

May 2, 2021

St. Stephen Catholic Church

901 S Main Street □ PO Box 458 □ Caseyville IL 62232

Web-Site www.ststephencaseyville.org

Parish Mass Times

Temporary Schedules

St. Stephen

Monday 8:00 am
Tuesday 8:00 am
Wednesday 6:30 pm
Thursday 8:00 am
Sunday 9:00 am
Reconciliation Sun.
by appointment

Holy Trinity

Wednesday 8:10 am
Friday 8:10 am
Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 7:30 am
10:30 am
Reconciliation Sat.
by appointment



Parish Staff

Pastor,
Very Reverend John C. Iffert, V.G.
jiffert@diobelle.org

Deacon Art Hampton
deaconart@holytrinityil.org

Deacon Tom Powers
4sssster@gmail.com

Pastoral Associate,
Jeanne Adamske
jeanne@ststephencaseyville.org

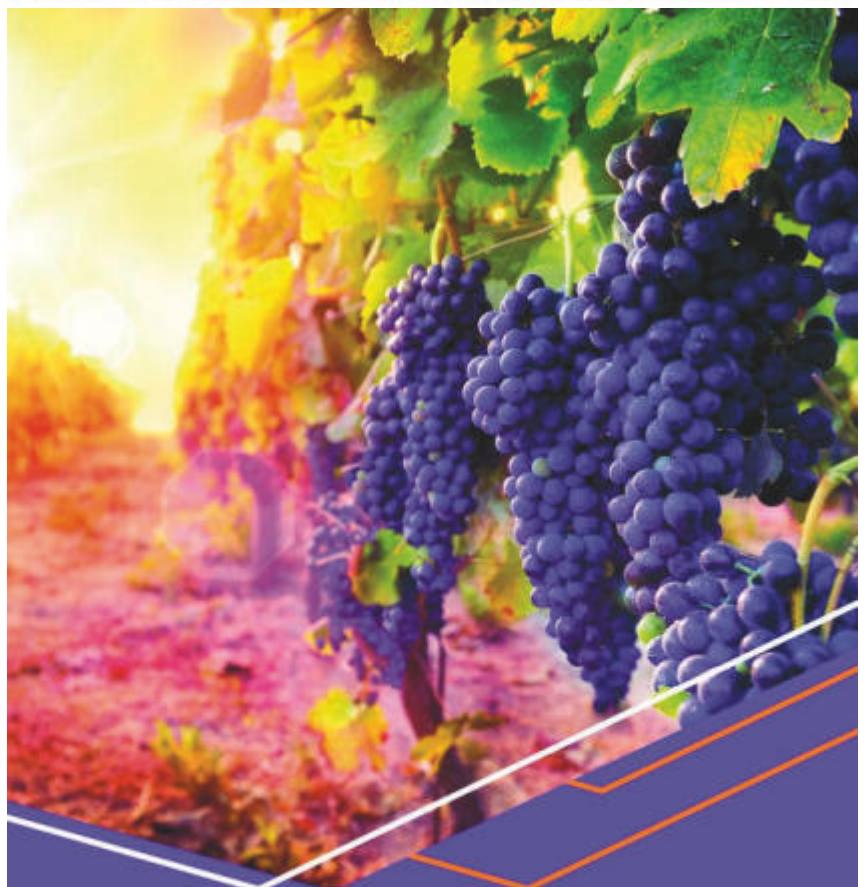
Youth Faith Formation
Carrie Rose
faithform@ststephencaseyville.org

Parish Secretary, Carol Donahue
office@ststephencaseyville.org

Parish Bookkeeper, Stacy Griffin
books@ststephencaseyville.org

Parish Mission Statement

We the members of St. Stephen Catholic Church of Caseyville, IL do strive to **KNOW** our faith, **SHARE** our time, talents, and treasure, **TEACH** by example, **LIVE** by truth and love.



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 © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Mass Schedule and Intentions**MAY 2, SUNDAY 5TH SUN. OF EASTER 9 AM MASS**

KAY BENSON

SPANISH MASS 12:00 PM

*I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (Psalm 22)***MAY 3 MONDAY 8 AM COMMUNION SERVICE****MAY 4 TUESDAY 8 AM COMMUNION SERVICE****MAY 5 WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM COMMUNION SERVICE****MAY 6 THURSDAY 8 AM COMMUNION SERVICE****MAY 9, SUNDAY 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER/MOTHER'S DAY 9 AM MASS**

FOR THE PEOPLE

SPANISH MASS 12:00 PM



Reservations are required for Mass 397-0666 or
office@ststephencaseyville.org

From Fr. John

St. Stephen Parish is continuing the weekday Mass schedule that we began during Lent. I am offering Mass at 8:00 AM Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays. Holy Trinity Parish offers daily Mass on Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:10 AM.

However, I will be out of town Monday through Friday this week (May 3 – 7). Prayer with the distribution of Communion will be offered at the usual daily Mass times this week.

Also, a group of parishioners have begun planning for the 2021 St. Stephen Parish Picnic. Please hold these dates—Friday & Saturday, September 10 & 11. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will likely force some limits and adaptations to the way we celebrate, but we are planning for the chicken dinners, auction items, bingo, music, food and drink booths, activities for kids and families, and more. We're focusing on moving dining and activity outside this year, with more distancing, masking when we are near others, and sanitizing.

It may not be exactly like you remember past picnics, but this first picnic after COVID is sure to be historic and remembered for a long time. Plan to be part of it!

Next Sunday is Mother's Day!

Weather permitting, we will celebrate the 9:00 AM Mass outdoors on the church lawn this Mother's Day, May 9. Please bring your lawn chairs or blankets. Space yourselves apart from people who are not part of your "bubble." Bring a mask and wear it whenever you are close to others, especially when you join the procession to receive Communion.

Just before Mass begins, we will crown the Blessed Virgin Mary and present her with flowers. Please bring flowers for the presentation. If you don't have fresh flowers yet, you can make paper flowers with your kids and bring them for the Blessed Mother. There is no doubt that she will look with love on any effort you and your kids make. For many of us, May Crowning is a memorable moment from our childhood and developing life of faith. Let's pass on the tradition and the joy of it all!

Respect Life Corner-“When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.” In Reading 1 from Acts of the Apostles, we are aware of the conversion that Saul, now Paul encountered on the road to Damascus, when he encountered the Risen Christ. Christ implored him to stop persecuting Jewish followers of Jesus. Barnabas spoke on behalf of Saul, later Paul, and opened up a dialogue that no one in the circle of the disciples was expecting. Barnabas took Saul under his wing and gave him a proper introduction and a proper welcome into the Jewish Christian community. **Learn, Act, Connect and Pray-** In the Gospels, we see that Jesus is deeply involved with the concerns of individual people, not entities of power. Jesus teaches us to take the same path, the path of dialogue. Who can we begin to really talk and listen to here in our own community? We are called to engage in subsidiarity, working with people and communities nearest to a problem and encourage them as they work to devise a solution. Guide our efforts, Lord, to truly help serve the needs of the poor and the oppression, not for our sake, but for theirs.

6th Sunday of Easter /May 9, 2021***First Reading:***

“In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him.” (Acts 10:34-35)

Psalm:

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (Ps 98) Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. (1 Jn 4:7)

Gospel:

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.” (Jn 15:12-13)

Sunday: 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

Welcome

TO ST. STEPHEN

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 02 May 2021

Acts 9:26-31. Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32. 1 John 3:18-24. John 15:1-8.

Bearing Much Fruit. It is the start of May and, in the northern hemisphere, some of us are about spring planting. The tasks today look to future fruit and vegetables. By analogy, God is the gardener. We are the branches, the seeds, the fruit. To be healthy, we let ourselves be tilled around, watered, weeded.

- Because of how I behave now, how will I be tomorrow and in the future?
- What tending work will I let God do to me?
- What can I do to be a more fruitful Christian?

The Good Shepherd

We are grateful for Jesus the Good Shepherd and his care of the flock. Let us also remember to take a moment in gratitude to acknowledge those that model his shepherd heart through the ministry of the priesthood. Pray for those currently serving in the ministerial priesthood. Pray for those considering the vocation. We are all part of the Body of Christ. We need those who are called to the priesthood to feel encouraged and supported. Prayer is powerful and helps support those serving.

A special thank you to Fr. John for his continued commitment to serve just like Jesus in the ministerial priesthood. We are grateful.

What does it mean to live grace-fully? You are invited to a Day of Reflection, open to all age groups, sponsored by the Victorious Missionaries with the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year's program, "Aging Grace-fully", will be a VIRTUAL event on Saturday, May 15, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. – noon. The presenter is Gary Behrman, PhD. Together we will explore this question and discuss approaches on integrating grace into our lives in order to live to our fullest potential. Resources will be provided for ongoing support for a healthy life. This will be a holistic approach to aging to inspire us to be connected to God, others and self.

Cost is \$20. Register online at snows.org/reflection21, visit snows.org for a printable registration form or call 618-394-6281 to register.



stewardship

It is the time of year when flowers and trees begin to bloom. Usually those that do well are properly cared for and show signs that they are growing and will produce fruit. Those plants are connected to the roots. The Christian life is like that too. We must remain connected to the life source. God is our life source, providing the nutrients that we need to flourish and grow. When we remain connected to God, follow his commands, and encourage others to follow him we will bear much fruit. Take time to consider how connected you are to God. What connections are working? What do you need to do to enhance your relationship with God?

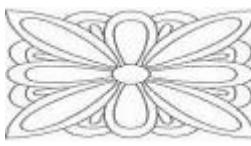
Jeanne Adamske

VOCATION CORNER

"As a teenager, I struggled to find my identity and purpose. I had a loving family and great friends, and I was a motivated student, yet I felt lost and empty. I had this gnawing desire to be whole. Everything changed when I encountered the Lord at a confirmation retreat. He spoke to my deepest desires, and for the first time, I felt at home with myself and the world. At the foot of the cross, I discovered that I am loved and known from all eternity. That same gaze of Christ crucified now calls me to respond to his love with love through the path of the holy cross."

Sr. Viet Oanh Nguyen; Lovers of the Holy Cross; Columbia Magazine, December 2020

"If you have questions about vocations, please contact your Parish Vocation Coordinator, Andy (grandpa) Martignoni, Jr." Have a good day. Andy



Quilters are meeting in the Annex room 3, every Tuesday 9 am to 12 pm and Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm. Please call the office (397-0666) if you would like to join this ministry.

You must wear a mask and follow safety guidelines.

Readers Schedule for May and June

May 2	Jeanne Adamske	June 6	Carrie Rose
May 9	Tim Massey	June 13	Tim Massey
May 16	Alan Reiniger	June 20	Alan Reiniger
May 23	Julie Britsch	June 27	Julie Britsch
May 30	Charla Finn		

Parish Support

April 18, 2021	Church	\$ 9015.60
	Easter	\$ 30.00
	Good Friday	\$ 10.00
April 25, 2021	Church	\$ 3436.42



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