

February 7th, 2021
Fifth 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
ltrani@saintstephenmil.org

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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5th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he
drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak
because they knew him. - Mk 1:34

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

Come Join Us!

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

“CALLING ALL BAKERS!”

On February 19th we will begin our 2021 Lenten Fish Fries, **“Best Church Fish Fries Around.”** Again, we are in need of our gifted and talented bakers to help provide dessert for our delicious fish fry patrons. Because this year will be drive thru **ONLY**, we are asking that the desserts be “travel friendly!” You may drop off your donations each and every Friday during Lent from 8am – Noon or before. Thank you to all who have contributed in the past and we welcome new faces to join the “Dessert Crew” and showcase your tasty treats that we here at St. Stephen’s are known for.



LENTEN OBSERVANCES

Which one do you think will help you to become a better version of yourself during Lent:

- 1: Stop eating sweets for 40 days
 - 2: Praying every day for 40 days
- Giving up sweets could be helpful for your waistline.
Learning how to pray will be life changing!!!

MORTGAGE UPDATE CONTINUED

Current Balance \$330,610
Principal Payment Due February \$13,195
Interest Due February \$1,111
Total February Payment \$ 14,306

VALENTINES SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Stephens Parish Council members invite you to treat your sweetheart to a delicious Italian Spaghetti dinner for Valentines day!
 Saturday February 13th, 2021
 Pick up before or after 4:30 Mass
 Sign Up in the Church Lobby
 Italian spaghetti dinner, garlic bread, salad and dessert.

Just Another Day With Building and Grounds

Tonight Jim W, Jim S, Tedd, Ray, Dave M, Mark and Dennis C were pretty busy.

The number one priority was to get the condensers/ evaporators cleaned on all of our refrigerators and freezers, so they run efficiently and at their correct temperature ranges.

Some bonus points were also awarded for reattaching the floor tile moulding by the bathrooms, replacing the air filter on boiler #1 and the cube relay on boiler #2 as it tripped out 3 times now in the last month. We will also need to order some additional relays, air filters and get the boiler water sampled for chemical analysis.



2021 Fish Fries

We will be having our annual Lenten Fish Fries every Friday starting February 19th and running thru April 2nd.
Drive thru only



NOTE ON ASH WEDNESDAY

During this time of pandemic, the Holy See has modified the method of distributing the ashes, as outlined in the following.

Distribution of Ashes in Time of Pandemic the Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, continuing with prayer. Then he addresses all those present and says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel”, or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one of the faithful.

Message from Parish Council

Thank you to all of the parishioners who took the Disciple Maker Index Survey last year! One of the many ways that the data is used is to inform parish councils on its goal-making process to better serve our parishioners. Here is a brief summary of that data received by our parishioners. St. Stephen received positive feedback in the areas of making people feel welcome, recommending our parish and pastor to others, and belief in Catholic teachings. Areas of the survey that demonstrated potential for growth include opportunities for and engagement with adult faith formation and growing as disciples. Thank you for taking the survey! The data helps the parish know how we can best serve our parishioners.



DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH APPROVE CREMATION?

The Catholic Church holds the deceased bodies of the faithful in the highest regard. Respect and reverence is due the human body in all stages, from the moment of conception through natural death, as created in the image and likeness of our God. We have traditionally buried the dead in the ground as Christ himself was buried in the tomb.

Burial continues to be the Church’s preference and our funeral rites assume the presence of the body during the Mass of Christian Burial. The presence of the body during the Mass heightens our focus on the hope in the resurrection and our being reunited with Jesus Christ in His resurrection. We are a people of hope who longs to be forever with our Lord and Savior.

The Church permits cremation as long as it is not chosen because of a denial of belief in the resurrection or denial of any other Catholic teaching. Cremation is becoming more and more common, especially in places where burial ground is scarce, maybe where environmental stewardship exists as a prudent choice, or where financial concerns warrant it. When cremation is chosen, the *Order of Christian Funerals* urges that the body be present in church for the Mass when possible, with cremation taking place afterward. This helps the family members and loved ones of the deceased to make their final farewell within the gathered community of faith to which they belong, supported by the prayers, blessings, and rubrics of the Church’s liturgy.

When it is not possible or practical to have the body present for the funeral Mass, the liturgical norms allow the Funeral Mass to be celebrated in the presence of the cremated remains. Whether cremation occurs prior to or following the funeral Mass, cremated remains are to be treated with the same respect as is given to the human body. They should be buried in a blessed grave, mausoleum, or columbarium, being kept in a “sacred place.”

The Vatican has issued guidelines that Catholics may be cremated, but should not have their ashes scattered at sea or kept in urns at home. Ashes should not be divided up between family members, “nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects.”

Catholicism teaches that all people will be resurrected – both body and soul – at the end of days. Cremation does not “prevent God, in his omnipotence, from raising up the deceased body to new life,” the Vatican says, but it does raise the possibility the deceased’s body or cremated remains, which the Church believes is sacred, will not be properly respected by ancestors or relatives in the future. “By burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and how your loved one now participates in that great and loving mystery of our God.” After all, our body carries the soul, which God provided at conception, until the soul returns to God; body, mind, and spirit.

Readings for the week of February 7th

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c [31b]/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 [1a]/Mk 7:14-23

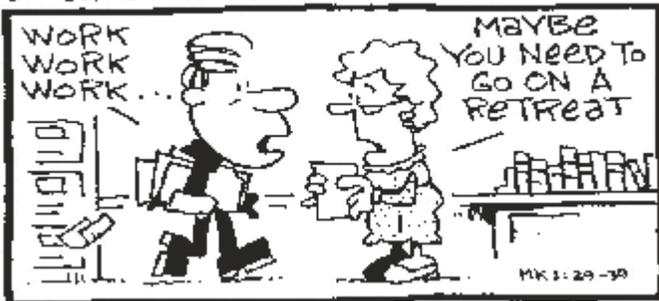
Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [1a]/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 [1]/Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Monday, February 8th

Nothing scheduled at this time

Tuesday, February 9th

9:00am Food Pantry

6:30pm Parish Council

Wednesday, February 10th

6:00pm Edge Grades K-5

Thursday, February 11th

9:00am Food Pantry

Friday, February 12th

Nothing scheduled at this time

Saturday, February 13th

Before & After Mass Parish Council

Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, February 14th

8:10am Catholic Women

February 7th
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, February 9th

8:00am † Marlene Wilkowski

Wednesday, February 10th

8:00am † Liz Lampe

Thursday, February 11th

8:00am † Donald Bruski

Friday, February 12th

8:00am † Justiniana Bustos

Saturday, February 13th

4:30pm † Janet Frederick

Sunday, February 14th

8:30 am † Frank Haybeck

10:30am † For the people

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