

## 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."

*"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.."*

Luke 13:1-9

## Rising from darkness and fire — and now, rubble . . .

One of the many stories of perseverance and hope rising from the rubble of Haiti:

Romel Joseph was born to a poor Haitian family. He is completely blind in one eye and can only see shadows in the other. His love of music began as a boy the day he heard a Tchaikovsky concerto played by one of the Sisters who taught at his school. Romel became so proficient in playing the violin that he won a Fulbright scholarship to study at Julliard and train with the Boston Symphony.

But instead of embarking on what would have been a very lucrative performing and recording career, Romel Joseph returned to Haiti and, in 1991, opened the New Victorian School to teach music to the children of the poorest of the poor. In 2000, a fire destroyed the school — but, 12 days later, Romel was teaching classes again and the school was rebuilt.

And then, on January 12 of this year — ten years to the day of the fire — the New Victorian School was destroyed in the Haitian earthquake. No students were in the building at the time of the quake but Romel was trapped inside the rubble for 18 hours. He survived by praying and "playing" in his head every violin concerto he knew.

Tragically, Romel's pregnant wife perished in the earthquake.

Romel was flown to Miami where he was treated for two crushed legs and two severe fractures in his left hand — the hand with which he grips the violin. Doctors don't know if he'll ever be able to play again.

Yet, even in the heartache and wrenching loss, Romel Joseph is determined to rebuild the New Victorian School—again. "As long as Haiti has children, you have a purpose being there. As long as there are kids there, they have to have a reasonable level of health and they have to have an education."

"I need more than an earthquake to make me stop my work in Haiti."

■ *In conquering one hardship and calamity after another, Romel Joseph has embraced the hope of the Gospel fig tree. Despite the sadness and tragedy that can cut down our lives in disappointment and despair, God continues to plant in our "orchards" opportunities to start over, to try new approaches, to move beyond our hurt and pain to make things right. Christ calls us to embrace the hope of the fig tree and the determination of the gardener, to remember that God's endless grace enables us to rebuild God's kingdom in our midst again and again, to experience the promise of resurrection in every "death" and every Good Friday we experience. ■*

From [Connections: March 2010](#)

## Parish Council Notes

The Parish Council met on Wednesday, February 24. The following items were discussed at the meeting.

- ◆ Repair of the boiler at the Chapel
- ◆ Stewardship
- ◆ Parish Lenten Activities
- ◆ Pancake breakfast
- ◆ Appreciation dinner

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

## Readings for the week

March 8 through March 14, 2010

Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-15ab Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4  
Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9  
Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20  
Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 11:14-23  
Friday: Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 & 17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab  
Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12 Ps 34::2-3, 4-5, 6-7  
2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

## **Attention All Men of the Parish Lenten Prayer Service**

Our Seminarian Gregg Hochhalter will lead a Lenten Prayer Service titled **“Becoming Men of Faith”** for **all** men of the Parish on **Tuesday, March 9th at 7 PM.**

We will gather in the East Transept of the Parish Church

The regular Holy Name Meeting will follow, featuring dinner by Mike Bauer and Dennis Carosello.

Corned Beef, Potatoes and Cabbage. This is always one of our better attended meetings.

**You do not have to be a member to attend.**

## **Our Alumni Shine**

St. Mary's High School Renaissance Award for the first semester of 2009-2010 school year was awarded to: Nathan Alles, Patrick Carosello, Kevin Hennessy and Anthony Puricelli of our parish. This award recognizes students whose Grade Point Average is 3.30 or above and students who have raised their GPA at least .25 of a point higher than their previous semester. These students are living examples of the Marianist charisms.

## **Faithful Departed**

In the charity of your prayers please remember the mother of Kaye Hildenbrand and the father of Della Scheumbauer who died recently. Give them eternal rest, O Lord. May light unending shine on them. Receive their souls, O holy ones; present them now to God, Most High.

## **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

## **Carondelet Ecumenical Council of Churches Free Lenten Family Breakfast**

Saturday, March 13  
The Connection UMC  
6701 Virginia Avenue  
7:30 AM

Bring a non-perishable food for the food pantry.

## **Reflections**

Purple sheets with reflections on the Sunday readings are available in the holders at the entrances of the church. Please feel free to take one as you enter the church and pray with it as you prepare for Mass.

## **Welcome New Parishioners**

Please welcome the following parishioners who registered at St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish this past month.

Jim and Pam Gunter  
And daughter Sarah

Paul and Tracy Schellert

Valerie Todd  
And sons Max and Sam

## **Why aren't we celebrating the Scrutinies?**

You might have noticed in the missalette that on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays in Lent there is an RCIA option. When a parish has “elect” — those preparing to receive the Easter sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist — the readings for these three Sundays in Lent are taken from the Year A Liturgical Cycle. Those readings are chosen specifically to help the elect and the faithful enter into a time of deeper preparation and reflection prior to their Baptism, a 40 day time of retreat.

This year at St Stephen Protomartyr we have no one who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. This makes me ask myself how we are doing as a parish in evangelizing? Are we welcoming and spreading the Gospel to others? Are we content with who we are and what we have OR do we want to share it with others? It is something that I think and pray about.

— Mary

March 7, 2010 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

*"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'"*  
**LUKE 13:7**

**Stewardship of Treasure**

Last Week's Stewardship	\$ 7,548.00
Weekly Stewardship goal	\$ 10,481.00
Average	\$ 7,315.54
Renovations & Improvements	\$ 485.00
Tuition Assistance	\$ 120.00
Eastern Europe	\$ 42.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 52.00
St. Louis Review	\$ 92.00
Propagation of the Faith	\$ 30.00
Catholic Relief	\$ 30.00

**Leadership Councils**

The **Parish Board of Education** members are: Erin Goedeker, Ruth Ann Kayser, Mary Beth Kuntz, Tim Mantych, Debbie Mehic, Dan Schulte, Mary Ann Simon, Andy Vogel, Michelle Wobbe, Fr. Ron Hopmeir, Meghan Bohac and Mary Regan.

**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.



**Liturgical Ministries**

**Lectors**

**Saturday, March 13, Church of St. Stephen**

4:00 PM — P O'Connell, B. McLain

**Sunday, March 14**

8:00 AM — L. Sturm, M. Mohan

10:30 AM — J. Mohan, R. Moylan

**Servers**

**Saturday, March 13, Church of St. Stephen**

4:00 PM — C. Rosentreter, N. Schoenle

**Sunday, March 14**

8:00 AM — M. Cantali, K. Kayser

10:30 AM — J. Renick, M. O'Connell

**Martha's Group**

Parishioners involved in Martha's Group not only provide food for funeral lunches but they also serve and clean up after the lunches. We are in need especially of more volunteers to help with serving and cleaning up. If you can help in any aspect of this ministry please contact Nan Herr (352-5941) or Mary Regan (481-1133).

**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.

**This Week at St. Stephen Protomartyr**

Sunday March 7	Monday March 8	Tuesday March 9	Wednesday March 10	Thursday March 11	Friday March 12	Saturday March 13
Choir Practice After 10:30 Mass		Arthritis Exercise Class 9:00 AM Parish Center	All School Mass	Arthritis Exercise Class 9:00 AM	All School Mass Tai Chi 9:45-11:00	
Donut Sunday	St. Vincent DePaul Meeting 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Prayer Service 7:00 PM		Scripture Study 9:00 AM	Stations of the Cross 2:00 & 7:00 PM	
	Scripture Study 7:00 PM	Holy Name Meeting		Choir Practice	Fish Fry	

## Adult Wiffleball Tournament

**What:** Indoor Adults Only Wiffleball Tournament  
All the proceeds will benefit the St. Raphael CYC programs. The tournament will be underhand slow pitch with a softball size wiffleball. \$75 per team. 2 game guarantee must have at least 8 players.

**When:** Thurs., Mar. 25 through Sun., Mar. 28

**Where:** St. Raphael the Archangel Gym

St. Raphael Wiffleball Tournament  
c/o Lester Knopp  
5956 Highfield  
St. Louis, MO 63109

For additional info please contact Lester Knopp at 314.352.4067 or lesterknopp@sbcglobal.net Adults only must be 21 to play. NO outside food or beverages, our concession stand will be open and stocked.

## St. Patrick's Day Dinner

**Sunday, March 14, 2010**

**St. Stephen's Church**

**Richwoods, MO**

(573) 678-2207, (573)678-2203 or (636)586-1464

Corned Beef & Cabbage or Ham Dinners

Serving from: 11:00 am til 4:00 pm

Adult: \$7.50 Child: \$3.00

Rev. Robert Liss - Pastor

## This Week's St. Louis Review Highlights

- ◇ Rev. John Vien, pastor of St. Pius V, just returned from a trip to Haiti, where he served as chaplain for a local group that worked at Sacre Coeur Hospital
- ◇ Missouri's Alternatives to Abortion program is facing elimination as legislators work through the state budget.
- ◇ A young parishioner at St. Ambrose parish hosted a mostaccioli dinner to help raise funds for his upcoming trip to Australia through People to People International's Student Ambassador Program
- ◇ Living Our Faith examines Christian pray: what it is, why it's important and how we can integrate into our daily lives.

## Stations of the Cross

A devotion frequently prayed during Lent is the Stations of the Cross. During the time of the crusades (1095-1270), it became popular for pilgrims to the Holy Land to walk in the footsteps of Jesus to Calvary. In the next two centuries, after the Moslems recaptured the Holy Land, pilgrimages were too dangerous. A substitute pilgrimage, the Stations of the Cross, became a popular outdoor devotion throughout Europe during the Middle Ages. They represented critical events from Scripture or tradition of Jesus' journey to Calvary and varied in number from five to twenty until the 18th century when Pope Clement XII fixed the number at 14. In the mid-eighteenth century, Stations were allowed inside churches. The Stations became a familiar feature in Catholic churches.

During Lent we offer Stations of the Cross are prayed on **Friday afternoons at 2:00 PM and Friday evenings at 7:00 PM.** Come to the Fish Fry and then join us for Stations after you eat.

## The Central South City Interfaith Event

**Sponsored by St. Louis Interfaith Partnership/Faith Beyond Walls**

**When: Sunday, March 14th**

**Where: St. Pius V Catholic Church**

**Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

We have geography, we're just nearby, we're neighbors! A time to know about each other, and to nurture respect for one another, to appreciate diversity as a gift, to celebrate the community together!

A time to learn about Interfaith Partnership/Faith Beyond Walls and how it touches on life in this community.

A time to celebrate members and project partners with IP/FBW. And to explore interest in continuing interfaith dialogue and service.

We invite you, we need you, and we acknowledge your importance to the continued success of South Central St. Louis!

For information Please Contact

Rev. Michael Vosler

United Church of Christ

Board Member, IP/FBW

314.481.4357

mvuccioef@earthlink.net

## South Grand Senior Ministry

### 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! If you need to remain seated, she will have you dance in your chair! The 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 Farhat at 664-9700.

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

It's time for the Wearin' O' the Green! Get your best green duds out and come to the Carondelet Senior Center, 6518 Michigan, as they celebrate with all the luck of the Irish. *The Singing Larks* will entertain with song. The show starts at 10:30 am so don't be late. There will be door prizes, games and plenty of blarney!



### YARD WORK BLITZ

On **Saturday, March 20**, volunteers will be doing yard work for senior homeowners in the South Grand Senior Ministry area. Please call Natasha Boddy at 664-9700 to get your name on the list.

### ElderCareUsa WORKSHOP

Mr. Don Quante from Wealth Protection Advisors, LLC, will be presenting an ElderCareUsa workshop on **Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>** at Provision Living of St. Louis Hills, 6543 Chippewa. From 7:00-8:00 pm, you will learn how to avoid the most expensive mistake in paying for long-term care, little known resources to help pay for long-term care, how to leave your IRA tax-free to your children and more valuable financial information. Guests, family members and spouses are encouraged to attend. Seating capacity is limited, so please RSVP to 1-800-555-5525.

### SECRETS TO FEELING YOUNG

Do you want the secrets to looking younger, feeling younger and living longer? South Grand Senior Ministry is working with the *Doctor's Speakers Bureau* to present a series of wellness workshops in the upcoming months.

Our first topic will be *Life and Longevity*. Dr. Eric Nepute will speak on the "Five Ways to Feeling Young and Having More Energy." Come help improve the quality of your life on **Thursday, March 25th, at 10:00 am** at St. Stephen Protomartyr parish hall.

Dr. Nepute is a dynamic speaker in the field of health and nutrition. He has helped thousands of men and women achieve health and balance in their lives. To RSVP or for more information, call Billy Farhat at 664-9700 by March 23rd.

### THIS OLD HOUSE: THE JOB SQUAD IS HERE

Are you a homeowner, 60 or older, with a minor home repair/maintenance need? Has household maintenance become more difficult for you? It is a part of SGSM's mission to help senior homeowners stay living independent in their homes as long as possible. Because it gets harder to maintain homes and do small repairs as you get older, SGSM developed the Job Squad program. Homeowners are matched with volunteers who have the skills to meet their need. The homeowner is only responsible for the materials needed for the project. If you are a homeowner with a need, please contact Leigh at 481-1133 for more information.



# MASS INTENTIONS

## Monday, March 8

8:00 AM — Wilma Potrzeboski

## Tuesday, March 9

8:00 AM — Rich Behnen

## Wednesday, March 10

8:00 AM — Louise Schepker

## Thursday, March 11

8:00 AM — Anna Mettner

## Friday, March 12

8:00 AM — Dorothy Lee Ringenbach

## Saturday, March 13

8:00 AM — N. Edward Forti

4:00 PM — Dolores Brown

## Sunday, March 14

8:00 AM — Our Parishioner

10:30 AM — Celeste E. Lawder

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# PRAY...

### for our sick and recovering

Fran Campbell, Cece Driscoll, Dennis Ehrhard,  
James Forgash, Mary Lopinot, Dan Nichols,  
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, Joan Forshee, Mary Ann Genail,  
Rose Hegger McBride, Deacon Bob Schnable

### for family members serving in the military

Joel Bruce, Derek Hirtz, Timothy Hutchison,  
Brandon Johnson, Stephen Napier, Brian  
Schoellhorn, Mark Tisius, Bradley Westcott  
Bradley Wescott, 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.