

January 17th, 2021
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



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
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Director of Religious Education:
Open Position

Director of Family Life Center:
Gail Schlicht x225
gschlicht@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

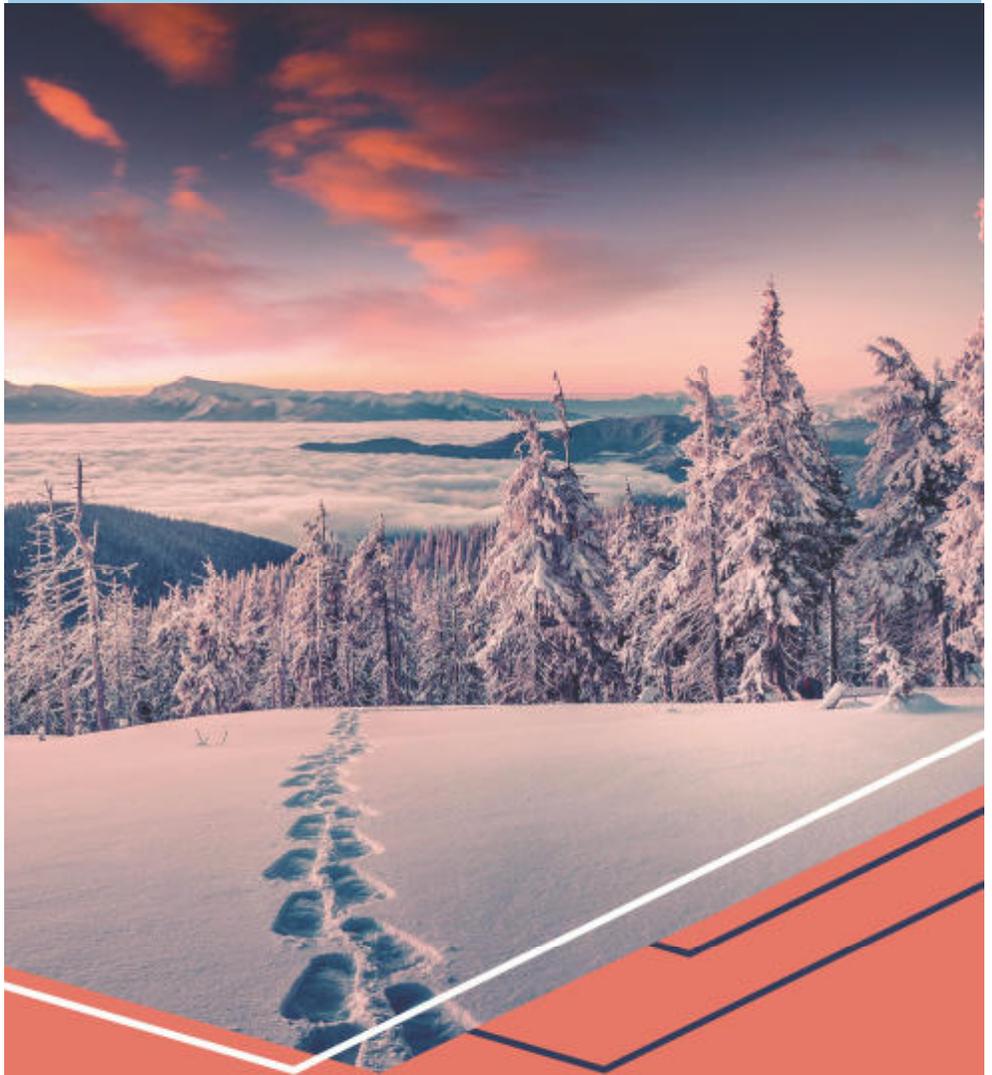
Please contact the Parish
Office



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Church

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2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi"—which translated means Teacher— "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." - Jn 1:38-39a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCB.

ILLU.

Come Join Us!

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

IN GRATITUDE

Many thanks to all of you who sent beautiful Christmas greetings, homemade goodies, and other gifts to me during this Christmas season. I sincerely appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness. May God Bless us all in the New Year for better tomorrows!
In gratitude, Fr. Robert

BURN THE MORTGAGE FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Quiche & Chili \$413.04
Christmas Cookie Sweet Shoppe \$2,955.43
Prime Rib Gala Substitute Dinner \$1,360.32

MORTGAGE UPDATE

We are happy to announce that we were able to send another \$20,000 payment to the PRINCIPAL ONLY of our current mortgage. Through the continuing BTM fundraising events, BTM collections once per month, and the continued contributions from the CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, we were able to continue our mission to BURN THE MORTGAGE.
Thank YOU!



Knights of Columbus

St Stephen Knights Council announces 2020 Charity Awards. Thanks to all who helped by purchasing or donating to the Tootsie Rolls Campaign, or the Baby Bottle Fundraiser. Tootsie Roll Campaign raises funds for the cognitantly or developmentally impaired. This year we were able to make two grants of **\$516 each** to **LIFES NAVIGATORS** and **CURATIVE CARE NETWORK**.



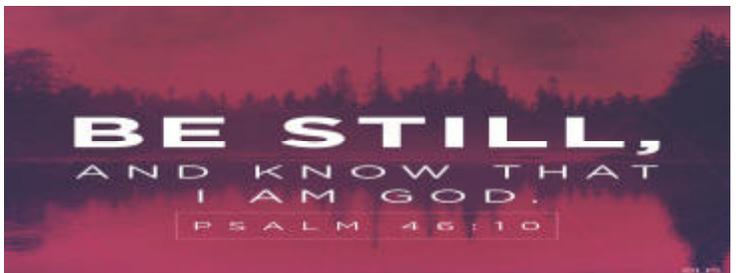
The Baby Bottle Campaign has allowed us to make two donations to two prolife organizations that assist women in crisis; **\$1000 to Milwaukee Birthright** and **\$2500 to the Women's Care Center**. God Bless all who helped out and were generous even during this COVID crisis.

Thank You Letter

Dear Saint Stephen Congregation,
Thanks you so very much for your generous donation of \$461 to the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans initiative and for your continued support. MHVI has been able to help over 5,500 veterans and their families. With financial contributions, donations of food, furniture, household and hygiene items, we continue to grow and expand our services and outreach. If you wore the uniform, we will help you.
Sincerely,
Debbie Buchanan
Executive Director
Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative

Attention Parishioners

We have been receiving numerous reports of your Stewardship envelopes addressed to the Church "correctly" are being returned by the Postal Service as undeliverable.



" Many say, Father, I read that a Priest or a Bishop did something wrong. Yes, I've read it too. But tell me in the news when they talk about those many Priests who do so much charity, those Priests who do so much work to get ahead with their Parish and their people? Oh, no! That's not news. A falling tree makes more noise than a growing forest ".
Pope Francis

IN THE INTERIM

Until we find a qualified candidate to fill our DRE Director of Religious Education position, we are seeking a very part time 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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Christmas Giving 2020

Thank you to all of our St. Stephen parishioners who generously gave to our FLC Christmas Giving Tree. Over 175 gifts were distributed to our food pantry patrons on December 8th, 10th, 15th and 17th! The food pantry patrons and families were most grateful for your generosity and kindness!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED and DONATED!

The FLC could not do the outreach ministries without the help and generosity of our St. Stephen parishioners! In addition, two large carts full of gifts were donated to our sister parish:

Congregation of the Great Spirit.

Also, a special thank you to the FLC volunteers who generously donate their time and energies to make the St. Stephen Christmas Giving Tree a successful ministry outreach! Go to our St. Stephen Photo Gallery to check out the photos.

Ongoing FLC Food Pantry Ministry

The St. Stephen Emergency Food Pantry continues to operate a curbside food pantry on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 A.M. to Noon. **WE ARE IN NEED OF PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS** such as shampoo, conditioner, liquid hand soap, deodorant, bar soap, laundry detergent, dish soap, dryer sheets, Kleenex, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, cleaning products, and can openers, etc.

Please place your donations in the FLC Food Pantry baskets by our church doors.

This is an ongoing ministry and we appreciate your help and generosity.

Nonperishable foods are also always welcomed donations, too!

As always, we are sincerely grateful and **THANK YOU** for your continued generosity and support!



January 17, 2021 | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 | 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 | Jn 1:35-42

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Have you ever seen *The Good Place*? While clearly not theologically accurate, it is a thought-provoking Netflix comedy that focuses on four good but flawed characters who meet in the afterlife. I can relate to the character of Chidi, who strives to live a moral life but is crippled by indecisiveness. Do I buy the brown shoes or the black ones? Should I order the salad or the salmon? And I still can't decide on a career! So I'm amazed at John and the disciples in today's Gospel. John immediately recognizes Jesus as the Lamb of God. Hearing this, do the disciples ask for a second opinion or draw up a pros and cons list? Nope. They follow him. They recognize the Messiah and act. Their response of faith challenges me to think less and do more, to worry less and pray more. We may not see Jesus in his human form walking by, but we can see his image in others, and hear him through the Scriptures and at Mass. Let us pray for the grace to respond wholeheartedly.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Everyone loves an invitation, though perhaps we've forgotten what those are like during these months of pandemic. Today's readings remind me that, pandemic notwithstanding, we all have a standing invitation from God; it's up to us to respond. When Samuel heard God's voice in the night, he listened. In today's responsorial psalm, we hear, "Here I am Lord; I come to do your will." And the Gospel tells us how the disciples dropped everything to follow Jesus. Through prayer, we, too can listen for God's voice and respond. And, just as Eli realized God was calling Samuel and John encouraged the disciples, we can accompany others. By sharing our experience and inviting others to share the way Jesus has spoken to them, we can encourage one another as we seek to turn our lives over to God.

STUDY Many of us slow down a bit during these wintry months after the holidays. Why not use our "down time" to listen to God's word, not only by attending Mass in-person or online, but through popular apps like iMissal and Word on Fire. Invite friends to do the same and then hold each other accountable by initiating an online group to discuss each week's readings.

Readings for the week of January 17th

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/
Jn 1:35-42
Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c [5]/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:7-12
Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [11a]/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

RSVP: Sign Up Today
Chicken Parmigiana

January 30th Before and After 4:30 Mass



Monday, January 18th

Nothing scheduled at this time

Tuesday, January 19th

9:00am Food Pantry

6:00pm Prayer and Worship Meeting

Wednesday, January 20th

6:30pm First Holy Communion Parent Mtg

Thursday, January 21st

9:00am Food Pantry

Friday, January 22nd

Nothing scheduled at this time

Saturday, January 23rd

Nothing scheduled at this time

Sunday, January 24th

Nothing scheduled at this time

January 17th
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our faith is not just about ideas. It's really about having an encounter with God and, in particular, the Risen Christ! Once we give ourselves over to the notion of God's presence, we have to train ourselves to listen for God's voice and be attentive to God's call. Having companions on our faith journeys is so incredibly important as they can help us fine-tune our listening skills and discern God's voice from others we may be hearing. Faith is all about having these profound encounters not only with God but with our brothers and sisters, and creation itself. Anyone or anything that is alive with God's presence becomes an occasion for God to speak and call us to deeper graces and experiences. "Come, and you will see."

The example and teaching of Jesus, the lives of the saints, those living among us and those glorified in heaven, and the wonder and beauty of creation can all serve to help us listen more clearly and assist in positioning ourselves for this profound God meeting. It is an encounter that can quickly and easily lead to a friendship and intimate intertwining of our souls to their Maker, making a claim on us like no other. Then, the Word of God moves from being just a body of ideas to something we simply accept and do. The person of Jesus Christ swiftly moves from being just a good prophet in word and deed to the incarnate presence of God Himself, the Lamb of God. The voice leads us to the Person behind it.

The Gospel is hard to follow. We can intellectually debate whether what Jesus said is really what we are asked to do. The Gospel ideas do not always make sense in our practical, secular world. The person of God always does. We can debate the practicality and sense of ideas and doing so often keeps the more difficult ones at a safe distance away from us. Jesus said to love our enemy, but we really don't need to do that, our minds try to convince us. It just doesn't make sense. Yet, if we are truly in love with the God who is behind the voice of those words, they make perfect sense. Our deep and intimate love of this God would even find us laying down our lives for Him if necessary. Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, January 19th

8:00am Healing of Elizabeth Faa

Wednesday, January 20th

8:00am † Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, January 21st

8:00am † Janet Slivka

Friday, January 22nd

8:00am † Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, January 23rd

4:30pm † For the people

Sunday, January 24th

8:30 am † Helen Roth

10:30am † For the people

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