

SAINT STEPHEN

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 30, 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 29

5:15 PM Rose & Daniel Alisuskas
PaniciaFamily

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

Monday, January 31

9:00 AM Eugene Seifert Seifert Family

Tuesday, February 1

9:00 AM Felix Lemone Mary Louise Lemone

Wednesday, February 2

9:00 AM Joan Carlson Gail Doyle

Thursday, February 3

9:00 AM Michael Derivan, Sr. Jim Derivan

Friday, February 4

9:00 AM Ann Toronto & Beatrice Mastronardi
Anne

Saturday, February 5

5:15 PM Vincent Nemergut Family

Next Sunday, February 6 (5th Sunday)

7:30 AM Frank Agostino
John & Caroline Agostino
9:30 AM Marguerite Golden
James & Robin Wasenius
11:30 AM Edward A. Colohan Bob & Nina Keane
5:15 PM The People of St Stephen



Readings for the week of January 30, 2022

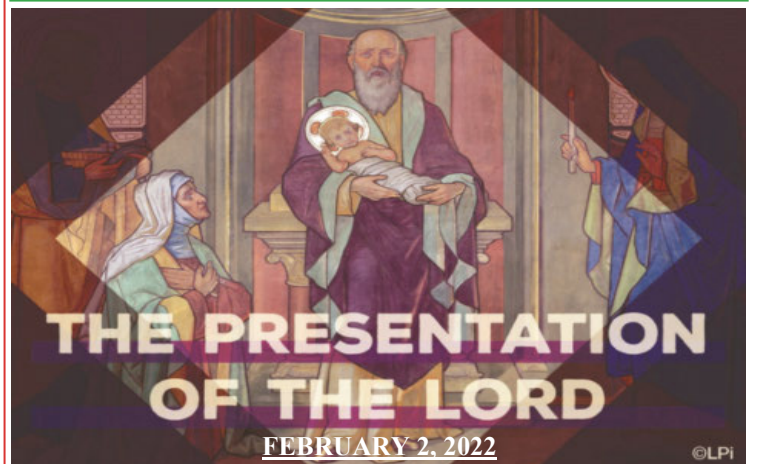
Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30
Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 [1c]/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11



Saint Stephen

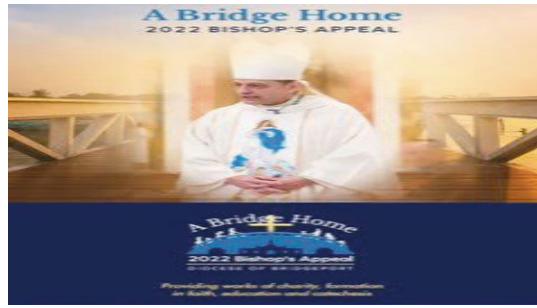
St Stephen Annual Offertory

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude to the 165 families who have contributed \$30,065 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 were mailed to all parishioners who have contributed \$250.00 or more to the parish in 2021. If you do not receive a statement, please call the parish office and a copy will be provided for you. Thank you!



Annual Bishop's Appeal

My Dear Friends in Christ,

“A Bridge Home” is the theme of the 2022 Bishop's Appeal, formerly called the Annual Catholic Appeal, and it highlights hope, renewal and evangelization in our diocese. The Appeal invests in services that continue to engage those in their faith and build a strong bridge to so many who are struggling. Now it is more important than ever to reunite our Church, affirm our faithful and welcome others back.

I am grateful for your support this past year as we continue to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic and we once again gather within our parishes, homes and communities. This is possible because of your faith and generosity.

The Diocese of Bridgeport has a long tradition of providing programs that serve those in need and prepare for the future of our Catholic faith. This year's Appeal goal is \$8.1 million and remains unchanged from last year.

I personally invite you to join with me in making a gift and building “A Bridge Home,” one living stone at a time. We have been through much together as a family in faith, and we have much to look forward to because we are a people of hope.

I pray for God's blessings on you and your family. Faithfully in Christ,
Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano

Where Gifts To The Annual Bishop's Appeal Are Directed

TO TEACH AND PREACH THE GOSPEL
Institute of Catholic Formation
Faith Formation of Youth
Formation of Seminarians
Formation of Deacons

BUILDING “BRIDGES OF FAITH” AND SERVING THE POOR
Catholic Charities
St. Catherine Center for Special Needs
Pastoral Care of the Sick and Elderly

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH
Support of Retired Priests
Donation to the Seton Collaborative
Campus Ministry and Young Adult Support
Strategic and Pastoral Planning
“The Bridge” Center for Young Adult Entrepreneurship
Institute for Catholic Culture

Fellow St Stephen Parishioners:

I ask you prayerfully consider supporting the work of the Annual Bishop's Appeal.

The Bishop's Appeal funds a broad range of essential ministries, programs and agencies that deliver pastoral care and human services where they are most needed.

Every gift is an opportunity for us to come together as a family of faith to support diocesan-sponsored programs that no single parish can provide on its own.

Our parish goal is \$78,600. And for every dollar that we go over goal, fifty-percent stays in our parish, and fifty percent of the overage goes to support the homeless in Bridgeport through OFF THE STREETS.

Some of the things that the Appeal supports:

The Institute for Catholic Formation provides learning opportunities for those who serve in ministry and education

For more than a century, Catholic Charities has put faith into action by empowering the needy and vulnerable of all faiths through nutrition, housing and counseling programs

“The Bridge” Center for Young Adult Entrepreneurship provides resources and mentorship to young adults for growth in their Catholic Faith, while making an impact on their local communities

Please visit the Diocesan website:
<http://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/aca/home/>

Or find one of the brochures in our church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr Henry Hoffman

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

WOMEN OF ST. STEPHEN



St. Valentine's Day Bake Sale



February 12th & 13th
Lower Church after all masses
Lots of delicious sweets
for everyone!

Sponsored by the Women of St. Stephen

The next Women of St. Stephen meeting will be on
February 8th @ 12 noon in the parish hall with plenty
of social distancing and please wear a mask. Thank
you in advance. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

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 mem-
ber 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:

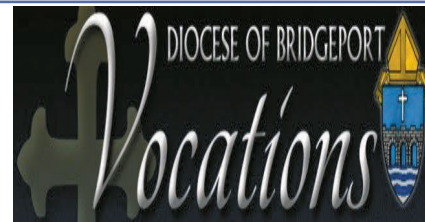
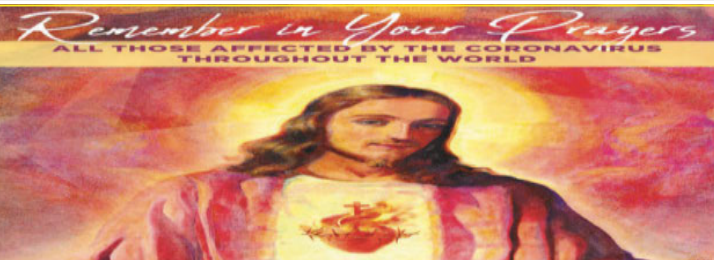
Carter Atilho
Conor Starkey



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 Ma-
honey, John Kelnhofer, Rose DiMartino, Carol Moyer, Jo-
seph Sheridan, Aiden Hutto, Steve Krehley, Deacon Joe
Gagne, Kevin Maguire, Lori Cimeno, Patricia Forcier, Gene
Orsenigo, Mitchell Yeoh, Ann Ianniello, Patricia Farrell, Jo-
seph Tereira, Adriana Schanbusch, Anita Tynan, Mark King,
Hugh Croll, Emmie B., Richard Turco, Ann Hamlin, Marian
Nanchy, Marie Tedesco, Russell Arsenaault, Jr., Abigail Jack-
son, Joseph & Annette O'Neill.



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...

Michael Derivan, Sr.
Jose Rodrigues
Ann Hamlin



Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and may perpetu-
al light shine upon them. We extend our heartfelt sym-

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, Pro-
tecting 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 par-
ish or Diocese, please register at [http://
www.virtusonline.org/](http://www.virtusonline.org/) or [https://
www.bridgeportdiocese.org/safe-environments/safe-
environment-for-parents-and-children/](https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/safe-environments/safe-environment-for-parents-and-children/) or contact the Par-
ish Office at (203) 268-6217 or
ststephenrectory@yahoo.com.

Thank you

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.

Try It, You’ll Like It

Recently, Father Henry recalled the “Think Small” Volkswagen ad of about 60 years ago and suggested we apply its message to our prayer lives. In a trip down Memory Lane begun by his article, I recalled an Alka Seltzer ad from about 50 years ago: “Try it. You’ll like it”.

On those days when you need to take some spiritual Alka Seltzer, try the three S’s of prayer: Make it *Short*. Make it *Simple*. Make it *Sincere*. Never fails.

Try it. You’ll like it.

Deacon Don Ross



Third Sunday - (2022) - \$3408.00
Church in Latin America - (2022) - \$667.00



**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, February 27, 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 4th Monday of each month instead of the 1st Monday which we have done for many, many years. The need is greater on the 4th 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, February 28, 2022
 Seeking 4 adults to serve lunch at Merton House. We will meet at St. Stephen at 9:30 a.m. and return at 1:30 p.m.
 Contact Janet Wrabel to sign up at 203-913-4393.

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
 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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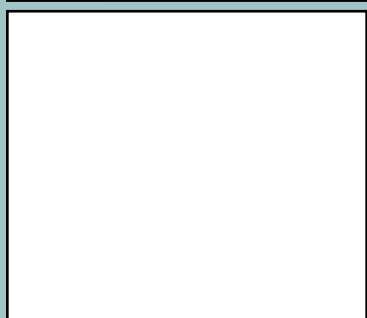
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Dona Wassell, Parishioner

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