

December 26th  
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 (On Assignment)  
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:  
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



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## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

And the Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son,  
full of grace and truth.  
- Jn 1:14

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

GLPI

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Registration packets are available at the information center.



.....from the desk of the Pastor

### **CHRISTMAS 2021 MESSAGE**

The love of God was on full display for us in this Advent season. Amidst the darkness of the winter months, the unfortunate tragedies that unfolded, amidst the lowliness of our own hearts at times, God continues to turn the darkness into light, to raise up the lowly, and fill our hearts with hope. For no darkness is too dark, no desert too dry, no creature too lowly. The one who redeems everything is breaking into our world, eager to love us back into wholeness as we proclaimed, “Come, Lord Jesus, come!”


It was John the Baptist who brought to light the one who was to follow him. The one whom he was unworthy to even unfasten the thongs of his sandals. As with all the prophets, John the Baptist had those who liked and followed him, and those who did not. And we might wonder how many people missed the opportunity to encounter God in a new and deeper way. The Gospels are full of accounts of those who missed the opportunity to encounter God himself in the person of Jesus. Similarly, are there ways we may have missed opportunities, in ways we didn't expect, or because we ignored a person or situation. Asking ourselves if we truly sought to encounter God by our participation at Mass and the sacraments, or if we were just too busy to open our hearts and follow him?

God gave us intellect and reason so that we can search for truth. Saint Augustine and Saint Anselm of Canterbury refer to this as “faith seeking understanding.” We may not see fire coming down from heaven, but sometimes, isn't there that burning in our hearts when we experience God's presence. These are times when God is present to us, inviting us to dive deeper into our faith and grow closer to him. If we are to continue to call ourselves Catholic Christians, then we know we have to put our faith in to action in order to be fruitful in the kingdom of God. As the psalmist prays, “Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.”

In this year of St. Joseph, we have consecrated ourselves and our parish to the trustee of the common treasure of God and man: the person of Jesus Christ. Bishop Jacques Bossuet (+ 1704) was a French bishop, theologian, and renowned orator, who described the great treasures were committed to the trust of St. Joseph. First, was the holy virginity of Mary, which he protected under the veil of marriage. The second, the person of Jesus Christ, whom the heavenly Father placed in St. Joseph's hands so that he may serve as the earthly father of the holy child. The third, and most admirable, was that Joseph was to keep the secret and sanctity of trust as a trustee of God. God's plan was not to reveal the mystery of Jesus Christ to the world before his hour had come. We do not read in the Gospel anywhere where Joseph spoke or whatever happened to him after Jesus began his ministry.

Many good things continue to happen in our parish community that reflect God's presence to us. We encourage your presence, as well, so that we strengthen our praise and worship to please God and to continue to have the ability to touch the lives of so many with the “Good News!”

O Jesus, radiant dawn of our world, herald of beauty, open our eyes to see you.  
O Jesus, Word made flesh, voice of God, open our minds to contemplate you.  
O Jesus, redeemer of all, hand of salvation, open our hearts to you.  
Keep Christ in Christmas and be Merry!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



## *Holy Day Mass Times*

### **Christmas Eve** FRI, DEC. 24<sup>th</sup>

- 4pm Pageant /4:30 Family Mass
- 6:30pm Concert /7pm Mass
- 9:30 Choir Concert /10pm Mass

### **Christmas Day** SAT, DEC. 25<sup>th</sup>

- 9am ONLY
- No Saturday 4:30pm Vigil Mass

### **Feast of the Holy Family** SUN, DEC. 26<sup>th</sup>

- 9am ONLY

### **Sol. Mary, Mother of God**

- FRI, DEC. 31<sup>st</sup> 4:30pm
- SAT, JAN. 1<sup>st</sup> 9am ONLY
- No SAT 4:30pm Vigil Mass

### **Epiphany**

- SUN, JAN. 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am ONLY



## **175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PERSONAL CARE PACKAGES DISTRIBUTED !**

The 316 personal care packages that was collected through the generosity of St. Stephen's faithful has been distributed to the following facilities: Azura Memory Care, Country View Assisted Living, Auberry House, The Waters, Meadowmere, Oak Park Place, MGC Food Pantry, and St. Stephen's FLC Food Pantry. Many thanks to all who made the deliveries as well: Jay Hartshorn, Dylan McHugh, Cynthia Saxton, Travis & Taylor Adler, Randy Hamilton, and Mike & Gail Schlicht. Another great example of following in the footsteps of Christ as modern day Christians in bringing forth God's presence and touch! God Bless!

## **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!

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## **MANY BAKERS MAKE GREAT COOKIES!!!**

Many thanks to all of the volunteers (Mare Villwock, Lynn Siering, Shirley Kurowski, Kathy Maciolek, and Laura Burmeister who labored numerous hours over the past month to prepare such a delicious array of Christmas cookies. Over 42 varieties of cookies were baked. Special thanks to Shirley Kurowski and Kathy Maciolek for the additional homemade candy and treats. Well over \$3,500 was collected and will be put towards our Burn the Mortgage Principal Only campaign! Thanks Ladies, great job!!!



**Readings for the week of December 26th, 2021**

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52  
Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35  
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40  
Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18  
Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
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

**Observances for the week of December 26, 2021**

Sunday: The Holy Family  
Monday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
Tuesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
Wednesday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr  
Friday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve  
Saturday: New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace

**CHRISTMAS**



**Tuesday, December 28th**

9:00am Food Pantry

**Wednesday, December 29th**

Nothing scheduled at this time

**Thursday, December 30th**

9:00am Food Pantry

Office Closed

**Friday, December 31st**

No 8am Mass

4:30pm Mary, Mother Of God Mass

**Saturday, January 1st 2022**

9:00am New Years Day Mass

**Sunday, January 2nd**

9:00am Epiphany Mass

**December 25th**

**The Nativity Of The Lord**

“He so loved us that for our sake He was made man in time, through Whom all times were made; was in the world less in years than His servants, though older than the world itself in His eternity; was made man, Who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts which He had filled; cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word without Whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188).” The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. Revealed in the silent ordinariness of life is God’s intimate love for humanity and all that he made. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our heart.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandon a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we are able to let go and really be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences really can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now not only see what we believe but believe what we see! This most perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today we know, beyond doubt, that we are a necessary part of God’s beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life and not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God’s birth in time we also accept an invitation to dance with God. We can let go of what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about what the next steps can be. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has been profoundly changed.

*Mass Intentions*

**Tuesday, December 28th**

8:00am † Christopher Rutter

**Wednesday, December 29th**

8:00am † Peter Muszynski

**Thursday, December 30th**

8:00am † Poor Souls In Purgatory

**Friday, December 31st**

4:30pm † Poor Souls In Purgatory

**Saturday, January 1st**

9:00am † For the people

**Sunday, January 2nd**

9:00 am † For the people

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