

SAINT STEPHEN

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 16, 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:
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

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 15

5:15 PM Juan Lopez Ann Hamlin & Family

Sunday, January 16 (2nd Sunday)

7:30 AM Eleanor Gentile Senes Family

9:30 AM Robert Keane Pat & Gerri Cooney

11:30 AM Sandra Cappello Giampaolo Family

5:15 PM The People of St Stephen

Monday, January 17

9:00 AM Victor Meskhishvili
Natalia Meskhishvili

Tuesday, January 18

9:00 AM All Souls

Wednesday, January 19

9:00 AM Vocations

Thursday, January 20

9:00 AM Bob Perlinger Upton Family

Friday, January 21

9:00 AM Samuel & Carmella Tomatore Family

Saturday, January 22

5:15 PM Vincent Nemergut Family

Next Sunday, January 23 (3rd Sunday)

7:30 AM The People of St Stephen

9:30 AM Bob, Connie & Gary Romano Family

11:30 AM Mary & Stephen Perdjal Family

5:15 PM Donald Baricko & Caroline DeLucia
Family



Readings for the week of January 16, 2022

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21

Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21



Saint Stephen

St Stephen Annual Offertory

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude to the 158 families who have contributed \$29,235 so generously to our St Stephen Annual Offertory. I ask if the remaining families would prayerfully consider what they might be able to add toward our goal of \$55,000.



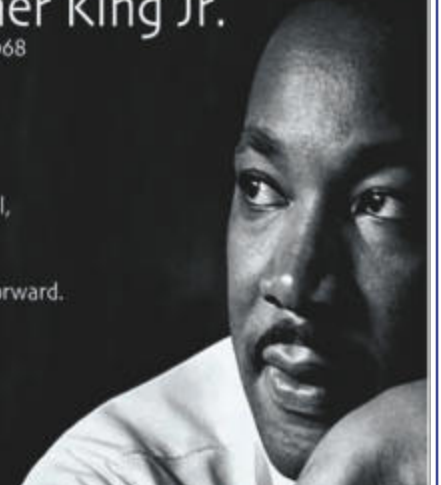
Parish Office will be closed Monday, January 17, 2022 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Martin Luther King Jr.

January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968

If you can't fly, then run,
if you can't run, then walk,
if you can't walk, then crawl,
but whatever you do,
you have to keep moving forward.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



Think Small

About sixty years ago, an ad campaign for the VW Beetle read simply: Think Small. About a hundred years before that, Robert Browning penned the phrase “less is more” in a poem, and the phrase has since been quoted numerous times up until today.

Think Small. Less Is More. I find that these phrases can offer great guidance in our lives, both with our New Year’s Resolutions in general, as well as with our prayer life specifically.

In late December, some of you came to me individually, to share your desire to add more private prayer to your life, as your New Year’s resolution. Since others may have considered the same New Year’s resolution, what follows is my advice.

I have spent decades in spiritual direction myself. I have led others over the past decades in their own private spiritual direction. One thing that seems to be consistent is that we tend to set our goals for private prayer unrealistically high. And when we cannot attain these goals, rather than reducing our goals, we abandon them altogether.

So I have come up with the following solution that gives us a far better chance of sticking to our prayer goal throughout the coming year, rather than abandoning it within a week or two.

Think small! Less is more! Consider your busiest day of the year and estimate how much time you could spend in prayer during that day. Five minutes, ten minutes. And let that be your goal. Consider your busiest week of the year and estimate how many days of the week you could add some prayer time. Only on Saturday. Or Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Think small! Less is more! Consider your busiest day of the year. Consider your busiest week of the year. And let that dictate what you decide for your New Year’s Resolution.

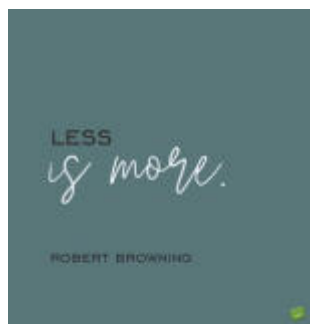
It would be wonderful to commit to saying ten Hail Mary’s three days a week and doing so for the rest of the year. It would be foolish to commit to saying every day all twenty mysteries of the Rosary and two hundred Hail Mary’s every day and abandoning your New Year’s Resolution shortly after you began.

It is far better to choose a small New Year’s Resolution and carry it out throughout the entire year, than to choose an unrealistically high goal and fail and abandon it altogether shortly after you began.

Five minutes of spiritual reading. Ten Hail Mary’s. Two minutes of closed-eye mindfulness silent prayer. That is sustainable! That you can continue throughout the year.

Think small! Less is more!

Yours in Christ,



Fellow St Stephen Parishioners:

Anton Chekhov wrote a very short, emotional masterpiece of Russian fiction entitled “Misery,” in which a man cannot find anyone who will listen to what he desperately wishes to share. The story ends with the man resorting to sharing what is on his mind and in his heart, with his horse.

Hopefully, we do have one or more special people in our lives with whom we can share. But let us not forget to also take our deepest feelings and share them with God, in prayer.

Yet, easier said than done. I have found that so many of us are reluctant to take our deepest feelings and share them with God, especially if they are ones of sadness or grief. Either we want to only share the good in our lives with an eternal God who is pure Spirit. Or we fear that God might not listen to our woes because he is busy listening to people who have greater woes.

Let us not forget that Jesus was no stranger to woes himself. Biblical trivia: what is the shortest verse of the Bible? John 11:35: “Jesus wept.” Jesus himself was saddened to the point of weeping, at the death of his friend Lazarus. So, although God is, yes, eternal and pure Spirit, Jesus as God did weep at the death of a friend, as well as die himself. So Jesus knows!

Furthermore, as omnipotent, God is not limited. We are limited, but God is not limited. We can only listen to so many people at a time, and over time we hit overload and cannot listen to anymore. God has no such limits. God can listen to all of us simultaneously and hear all of us.

With that in mind, let us hear our Holy Father’s recent words.

Pope Francis recently pointed out in response to how we sometimes keep our distance from God. “But God wishes to be incarnate,” he said, urging us to overcome our fears by drawing near to Jesus. Recalling the Christmas message of last month, the Holy Father calls us to “think of the stable in Bethlehem. Jesus was born there, in that poverty, to tell us that He is certainly not afraid of visiting your heart, of dwelling in a shabby life.”

Pope Francis went on to call on all Christians to make space for Jesus in our hearts. God is there in the midst of all the situations of our daily lives, waiting for us to speak with Him about them. Therefore, “let us invite Him officially into our lives, especially in the dark areas... into our ‘inner stables’”. And let us also tell Him, without fear, about the problems of our time, even our personal, difficult problems: God loves to dwell among us.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,
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.

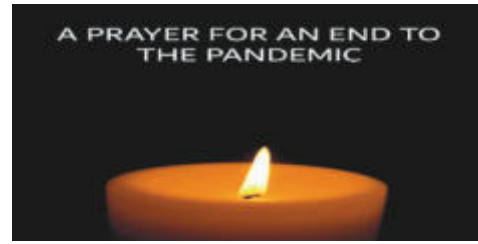
Penance

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

Prayer Line

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

Fr Henry Tested Positive for Covid



On Friday morning (Jan 7, 2022), my throat was bothering me. So I went to the doctor first thing and they gave me a strep test which turned out negative. So they decided to give me a COVID test which turned out positive. Since then I have been quarantining in isolation. Although I am feeling relatively fine — owing to my having been previously vaccinated, the symptoms are mild, merely a sore throat — I am still required to avoid saying public masses until Monday January 18.

But not to worry! The Deacons and Staff and Lay Leadership have done a great job taking care of everything. I am grateful to be part of a team that is so capable and willing! What great Deacons we have! What great Lay Leadership we have! And what a great staff in Barbara and Janet and Lisa and Nina!

And what great Parishiers you are! I am grateful to the generosity of those of you who left me numerous bags of goodies outside the door to the rectory to keep me nourished! Owing to my isolation, I have some time to catch up on my spiritual reading, to nourish me spiritually, and you are keeping me nourished in body with the meals you are leaving for me.

On a serious note, I look forward to getting back to saying mass publicly again, when I can say that I miss you, and hopefully you will say that you missed me as well. On the lighter side, hopefully nobody will say, instead of how they missed me... “Oh, Fr Henry, I did not even notice that you were gone.” Lots of laughs.

Looking forward to seeing you later this month,
Fr Henry

Parishioners Dropping Off Soup For Fr Henry



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:

Addison Grace Pessy



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, Russell Arsenaault, Jr., Abigail Jackson



PARISH NEWS

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Thursday Mornings
after 9am mass

First Friday Evenings
In early 2022
at 6pm
February 4
March 4

January 22, 2022

DAY OF PRAYER

for the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children

Spiritual Direction

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 dross@diobpt.org.



Baptism of the Lord - (2022) - \$3772.00



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.

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-sscs> or our website, 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!

St Theresa School, Trumbull
 Looking for more out of your child's education? St Theresa School is dedicated to excellence in education. Our Catholic classical liberal arts curriculum promotes critical thinking and virtuous living. Our curriculum fosters lifelong learning and awakens wonder and awe. Our educators nurture the moral imagination and cultivate a learning environment of academic rigor. For more information check out our website at www.sttheresachooltrumbull.org and contact Mrs. Luciana Corsello, Admission Director, lcorsello@stesonline.org

At **St. Joseph High School**, we help young men and women make the most of their high school experience. So much more than typical college prep, St Joes prepares students to meet the challenges of the collegiate world and beyond through an experiential education that starts with aspirational academics and grows between the textbooks and the classrooms; between students and faculty mentors; between the locker room and the field; between faith, friendships, and family. Rolling Admission for the Class of 2026, and Transfer Admission is happening now! Apply or schedule a visit at www.sjcadets.org.



Contribution Statements
 Contribution statements will be mailed to all parishioners who have contributed \$250.00 or more to the parish in 2021. Statements will be mailed out within the next couple of weeks. If you do not receive a statement, please call the parish office and a copy will be provided for you.

YOUTH MINISTRY



FUNDRAISER sponsored by Youth Ministry of St. Stephen

Saturday & Sunday, February 5 & 6, 2022
 Youth will be standing at all church entrances after all Masses to collect cash or check donations.
(CHECK: Payable to St. Stephen Church - Memo Line - Souper Bowl). You can also mail in your donation: St. Stephen Church, Attn: Janet Wrabel, 6948 Main Street, Trumbull, CT 06611.

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:
"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since then, more than **\$170 million** has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring by youth. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

Through this mission, people learn they can make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money, and serve at hunger-relief charities and show caring and compassion in local communities across the country.

Share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously to the Souper Bowl of Caring Collection sponsored by St. Stephen Youth Ministry. Monies collected will be used to purchase turkey, cheese, bread and supplies for the monthly sandwich making prepared by the youth of St. Stephen.

THE THOMAS MERTON CENTER was founded in 1974 by a group of concerned individuals who saw a need for services to the economically disadvantaged people in the city of Bridgeport. As the times have changed and the needs of the people served have changed, Merton House has developed programs to address issues such as housing, nutritional needs, healthcare needs, parenting issues and youth at risk. The Thomas Merton House of Hospitality provides breakfast, lunch, and day shelter to approximately 210 people each day Monday through Saturday and serves about 85,000 meals a year.

The youth of St. Stephen are planning to provide 2,400 sandwiches over the next 12 months to the Merton House Soup Kitchen. It's only with the generosity of the people of St. Stephen that this can be accomplished! Thank you in advance for supporting this important ministry of the youth of St. Stephen Parish.

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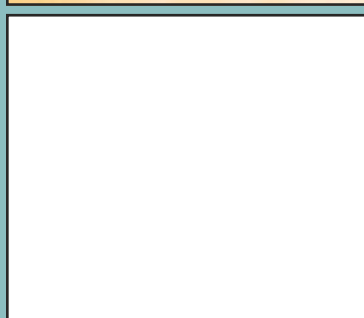
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Dona Wassell, Parishioner

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