

July 4, 2021

# St. Stephen Catholic Church

901 S Main Street ■ PO Box 458 ■ Caseyville IL 62232  
Web-Site [www.ststephencaseyville.org](http://www.ststephencaseyville.org)

## Parish Mass Times

### Temporary Schedules

St. Stephen	Holy Trinity
Monday 8:00 am	Wednesday 8:10 am
Tuesday 8:00 am	Friday 8:10 am
Wednesday 6:30 pm	Saturday 4:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 am	Sunday 7:30 am
Sunday 9:00 am	10:30 am
<u>Reconciliation Sun.</u> <u>by appointment</u>	<u>Reconciliation Sat.</u> <u>by appointment</u>



## Parish Staff

**Pastor,**  
**Very Reverend John C. Iffert, V.G.**  
[jiffert@diobelle.org](mailto:jiffert@diobelle.org)

**Deacon Art Hampton**  
[deaconart@holytrinityil.org](mailto:deaconart@holytrinityil.org)

**Deacon Tom Powers**  
[4sssster@gmail.com](mailto:4sssster@gmail.com)

**Pastoral Associate,**  
**Jeanne Adamske**  
[jeanne@ststephencaseyville.org](mailto:jeanne@ststephencaseyville.org)

### Youth Faith Formation

[faithform@ststephencaseyville.org](mailto:faithform@ststephencaseyville.org)

**Parish Secretary, Carol Donahue**  
[office@ststephencaseyville.org](mailto:office@ststephencaseyville.org)

**Parish Bookkeeper, Stacy Griffin**  
[books@ststephencaseyville.org](mailto: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.

**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." - Mk 6:4

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

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

**JULY 4 SUNDAY 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY**

**TIME 9 AM MASS SEARCH AFTER MASS**

*Norbert S. Staroba*

**SPANISH MASS 12:00 PM**

**JULY 5 MONDAY 8 AM MASS**

*Rosemary Held*

**JULY 6 TUESDAY 8 AM MASS**

*Dawn Roush*

**JULY 7 WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM MASS**

*Joyce Erno*

**JULY 8 THURSDAY 8 AM MASS**

*Reverend Hyacinth S. Mazuchowski*

**JULY 11 SUNDAY 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY**

**TIME 9 AM MASS**

*Kay Benson*

**SPANISH MASS 12:00 PM**

**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 04 July 2021**

*Ezekiel 2:2-5. Psalm 123:1-2, 2, 3-4. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Mark 6:1-6.*

**Home Town and Country.** *In the gospel today, Jesus astonishes the home town folks who then poke fun at him. Jesus, however, still did what he could by preaching and healing a few. Even when things seem not to go right, we still embrace our town folk and our country. Here is prayer for this Independence Day in the USA.*

*Father of all nations and ages,  
we recall the day when our country  
claimed its place among the family of nations;  
for what has been achieved we give you thanks,  
for the work that still remains we ask your help,  
and as you have called us from many peoples to be  
one nation,*

*grant that, under your providence,  
our country may share your blessings  
with all the peoples of the earth.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,*

*God, for ever and ever.*

*Excerpt from The Roman Missal, © 2020, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission.*

**Topic for SEARCH this week:** *Today we seem to think we've moved beyond the idea of God, but this secular view of life is a very new and unusual idea to humanity. All through human history man has looked to something outside himself for the answers to life. Why have we given up on God? Do we think science has disproven Him? Do we think society is better off without him? We talk with astrophysicists, chemists, Harvard professors, and more to make the case that it's not only reasonable to believe in God, it's essential if you want to have a truly amazing life. Our souls seek their creator, and we'll never be truly happy unless we seek Him out. As St. Augustine famously said, "You have made us for Yourself O Lord, and our hearts are restless. until they rest in Thee."*

**From Fr. John –**

*Please know that I thank God for you every day! Also, I ask you to pray for me in a special way these next few weeks. All is well. I am not sick or anything, but I would very much appreciate your prayers for a special intention.*

*Thank you, also, to all who have expressed concern about my mom. She fell a couple of weeks ago and broke her hip. The surgery went well and Mom has been released from the hospital. Now she is in a physical therapy unit in our little community hospital, getting the nursing assistance and PT that she needs. Thanks for your expressions of concern. My family is very grateful for your prayers.*

*During this Year of the Family, Pope Francis has decided to institute an annual Day of Thanksgiving for Grandparents and the Elderly. That is coming up on Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Beginning today, we will have a Book of Remembrance in the gathering space as you come into Church. I invite you to write the names of your deceased grandparents in that book. It will come into Church in procession each Sunday of July and we will include all our deceased grandparents in the prayer of the faithful each week.*

**Prayer for Independence Day (July 4)**



*God, source of all freedom,  
this day is bright with the memory  
of those who declared that life and liberty  
are your gift to every human being.  
Help us to continue a good work begun long ago.  
Make our vision clear and our will strong:  
that only in human solidarity will we defend liberty,  
and justice only in the honor that belongs  
to every life on earth.*

*Turn our hearts toward the family of nations:  
to understand the ways of others,  
to offer friendship,  
and to -find safety only in the common good of all.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*R/. Amen.*

**Respect Life** *"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you." (Jeremiah 1:5) I would like to offer you an invitation to join myself and others from the Diocese of Belleville in praying for an end to the scourge of abortion. Every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 a small group of us join to peacefully pray the Holy Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy outside the Planned Parenthood facility in Fairview Heights. If you would prefer to carpool to the location, we can do that! Just please contact me here at the rectory to make arrangements. Otherwise, simply feel free arrive at the site a little before 3 o'clock on Tuesdays. Please note, there are restroom and breakroom facilities available onsite at the Coalition for Life office.*

**Wishing everyone a blessed Independence Day! Thank God for our freedoms and those who have protected and defended them.**



**Prayer for Independence Day**

Dear Father, I am so thankful for this nation. For all the sacrifices others have made to build and defend this country, I am grateful. Thank you for the opportunities and freedoms we have in the United States of America. Help me never to take these blessings for granted. Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in Jesus. Amen

**Respect Life Corner-** *“As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet.”* In the First Reading from Ezekiel 2:2-5, Ezekiel, the prophet, is heavily tasked with carrying God’s message of repentance to the Israelites, “hard of face and obstinate of heart.” As a biblical prophet, Ezekiel was deemed a spokesperson for God, who called His people to return to the covenant and work for justice for the poor and the outcast. Ezekiel firmly spoke for God, but with an invitation to return. His vocation was like “sitting among scorpions.” **Learn, Act, Connect and Pray-**When have you had a have a difficult conversation with a loved one or friend? Maybe it has been to explain the truth about abortion? Or to discuss with town leaders ways to support those who have been trafficked, now living in your community? By praying over the situation and acknowledging our weaknesses, we open ourselves to Christ’s grace which is sufficient for us. Filled with the Holy Spirit, we go forth, sharing God’s message of love and solidarity with those in need, as we work to inspire action and change just as Ezekiel did.

**The 2021 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal  
Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do... -  
John 14:12**

This weekend let us celebrate the hope, peace and freedom of our great nation and pray for those who make our freedom possible. We wish you and your family a blessed, happy and safe July 4th.

-Agencies and Ministries Supported by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

Note: Remember that our goal for the current CSMA campaign is full participation, defined as the number of households who gave at least \$100 to St. Stephen’s last year—131 households. We said that we would count any donation—even a few cents. Also, that if you could not make a monetary contribution, a commitment to pray for the success of the CSMA also counts toward our goal. Currently we have 42 households who have contributed to CSMA, so we have a way to go. Please consider contributing from your financial resources or giving your time in prayer today. You can make your contribution, pledge, or commitment by putting an envelope in the collection basket marked CSMA. Please be sure to include your name so that we can attribute it correctly and know it is a new gift.  
Thanks for all you do.

**stewardship**

The summer season is hopefully bringing a bit of time for reflection and pause. Usually, it is a time for families to slow down and even take a vacation. As followers of Jesus, it is a great time, well any time is a great time, to pause and reflect on the awesomeness of God. As the month of July begins take some time to pause and see the greatness of God and how he has accompanied you on the journey. He has been a stronghold in our lives and journeyed with us every step of the way. Thank God for his friendship and generous spirit. If you are struggling with something invite him to bring healing or wisdom to the situation. He is there for you, today and always.

Jeanne Adamske

**VOCATION CORNER**

Today we mark another anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. “On the 51st anniversary, Charles Carroll, the only Catholic to have signed the Declaration and the last surviving signer, said, “God grant that this religious liberty may be preserved in these States to the end of time, and that all believing in the religion of Christ may practice the leading principle of charity, the basis of every virtue.” Today is a time for choosing how we will keep faith with the great accomplishments of our Catholic forebears as we seek to make our own contributions. If we or someone in your family is called by the Holy Spirit to a religious vocation we should encourage and accept this challenge as we are all endowed by our Creator with life and liberty.

“ Columbia, “Culture of Life”, Oct. 2015, pg. 47.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A PRIEST**

Bishop Michael McGovern will host a St. Andrew Dinner for young men interested in learning more about the Catholic priesthood on Sunday, July 18, 2021. The St. Andrew Dinner will be held at St. Mary Parish in Carlyle. All young men ages 14-32 are invited to attend; parents or guardians are also welcome to join us.

The event will begin at 5:00pm with Evening Prayer and will be followed by dinner and conversation.

This is a terrific opportunity for hearing some of our seminarians speak about preparing for the priesthood; there will also be time for questions and conversation with Fr. Steven Beatty, Vocation Director.

For more information, or to RSVP, contact Patti Warner in the Vocations Office at (618) 722.5043, or email to: [pwarner@diobelle.org](mailto:pwarner@diobelle.org).

St. Mary Parish is located at 1171 Jefferson Street in Carlyle, IL.

**It’s been a long year for everyone. We have finally been given the go ahead to resume Bingo. We are in need of workers. Estimated date back is Aug 1st. If anyone is interested in working 1 Sunday a month we are in need. Our next Bingo meeting will be July 7th at 7:00 pm if anyone would like to attend. Any questions at all or if you would like to volunteer please call Patti Wagner 618 -334-6447. Thank you**





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