

October 3, 2021

# St. Stephen Catholic Church

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

## Parish Mass Times

### St. Stephen

Monday 8:00 am  
Tuesday 8:00 am  
Wednesday 6:30 pm  
Thursday 8:00 am  
Sunday 9:00 am

### Reconciliation

#### Sunday

8:00-8:30 am

### Holy Trinity

Wednesday 8:10 am  
Friday 8:10 am  
Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 7:30 am  
10:30 am

### Reconciliation

Saturday's

3:03:30 pm

### Holy Rosary

Monday-Friday 8:00 am  
Saturday 4:00 pm  
6:30 pm Spanish  
Sunday 8:00 am  
10:00 and 12:00 om Spanish  
Reconciliation Saturday  
2:30 pm-3:30 pm

## Parish Staff

**Pastor, Reverend Harold Fisher, OMI**  
[fisherharold47@gmail.com](mailto:fisherharold47@gmail.com)

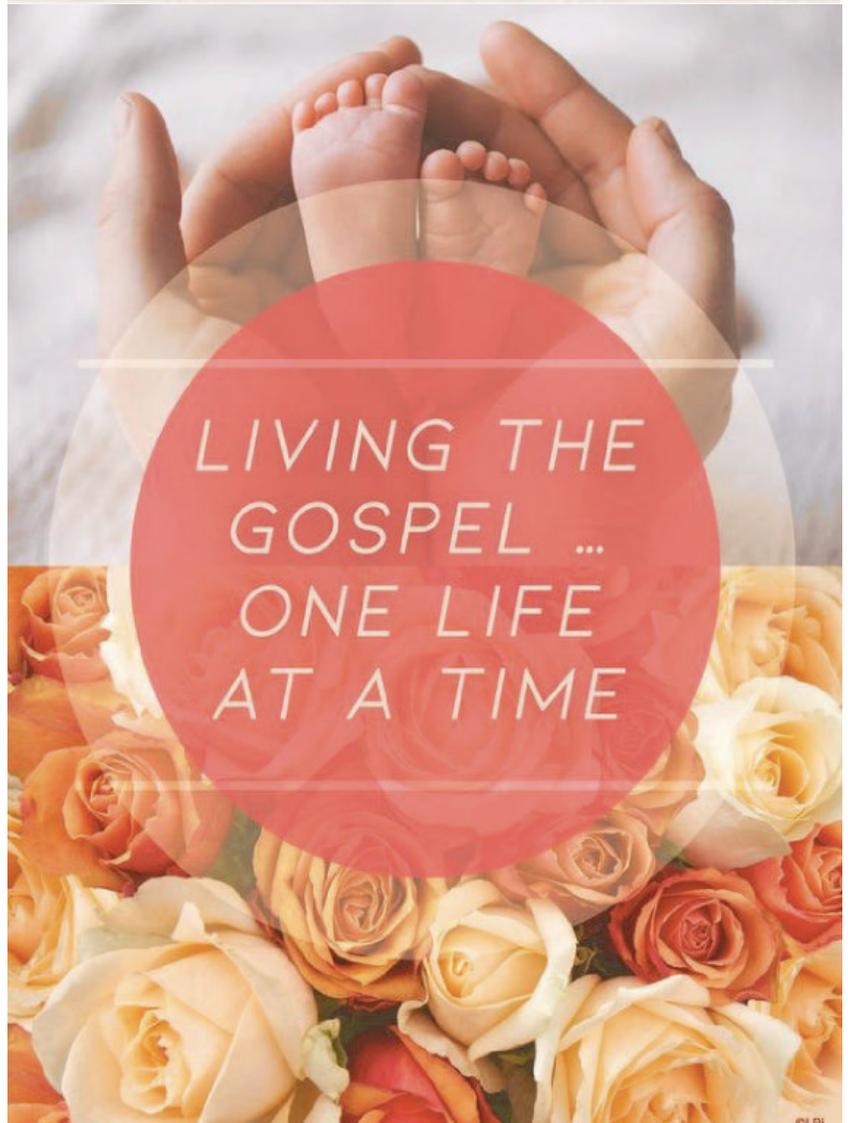
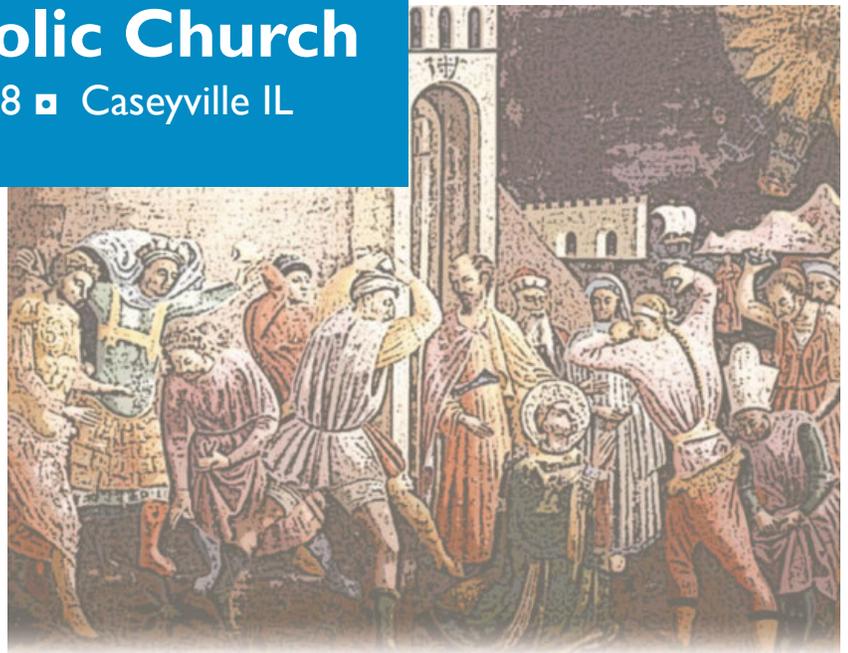
**Pastoral Associate,**  
**Jeanne Adamske**  
[jeanne@ststephencaseyville.org](mailto:jeanne@ststephencaseyville.org)

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

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

## Parish Vision 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 live.



**MASS INTENTIONS****October 3 Sunday** Respect Life Sunday

9:00 a.m. Mass

*Steve and Camille Zuszutek**Tino and Mary Berutti***October 4 Monday** 8:00 a.m. Mass*Jack Little***October 5 Tuesday** 8:00 a.m. Mass*Sylvia Stamas***October 6 Wednesday** 6:30 p.m. Mass*Dawn Roush***October 7 Thursday** 8:00 a.m. Mass*Chuck Franke***October 10 Sunday** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m. Mass

*Faye Krause****We Live by Faith 2 Corinthians 5:7***

*Our Parish extends prayerful sympathy to the family of **Lillian Marie Wojcik August 29, 1939-September 17, 2021**, wife of John Wojcik. We ask God to grant eternal life and give strength and consolation to her family.*

**St. Francis of Assisi | Feast Day October 4**

*St. Francis of Assisi (1181 – 1226) left a life of luxury for a life devoted to Christianity after reportedly hearing the voice of God, who commanded him to rebuild the Christian church and live in poverty. He founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of St. Clare, the Third Order of St. Francis and the Custody of the Holy Land.*

*Born in 1181 in Italy, St. Francis of Assisi was renowned for drinking and partying as a youth. During a military expedition/battle between Assisi and Perugia, he was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison and began receiving visions from God. After his release from prison, St. Francis of Assisi claimed to have heard the voice of Christ, who told him to restore the Christian Church and live a Assisi abandoned his life of luxury and became a devotee of the Catholic faith. life of poverty. As a result, St. Francis of*

*Today, St. Francis of Assisi, known for his deep love of nature and animals, is the patron saint of the environment and animals. Each October, many animals are blessed on his feast day.*

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEP-ER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE****October 3, 2021****27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Archbishop Fulton Sheen said, "It takes three to make love, not two: you, your spouse, and God." Apart from the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, nothing speaks better of God's incarnate love than marriage. God designed it this way. We place great value on love and rightly so. What we fail to realize, however, is that love, its very presence and place in our lives, is not simply part of the human package deal. Love comes from God. It is one of God's greatest gifts to human beings. When we begin to realize that our very ability to love is sacred, it changes up how we see the essence of life, and purpose and sanctity of marriage.*

*God is love. It stands to reason then that if we follow the path of unconditional, self-emptying love we will then stumble upon God. It is precisely this intimate wedding of God with love that gives such eloquence and honor to the love between husband and wife. As a living sign of Christ's love for the Church and for humanity, husbands and wives speak volumes of God's unconditional incarnate love for all of his children! The Divine power that brings unity and life to marriage is so strong that once joined, it really cannot be separated.*

*Admittedly, marriage covenants can be extremely difficult to negotiate and, at times, very painful to experience. God's perfect divinity always meets our broken and imperfect humanity. God is okay with this setup as he created it this way. Our loving is never as unconditional as God's and often tainted by our own imperfections, needs, memories, hurts, sinfulness, and weakness. All of this baggage negatively impacts even the most well-intentioned marriages, causing them to be hurtful and empty. We are love works in progress. God can succeed in perfecting our love only if we keep our eyes fixed on him as the source of that love. That's why marriage is always about three and not just two.*

*The Divine intimacy at the heart of marriage is what can make them celebrations of great union and happiness. Couples who are still madly in love with each other after many years, still looking at each other with that timeless twinkle in their eyes, best tell the story of God's oneness with humanity. Honor, celebrate, and support those who have accepted a vocation to marriage. Living in a world that easily pulls relationships apart, may they find hope and inspiration from their faith companions who are on the same journey!*

*What a joyful feeling to see so many friendly faces working, eating, playing games and socializing at our Fall Festival! Thanks to all who worked tirelessly to help our picnic be successful. My perpetual thanks to everyone who donated cakes and worked in the cake booth selling tickets and running cakes. Your generosity is boundless! Special congrats to the Mitchells and the Bilski's for winning Kruta gift card. I am already anticipating an amazing festival next year.*

Anita

*Thanks to the fish booth crew-Sherry, Debbie, Chris, Don and Mike for helping make the Fall Festival a success.*

*You're the best!*

Pete and Maureen

### **St. Vincent de Paul Needs Your Help**

*With an ever-increasing number of people coming for assistance, the Belleville Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul **NEEDS YOUR HELP** once again in providing essentials to the poor they serve and supplies utilized in their ministry:*

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paper towels/toilet tissue  
ballpoint pens -- inexpensive*

*Items can be dropped off at:*

*St. Vincent de Paul Office  
8800 West Main Street, Belleville, Illinois 62223  
(across from Blessed Sacrament Church) Monday,  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.*

**MONTH**  
OF THE  
*Rosary*

### **PARISH FESTIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS**

*The parish festival was so successful due to the countless volunteers and sponsors who worked with such wonderful dedication and love together. I would like to take this opportunity to also thank our booth chairpersons for a job well done. Blessings, Fr. Harold*

### **STEWARDSHIP**

*The gospel this weekend has a couple of messages within the context of it. For now, the overwhelming message is about God's love for us. God has a desire for all of us to know Him and follow His ways. The children are mentioned again in this message. God wants every person to have the grace, opportunity, and relationship with him from the very moment our lives begin. The love of God is such a blessing and we, as his followers, should encourage and invite everyone to know Him. The conversation that Jesus has regarding divorce often seems complicated. Reflecting on the message it seems there may be several ways to understand it. I am struck by his words, "Because of your hardness of heart, he wrote you these commandments". I reflect on God's intention for us. To know and love Him and to extend His love and grace to others, even if we are challenged by their situation and wondering what God thinks of their life choices. Above all, we want to bring people to a place of knowing God, loving God, trusting God, and accepting His healing. Let us pray that we are the hands and feet of Christ, drawing others to the Father through His abundance love.*

### **VOCATION CORNER**

*Today's readings underscore the sanctity of marriage. This vocation is a call to live in personal holiness and is a commitment to getting your spouse to heaven. "God inscribed in the humanity of man and woman the vocation of love and communion. Love is therefore the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being." – St. John Paul II*

### **October 3<sup>rd</sup> Life Chain**

*If you are interested in attending the Life Chain, please go to pick up signs at the Hobby Lobby parking lot starting at 1:30 p.m. The life chain begins at 2:00 p.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. If you have not participated in the past, you may want to consider starting this year.*

*On this day, we consider more deeply why every human life is valuable and we reflect on how to build a culture that protects it. If you have questions about the life chain, please contact Dee at (618) 580-8756.*

*40 Days for Life runs from Wednesday September 22 through Sunday October 31. Please register for a peaceful prayer hour by going to [www.coalitionforlifestl.com](http://www.coalitionforlifestl.com) and sign up on the VIGIL CALENDAR or by calling*

*Coalition for Life at 314-827-4039. Yours prayers can save lives!*

**Respect Life**  
*Sunday*

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