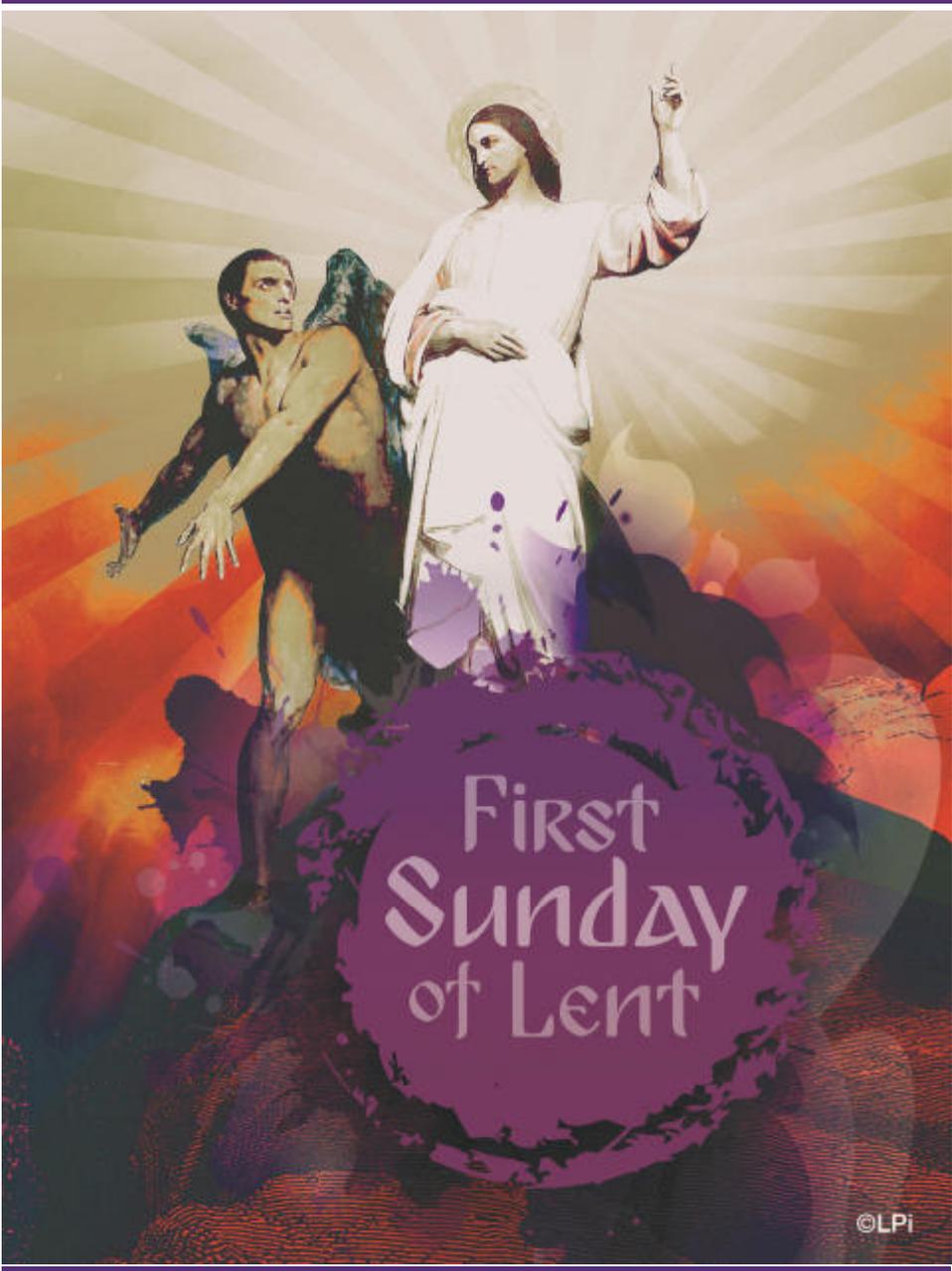


ST. STEPHEN MARTYR

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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

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



Does it matter what leg you kneel on when genuflecting?

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means “to bend the knee.” For many Catholics, it’s an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of “bending the knee” is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting, becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist. In our tradition, although many have been taught or prefer to genuflect by placing their right knee on the ground, there is no prescribed way to genuflect. This is especially important to keep in mind if physical limitations or age make certain movements difficult for us.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Readings for the week of 02/21/2021

Sun: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Mon: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19

Tue: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15

Wed: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32

Thurs: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26

Sat: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sun: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

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

“... he also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited . . .” 1 Peter 3:19-20

Regardless of whether one has been a good steward of gifts in the past, it is never too late to begin sharing with a generous heart. Decide how you will use your blessings of time, talent, and treasure in service to God, the source of all blessings.

Begin small if necessary, but begin!

Parish Support

02/13/2020 - 02/12/2021 = \$405,254.10

02/13/2019 - 02/12/2020 = \$491,103.10

Thanks to all those who continue to donate!



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Doug Heil	Ryan Northcutt	

... and for all our sick and homebound.

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

Pray for our Parish Community



Join us in welcoming the newest members to our faith through the Sacrament of Baptism on 02/14

Bensyn & Kyler Lee - Parents are Jeff & Ashley Lee

Kayden Turner - Parents are Keith & Leah Turner

May this joyful occasion be a special start to knowing that God’s love will live in your precious children’s hearts.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families and friends of
Carl W Lawrence and Ed Boone

May loving memories bring you peace, comfort, and strength during this difficult time.



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.

Stations of the Cross are not currently scheduled to be held in church at SSM during Lent.

From the Desk of Bridget Britt, School Principal



In his message for Lent 2021, Pope Francis calls on the faithful to “renew our faith, draw from the living waters of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God.”

Pope Francis said, “Do you want to fast this Lent?”

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Let’s all use this Lenten season to become closer to Jesus and focus on making ourselves better by fasting on things that we probably all have gotten away from.

Bridget Britt

Lenten Disciplines of Fasting & Abstinence

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

Stations of the Cross Lenten Prayer Journey: Overcoming Racism

The Archdiocese of Louisville’s Office of Multicultural Ministry will offer Stations of the Cross Lenten Prayer Journey: Overcoming Racism on Fridays during Lent beginning Friday, February 19, 2021, at 3:00 pm EST. They will take place virtually.

Through guided imagery and reflection, participants will prayerfully and individually meditate on the sin of racism as they ‘walk’ the stations of the cross. Participants will not be able to interact during the meditation through discussion or chat.

To connect with video, use this link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/3581444576?pwd=SkRHUDNvUW82Vk1OWGdPd3dkaWg2QT09>

Meeting ID: 358 144 4576

Passcode: LxFfL2

To connect as a conference call, first dial +1 646 876 9923. Then provide the following information when prompted:

Participant ID: #

Meeting ID: 358 144 4576

Passcode: 824116

For further details, please contact the Office of Multicultural Ministry at (502)471-2146.

2021 Black and Indian Mission Collection

This weekend, we will take up the annual Black and Indian Mission Collection. This Collection exists to help diocesan communities preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaskan Native people of God. Your donations help fund parish-based catechetical programs, support teacher and catechist professional development, encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and create diocesan structures, such as our own archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry, that support ministry and evangelization in these diverse cultural communities. Please be generous.



Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger— it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Please bring or mail your Rice Bowl donations to the parish office or you can donate on line using the “Donate Now” button found in the upper right hand corner of the ssmartyr.org web page.



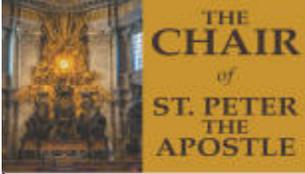
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF February 21, 2021

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent

Monday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Tuesday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



Did you ever celebrate a chair? Probably not, but we are not totally unfamiliar with the idea of a chair as a stand-in for its occupants, as well as for their role.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Chair of Saint Peter. Again, we are not celebrating a piece of furniture, but the role and office of Peter within the Church. And that office, presently held by Pope Francis, has been around for over 2,000 years and is both a source of authority and unity as well as a cause of significant tension among the followers of Jesus. So why celebrate it?

We celebrate the feast for several reasons. First, it is a day when we recognize who and what the chair stands for. The chair of Peter is not the chair of a local bishop, for the chair of the Bishop of Rome is in his cathedral of John Lateran. So, while the present occupant of the Chair of Peter is Pope Francis, we are not focusing on his role as the local bishop of the diocese of Rome. Rather, we're celebrating his role as shepherd or bishop of the universal Church, a role that is intricately one with, but not identical to, his position as bishop of Rome. So the chair of Peter is, first, a stand-in for the pope as bishop of the world-wide Church.

We are also celebrating the authority of the universal bishop. It's the authority given by Jesus to Peter to lead and guide the Church in Jesus' place. For Jesus told Peter that "you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church..." (Mt 16:18). In his Letter to the Galatians, we see Saint Paul acknowledging this fact by seeking Peter's approval for his ministry, for he recognized Peter as the first among the apostles (Gal 1:18). This authority and role, we believe as Catholics, is passed down and exercised by the pope, just as the authority and role of the apostles is passed down and exercised by the bishops in union with the pope.

Pope Francis sees his role primarily as a servant-authority uniting and guiding the Church members as we grow in the life of the Holy Spirit. He is less inclined to conceive of it as one of dictating or ruling-over others. He clearly believes in the *sensus fidelium*, the universal, gut faith of the entire Church inspired by the Holy Spirit. He views his role as pope as the coordinator and animator of that faith. He is not one to act autocratically, yet, he realizes that he is the supreme teacher and authority in the Church, for he exercises the office of Peter. It's just that he is not about flaunting his role, but, rather, about using it to serve the faithful. He is a rather conservative pontiff in many ways, especially when it comes to doctrine, for he certainly does not view the Church as a democracy and its doctrine as determined by popular vote. But he likes to listen and discern where the Holy Spirit is leading the Church.

- Excerpts from Fransiscan Media, Fr. Don Miller , OFM

Masses for the Week of 02/22/21 – 02/28/21

Sunday, February 28 -

†=deceased

10:30 am Cory Hillerich †
Ann Welch †

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 – 02/24/2021 –

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.



**St. Stephen Martyr
Lenten Fish Fries**

Credit/Debit Only! No Cash! Limited Menu.

\$6 Fish Sandwich (1 pc.)

\$8 Fish Box (1 pc. fish, fries, coleslaw)

**DRIVE THRU ENTRANCE FROM
PINDELL AVENUE INTO CHURCH
PARKING LOT ONLY. NO WALK-UPS.**

February 26

March 5

March 12

March 19

March 26

**DRIVE THRU OPEN
5-7 or
UNTIL FISH SELLS OUT!**



**Catholic
Education
Foundation**

**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.

4b

1st Sunday of Lent

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