

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."

"Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert for forty days to be tempted by the devil."

Luke 4: 1-13

At the edge of the wilderness

Bob Simpson, a retired Lutheran pastor, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1995. Over a four-year-period, Bob and his wife, Anne, wrote of their life together with Alzheimer's in their remarkable journal, *Through the Wilderness of Alzheimer's: A Guide in Two Voices*.

The wilderness is the central image of their life with this devastating illness.

Anne writes: "The process of watching my beloved husband deteriorate is painful, lonely, and immensely sad. I cannot deny it; I have spells of depression and self-pity. I have days when I am so frustrated that I go into the garage and sit in the car with all the windows rolled up, so I can scream without being overheard. I can see the losses, the bad side, the half-empty glass."

Bob writes: "I have good days now. If I think about the past, I get sad. If I think about the future, I'm scared. I only have the present. Today is the only day I have to live."

But while their wilderness experience has certainly tested their love, it has also deepened it.

"I'm not angry with God," Bob writes. "I believe God is here, somewhere. There is a purpose. I am beholden to find it."

After four years of living with her beloved's Alzheimer's, Anne, the devoted caregiver, writes that this wilderness "is familiar now. We have a map of where we have been; we can see ahead to the next bend in the path. We have come this far, mumbling and complaining sometimes, wanting to return to our old life.

continued

Yet, we are stronger for the rigors of this passage and we are learning to travel light. We cannot determine our pace or our final destination; we cannot make straight the path. But if we trust God to guide us, we know we will continue to be nourished by the manna of unexpected blessings."

■ *The wilderness and deserts of our lives are those unknown and terrifying places where we struggle to make our way as a result of circumstances beyond our control or our own mistakes and sins. But it is in those deserts and wilderness places where we discover the Spirit of God. We should not fear such wildernesses, but approach our "deserts" with humility and hope. The desert of our hearts is the silent place where God speaks to us of possibility and transformation; it is the quiet wood where we clear our heads to realize what is right and good; it is the clear vista that opens our eyes to realize the path we should take if we are to become the people of justice and righteousness we seek to become. This Lent, the Spirit calls our souls into the wilderness in order to discern what God calls us to make of the time we have been given, to re-center our lives with new hope and renewed vision as we continue our journey to the Easter promise. ■*

From [Connections: February 2010](#)

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.

Today, **Sunday, February 21** Sr. Pat Quinn CSJ will meet with the ladies of the parish to present her thoughts on "Becoming Women of Faith," We will begin at **5:00 PM** with a light meal and then begin the program around **6:15 PM. All women are invited.**

At the entrances to the Parish Church are the "Little Black Books" for your own personal prayer time for each day of Lent.

Also at the entrances are the Rice Bowls with a calendar you may wish to use as an aid with almsgiving and fasting.

Next Saturday, February 27, Archbishop Carlson will celebrate and be the homilist at the 4:00 PM Mass. All are invited.

Progressive Dinner Celebrating Mardi Gras

The Progressive Dinner Committee would like to give recognition and a Big Thank You to our fabulous hosts. These hosts provided drinks, appetizers, dinner and dessert for 135 parishioners. Three Cheers to Our Cocktail/Appetizer hosts who got the party started: Fred & Gloria Wessels and Shari Cunningham, Dan & Jeanne Kriss, Andy & Theresa Sciaroni, Don Occhi and Fr. Richard Stoltz, Jason & Gina Joly, Ron & Kay Thenhaus and Paul & Arlene Cooper.

A big round of applause goes to our Dinner hosts who outdid themselves: Dan & Laura Schulte, Ron & Marilyn Lunnemann, Jim & Mary Beth Pashia, Carol Prag and Sheila Letz, Moe & Katha Dionne, Jim & Judy Liermann, Jerry & Linda Wessels, Dan & Dolly Nichols, Steve & Angie Butz, Bob & Denise Dowd, Fr. Ron Hopmeier, Fr. Rich Hanneke, Mary Regan, Barb Schlanger and Mary Ellen Holdenried, Mike & Linda Seemiller, Mike & Joan Bauer, Steve & Sandy Gaydos and Dave & Anne Borgmeyer.

We extend a big thank you to the 8th Graders who helped set up tables and chairs in the Hall. We also thank everyone who brought a dessert. We had a wonderful array of cakes and goodies to satisfy the sweetest tooth.

Finally, thank you to our all guests who attended. We hope this evening provided you the opportunity to make new friends and renew old friendships. We look forward to the next Progressive Dinner.

Anne Borgmeyer, Sandy Gaydos, & Jane Barber

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Bridget Biundo, who has been accepted at Notre Dame High School and is awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2010-2011 school year.

**God Bless You
This Lent ...**

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.**

Carondelet Ecumenical Council of Churches Free Lenten Family Breakfast

Saturday, February 27
Carondelet UCC
7423 Michigan Avenue
7:30 AM

Contact: Don Hudson @352-7798
Bring a non-perishable food for the food pantry.

Bevo Trivia Night with a Mardi Gras theme

Friday, February 26, 2010

Grbic Restaurant & Banquet Center, 4071 Keokuk Street

Doors open at 6 PM Trivia starts at 7 PM

Raffles - Pull Tabs - Attendance Prizes

\$200 for table of 8

Beer, Wine, Rail Drinks, Soda and Light Snacks included
in admission cost

Cost 352-0141 for reservations and information

Summer Camp

Catholic Camps of America, Camp RockyVine, Dutzow, Missouri has openings for 6th through 8th grade campers for June 7 through 12, June 28 through July 3 and July 19 through July 24. Interested parents may visit www.rockyvine.com or call Eric Blythe at 636-432-2028. All inclusive cost per week is \$400, early registration \$350. Camp RockyVine is located 8 miles south of Washington, Missouri. Camp visits prior to registration are welcome. This is an opportunity for your camper to experience countless extreme sports activities and grow closer to Christ and the Church.

February 21, 2010 1st Sunday of Lent

STEWARDSHIP: SHARING TIME, TALENT, TREASURE and PRAYER

"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O, .Lord, have given to me"
DEUTERONOMY 26:10

Stewardship of Treasure	
Last Week's Stewardship	\$ 6,277.00
Weekly Stewardship goal	\$ 10,481.00
Average	\$ 7,319.06
Renovations & Improvements	\$ 153.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 203.00
Eastern Europe	\$ 13.00
St. Louis Review	\$ 69.00

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.

Thinking about becoming Catholic?

Are you or someone you know, considering becoming Catholic? Interested persons may begin at any time of the year, the process is on-going. For further information please contact Mary Regan at mary0828@sbcglobal.net or 481-1133.

This Week at St. Stephen Protomartyr

Liturgical Ministries

Lectors

Saturday, February 27, Church of St. Stephen

4:00 PM —B. Kayser, S. Gaydos

Sunday, February 28

8:00 AM — L. Driscoll, A. Driscoll

10:30 AM — L. Harbaugh, C. Grindel

Servers

Saturday, February 27, Church of St. Stephen

4:00 PM —B. Biundo, H. Grindel

Sunday, February 28

8:00 AM — M. O'Neal, S. Kayser

10:30 AM — J. Amsler, C. Paule

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 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 21	Monday February 22	Tuesday February 23	Wednesday February 24	Thursday February 25	Friday February 26	Saturday February 27
Choir Practice After 10:30 Mass		Arthritis Exercise Class 9:00 AM	All School Mass	Arthritis Exercise Class 9:00 AM	All School Mass Tai Chi 9:45-11:00	Bishop Carlson presiding at the 4:00 PM Mass
Women's Night 5:00 PM				Scripture Study 9:00 AM	Stations of the Cross 2:00 & 7:00 PM	
	Scripture Study 7:00 PM		Parish Council 7:00 PM	Choir Practice	Bingo Fish Fry	

Leadership Councils

The **Parish Council** members are: Marion Amsler, Jim Daubert, Matt Guntli, Judy Hammer, Matt Kuppinger, Beth Ryan, Bob Sampson, Lu Sturm, Mary Winfrey, Fr. Ron Hopmeir, and Mary Regan.

Parish Board of Education Notes

The Parish Board of Education met on Thursday, February 11.

The following items were discussed at the meeting.

- ◆ Principal's Report
 - ◆ Up-coming self study visit
 - ◆ Tuition freeze for the upcoming school year
 - ◆ Open House
- ◆ Building needs
- ◆ PTO report

The next Parish Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the rectory.

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

Faithful Departed

In the charity of your prayers please remember the mother of Mary Ann Allen who died recently. 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.



Readings for the week

February 22 through February 28, 2010

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-3a,4,5,6 Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-5,6-7,16-17,18-19
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12,14-16,23-25 Ps 138:1-2ab,
2cde-3,7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-2,3-4,5-7a,7bc-8
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8 Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12,17-18 Ps 27:1,7-8,8-9,13-14
Phil 3:17-4:1 Lk 9:28b-36

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.

Vision of Peace Hermitages

Looking for a nearby place to go for a Day of Recollection during Lent or a longer private retreat? The Vision of Peace Retreat Center is located in Pevly, MO, off I-55. It offers hermitages that are built into the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River with the advantage of seclusion and views that facilitate expanding one's spiritual horizon (perspective). To receive a brochure or make a reservation, call Larry Ponder at 636-475-3697.

Our Lady's Inn

Support the pro-life Cause!

Contribute to Our Lady's Inn by shopping at *Twice Blessed Resale Shop* 3302 Meramec, 63118. Call manager Lucy Hannegan for information: 481-3332.

Hours: Tuesday—Saturday, 10:00—5:00

South Grand Senior Ministry

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 (3133 Meramec). This event will include light refreshments and is completely free! Please RSVP to Amanda Zoller at 314-664-9700.

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. Carol 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.

COME TO A NEW DANCE CLASS

Dance instructor Virginia Wise will be teaching a free, six-week international dance class for seniors! This dynamic 86-year-old has a lesson for everyone -- any age, any ability, you name it! The classes will be on **Fridays, starting March 12th**, from 10:00-11:00 am at the Carondelet Senior Center, located at 6518 Michigan. Wise has adapted dance techniques from cultures around the world in her lessons. She says the mix of American, European, African, Polynesian and Asian dance techniques give us what we need for coordination, stretching and strength. Primitive, folk and classical dance forms are also employed. Anatomy that relates to dance will be taught because Wise, a former professional dancer, believes we should know something about the parts of our bodies we are working. For more information, call Billy Farhat at 664-9700.



EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN!

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

RECEIVE A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

If you are over 65, you may be entitled to receive as much as \$1100 back from your paid 2009 property taxes or rent. There are income limits to qualify. For renters, your income cannot exceed \$27,500 for a single person or \$29,500 for a couple. For homeowners, a single person can earn \$30,000 annually and a couple can earn a maximum of \$34,000. Leigh Manalang, Senior Ministry Coordinator, will be happy to answer your questions about this benefit, send you the forms or assist in completing the forms. If you are homebound, she can make an appointment to do this in your home. Please contact Leigh at 481-1133 or leighsgsm@sbcglobal.net for information, forms or appointments.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 22

8:00 AM — Fortus M. Lawder, Sr.

Tuesday, February 23

8:00 AM — Unger Family

Wednesday, February 24

8:00 AM —Mary L. Lopinot (Recovery)

Thursday, February 25

8:00 AM —Ottilia Schulte

Friday, February 26

8:00 AM — No intention

Saturday, February 27

8:00 AM — No intention

4:00 PM —No intention

Sunday, February 28

8:00 AM —Betty Marsek

10:30 AM — Our Parishioners

PRAY...

for our sick and recovering

Fran Campbell, 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

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.