

July 25, 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	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</u>	<u>Reconciliation</u>
<u>Sunday's</u>	<u>Saturday's</u>
8:00-8:30 am	3:00-3:30 pm

Parish Staff

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

Deacon Art Hampton
deaconart@holyltrinityil.org

Deacon Tom Powers
4sssster@gmail.com

Pastoral Associate,
Jeanne Adamske
jeanne@ststephencaseyville.org

Youth Faith Formation

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.



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. - Jn 6:9, 11

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

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MASS SCHEDULE**JULY 25 SUNDAY 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY****TIME 9 AM MASS****“SEARCH” AFTER 9 AM MASS***Jay Dowling***SPANISH MASS 12:00 PM****JULY 26 MONDAY 8 AM MASS***Jane Budryk***JULY 27 TUESDAY 8 AM MASS***Vernon Reiniger***JULY 28 WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM MASS***John Morlock***JULY 29 THURSDAY 8 AM MASS***Merial Goveal***AUGUST 1 SUNDAY 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY****TIME 9 AM MASS***Larry Huett**August Werner*IN LOVING
MEMORY

Respect Life Corner- “What can we do to accomplish the works of God?” This week’s Gospel from John 6:24-35, continues last Sunday’s story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. The crowds begin to “seek and to find” Jesus for their next meal, but Jesus tells them to work for the food that leads to eternal life, salvation. Believe in Him, the one God has sent, who is the life of the world, the bread of life. It is the message that we must take out to our brothers and sisters in Christ-everywhere. **Learn, Act, Connect and Pray-** As missionary disciples, we are called to encounter Christ in the members of our human family most in need and to share the Good News with others, advocating for justice and common good. This year, the COVID pandemic is estimated to have pushed an 88 million to 115 million more people into extreme poverty around the world. Pope Francis urges us, “This is not a time for indifference, because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in the pandemic.” Please continue to welcome and pray for those who live on the fringe of society. Ask your representatives to ensure the proper funding to help reduce poverty here and around the world. It is most necessary that the Helms Amendment be in place to prohibit the use of U.S.-funded foreign assistance for abortion. Life is a gift to be cherished in all circumstances.

**July 25, 2021 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

St. Oscar Romero said, “We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is the beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.” There were a group of ladies many years ago who made quilts. They were beautiful creations reflecting inspirational designs artfully composed from the simple scraps of fabric each woman would bring to their individual pieces. There was no plan for the finished project as each finished work became the combined creation of what each woman contributed. They abounded in vibrant colors and dazzled the beholder with intricate patterns and their myriad textures. They were so beautiful that they became coveted family treasures passed from generation to generation. Those women never realized the power of their work. Countless babies rested in the comfort of those quilts warmly nestled in the legacy of tradition they were fortunate to inherit. They adorned countless homes with their beauty and brought joy and solace to many faces.

We cannot do everything. We are not meant to. Our work in life is to contribute our individual piece, a piece that reflects the unique thumbprint I claim as my own. We only have to do small things well. Then, as St. Oscar Romero reminds us, the Lord’s grace will enter and do the rest. We have to trust that this is true just as those women trusted in the eventual beauty of their final work.

Eucharistic blessings are blessings that start small and multiply. We all come to life with only a few loaves of bread and a few fish. Not any single one of us has all that it takes to transform our world. Who knows what God will do with the little we have and how many will benefit from our kindness, compassion, wisdom, courage, conviction, love, warmth, zeal, faith, and hope? That young lad never dreamed that his few leftovers would do all that they did. God shows up in unexpected ways! Where would life’s adventure and fun be if it were any other way? Being able to be part of bringing God’s creative, transforming, healing to the world opens us up to wonder, awe, and excitement! We can all bring our little piece to the bigger work of God that can result in being a coveted jewel passed generation to generation. This is good news indeed!

Bread and wine transform into Christ’s Body and Blood and we become what we eat. Trust that.



Faith Formation Please join us this morning over in the Meeting Room for another installment of *The SEARCH*. Please note, you are more than welcome to join us even if you have missed the first few weeks! **Topic for SEARCH this week:** Who is Jesus? The most beautiful part of this story is this we can know God’s love, personally. This is the person of Jesus. But how did this seemingly insignificant carpenter born into poverty in a dusty corner of the Roman Empire become the most pivotal figure in all of history? Christianity isn’t simply a philosophy for life – the center of Christianity is a person. We look at the life of Jesus and what he came to do. Ultimately, we need to decide if Jesus really was who he said he was. We can’t sit on the fence. Because if Jesus really was who he said he was, we need to make him the Lord of our lives, and everything changes.

What's HAPPENING?

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The Caseyville Food Pantry is currently needing:

- Tuna
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- Boxed mashed potatoes
- Grape jelly or Strawberry jam
- Sugar



**Meeting on July 28 at
7:00 p.m. in the gym**



Bingo is planning to start the first games on September 19, 2021. Volunteers are still needed, please call Patti 618-334-6447.

...also will need a dependable person to put up and take down tables and chairs on BINGO Sunday's. This is a compensated position of \$100.00 per Sunday. Please call George to apply 618-345-6935

Men's Blue Jeans and Casual Clothing/Accessories Needed

The Belleville Council Office of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul **NEEDS YOUR HELP** in providing essentials to the poor they serve. At the present time there is a desperate need for **gently-used men's blue jeans and casual clothing and accessories: slacks, shirts, socks, belts and shoes.**

Items can be dropped off at:

SVDP Thrift Store 3718 State Street, East St. Louis
Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m.-12 Noon

or
SVDP Office 8800 West Main Street, Belleville (across from Blessed Sacrament Church) Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

questions or more info, call Council office 394-0126.

YOUR DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND WILL BE A BLESSING FOR SOMEONE IN NEED! THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Stewardship

There are stories that most people know and recall in their lives as a powerful message. For Christians, the story of the loaves and fishes is one that we keep close to our heart because it tells of the abundant love that God has for us. God always provides for us. There are times when the abundance is very clear and there are times when it is not as evident because the provisions are in our mind small. All of God's gifts to us are a blessing. God provides even in the times when it may not seem that things are happening on our time. Trust in God's timing. Know that he is near and always caring for you, providing in ways that you may not be aware of at this moment.

Jeanne Adamske

VOCATION CORNER

Today's miracle of the fishes and loaves is a powerful message for all of us. The Lord challenges our faith to know that, through Him, all things are possible. Jesus takes a "little" and makes it "a lot". He calls us, through this example, to "feed his people". We might think we are too "little" to handle these things but He can make it "a lot" if we respond. Encourage those around you to consider being one those who will "feed the people" and the Lord work his miracle in us.

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

Prayer for Intercession of Blessed Stanley Francis Rother

O faithful shepherd, Blessed Stanly Rother, as priest and missionary, you tilled the soil with your hands and invited Christ Jesus to till the soil of your soul.

You became a sign of love of Christ the Good Shepherd for your People, and blessed their lives by your ministry. You stood firm and did not run from danger, bringing glory to God and his Church in your martyrdom.

Blessed Stanley, obtain from the heart of Jesus for healing of **Fr. Joe Rascher**, and pray for me, that I too may be a sign of Christ's love among His people.

Teach me to faithfully till the soil of his life in the reality given to me by our Farther, unafraid to stay with those God has given me, no matter the cost.

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen



Parish Support

July 18, 2021 \$ 2815.82



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