

# SAINT STEPHEN

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



### The Epiphany of the Lord - January 2, 2022

#### **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday 5:15 p.m.  
Sunday 7:30, 9:30, 11:30am, 5:15pm  
Monday-Thursday 9am

#### **RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 3:30 to 4:30pm and by appointment

#### **ADORATION**

Most Thursdays after 9am mass  
Fridays at 6pm in early 2022:  
Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4

Rev. Henry Hoffman, Pastor  
Rev. Lourduraj Pitchai, O. Praem  
John DiTaranto, Deacon  
Donald Ross, Deacon

Lisa Romano, Secretary (203) 268-6217  
Nina Keane, Secretary (203) 268-6217  
Barbara Upton, Music (203) 258-9103

Faith Formation and Youth Ministry  
Janet Wrabel, (203) 268-6860  
ststephenfaithformation@gmail.com

David Ference, Finance Council Chair

St Stephen Parish Office  
6948 Main Street , Trumbull, CT 06611  
(203) 268-6217

[www.ststephenc.org](http://www.ststephenc.org)

9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday  
ststephenrectory@yahoo.com

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, January 1

9:00 AM Balagtas & Josef Families  
5:15 PM The People of St Stephen

## Sunday, January 2 (Epiphany of the Lord)

7:30 AM Emma Vayan Senes Family  
9:30 AM Helen Heines Fagan Family  
11:30 AM Fr. Henry Hoffman Installation  
5:15 PM Donald Baricko Family

## Monday, January 3

9:00 AM Richard Michel  
Margaret, Christine & Bob

## Tuesday, January 4

9:00 AM Helen O'Neill Family

## Wednesday, January 5

9:00 AM Timothy Conheeny Fran O'Neill

## Thursday, January 6

9:00 AM Deacon Kevin Moore Ellen Moore

## Friday, January 7

9:00 AM No Mass

## Saturday, January 8

5:15 PM Gina O'Neill Family

## Next Sunday, January 9 (Baptism of the Lord)

7:30 AM Penny Meyers Patty & David Ference  
9:30 AM Bob Keane Upton Family  
11:30 AM Armand & Josephine Lenotti Daughter  
5:15 PM The People of St Stephen

We will have a 9:00 am mass on  
January 1st for the  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.  
It is not a holy day of obligation this year.

### Readings for the week of January 02, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12  
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52  
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a  
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30  
Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



Saint Stephen



## Fellow St Stephen Parishioners:

We hear how, from the Gospels, an especially bright star leads the Magi or Three Kings or Wisemen to Bethlehem. These “Magi” were not of the Jewish Faith. They were astrologers who found their motivation and meaning in searching the stars and heavens.

And in seeing that one, singular, holy star and following it, they were led to Jesus himself.

In our day and age, after Jesus’s message has made its way over the past two-thousand years to all the ends of the earth, we need to pause and step back to realize the importance of the Magi being led to Jesus.

The religious leaders of Jesus’ day — the Scribes and Pharisees — believed themselves to be chosen people, to whom the Messiah would come.

But here we have some of the Scribes and Pharisees missing the birth of Jesus and subsequently aligning themselves against Jesus during his adult ministry.

Jesus is for everyone! All it takes is to be open to the reality that something very special had happened, did happen, is happening and will happen.

Because of the openness of the Magi — as opposed to the close-mindedness of some of the Scribes and Pharisees — it was these Magi who were led to witness the newborn baby Jesus.

During this Christmas season — yes the Christmas season continues into early-to-mid January — let us be open to whenever and wherever Jesus might be present.

So many people come up to me and express their concern at seeing what they see in the news, at the elements of polarization and division within parts of our nation.

Please know that, in Jesus’ time, his known world was even more divided than ours. But he came as a healer a unifier, preaching a message of loving one another.

Today, some two-thousand years later, Jesus is still our Savior, our unifier. In his birth, he brought the Magi, non-Jewish travelers from the East, to the holy city of Bethlehem, to give them an opportunity to worship him. In his adulthood, Jesus united Jew and Gentile.

As we begin a New Year, let us be fully open to what Jesus can accomplish in our world, if we all are a bit kinder, a bit more gentle, a bit more patient with others, and better listeners — all summed up in Jesus’ message of: love one another.

He is the Prince of Peace. He can bring about peace and unity. But he does not want to force it upon us. He wants us to cooperate in bringing it about, by loving one another.

Sincerely yours in the joy of the newborn Jesus,

Fr Henry

## Fellow St Stephen Parishioners:

As did many children of my age back in the 1960’s, I had an aquarium in my bedroom.

Although I really did care for the fish, I was stuck by how they did not show the same affection toward me.

Every time I approached the fish tank and my shadow loomed over the water, the fish darted about and dove for cover into the nearest shell.

Looking back on it, to my fish I was too big for them to comprehend!. My actions were too incomprehensible! They could not understand that it was for their own good that I approached the tank and at times had to stick my hand down into their water.

That was back then, when I was a little boy.

Now as an adult and a priest, I see something of what we experience when we come face to face with God’s omnipotence. God in all of his glory and power is too big for us to comprehend. His actions can at times be incompressible as well.

So some two thousand years ago, God chose to become one of us so that we could better understand him. He was born as the baby Jesus and grew up into the adult Jesus. This enables us to better understand God and his love for us.

Obviously, when I was a little boy, it was not possible for me to become a little fish and swim around in a fish tank so that the other fish could understand that I cared for them.

But some two thousand years ago, it was possible for the infinitely powerful God to become one of us, as a helpless little Baby, completely dependent on his parents. And so he did. And this was done so that we could better understand God’s love for us.

Sincerely yours,

Fr Henry



## Sacraments

### Baptism

Sundays at 12:45 p.m., by appointment  
Pre-Baptism Class is necessary for first child.  
Please call the rectory for an appointment.

### Marriage

Arrange with the priest at least 1 year  
in advance.

### Penance

Saturday 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

### Prayer Line

For special intentions call  
Agnes Lazor (203) 220-8043

**Hospital Visits.** If you or a family member are in the hospital, and you would like a visit from a priest. Please call the Parish office at 203-268-6217. You must also let the hospitals know that you are a member of St. Stephen Parish, since the priest does not have access to patient information.



We welcome our newest members of St. Stephen faith community who were newly baptized:

Isabella Grace Harris



## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Let us remember in our prayers the following parishioners and friends who are sick:

Therese Karr, Bernie Engelman, Peggy Lawler, Deborah Fredrickson, Sophie Buzzeo, Dolores Montelli, Mark Mahoney, John Kelnhofer, Rose DiMartino, Carol Moyer, Joseph Sheridan, Aiden Hutto, Steve Krehley, Deacon Joe Gagne, Kevin Maguire, Lori Cimeno, Patricia Forcier, Gene Orsenigo, Mitchell Yeoh, Ann Ianniello, Patricia Farrell, Joseph Tereira, Adriana Schanbusch, Anita Tynan, Mark King, Hugh Croll, Emmie B., Richard Turco, Ann Hamlin, Marian Nanchy, Marie Tedesco



We invite all interested families to attend our Open House on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 8:30 am. To register please go to <https://www.stcatherinesienatrumbull.org/apps/pages/visit-scscs> or our website, [stcatherinesienatrumbull.org](http://stcatherinesienatrumbull.org)). This Open House will provide an opportunity to meet and interact with teachers, administrators, and students and tour our beautiful campus located at 190 Shelton Road, Trumbull. Come to see for yourself what makes SCSS such a special place for your child. We hope to see you there!



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[www.sttheresachooltrumbull.org](http://www.sttheresachooltrumbull.org) and contact Mrs. Luciana Corsello, Admission Director, [lcorsello@stesonline.org](mailto:lcorsello@stesonline.org)



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Everyone has a vocation! To the married life, to religious life, to living out the Christian life as a single person in a counter-cultural society. Please ask Fr Henry, if you have any questions of any kind about any kind of vocation.

# PARISH NEWS

Sunday, January 2, 2022  
during the 11:30 am Mass

The Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano  
Bishop of Bridgeport

will install

**REV. HENRY J. HOFFMAN**  
PASTOR OF ST. STEPHEN CHURCH

Reception will follow in Church Hall



### Spiritual Direction Available

Spiritual direction is a space and place to unpack and notice, through conversations with a prayerful companion, personal encounters with the Jesus for whom each and every one of us matters. The very act of holy listening and sharing that occurs within spiritual direction sessions is an experience of Jesus meeting us and entering our life in the world, where we are, as we are.

People meet with a spiritual director for many reasons. Perhaps they want to grow in their relationship with God and are seeking guidance as to how to start their prayer lives or how to take their prayer lives deeper. Or maybe they are trying to discern an invitation from God to minister in some way. Or maybe they are in the middle of having to make a major life decision or transition. Perhaps they are experiencing some crisis of faith. No matter what draws someone to seek spiritual direction, the conversations between prayerful companions always lead back to the One who draws a person to seek spiritual companionship in the first place—the Living Spirit of God.

If you desire to “find God in all things”, Deacon Don Ross is available to be a prayerful companion on your journey to the fullness of life in Christ. Conversations can occur via Zoom, Google Meet, or in person. Deacon Ross is Certified as a Spiritual Director through Fairfield University’s Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality. He can be contacted at 203-948-1036 or [dnross@diobpt.org](mailto:dnross@diobpt.org).



Thursday mornings  
after 9am mass

First Friday Evenings  
in Early 2002  
at 6pm  
January 7  
February 4  
March 4

### St. Stephen’s Men’s Solidarity Group **No Ordinary Path**

On September 16, 2017, the St. Stephen’s Men’s Solidarity Group was founded.

The Men’s Group is an informal gathering that acknowledges God’s everyday presence among us. We work together in fellowship, develop community ministries, engage in meaningful discussions, pray in community, and generally have a good time.

Our journey begins with Matthew 25:40.

*“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these the least of my brothers of mine, you did for me.”*

Since founding, the Men’s Group has launched the following Community Ministries:

- Bi-weekly Men’s Group meetings, Monday evenings (7:00 pm) in the Parish Hall.
- Weekly Volunteer Service at the Trumbull and Monroe Food Pantries.
- Semi-annual Spring and Fall American Red Cross blood drives in the Parish Hall.
- Advent and Lent Spiritual Days of Prayer, Renewal and Reflection.
- Annual February Men’s Retreat at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center.
- Cleared a pathway and erected the Stations of the Cross in the woods behind the Church, accessible to all, anytime, for contemplative prayer and solitude.

### ***Why don’t you come join us?***

*“So could you not keep watch with me for one hour?” Matthew 26:40*

- The following ministries, discontinued due to Covid-19, hope to resume in the future.
- Monthly Sunday Eucharistic Prayer Service at Middlebrook Nursing Home.
- Monthly Friday Shabbat Ecumenical Prayer at B’nai Torah.
- Weekly Sunday evening Eucharistic Prayer Service at the Bridgeport Detention Center.

*“The only way for us to give witness is...to be what we are in the midst of everyday banal realities.” Fr. Christian de Cherge, Trappist Monk / Martyr - (d. 1996).*



**Mrs. Janet Wrabel**  
 (203) 268-6860 (Office) or (203) 913-4393 (Cell)  
 ststephenfaithformation@gmail.com

**Faith Formation**  
 Are you interested in registering your child(ren) for the 2021-2022 school year and are thinking it's too late? It's not! Please contact Janet Wrabel for more information.

Many thanks to the families who have provided gifts for the children of St. George Parish in Bridgeport. 48 beautifully wrapped gifts were delivered to St. George on Tuesday.

**St. George Nativity**



During the Confirmation Session on Monday, December 20th we talked about bringing the true meaning of Christmas to our family, friends and strangers. How do we do this without words? The following was shared by the high school students in the session:

- Attend Christmas Mass with our family
- Give to strangers
- Pray before meals especially at Christmas
- Volunteer time to those in need
- Avoid using "xmas" - don't X Christ out of Christmas
- Set up a nativity
- Spend time with family

The love of Christ flowed from the hands of the 9th and 10th grade students who are preparing for Confirmation to the residents of Spring Meadows Senior Community through the decorating of ornaments and also Christmas cards.



**FAITH FORMATION**

**VBS 2022 (Vacation Bible School):** Seeking adults who have an interest in making VBS happen at our parish during the Summer of 2022. Come to a meeting on **Wednesday, January 5 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall** to begin the discussion and planning for **VBS 2022**. Teens will be invited at a later date to be a part of the VBS 2022 team. Adults, please let Janet Wrabel know if you are interested in being a part of this very exciting and much needed committee; and also, if you will be attending the meeting on January 5 at 7 p.m..

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

Seeking high school students who are interested in being a member of the **Youth Ministry Advisory Board**. You will have a voice in the planning and also help coordinate service, spiritual and social activities involving the middle school and high school youth of St. Stephen Parish. If you are interested in this leadership role please come to the **Youth Ministry Advisory Board Meeting on Sunday, January 9th in the parish hall following the 5:15 p.m. Mass**. Please RSVP to Mrs. Wrabel if you will be attending so enough pizza will be ordered.

**Family Mass - Sunday, January 9 - 9:30 a.m.**

Readers for the Mass will be the Wich Family. Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D48AFA828ABF58-family11> to sign up to help with the Mass. After Mass come to the parish hall for refreshments and also to participate in our **CARD MINISTRY**. We will make **GET WELL CARDS** to share with our parishioners throughout the year.

**WOMEN OF ST. STEPHEN**

The next "Coffee And" sponsored by the Women of St. Stephen will be on **January 9th after all morning masses**.

The Women of St. Stephen have there next monthly meeting on **Tuesday, January 11th in the parish hall at 12noon**.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Women of St. Stephen Holiday Dinner**

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** at **Roberto's Restaurant, Route 25, Monroe, CT.**

Meal Choice -	Chicken Parmigiana -	\$29.00
	Stuffed Sole Florentine -	\$30.00
	Veal Marsala -	\$32.00

Pasta, salad, ice cream, coffee included.

Checks should be made out to **St. Stephen Church** with dinner choice and mailed to:

**Pat Fisher, 15 Dunellen Rd., Trumbull, CT., 06611**  
**203-261-9346.**

Please send check in by **January 12<sup>th</sup>**.



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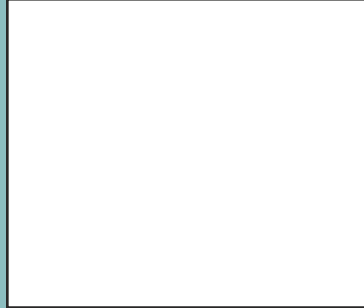



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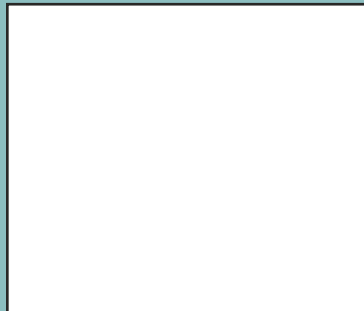

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