

# SAINT STEPHEN

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



### The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 23, 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](http://www.ststephenc.org)

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

# Mass Intentions

## Saturday, January 22

5:15 PM Vincent Nemergut Family

## 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

## Monday, January 24

9:00 AM All Souls

## Tuesday, January 25

9:00 AM Vocations

## Wednesday, January 26

9:00 AM Ilene Ianniello Family

## Thursday, January 27

9:00 AM Souls in Purgatory

## Friday, January 28

9:00 AM No Mass

## Saturday, January 29

5:15 PM Rose & Daniel Alisuskas  
 PanicciaFamily

## Next Sunday, January 30 (4th Sunday)

7:30 AM Richard Kardos Ray & Sue Senes  
 9:30 AM Michael & Margaret Wartko  
 Corsino Family  
 11:30 AM James J. LeDonne & Susan Coyle Family  
 5:15 PM The People of St Stephen



### Readings for the week of January 23, 2022

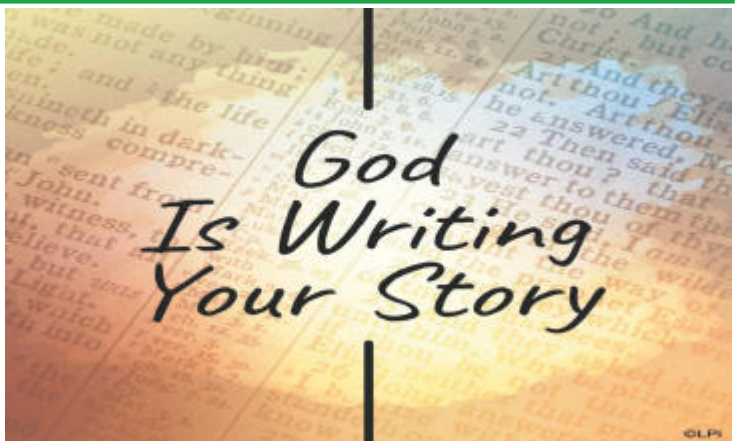
Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21  
 Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30  
 Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117: 1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18  
 Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20  
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25  
 Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34  
 Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41  
 Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30



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.



### 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.



## New Year's Resolutions

Fellow St Stephen Parishioners:

Many of you have been sharing with me your New Year's Resolutions and some of them are common among you. Eat healthy, get outside and walk more, read some good books, connect with family, lose those covid pounds, etc.

All very noble choices.

And allow me to add a New Year's Resolution that can add to our spiritual growth. Resolving to spend at least a few minutes in prayer each day. It does not need to be complicated. I know that we all lead very busy lives. Only a few minutes each day, to offer a simple, upward glance, a heartfelt 'thank you,' a simple request, or a few minutes in silent meditation.

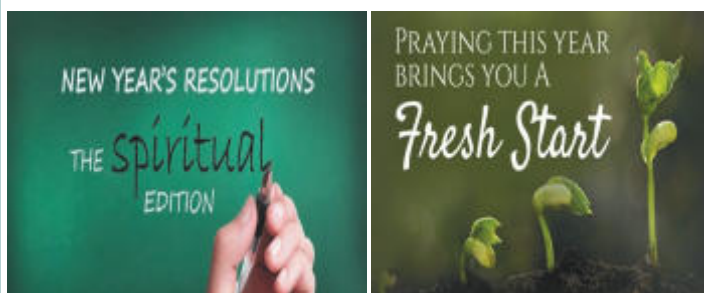
I have found that the demands of our lives loudly remind us to give our time to them. I have found that the people in our lives call for us to give our attention to them. And I have found that God waits and waits and waits and waits, until we choose to give some time to him.

And then when we regularly give that few minutes per day to God, God responds. God works in our lives. He reveals the love that he has for us.

And, oh, how do our lives change when we finally accept and embrace the all encompassing, unconditional love that He has for each of us. Let us foster and cherish our relationship with God, Our Father.

Let us end with a quotation from Ruth Burrows, OCD, a Carmelite Nun who resides in England. She has written several books about prayer, including *Essence of Prayer*. "Prayer. We take the word for granted but ought we to do so? What do we mean by prayer? What does the word mean in the Christian context? Almost always when we talk about prayer we are thinking of something *we* do and, from that standpoint, questions, problems, confusion, discouragement, illusions multiply. For me, it is of fundamental importance to correct this view. Our Christian knowledge assures us that prayer is essentially what *God* does, how God addresses us, looks at us. It is not primarily something we are doing to God, something we are giving to God but what God is doing for us. And what God is doing for us is giving us the divine Self in love."

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr Henry



Fellow St Stephen Parishioners:

Once in a while you hear something that resonates deeply with you and causes you to pause and reflect. This is one such story. I wanted to share it with you because in the midst of all that is going on in our world today with our many struggles and challenges, let us remember the precious gifts that we have:

A wise woman who was traveling in the mountains found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveler who was hungry. The wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveler saw the precious stone in her bag and asked the woman to give it to him. She did so without hesitation. The traveler left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew that the stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime. But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman.

"I've been thinking," he said, "I know how valuable the stone is, but I gave it back in the hope that you can give me something even more precious. Give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me that stone."

One would think that the man would be pleased to get that precious stone, but he realized that the woman who so generously gave it to me had something far more precious. It reminds me of Jesus' Beatitudes when He says, 'Blessed are the poor, the suffering, the persecuted.' By earthly standards, these people are not blessed at all, but in God's heavenly kingdom, they are. Perhaps Jesus was telling them that they possess something far more precious than valuable earthly 'stones.'

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**

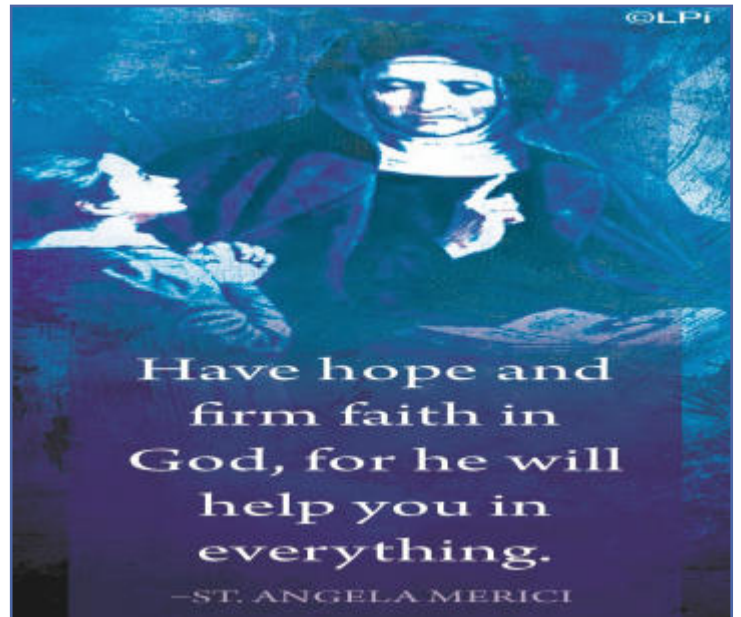
Arrange with the priest at least 1 year  
in advance.

### **Penance**

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

### **Prayer Line**

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



**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:

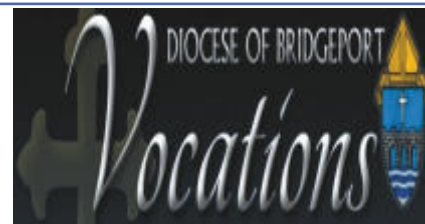
Kylie Jane Solanch



### **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



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.

### **Pray for our Recently Deceased Parishioner...**

**Please pray for those who have gone home to the Lord...**

**Bernardine Butcaris**

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to their loved ones.**

### **DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT** **Office of Safe Environments**

**ALL VOLUNTEERS** in the Diocese of Bridgeport are required to comply with the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy. Part of this policy is attending the program, Protecting God's Children/Virtus and also keeping up with all Re-certifications and the new Safe Environment 2020 Handbook. If you wish to help in any way within the parish or Diocese, please register at <http://www.virtusonline.org/> or <https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/safe-environments/safe-environment-for-parents-and-children/> or contact the Parish Office at (203) 268-6217 or [ststephenrectory@yahoo.com](mailto:ststephenrectory@yahoo.com).

Thank you



# PARISH NEWS

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Thursday Mornings  
after 9am mass

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



### 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).



Second Sunday - (2022) - \$5074.00



### 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.

**Family Mass**

**Sunday, February 13th - 9:30 a.m.**

After Mass come to the parish hall for refreshments and also to participate in our **CARD MINISTRY**. We will make **VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS** to share with the residents at Spring Meadows.



**Merton House Sandwich Making**  
**Sunday, January 23, 2022 - 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
 We have been asked if we would be able to supply sandwiches for the clients of the Merton House on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month instead of the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday which we have done for many, many years. The need is greater on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.  
 Middle School and High School Students – your help is needed to make the sandwiches.  
 Adults – Virtus Trained Adults – you are needed too. This cannot happen without Virtus Trained Adults!  
 (If you would like to attend a Virtus Session, please contact Janet Wrabel for more details.)  
**Merton House – Sandwich Delivery – Monday, January 24, 2022**  
 Seeking 2 adults to deliver the sandwiches. Pick up from St. Stephen at 9:30 a.m.  
 (Will need adults to serve lunch too beginning February 28<sup>th</sup>.)

**To sign up for Sunday and/or Monday click on the following link:**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D48AFA828ABF58-merton2> or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup>; Search for a Sign Up Genius by creator's email; type in [ststephen-faithformation@gmail.com](mailto:ststephen-faithformation@gmail.com)  
 You can also contact Janet Wrabel directly at 203-913-4393

**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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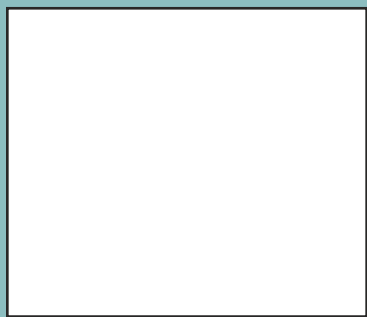
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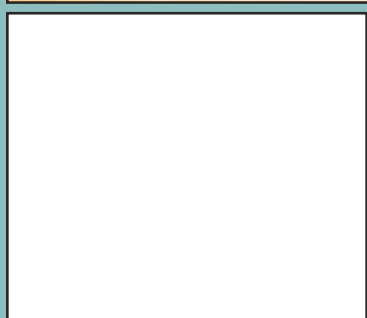
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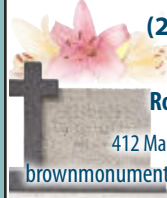
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Dona Wassell, Parishioner

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