

ST. STEPHEN MARTYR

2931 PINDELL AVENUE • LOUISVILLE, KY 40217



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2005, 1998, 1978 CCD.

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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

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

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 gossip a mortal sin?

To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness."



In its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing "false witness" means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word "gossip" isn't used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words "detraction" and "calumny," which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it "harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements" (see no. 2477).

In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479).

Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: "No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it" (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person's good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Readings for the week of 05/2/2021
Sun: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8
Mon: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14
Tue: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a
Wed: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8
Thurs: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 [3]/Jn 15:9-11
Fri: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17
Sat: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sun: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

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

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."
 John 15:5

We cannot produce abundantly without a deep prayer life, without living in God. A woman with a full time job and four children was once asked how she possibly had time to pray. She replied: "I am too busy not too pray! If I didn't take time to be with God, I would be swallowed up in chaos."

Parish Support

04/24/2020 - 04/23/2021 = \$398,131.30

04/24/2019 - 04/23/2020 = \$468,851.60

Thanks to all those who continue to donate!



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... 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.



Per current CDC and Health Department guidelines, masks and social distancing continue to be required if attending mass in person. Please note that maximum church capacity is limited to roughly no more than 70 persons at each Mass in order to maintain adequate social distancing.



Thursday May 6, 2021

Prayer is the bridge between panic and peace

From the Desk of Bridget Britt, School Principal

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."

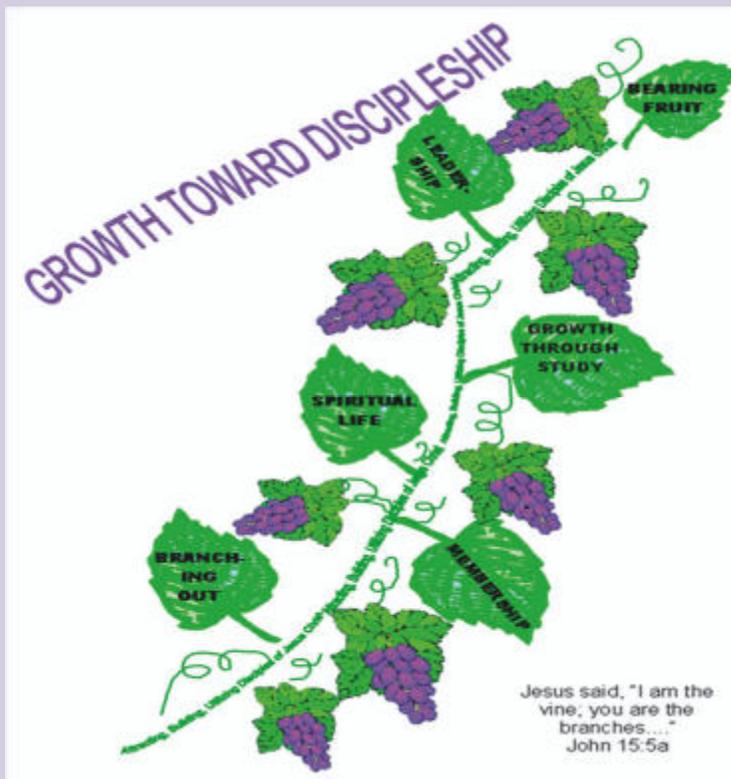
In the verses in today's gospel I can't stop but look at the emphasis on pruning. This led me to question whether the pandemic has allowed me to see what in my life needed pruning. Before the pandemic, I was rushing around from place to place, event to event, but was it producing good fruit? The pandemic has allowed me to slow down and think about what is most important. As we begin to get busy again, I am definitely reflecting on the importance of pruning.

I believe that we should consider pruning as God's way of helping us to bear more fruit and lead the best lives in His presence that we can. Try not to think of pruning as just 'getting rid' of dead wood, but as a way of preparing a branch to grow the best fruit possible.

Every bush, every plant and every tree needs pruning in a special way, and at the right time. Just like the trees which need dead branches removing, we need to be reshaped at different times and in different areas of our lives. Most of us carry around 'dead branches' with us. It may be an unhelpful relationship, unfulfilling work or an inner fear that is holding us back. God knows exactly when and how each of us need pruning to bear the most fruit. We just need to trust in God and allow Him to do this important work in our lives. It is not always easy to give up the 'dead branches' we've become attached to. Letting go may be painful, but the rewards will be worth it.

This week, I would urge you to think about how you can make your life more productive and more fruitful. Reflect on how you can let go of whatever is holding you back in deepening your relationship with God. What in your life would benefit from pruning? And what would help you to grow and flourish in your faith?

Bridget Britt



St. Stephen Martyr Summer Care Program - Enrolling now!

Open to Incoming SSM Preschool Children through 6th Grade

Call or come see us!

3015 Greenup Rd Louisville, KY 40217

502-635-3505

ssmartyr.org

Email rjenkins@ssmartyr.org with any questions.

\$75 registration fee.

\$130 a week

Open at 7:30 am and close at 5 pm.
(Hours could extend, TBA)



Please congratulate our SSM 8th Grade students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday April 21:

William Beakes
Chassidy Beinlein
Nathan Beinlein
Christian Bell
Danielle Bibb
Olivia Bloomer
Grace Csabai
Allison Curry
Konnor Denton
Dulcinea Gish
Nicholas Hardesty
Kayden Langridge
Erin Leachman
Ryan Lotz
Breigh McFadden
Russell Michalski
Joshua Naber
Aiden Ritchey
Eric Schermbeck

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF May 2, 2021

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Monday: Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles
Wednesday: Cinco de Mayo
Thursday: National Day of Prayer
Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day



National Day of Prayer 2021 Theme

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Before God even spoke, "Let there be..." He loved you and me. God is love. We are surrounded by the hurting, hopeless, and helpless who have never experienced the love of God and possibly of another person. God designed and defines love, real love; unconditional, authentic love that sent His Son to pay our sin-debt in full so that we could believe in Him and have everlasting, abundant LIFE.

We live in a nation that does not respect life – all life from womb to tomb. We are surrounded by people who cannot be inconvenienced or made uncomfortable to keep the heart-beat of others beating. Whether it is an unborn child, the homeless or hungry, orphans and widows, or others who are vulnerable and need compassion and thoughtfulness. Everyone needs to know that they were created by God and that He loved them so much He put His image in them and authored their value and purpose that no person can take away from them. As followers of Jesus we must come together in obedient unity and love that spreads God's glory across the earth. We must share this message of love and life, so that our neighbors, co-workers, classmates – so that all the world would come to repentance

In 2 Corinthians 3:2-3, Paul reminds the Jesus followers in Corinth, "You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." Just as it was 2000 years ago, the mission remains today. We, the believers and followers of Jesus are the messengers, the letters written with the Spirit on our hearts, and from the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. It is our prayer today and throughout 2021 that the Spirit of the Lord, pour out, pour through us across America, to fill our lives, families, churches, workplace, education, military, government, arts, entertainment and media, with Biblical, not cultural, not worldly, but Spirit-empowered, Spirit-filled LOVE, LIFE and LIBERTY as designed and defined by our Creator and Savior.

Our 2021 National Day of Prayer theme prays: "LORD pour out Your LOVE, LIFE, and LIBERTY." Once again praying and proclaiming a promise of God in our theme verse, 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Kathy Branzell, President
National Day of Prayer Task Force

Masses for the Week of 05/03/21 – 05/09/21

Sunday, May 9 -

†=deceased

10:30 am Tom Steinbock †

Doris Reinert & June Zehnder †

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 – 05/05/2021 –

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.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021

5:30–8:30PM

SSM Famous Fried Chicken
& all the sides you love



**CHICKEN
DINNER**

ST. STEPHEN MARTYR



FACEBOOK LIVE DRAWING
Saturday, June 12, 2021
\$100 per share
Raffle Drawing Live at 8:00 pm
on the St. Stephen Martyr Facebook page
(<https://www.facebook.com/ssmlouisville>)

\$50,000 IN CASH PRIZES*

1st Prize \$40,000 (40%)	2nd Prize \$7,000 (7%)	3rd Prize \$3,000 (3%)
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Raffle Tickets are available for purchase in the Parish Office or may be ordered on line on the ssmartyr.org web page.

Proceeds from this raffle help defray the costs of civic and charitable programs sponsored by St. Stephen Martyr such as Red Cross Blood Drives, a weekly Dare to Care Food Pantry and annual free Community Trunk or Treat and Cookies with Santa Events.

*Based on 1000 tickets sold

Need not be present to win! License #0192
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