

August 22nd, 2021
21st 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 (On Assignment)
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:
Position Open

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

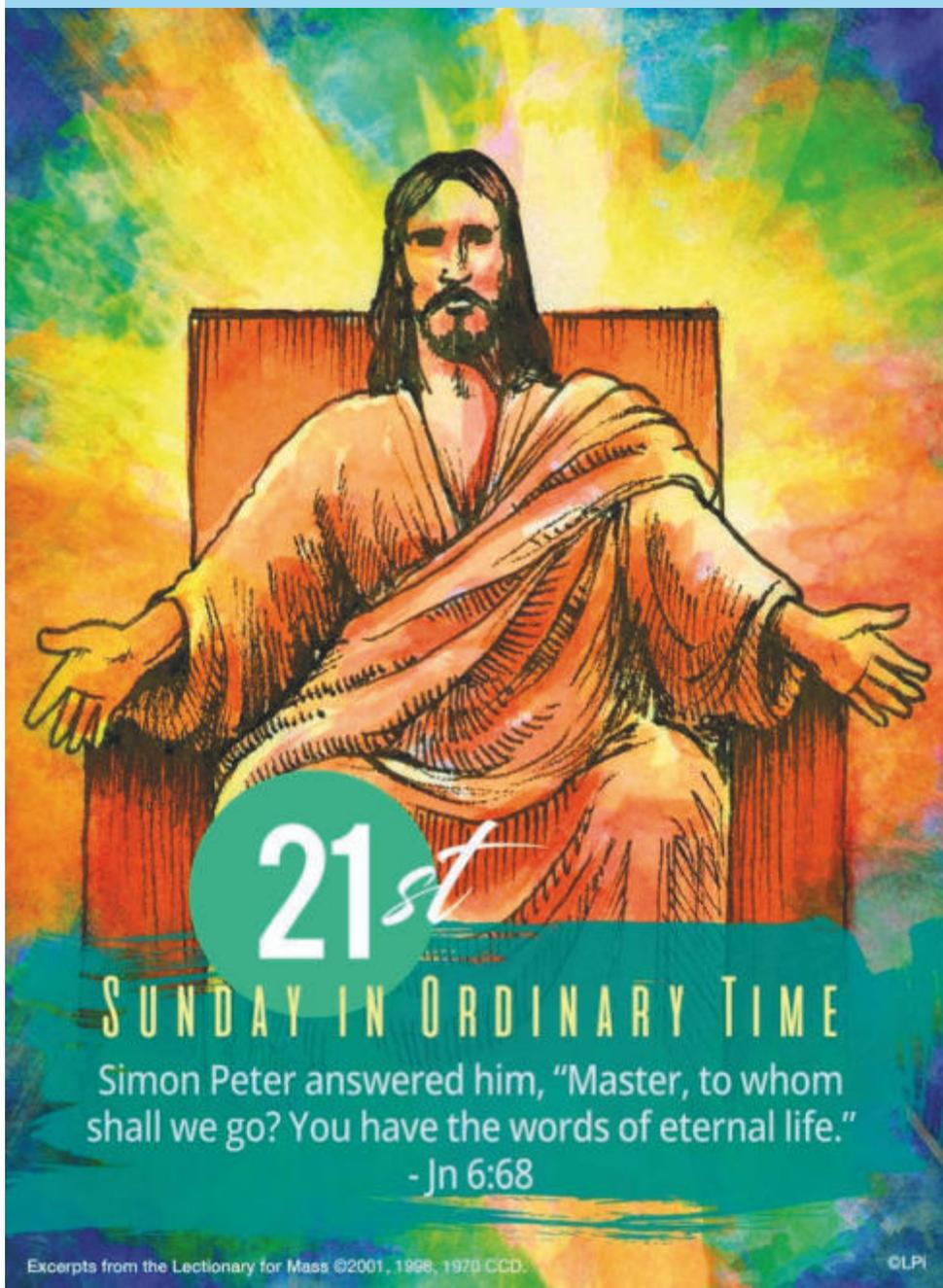
Please contact the Parish
Office



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Come Join Us!

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

SUNDAY – SUNDAY – SUNDAY!

August 28th - *Marinated & Grilled Half Chicken*
 September 12th - *Chocolate Cranberry Bread Pudding/
 Caramel Sauce*
 September 25th - *Beef Burgandaise*



GOLFERS! Save the Date!

GOLFERS! Save the Date! The 1st Annual St. Stephen Golf Outing will take place Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at Oakwood Park Golf Course in Franklin. There will be a Mass offered at 8:00am at St. Stephen prior to a 10:00am shotgun start at Oakwood. We will return to St. Stephen from 4:00-6:00pm for food, beverages, raffles, auctions, and prizes! Sign-up yourself or your foursome in the Narthex. This is not a formal commitment yet! We are just gathering numbers for planning purposes.



Prayer for Those Who Are Sick

Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Cor 12:8-10



DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Full Time

Due to unforeseen circumstances the position of DRE is currently open. The primary function of this position is to administrate a total parish catechetical program in our Roman Catholic faith. Please see Archdiocese of Milwaukee website for job description and application forms. Also see our parish website for additional information.

FRUITFUL GARDEN?

Is your garden producing an overabundance of the fruit of your labors? Consider making a donation to the Church that can be used for both our Family Life Center and our fundraising efforts! Drop it off at your convenience, Monday – Thursday 9am – 3pm or bring it to Mass with you on the weekend. Thanks.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The Prayer Of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
 From this day all generations will call me blessed:
 the Almighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
 in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

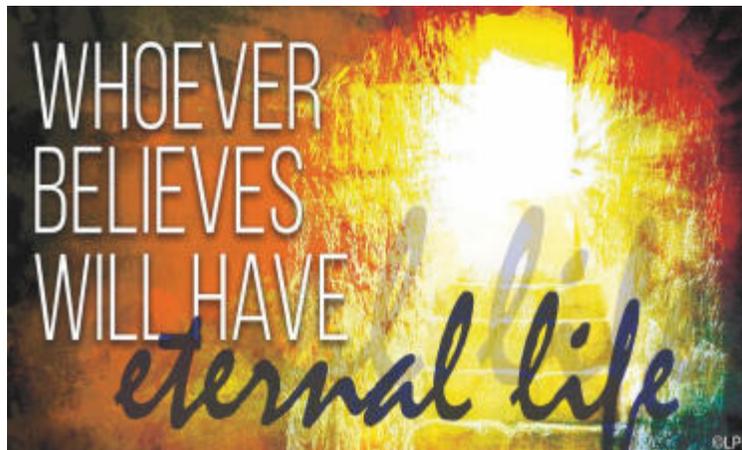
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
 and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
 and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
 for he remembered his promise of mercy,
 the promise he made to our fathers,
 to Abraham and his children forever.

July Financials

	July	YTD
Stewardship Income	25,717.86	25,717.86
Less Expenses	34,210.30	34,210.30
Surplus/(Deficit)	(8,492.44)	(8,492.44)
Mortgage Income	8,373.73	8,373.73
Actual Payment	14,306.28	14,306.28
Surplus/(Deficit)	(5,932.55)	(5,932.55)
	(14,424.99)	(14,424.99)



August 22, 2021 | Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b | Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32 | Jn 6:60-69

Written by
 THE
 FAITHFUL
 DISCIPLE

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

Have you ever felt nervous in standing up for something, or in taking a position on an issue? Even when the stakes are not particularly high, like a classroom debate over an author's meaning in her text or requesting that customer service fix a take-out order gone awry, it can be nerve-racking for many of us to have this kind of engagement. It is especially difficult when we sense conflict. Why is that? Why do we care so much what others think of us? What about when the stakes are literally life or death? In today's first reading, Joshua is imploring the people to decide which god they will serve, and he boldly proclaims: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." In the Gospel, some of Jesus' disciples reject his teachings and drift back to "their former way of life." Jesus asks the Twelve whether they, too, "want to leave." Simon Peter responds with the rhetorical question, "Master, to whom [else] shall we go?" Like Joshua, he is bold in his own pronouncement: "You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Today's readings encourage and exhort us to go "all in" when it comes to discipleship. The implication is clear: it matters not what others think of us, or what attraction they might hold for us to acquiesce to them. God alone is the source of life, and the truth. He offers us a way - it's that simple. We simply must decide to serve him.

ACTION Place Joshua's words on your refrigerator this week: "Decide today whom you will serve ... As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Brainstorm about how each member of your household can do that.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

At times this commitment, this life of discipleship, is more difficult than other times. Faith is a personal and communal relationship with our Triune God, and just like our human relationships it requires attentiveness, and "[living] in love as Christ loved us." Just as a spouse or roommate can annoy us - being messy, hearing the same joke over and over, and don't get me started on who gets to control the remote! - we may get upset with God because our expectations are not met. But God is God, not "who we think God ought to be." Therefore, today's readings are an encouragement to remain steadfast when things are difficult, with St. Paul comparing the love of Jesus for the Church (all of us!) with the mutual love between a husband and wife. No one said it would be easy. Just as a good marriage requires communication, give-and-take, and large doses of forgiveness, so does our relationship with the Lord require prayer, confession, repentance, and thanksgiving.

Readings for the week of August 22nd

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 [9a]/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Jn 1:45-51

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab [1]/Mt 23:27-32

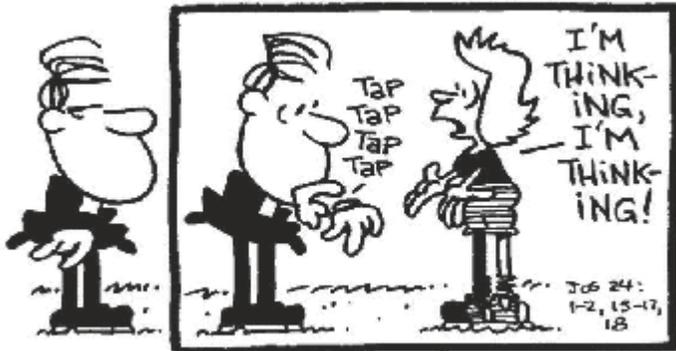
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17 [14]/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12 [12a]/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 [9]/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 [1a]/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Monday, August 23rd

Nothing scheduled at this time

Tuesday, August 24th

9:00am Food Pantry

Wednesday, August 25th

6:00pm Catechist Night

Thursday, August 26th

9:00am Food Pantry

Friday, August 27th

Nothing scheduled at this time

Saturday, August 28th

BTM Chicken Dinner

Sunday, August 29th

Nothing scheduled at this time

August 22nd
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods.” We struggle with our gods. They appear in the forms of things like money, power, prestige, popularity, privilege, and self-fulfillment. We like these “gods” because they make us feel good and ask very little of us in return. When we worship them, we worship ourselves. How can you go wrong with that? We buy into the illusion that if something can give us a comfortable life, free of want and need, then it is worth setting other things aside to pursue it. In essence, we sell our souls. Our struggle with “who is God” and to whom do we belong is a real one and one that can easily find us empty and experiencing disillusionment.

The devil tempted Jesus in the desert and promised him more. We are promised “more.” But in pursuing the more and the satisfying we lose track of the cost, and the cost is great. We sacrifice our very life in pursuit of something disguised as life. We sacrifice truth for something that only “feels” true. While the true and real God certainly promises us many things, many things are also required. It is not about the warm and secure feelings and self-absorption the world wants to provide, but of giving back. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God’s kingdom (not our own), love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury, that we must die to ourselves in order to find ourselves, and trust that Jesus truly gives us his flesh and blood to eat and drink. These are hard things to accept and even harder to put into practice. It is no wonder that many, who may be attracted to Jesus at first, walk away in pursuit of the more self-satisfying gods.

But truth is truth. If we cannot accept it from the lips of Jesus Christ, then where else will we find it? To whom can we go? There is only one source of truth and life, Jesus Christ. Jesus has the words of eternal life and if we do not go to him, then where else will we find this gift? But we must be faithful and buy into the whole package deal that requires sacrifice and fidelity. When we do, we find ourselves, through the Body and Blood of Christ, connected to the Source of all life and then intimately bound with our brothers and sisters. We all have to decide whether we want to stay or go and if we can accept what Jesus has to say. It’s a choice we all have to make.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, August 24th

8:00am † Marie Timmers

Wednesday, August 25th

8:00am † John Maier

Thursday, August 26th

8:00am † Robert Fabry

Friday, August 27th

8:00am † Lawrence Rohrwasser

Saturday, August 28th

4:30pm † Annamarie Winters

Sunday, August 29th

8:30 am † Sylvia Koepp

10:30am † For the people

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