordinator, is also available to help any seniors in the parish or neighborhood, including any who are *homebound*, with the Property Tax Credit forms. Call 481-1133 to schedule an appointment with Leigh.

FREE CONCERT AT ST. ANTHONY

The Notre Dame Handbell Choir and Celebration Choir will be giving a **free** concert on **Saturday, February 13th** at 4:00 pm. The event will take place at Saint Anthony of Padua, 3140 Meramec Street, and is open to all ages.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH STUDY

Are you age 60 or older? Do you reside in your own home, condo or rented apartment? Have you experienced changes in your mobility at home and/or in going to places in your community? Do you think about how your health may impact your mobility in the future? Or, is your future mobility not a source of concern?

Volunteer participants will be asked to participate in a research study by completing a questionnaire at home and mailing it back. Each participant will receive a \$20 gift card as a token of thanks. Call Dr. Meuser at 314-516-5280. You will be asked to complete a brief telephone questionnaire as a first step. Volunteers will be considered for enrollment in this study until March, 2010.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 1

8:00 AM —Deceased Jamboretz Family

Tuesday, February 2

8:00 AM — Courtney Marks

Wednesday, February 3

8:00 AM —Audrey Flore

Thursday, February 4

8:00 AM —Alison Bozzay (Special Intention)

Friday, February 5

8:00 AM — Richard Behnen

Saturday, February 6

8:00 AM —

4:00 PM — John Gary

Sunday, February 7

8:00 AM — Frank J. Jost, Jr.

10:30 AM — Our Parishioners

PRAY...

for our sick and recovering

Cece Driscoll, Dennis Ehrhard, James Forgash,
Joan Forshee, Mary Lopinot, Dan Nichols, Deacon
Bob Schnable, Mary Toomey

for our homebound

Betty Eich, Dorothy Flippin, Helen Getchman,
Jeanette Holmer, Ellie Kearns, Walter &
Rosemary Kobylinski, Frances Krafft, Rose Milentz,
Verna Murphy, Russ Niemeyer, Eva Schmidt,
Lee Ann Teter, Linda Tomasella, Adelaide Vogel,
Eve Wachtel

for those in nursing homes

Audrey Alles, Mary Ann Genail, Eleanor Gunter,
Rose Hegger McBride

for family members serving in the military

Joel Bruce, Timothy Hutchison, Brandon Johnson,
Stephen Napier, Brian Schoellhorn, Mark Tisius,
Ryan Wolf

DEVOTIONS

Tuesdays, after 8 am Mass: Perpetual Help
Devotions

Wednesdays, 8:45 am—7:30 pm: Church is open for
Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of the month, after 8 am Mass: Holy Hour
and Benediction

SAINT STEPHEN

Saint Stephen Protomartyr Parish

PARISH OFFICE HOURS (314)481-1133

Monday through Wednesday 8:30 am—8:00 pm

Thursday 8:30 am—5:30 pm

Friday: 8:30 am—3:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am—4:00 pm

Closed Sundays, Holidays and Holy Days

BULLETIN ARTICLE DEADLINE

Monday by 4:00 pm

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

Eucharist

Sunday: 8:00 am and 10:30 am at the Church of St.
Stephen Protomartyr

Monday and Wednesday through Friday:

8:00 am at Church of St. Stephen Protomartyr

Tuesday: 8:00 am Chapel of Sts Mary & Joseph

Saturday: 8:00 am at the Church of St. Stephen Protomartyr

Saturday evening Vigil:

4:00 pm at Chapel of Sts. Mary & Joseph

Holy Day: 8:00 am and 7:00 pm at the Church of St.
Stephen Protomartyr

Infant and Child Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated at any weekend liturgy or on the
last Sunday of the month following the 10:30 am.
Eucharist. Parents are asked to call the parish office to
arrange a Baptism. Parents (and godparents, if they are
able) are asked to attend a preparation meeting that will
be arranged after the parents meet with the priest
or pastoral associate.

Adult Initiation / Reception into the Catholic Church

Any adult who would like to know more about our Catholic
faith, and/or who is interested in becoming a member of the
Catholic Church, please call the parish office.

Reconciliation

Saturdays 9:30 am until 10:00 am

Marriage

Please contact one of the clergy at least six months prior to
the planned date of marriage.

Anointing of the Sick

We have a communal celebration of this sacrament at the
weekend liturgies in the fall and in the spring. If you would
like to be anointed before entering the hospital or if you are
homebound, please call the parish office.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Parish School of Religion formal classes in our Catholic Faith
Children: 4 yrs. through 8th grade and high school
The site of the Parish School of Religion is located on the
campus of St. John the Baptist Parish.
Please call, Father Leo Spezia, PSR Director at 314-353-1255.