

December 27th, 2020  
Feast Of The Holy Family



**Pastoral Office:**

Phone: (414) 762-0552

Hours: M, T, W, Th: 9:00A- 3:30P  
Closed on Friday

Pastor: Rev. Robert Kacalo x222  
rkacalo@saintstephenmil.org

Deacon: Stan Lowe  
414-322-6891

Deacon: Bob Starr  
847-890-8671  
robertstarr1441@gmail.com

Director of Liturgy and Music:  
Lynda Trani x263  
ltrani@saintstephenmil.org

Director of Religious Education:  
Open Position

Director of Family Life Center:  
Gail Schlicht x225  
gshlicht@saintstephenmil.org

Administrative Assistant: Nick Ward  
adminasst@saintstephenmil.org

Maintenance Supervisor:  
Joe Kosobucki

**Mass Schedule:**

Tuesday - Friday 8:00 am  
Saturday 4:30 pm  
Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Saturday 3:30 pm  
or by appointment

**Baptism**

Parish membership is required.  
Baptismal preparation for parents  
and sponsors is held monthly. Pre  
-registration is required. Contact  
the Parish Office for more  
information.

**Marriage**

Parish membership is required.  
Arrangements need to be made a  
minimum of six months prior to  
the wedding date. Please contact  
Fr. Robert.

**Anointing of the Sick**

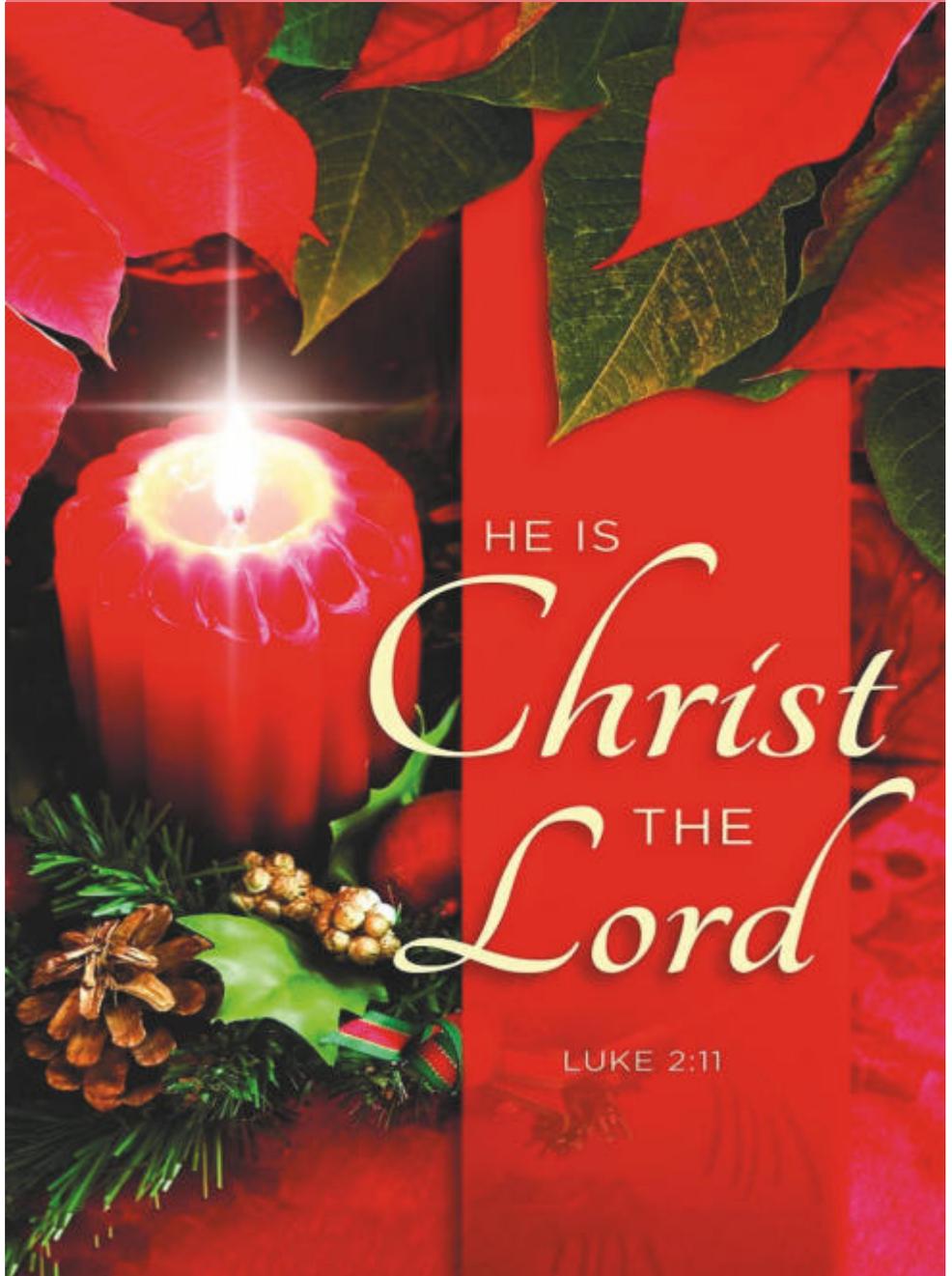
Please contact the Parish  
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We would love to officially welcome you into our family.  
Registration packets are available at the information center.

**MASS CALENDAR UPDATE**

**Saturday Dec. 26th: 4:30pm**  
**Sunday Dec. 27th: 8:30am & 10:30am**  
**Friday NYE Mass 4:30pm**  
**Saturday NYD Mass 9:00am**

**All end of year 2020 contributions for tax purposes must be received by Wednesday December 30th during normal office hours.**



**PHASE ONE COMPLETED BELL TOWER**

The church bells from the old St. Stephen's on Howell Ave have now been refurbished to their original beauty. The large bell is dedicated to St. Stephen, the middle size bell to the Blessed Mother, and the smaller bell to St. Peter. They will remain in the back of the Church while the planning and fundraising continues into PHASE TWO; that being, choosing a bell tower design that complements the architecture of our new church, to include landscaping and possibly some kind of brick memorial campaign. PHASE THREE will include the actual construction and completion of the Bell Tower so that the bells will ring once again when we celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on or near Pentecost 2022! What a glorious day that will be! Thank you to all who have already contributed to the Bell Tower Fund which allowed us to proceed to this point.

**He Is The One**

Jesus is the Word made Flesh. Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus is the Victim offered for our sins on the Cross. Jesus is the Sacrifice offered at the Holy Mass for the sins of the world and mine.

- Jesus is the Word— to be spoken.
- Jesus is the Truth— to be told.
- Jesus is the Way— to be walked.
- Jesus is the Light— to be lit.
- Jesus is the Life— to be lived.
- Jesus is the Love— to be loved.
- Jesus is the Joy— to be shared.
- Jesus is the Sacrifice— to be offered.
- Jesus is the Peace— to be given.
- Jesus is the Bread of Life— to be eaten.
- Jesus is the Hungry— to be fed.
- Jesus is the Thirsty— to be satiated.
- Jesus is the Naked— to be clothed.
- Jesus is the Homeless— to be taken in.
- Jesus is the Sick— to be healed.
- Jesus is the Lonely— to be loved.

By: Saint Teresa of Calcutta  
 Saint Teresa of Calcutta († 1997) founded the Missionaries of Charity and won the Nobel Peace Prize.

**IN THE INTERIM**

Until we find a qualified candidate to fill our DRE Director of Religious Education position, we are seeking a very part paid position or a volunteer that could work as a communication assistant for our religious education program. Mostly answering emails, phone messages, sending our information to parents and students as needed, requesting necessary paperwork and forms be completed. The calendar and programming has already been set for the calendar year until June 2021. So much of the needed help would be in simple tasks and relaying any necessary information obtained from staff or catechists. Please help us in the interim if you are able. Thank you. Please call the office or speak to Father Robert if interested.

**You are a Gift to St. Stephen Parish**

Celebrating the Christmas Season requires the help of many people. During this Season of Giving, it is fitting and timely to acknowledge those who give of their time and talent to enhance our worship. Our Liturgical Environment Team creates wonder-filled designs: those who artfully place the fabric, trees and plants, and those who care for and water plants each week. Volunteers compile worship booklets. Our Sacristans set up and clean after every liturgy, wash linens and replace candles. Our many Ministers welcome and inspire us. Our Security protects us. Our Pageant Cast, Musicians and Cantors delight us. Our Prayer and Worship Committee keeps us on track. I especially acknowledge our Choir who meets every week to practice, and every weekend and Holy Day to sing. Their dedication heartens and inspires me, and keeps me going. We lost two giants this year: Liz Lampe and Bill Wagner. The years of dedication these two gave to the parish is remarkable. May God bless our dear Choir and each one of us as we continue to give glory and praise. ~Lynda



## **2020 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR**

*It has been said, "If Christ is not born in our hearts today, then his birth 2000 plus years ago, is not complete." He hungers to be born in us. As we hunger for fullness of life, by giving Him life through us, we can share God's love to a world so desperate in need of it today.*

*Christmas remains a bold proclamation to the world that our salvation began when Jesus Christ was born. Festive carols, decorated trees, colorful pointsettias, special meals and tasty cookies, colored lights, nicely wrapped gifts: It must be Christmas! Christmas taps into that part of us as human beings that needs to celebrate. Despite all the current trials, struggles, and tragedies, God is still with us, and we turn to Him in prayer for consolation. As people of faith, we know that the goodness of life comes from God, who is the source of all that is good and holy.*

*As Christians, we are no different than any other human being in our need for celebration. Christmas is first and foremost, our God incarnate, our God with us. Without acknowledging Jesus in our lives, Christmas loses its true meaning. Without Jesus, celebrations of Christmas are simply a collection of good feelings, sights, sounds, and tastes.*

*As Catholic Christians, it is right and good for us to celebrate Christmas for all that God does for us through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. But we must be mindful also to protect the true meaning of Christmas. For example:*

- *Christmas must always remain Christmas. The "Keep Christ in Christmas" slogan, so to speak!*
- *The Christ Child cannot be sidelined by Santa, snowmen, bells, and tinsel. The Nativity scenes must remain central to our celebration of deep abiding faith.*
- *Saint Nicholas is a real saint of our Catholic Church. He was a bishop of great charity toward children and the poor. The same charity we are called to.*
- *The truth remains of the birth of Jesus within the Gospels. The first Christmas was an act of divine intervention when the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus in the womb of Blessed Mary, our Mother. It was a miraculous birth by God alone. With God anything is possible!*
- *Angels are true spiritual beings, not mythical figures, but spiritual beings from God who interact with us in our humanity. In Scripture we hear of the angels that spoke to Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds. Let them speak to you.*
- *The sighting of the Star and the coming of the Magi proclaimed the divine revelation that God intended for all of humanity. We need to follow the light of Christ!*

*When Jesus was born in the manger in Bethlehem, God came to us with a human face. The all-powerful God embraced the fragile human race as a tiny, vulnerable baby. In a manner beyond comprehension and words, God was made manifest with a greeting of peace and a warm, loving embrace.*

*At Christmas, we remember God chose to embrace us. After centuries of holy men and women – of prophets, priests, and kings, God made a definitive statement, not from a distance, but a personal relationship with each and every one of us. Be vulnerable to the love and grace of God this Christmas and always. Wishing you and yours a most Blessed and Merry Christmas! See you at Mass! Fr. Robert*

## Readings for the week of December 27th

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/ Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/ Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/ Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/ Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/ Jn 1:19-28

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



### **Monday, December 28th**

Nothing scheduled at this time

### **Tuesday, December 29th**

9:00am Food Pantry

### **Wednesday, December 30th**

Nothing scheduled at this time

### **Thursday, December 31st**

4:30pm New Years Eve Mass

### **Friday, January 1st**

9:00am New Years Day Mass

### **Saturday, January 2nd**

Nothing scheduled at this time

### **Sunday, January 3rd**

8:10am Catholic Women

**December 27th**  
**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

*Mass Intentions*

**Tuesday, December 29th**

8:00am † Ralph Muszynski

**Wednesday, December 30th**

8:00am † Anton Bauer

**Thursday, December 31st**

4:30pm † Deanna Mlynczak

**Friday, January 1st**

8:00am † Poor Souls in Purgatory

**Saturday, January 2nd**

4:30pm † For the people

**Sunday, January 3rd**

8:30 am † Ralph Siettmann

10:30am † Frank Haybeck

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