December 12th
3rd Sunday of Advent

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 Currently 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

Be sure to visit and "Like" our Facebook Page: St. Stephen's Catholic Church
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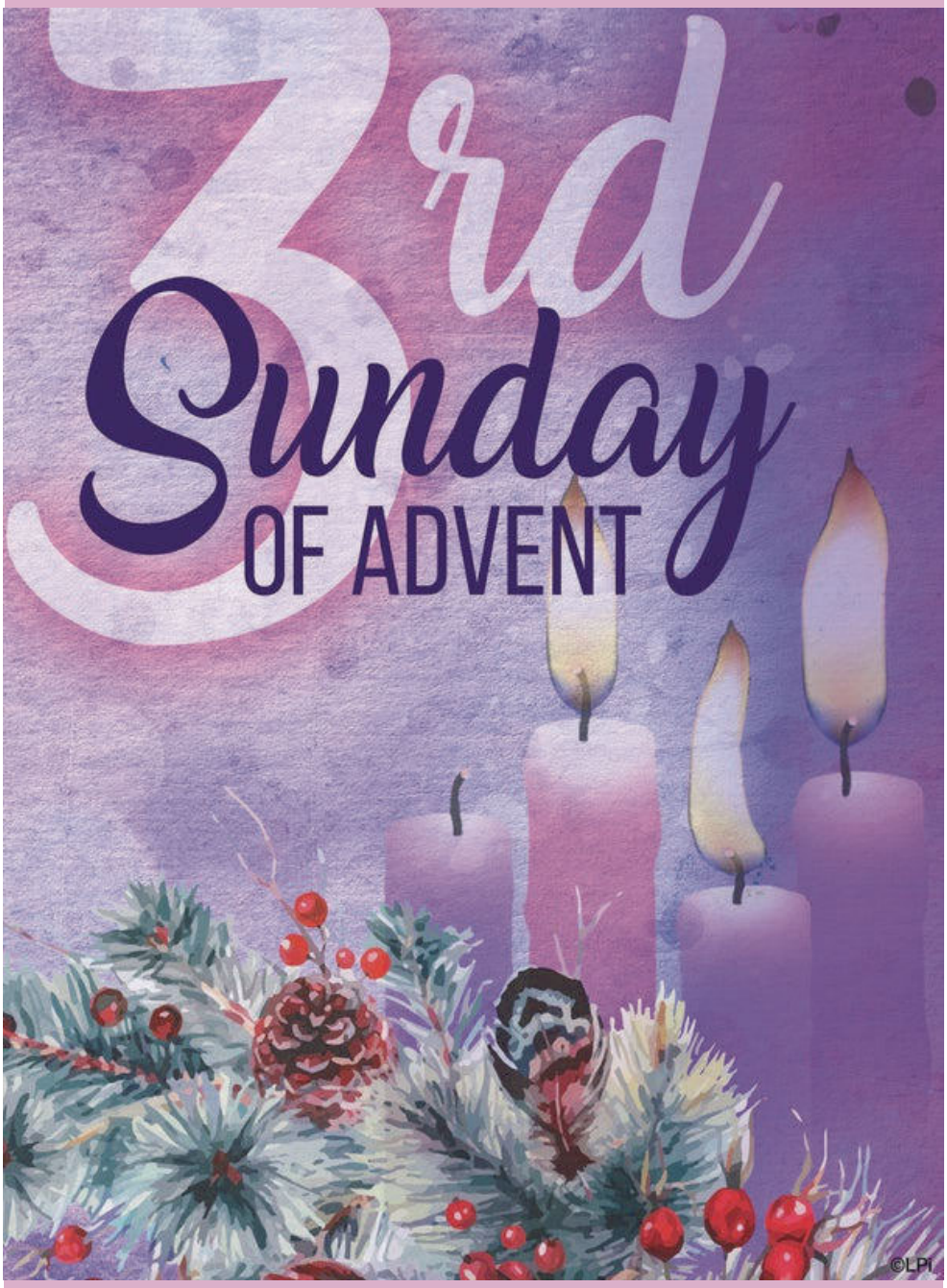


Come Join Us!

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

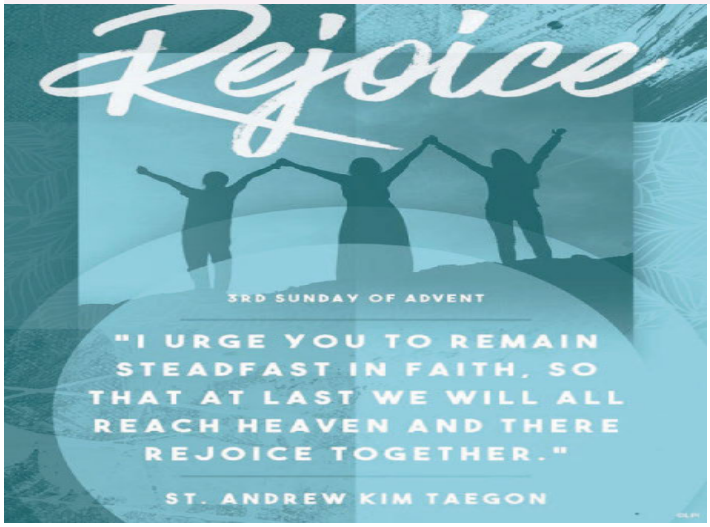
Congratulations St. Stephens!
The challenge was set earlier this month to collect 175 gift bags full of personal care items for local nursing homes and our Family Life Center patrons.

As of this date, we had 316 bags come in!

Thank you for all you do in support of our outreach ministries.

GOOD NEWS AGAIN!

Thanks to your participation in our Burn the Mortgage fundraising events and your continued contributions in your stewardship, we were able to make another $10,000 contribution to the PRINCIPAL ONLY of our current mortgage. We are on the homestretch! Many thanks to all!



Christmas Giving 2021

The FLC Giving Tree will be running November 27th through December 12th.

Gifts will be distributed to our FLC families on

December 14th, 16th and 21st

What to do:

- Please pick a "wish tag" off the **Christmas Giving Tree**.
- Purchase the gift needed at your convenience or purchase a gift card right at the Christmas Gift Giving Table. VERY CONVENIENT!!!! ☺
- Bring your Christmas gift back to St. Stephen by December 12th!
- **VERY IMPORTANT:**
  BE SURE TO ATTACH YOUR GIFT TAG when you bring the gift back to St. Stephen so the FLC knows which family will receive your Christmas gift.
- Turn your gift into the Parish Office M-Th 9:00 to 3:00, the Family Life Center T-Th 8:00 to 2:00 or bring it to mass with you and give it to the FLC Volunteer at the table.
- Please do **NOT** wrap the gift.
  But feel free to bring a roll of wrapping paper if you wish.

We will also accept Christmas gifts for our sister parish:

The Congregation of the Great Spirit.

Bring a gift of your own choice. Please do **NOT** wrap.

Please place a tag on your gift: Congregation of the Great Spirit

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Holy Day Mass Times

Christmas Eve FRI, DEC. 24th
- 4pm Pageant /4:30 Family Mass
- 6:30pm Concert /7pm Mass
- 9:30 Choir Concert /10pm Mass

Christmas Day SAT, DEC. 25th
- 9am ONLY
- No Saturday 4:30pm Vigil Mass

Feast of the Holy Family SUN,DEC.26th
- 9am ONLY

Sol. Mary, Mother of God
- FRI, DEC. 31st 4:30pm
- SAT, JAN. 1st 9am ONLY
- No SAT 4:30pm Vigil Mass

Epiphany
- SUN, JAN.2nd 9am ONLY

We Are Looking for
Memorials and Tributes
For our 175th Anniversary
Keepsake Booklet

Consider a personal or family "Congratulatory" or "In Memory" of a beloved family member

There are different size ads which vary in price:
$ 25 - $50.00 - $75.00 - $100.00

It would be great to see your family's name in our booklet!

Contact: Julie (414) 764-2791

PLEASE NOTE:

For your year-end stewardship gifts to your parish, to be attributed as a 2021 donation, please ensure that your contribution is received by December 31, 2021. Anything received after that date will be reported to your 2022 statement. Thank you for your gifts back to God!

December 12, 2021 | Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

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

Although spontaneous outbursts of joy are not part of our liturgy, today's readings alert us that we have much reason to rejoice. Even in times of anxiety, we can rely on the words of St. Paul, who writes that we can rest assured that "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard [our] hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." As we prepare for his coming during this Advent season, we don't need to leap out of our pews and make a show of our praise (but go for it, if that's your style!). However, in our hearts and in our prayer, we can follow the psalmist's lead and "cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." We can praise God in many ways, through fervent prayer, simple acts of kindness and, as John the Baptist did so well, sharing the Good News.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

"What should we do?" The crowds asked John the Baptist a deceptively simple question many of us wrestle with today. How do we prepare for Christ's coming? How should we spend the next hour, the day, the next year, the next five? John the Baptist answers without reservation: Share what you have. Don't be greedy. Do not falsely accuse others. In other words, get it together! The Lord is coming. Advent is a wonderful time to do just that, and St. Paul reminds us that we don't have to know all the answers. "The Lord is near," he writes, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Last week, the readings encouraged us to discern what is truly valuable in our lives as Christians. Today's readings encourage us to ask the Lord: "What should we do?" Just as John the Baptist showed the people how to prepare for Christ's coming, the Lord shows us how to live out and share our faith through the Scriptures and in the silence of prayer.

ACTIONS Remember the last time you felt unadulterated joy? For me it was when my son smacked a game-winning goal at a hockey game. As we move through Advent, we can reawaken a sense of childlike joy as we prepare to celebrate Christ among us. As you light the Advent candle, take time to share with one another something that gave you joy within the past week.

Readings for the week of December 12th, 2021

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Observances for the week of December 12, 2021

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Tuesday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mark Your Calendar

Don't sit on the sidelines...Get involved!

Tuesday, December 14th
9:00am Food Pantry
9:00am HTF Delivery

Wednesday, December 15th
5:30pm Advent Communal Reconciliation
6:00pm Religious Education Gr. K-5

Thursday, December 16th
9:00am Food Pantry
4:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 17th
Nothing scheduled at this time

Saturday, December 18th
Nothing scheduled at this time

Sunday, December 19th
9:00am Religious Education Gr. 6-11

December 12th
Third Sunday of Advent

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 14th
8:00am † Frank Faast
Wednesday, December 15th
8:00am † Keith Maciolek
Thursday, December 16th
8:00am † Michael Kacalo
Friday, December 17th
8:00am † Julia Faast
Saturday, December 18th
4:30pm † For the people
Sunday, December 19th
8:30 am † Michael & Theresa Gursky
10:30am † Judy Richards & Susan Belski

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