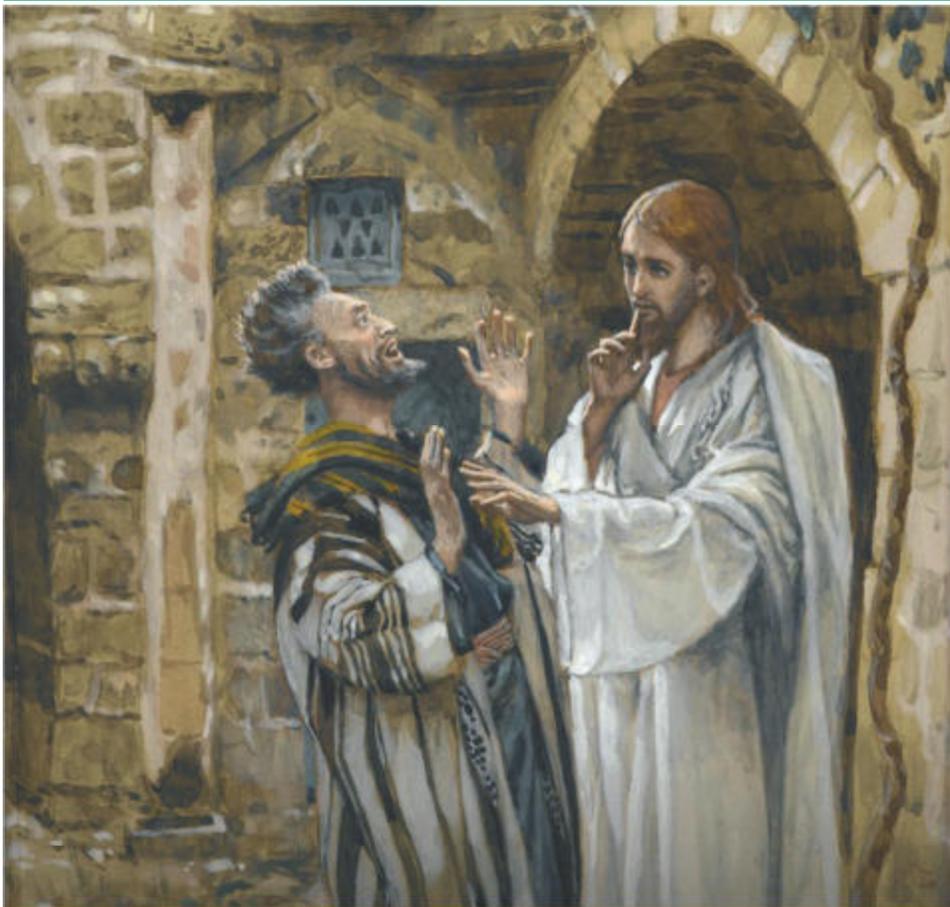


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www.ssmartyr.org
 Parish Office..... 635-5813
 School 635-7141
 Cafeteria 635-6895
 Daycare & Pre-School 635-3505
 Activities Center 635-3505
 St. Vincent de Paul 635-4414

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Harry J. Gelthaus
hgelthaus@ssmartyr.org

Senior Deacon

Mr. Steve DaPonte
daponte156@gmail.com

Senior Deacon

Mr. Syl Nitzken

Director of Music

Stuart Wicke
swicke@ssmartyr.org

Business Manager

Mrs. Celeste Fautz
cfautz@ssmartyr.org

Principal

Mrs. Bridget Britt
bbritt@ssmartyr.org

CRE

Stacey Smith
ssmith@ssmartyr.org

Pre-School Director

Mrs. Rebecca Jenkins
rienkins@ssmartyr.org

Parish Council

Pastor, Fr. Harry Gelthaus
Chairperson, Patty Norton.....773-6356
Administration/Finance, Ray Brown.648-5667
Parish Life, Patty Norton.....773-6356
Worship, Vacant.....
Recording Secretary, Vacant.....
 Rob Greenwell.....936-0245
 Heather Schardein.....387-9096

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. 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 1:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

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Current Mass Schedules

Weekend: Sunday 10:30 am

Saturday 4:00 pm & Sunday 8:30 -

Remain Cancelled at This Time

Weekday: Monday–Thursday 8:15am

Communion Services–Saturday 8:15am

Remain Cancelled at This Time

Holyday: announced times in bulletin.

Sunday 10:30 am Mass will be also Live

Streamed Facebook Page

Sacraments

Baptism: Call parish office for appointment and preparation.

Confession:

1st Sat. each month following 4:00 pm
Mass Canceled - By appointment

Marriage: Please contact priest at least six months in advance.

Bulletin Deadline-Monday Noon

St. Stephen Martyr Parish Vision:

To be a community that loves and serves God and one another

St. Stephen Martyr

Parish Mission Statement:

To worship God as a Catholic faith community for the salvation of all

**Why Do We Do That
Catholic Life Explained**



Is it ever Ok to leave Mass before it ends?

This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.



Readings for the week of 02/07/2021
Sun: 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
Mon: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c [31b]/Mk 6:53-56
Tue: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Mk 7:1-13
Wed: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 [1a]/Mk 7:14-23
Thurs: 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
Sat: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 [1]/Mk 8:1-10
Next Sun: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Time, Talent and Treasure
 Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

"If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship."

1 Corinthians 9:17

Doing good works that are enjoyable, or that come naturally, can be a pleasure. When faced with good works that are not simple, or that challenge us, do we serve as the hands of Jesus or do our hands stay tucked in comfortable pockets?

Parish Support

01/30/2020 - 01/29/2021 = \$405,348.30

01/30/2019 - 01/29/2020 = \$494,121.70

Thanks to all those who continue to donate!



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| Bobbie Gross | Brendon McKeegan | Bruce Wallace |
| Sr. Loretta Guenther | Diane Modes | Cheryl Westbay |
| Rita Elaine Hamilton | Mary Rita Noonan | Janet White |
| Steven Head | Ellie Nunn | Charles J Will Jr. |
| Doug Heil | Liz Nussbaum | Belinda Willinger |

... and for all our sick and homebound.

... and all our families who remain homebound due to virus concerns

Pray for our Parish Community

Mass each Sunday at 10:30am is available to view by live stream or recording on the St. Stephen Martyr Church and School Facebook page. A link to Facebook is provided in the upper right hand corner on the home page of the SSM web site at www.ssmartyr.org.

Masks and social distancing are required if attending mass in person and please note that church capacity is limited to no more than 60 persons at this time.

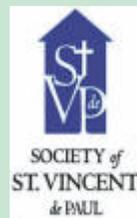


Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:

8:15 am and 6:30 pm Wednesday February 17
 Masses will also be live streamed on the St. Stephen Martyr Church and School Facebook page.

WE NEED YOUR HELP !!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Stephen Martyr is in need of funds to support our indigent and needy families to help them with rent and utilities. Please utilize your St. Vincent de Paul Envelope or place your donation in an envelope marked for St. Vincent de Paul, and drop in the collection basket or bring/mail it to the parish office. The calls are many and the need is great. Thank you for your support. It's greatly appreciated!



From the Desk of Stacey Smith, Coordinator of Religious Education

Countless blessings fill our lives each day, birds joyfully singing praises to God, rainbows after the rain, snow gently falling from the sky, friends and family that solidify the presence of God. We have so much to be grateful for. However, I am often guilty of getting caught up in my busy life with the countless distractions of work, family life and all the technology that surrounds me. Time often seems to get away from me and it is always in short supply. Time is of the essence as the saying goes! Perhaps your work day or family life is demanding but each one of us can learn the value of time and simplify our way of living. Time is precious and it is sacred and a gift from God. God created time and sanctified it and we should use it well and fill it with good and noble and positive things so we can offer it back to Him.

We live in such a hectic world and we don't have very many reminders to set aside time and prioritize our relationship with Jesus. St. Stephen Martyr is so blessed to have our Church bells mark the hour and remind us that every hour is a gift and it is adorned with endless blessings. The bells call us to pray, to stop, to pause and refocus and think about our Heavenly home. They are a reminder to place Jesus at the center of our lives. They give us an opportunity to make sense of our lives and uncover the blessings of love, joy and peace that Jesus wants us to have.

I am grateful we have the bells to pull us away from the river of distractions that can engulf us. In a world where there is so much to do and accomplish the bells never fail to ring out and give value to the sacred time we have been given. The bells clearly divide the day and prioritize the day and create a rhythm that brings us back to our purpose which is to glorify Him. Perhaps your day is demanding but each one of us can pause for a moment to listen and use the time to say a prayer of thanks for this precious and sacred gift.

Even if we do not always know what the day will bring us, the bells enable us a glimpse of our eternal home in Heaven. Whenever the bells ring out remember that life itself is a gift and that each moment is a priceless treasure to be thankful for. Remember that it is a chance to reflect on the past, stand in the present and to look ahead to the future and most importantly an opportunity to be grateful for the relationships we have with Jesus, family, friends, and community. Remember the bells ring out for us to be grateful for another beautiful hour of life on this earth.

Our Catholic faith reminds us that His love is ever present in each of us and will never end. Listening to the bells is a small way to sanctify a moment in time and create a pleasing state that expresses appreciation for the grace of God which surrounds us, ALL of us, ALL the time.



Education Opportunity Accounts Call or Email Your State Legislator

House Bill 149 (Education Opportunity Accounts) is on the move! Please call 1-800-372-7181 for the state legislative message line and the operator will leave a message for your State Representative based on your home address. Emails can be sent using the Catholic Conference of Kentucky web page at <https://www.votervoice.net/CCKY/Campaigns/79053/Respond>.

Ask your State Representative to make sure HB 149 is passed out of committee as soon as possible and that they vote for the bill when it reaches the House floor. Families are depending on them to bring educational choice to Kentucky!

Education Opportunity Accounts are privately funded by citizens and businesses who donate to non-profit Account Granting Organizations (AGOs). The AGOs then use the donations to award needs-based funding to eligible families. Funding can be tailored to a student's specific needs and used for K-12 public and non-public school tuition and fees, online learning programs, tutoring services, therapy programs, transportation to and from school, and more.

Key Points:

- Education Opportunity Accounts would provide more resources to families so they can get their children into the right learning environment.
- Education Opportunity Accounts benefit rural as well as urban families – the common factor is need. By providing this opportunity, doors are opened for kids to walk through and find success. And when children succeed, families and communities prosper.
- Private donations make this aid possible. No taxpayer money is taken from public schools or given to non-public schools.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF February 7, 2021

Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week
Monday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
Wednesday: St. Scholastica, Virgin
Thursday: Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday: BVM
Next Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World



(c. (c. 1869 – February 8, 1947)

For many years, Josephine Bakhita was a slave but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed.

Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan.

Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.

When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.

Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!" The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized 1 October 2000 at St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City by Pope John Paul II.

Josephine's body was mutilated by those who enslaved her, but they could not touch her spirit. Her Baptism set her on an eventual path toward asserting her civic freedom and then service to God's people as a Canossian Sister. She who worked under many "masters" was finally happy to address God as "master" and carry out everything that she believed to be God's will for her.

"If I was to meet those slave raiders that abducted me and those who tortured me, I'd kneel down to them to kiss their hands, because, if it had not have been for them, I would not have become a Christian and religious woman."

- Saint Josephine Bakhita

Masses for the Week of 02/08/21 – 02/14/21

Sunday, February 14 -

†=deceased

10:30 am Doris & Kenny Reinert †
Our Parish Community

Parish Calendar—Church and School Offices are open -

You will be met at the door to conduct most business. If there is a need to enter the building, then a mask or face covering will be required as well as social distancing. SSM facilities continue to remain closed to activities and events due to strict cleaning requirements associated with use of any meeting rooms or common spaces. Please contact the Parish Office to request use of any room or facility on campus and we will see what can be worked out.

The SSM **Dare to Care Food Pantry** continues to operate at this time. In compliance with current distancing requirements, food is distributed out the door without allowing patrons to enter the building. The next food pantry distribution will take place:

Wednesday – 02/10/2021 –

4:00-5:30 pm Dare-to-Care Food Distribution Weiker Rm

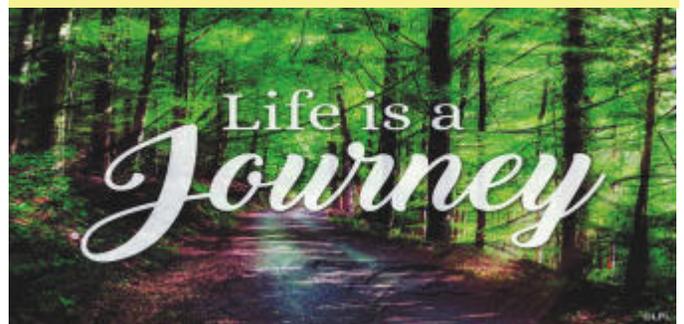
Many thanks and much gratitude are extended to Dcn. Steve DaPonte and our food pantry volunteers for this valuable service that they continue to provide to the community at large.



2020 Catholic Services Appeal
We Are Called to do justice,
love goodness, to walk humbly with God
- Micah 6:8

SSM Parish Goal: \$30,400
SSM Gifts/Pledges = \$27,323 (90%)
SSM Participation Goal: 135 households
SSM Participation = 114 households (84%)

Gifts and pledges can be made through our parish office or online at www.ArchLou.org/CSA CHOSEN



**2021-2022 School
Tuition Assistance**

Parents may now apply for tuition assistance for their children in grades K-12 in Catholic elementary and high schools.

Visit <https://www.ceflou.org/tuition-assistance/> to learn more and begin your application.

Applications should be submitted by February 28, 2021.

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A Thriving, Vibrant Community Matters



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