

## 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](http://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."

## Ashes

"You've got dirt on your forehead."

We are likely to hear those words from thoughtful friends who display their intimate concern when we go out in public after Mass on Ash Wednesday.

The distribution of ashes replaces the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass. Instead of merely "calling to mind our sins," we receive a very public reminder of our sinfulness.

"Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel," we hear. Or, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return."

But it wasn't always that way. In the early church, only public sinners wore ashes. These sinners convened regularly to prepare for their reconciliation at a parish service. As penitents, they used to wear ashes on their heads or in their clothes. Symbols of human mortality, ashes represented their complete dependence on the mercy of God. In the middle ages, Pope Urban II ordered the first Ash Wednesday in 1091. Ashes were for everybody, and we've been rubbing dirt on our foreheads ever since.

Dirt is something we're constantly washing off children and ourselves. Only in church do we deliberately put dirt on the most public part of our bodies, our foreheads.

Ashes are what's left in the now-cold fireplace. Ashes heat the barbecue. Ashes are all that remains of the home after the tragic fire. Ashes enrich the compost heap. Ashes of the faithful departed fill commemorative urns. Ashes represent destruction, refuse, and waste but they hint at new life.

Continued.....

Long before recycling became popular, the church got into the act on Ash Wednesday. Ever wonder what happens to those palm branches left over from last Holy Week? They've been burned into ash and now await the chance to dirty your forehead on Ash Wednesday. The symbol of Christ's glory has become the symbol of our sin.

On Ash Wednesday, you're not just another dirty face. No, you've tossed yourself into the recycling bin of Lent, ready for renewal this Easter.

By Fr. Paul Turn from [Modern Liturgy, 1994](#)

## Lenten Aids

Lent is a time of conversion, a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. In our faith tradition we prepare ourselves through practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As a parish we have various Lenten activities designed to help us enter into the spirit of Lent, to help us to be ready to celebrate our baptismal renewal at Easter.

You will find an insert in this bulletin listing the various parish Lenten activities and parish prayer opportunities.

At the entrances to the Parish Church and Chapel are the "Little Black Books" for your own personal prayer time.

Also at the entrances are Rice Bowls you may wish to use as aids with almsgiving and fasting.

## Parish Council Notes

The Parish Council met on Wednesday, January 27.

The following items were discussed at the meeting.

- ◆ PTO request for a new fund raiser.
- ◆ Stewardship
  - ◇ Updated ministry catalogue
  - ◇ What do we expect from the parish
- ◆ Update on status of repair to the Chapel boiler

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the rectory.

## Please Note!

The Parish Office is closed on February 15th in celebration of President's Day.

## 50 + Club Meeting, February 18, 2010

The meeting will begin at 11 am followed by lunch and bingo. Membership dues of \$3.00 are due as of January 1st and if you have not yet paid, please pay at this meeting.

The date for our annual trip to Fairmount Park Race Track has just been secured. It is Tuesday, May 25th and we will have seats down by the windows. The price is the same as last year, which is \$15.00 plus the fee to your carpool driver. This includes admission, racing program and a delicious buffet lunch. Soft drinks and coffee are available all afternoon. It is always a fun time and sometimes even rewarding. Mark your calendar, invite your friends and be part of the group of 20 that will attend. We will need drivers to volunteer. Thanks in advance to those who will drive. The plan is to carpool from St. Stephen Protomartyr, leaving at 11 am and returning about 5:30 pm.

Please remember to bring canned goods for the Food Pantry as the shelves are bare since there are many requests for help. ACE certificates will be available. Parking is available on the Parish Center lot and enter through the Parish Center doors.

## A Warm Welcome

Please extend a warm St. Stephen Protomartyr welcome to:

Tom and Gina Esswein  
and their children Zeke and Sam  
and  
Justin and Laura Foizey  
and daughter Sunny

who registered in the parish this past month.

## Recent Baptisms

Congratulations to:

Alisha Marie Merlenbach  
Daughter of Lisa and John Merlenbach  
and  
Gabrielle Elizabeth Haasis

Daughter of David and Jen Haasis  
who began their lives' faith journey this past month as they received the Sacrament of Baptism.

## Tuition Assistance

Any Catholic family wishing to apply for tuition assistance through the Archdiocese for the 2010-2011 school year must obtain a "FACTS" application from the school. Students must attend a Parochial Elementary School or an Archdiocesan, Regional or Parochial High School to be eligible. The due date for the application is **April 1, 2010** and **must** include a copy of your **2009** income Tax Return. **Grants for the 2010-2011 school year are made possible through the generosity of the Annual Catholic Appeal. The Catholic Education Office appreciates the support of the ACA and all of its donors.**

## Leadership Councils

The **Liturgy Prep Committee** members are: Mandy Borgmeyer, Sandy Gaydos, John Hogenmiller, Mary Paule, Pam Holmes, Fr. Ron Hopmeir, and Mary Regan.

## \*\*\*Important Athletic Notice\*\*\*

The St. Stephen Protomartyr Athletic Association is changing the Registration/Sign-up process for ALL sports. The Athletic Association will begin the new sign-up process with the upcoming Baseball/Softball/T-Ball season. Anyone with a child or children interested in participating in CYC baseball, softball, or T-ball this summer **must** attend the following sign-up date:  
When: Sunday, February 14th @ 11:30 am  
until 1:30 pm

Where: St. Stephen Protomartyr's Cafeteria

Information necessary for each child's registration along with payment of fees will be required on the above date. Fees are \$30.00 per child for Kindergarten through 2nd grade and \$35.00 per child for grades 3rd through 8th.

Also, old uniforms and equipment will be accepted on the above date.

If you have any questions, please contact:

John O'Brien  
President, SSP Athletic Association  
352-7322

or  
Mary Kay Goodman  
Treasurer, SSP Athletic Association  
352-0258

February 14, 2010 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

**STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE and PRAYER**

*"Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation."  
LUKE 6:24*

**Stewardship of Treasure**

Last Week's Stewardship	\$ 8,485.78
Weekly Stewardship goal	\$ 10,481.00
Average	\$ 7,351.62
Renovations & Improvements	\$ 707.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 1,273.00
Eastern Europe	\$ 25.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 40.00
Haiti	\$ 250.00

**SVDP Update**

Thanks to all who generously supported the outreach of the parish St. Vincent de Paul through your Fifth Sunday contributions, both of food and money. Without your continued contributions we would be unable to help those in need.

During the month of January the food pantry served 445 adults and children in 233 households.

Financial assistance to help with utility bills and other needed aid was given to 24 households within the parish boundaries in the amount of \$2,080.

Thank you again for your help.

**Twice Blessed Resale Shop**

Check out our resale shop, Twice Blessed, 3302 Meramec (314)481-3332. Open Tuesday—Saturday 10-5. All proceeds benefit Our Lady's Inn. Come find boutique items at thrift store prices! Follow us on our blog to see the latest inventory [Http://twiceblessedresale.glogspot.com/](http://twiceblessedresale.glogspot.com/)

**This Week at St. Stephen Protomartyr**

**Liturgical Ministries**

Lectors

**Saturday, February 20, Church of St. Stephen**

4:00 PM — B. Dowd, C. Deeken

**Sunday, February 21**

8:00 AM — L. Weathers, L. Bolt

10:30 AM — P. Cooper, P. Carosello

Servers

**Saturday, February 20, Church of St. Stephen**

4:00 PM — T. Sample, G. Butz

**Sunday, February 21**

8:00 AM — TW Brown, J. Meyer

10:30 AM — M. O'Connell, V. Massmann

**Heavenly Dusters**

On Saturday mornings individuals spend about an hour cleaning the sacred vessels, doing some light dusting and generally preparing the church for the weekend liturgies.

Our thanks goes out to them for all that they do to help make our worship space conducive to prayer.

At the present time we are in need of several people to help in this ministry. Please contact Mary Regan at the rectory office at 481-1133 or [mary0828@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mary0828@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to help.

**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.

Sunday February 14	Monday February 15	Tuesday February 16	Wednesday February 17	Thursday February 18	Friday February 19	Saturday February 20
Choir Practice After 10:30 Mass	President's Day Parish Office Closed	Arthritis Exercise Class 9:00 AM	Ash Wednesday All School Mass	Arthritis Exercise Class 9:00 AM	All School Mass Tai Chi 9:45-11:00	Blue & Gold Banquet
CYC sign-ups After 10:30 Masses				Scripture Study 9:00 AM	Fish Fry	
		Finance Meeting 7:30 pm	Fish Fry	50 + Meeting Choir Practice	Adult Volleyball Free Play	

## 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](mailto:dmd1860@aol.com) with your name, phone, email address and days & times you are available.

## 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](http://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

## Congratulations SSP Alumni

We are proud to announce that Lelis N. Djona, Connor McGrath and John O'Brien are on the First Semester Honor Roll at St. John Vianney High School.

## Readings for the week

February 15 through February 21, 2010

Monday: Jas 1:1-11 Ps 119:67-68,71-71,75-76

Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18 Ps 94:12-13a,14-15,18-19

Mk 8:14-21

Ash Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-6b,12-14,17

2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6,16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-4,6 Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-6b,18-19 Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-6 Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10 Ps 91:1-2,10-15 Rom 10:8-13

Lk 4:1-13

## MCU Community Prayer Breakfast

Metropolitan Congregations is having a Community Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 10:00am. It will be held at Christian Hospital Northeast's Detrick Atrium, 11133 Dunn Rd. Featured will be Ray Hartmann, founder and panelist of the PBS Donnybrook show. Cost is \$15.00. For tickets contact Jim Sahaida, 353-1425.

## Mandatory Safe Environment Compliance

Any adults who want to volunteer in parish activities or ministries that include children must be in full compliance with the Safe Environment Program of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Compliance requires attendance at a Protecting God's Children workshop, a signed Code of Ethical Conduct and submitting to a background check which will be updated in even numbered years. For more information contact your parish child safety coordinator Mary Paule.

## Faithful Departed

In the charity of your prayers please remember Eleanor Gunter who died this past week. Give her eternal rest, O Lord. May light unending shine on her. Receive her soul, O holy ones; present her now to God, Most High.

## 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.

## South Grand Senior Ministry

### SGSM DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The Annual Day of Recollection sponsored by South Grand Senior Ministry will be held **Tuesday, March 9th** from 10:00 am-3:00 pm at St. Anthony's Parish Center at 3133 Meramec St. This year, we will have two presenters. In the morning, Jane Siebel will present some thoughts on *Lenten Renewal and Letting Go*. After lunch, we will have Marlene Chertok give a presentation called *Laughter, Prayer, and Healing*. Lunch will be provided. **Cost for the day including lunch is \$10**. Come and join us for this wonderful opportunity to grow closer to God as we go on our Lenten journey. If you would like to attend, you may call either **Sr. Carrol at 353-1255 or Barb Salmo at 655-0554**. When you call in to register, let us know to which parish you belong and if you need transportation.

### GOVERNMENT BENEFITS SESSION

Come to an information session on **Tuesday, March 2nd** and find out everything you need to know about Medicare, Missouri Rx, Medicaid, Social Security, Veterans benefits and much more. Our experts can let you know what you are qualified for and how to get these benefits. They can review your current plans and make recommendations to save you money. Join us from **10:00 am-Noon** in the parish hall at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church (3142 Meramec). This event will include light refreshments and is completely free! Please RSVP to Amanda Zoller at 314-664-9700.

### INTERNATIONAL DANCE LESSONS

Need to let loose? Dance instructor Virginia Wise will be teaching free international dance and exercise classes for seniors! She has a lesson for everyone -- any age, any handicap, you name it! These fun classes will be on **Fridays, starting March 12th**, from 10:00-11:00 am at the Carondelet Senior Center, located at 6518 Michigan. For more information, call Billy at 664-9700.

### MEDICARE HEALTH PLANS

If you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan (such as an HMO or PPO), you are able to switch plans until March 31. These plans are offered from companies such as AARP Medicare Complete, GHP, Essence and more.

If you would like to compare other plans to what you currently have, you may contact Leigh Manalang, Senior Ministry Coordinator, at 481-1133 or [leighsgsm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leighsgsm@sbcglobal.net). Another resource is CLAIM (Community Leaders Assisting the Insured of Missouri) at 800-390-3330. CLAIM is the Missouri state health insurance program, whereby certified volunteer counselors assist people locally to help them work through health care issues and understand Medicare options or changes. There are no fees and hours are 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

### EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN!

You are invited to free classes to stimulate the memory and improve comprehension held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month. Hosted by: Provision Living at St. Louis Hills (6543 Chippewa). Next class is **Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 am, lunch served at Noon. Call 314-647-6600 (transportation available).

### DVS MOVIE NIGHT

Do you have trouble seeing the movie screen? The St. Louis Public Library offers FREE Descriptive Video Service (DVS) format that describes the scene, action, actors and other elements in the film. Arrange for transportation by calling Karen Skender at 314-968-9000. **Wednesday, February 24th**: *Charade* at Machacek Branch, 6424 Scanlan, 6:30-8:30 pm

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Monday, February 15

8:00 AM — Jamboretz Family

## Tuesday, February 16

8:00 AM — Dorothy Leonard

## Wednesday, February 17 (Ash Wednesday)

6:30 AM - No intention

8:00 AM — Wm. A. Federer

7:00 PM --Mary L. Lopinot (Recovery)

## Thursday, February 18

8:00 AM — Elmer Schuster

## Friday, February 19

8:00 AM — Hasson Family

## Saturday, February 20

8:00 AM — Rose Ivicsics

4:00 PM — Dolores Brown

## Sunday, February 21

8:00 AM — Our Parishioners

10:30 AM — Lorraine Barthel

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## 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, 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, Rose Hegger McBride

### for family members serving in the military

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

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## 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.