



# **PRIESTS**

Rev. Wilfred Yinah, VC ParochialAdministrator

frwilfred@ststevensaz.org

Fr. Joe Karikunnel CST Parochial Vicar joekarikunnel@gmail.com

**DEACON** Dcn. David Runyan deacondavid @ststevensaz.org

# **STAFF**

Debbie Eastman Parish Manager Debbie@ststevensaz.org

Yadi De La Torre Catechetical Coord.

Yadira@ststevensaz.org

**Andrew Gaitan** Audio/Video

Andrew@ststevensaz.org

Catherine Poquette **Music Coordinator** Catherine@ststevensaz.org

**Donna Markopoulos** Admin. Assistant/Receptionist

Donna@ststevensaz.org

Tom Juran Maintenance

mrtom@ststevensaz.org

**Don Young** Maintenance

Donald@ststevensaz.org

OFFICE HOURS: MON - THURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm FRI 8:30 am - 2:00 pm GIFT SHOP: Mon - Thurs 8:30am - 4:30, Fri 8:30am - 2pm SAT/SUN(before & after mass) CLOSED 12 noon - 1pm

# 1st Sunday of Advent Year B

Reflection on the Readings

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and of a new liturgical calendar, year B. Remarkably, as we begin a new liturgical year today, we move from the gospel according to Matthew's to the gospel according to Mark, the shortest of the four canonical Gospels.

Advent is a season of hope and a period during which as Christians we await the fulfillment of the promise of God through his prophets. In addition to being a season of hope, it is equally a season of patience and prayer. During these four weeks, what are we expected to do? We are expected to prepare for the birth of the messiah. It suffices to note that while we prepare physically, the most important must be the spiritual preparation.

Our first reading from Isaiah is both a prophetic message, as well as a prayer of hope. Isaiah begins by acknowledging the greatness of God: "O Lord you are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name..." Then, he makes a petition to God: "Why leave us to stray from your ways...Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down...?"

This is a prayer of hope. As Isaiah rightly demanded, God will not keep silent until we are saved. That salvation is what our hope in Christ will accomplish for us. Therefore, when Isaiah asks God to tear the heavens and come down, he expects God to come guickly.

This is Our Lord's prayer, "...Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven." It is also Paul's petition, "Maranatha!" It is the cry of the Spirit and the Bride: "Come, Lord Jesus" (CCC 2817). God's power and salvation is what we hope to see at the end of this season. That is, when God's word would become flesh and born of a virgin.

In our second reading, Paul encourages us to be faithful as we wait for the coming of Christ. Though Paul was referring to the Parousia, yet this reading is very appropriate to this season of Advent. Paul reminds us that we have received the gifts of the Spirit. It is these gifts of the Spirit that will strengthen us as we wait in joyful hope for Christ.

Our life is a long vigil, waiting for the Lord to be revealed in all his glory. So, we wait with expectation and joyful hope because His Spirit is with us. If we walk with him this season, God will not fail us because: "our expectation shall not be cut short" (Pr 23, 18). So, as the Spirit guides us, we must prepare prayerfully, through the help of the Sacraments. This is especially through the sacrament of reconciliation.

The gospel of today is a clarion call to be awake and alert. Only the Spirit of God can help us do this faithfully. Therefore, rather than obey the spirit of this world this season, we must obey the Spirit of God, who sustains us. So, let us have our minds fixed on him.

It suffices to note that if we light up our houses and streets, without lightening up our lives spiritually for Christ to walk into it; if we prepare all things and places without preparing a manger for baby Jesus in our lives then, our preparation would not be complete.

Finally, as we eagerly anticipate the coming of the Lord this season, our hope and expectation should prompt us to be always awake and vigilant. It should make us prepare adequately in order to avail ourselves of Jesus' mercy. Therefore, our constant prayer during this season as Paul constantly prayed should be: "Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!" Peace be with you all!

Fr Wilfred Yinah, VC

# Immaculate Conception December 8

# HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY—MASS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 8:00AM

PLEASE JOIN US AFTER EVERY TUESDAY MORNING MASS FOR DONUTS AND COFFEE IN THE COURTYARD. A WONDERFUL WAY TO MEET AND SPEND TIME TOGETHER WITH FELLOW PARISHIONERS.





Christ is calling you to share the Good News with others! Bishop Dolan's "Christ in Our Neighborhood" is a proven parish program designed to do just that. It will give you the opportunity to grow in your faith and connect with others. Small groups of 10 or fewer people meet once a week for one hour to pray over and discuss the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. All materials are free and participating in a group is easy! Learn more at dphx.org/ Christ-in-our-neighborhood. Come find out how YOU can respond to Christ's call. For further information, please contact Dan Fannin at 253-229-7877.

Online giving is available at St. Steven's Parish through WeShare



If you would prefer not to receive weekly or monthly envelopes and donate online instead, it's simple and easy to sign-up for online giving.

Follow the link on the St Steven's website to learn more about online giving:

Give (wesharegiving.org)

Donation support call 1-877-316-0260,

questions 480-895-9266 Regardless of how you choose to give, thank you for your generosity. Your support not only makes a difference within our own parish, but also throughout the diocese.

# MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays 8:00am Saturday 4:00 pm Sunday 8:00am & 10:00am

# ADORATION CHAPEL

Mon - Thurs 8:30 am - 4:00 pm Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

# **CONFESSION**

Saturday 2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

# MASS INTENTIONS & CELEBRANTS Dec 2nd—Dec 10th

12/2/2023	Saturday	4:00pm	(D) Susan Carew	Fr. Wilfred
12/3/2023	Sunday	8:00am	(D) Adeline Belanger	Fr. Joe
		10:00am	(SI) Martha Otondo	Fr. Wilfred
12/4/2023	Monday	8:00am	(D) Richard Sporleder	Fr. Joe
12/5/2023	Tuesday	8:00am	(D) Lester Bill Barnes	Fr. Wilfred
12/6/2023	Wednesday	8:00am	(SI) Doerhoff & Laska Families	Fr. Joe
12/7/2023	Thursday	8:00am	(SI) Niederkorn Family	Fr. Wilfred
12/8/2023	Friday	8:00am	(D) Connie Ziegler	Fr. Wilfred
12/9/2023	Saturday	4:00pm	(D) Joseph Dang Tinh	Fr. Joe
12/10/2023	Sunday	8:00am	(D) Louis Zampetti	Fr. Wilfred
		10:00am	(D) Harvey & Kay Fannin	Fr Joe

Please be very careful when leaving lit wax candles in the church or courtyard as this could lead to a fire hazard.



## **PARISH REGISTRATION:**

Those living in the area and regular participants in the liturgy are asked to register as members of the parish. Simply attending Mass does not make one a registered member. To register just contact the parish office or Registration forms can be found online at

Parish Registration - St. Steven's Roman Catholic Church - Sun Lakes, Arizona (saintstevensparish.org)

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL is open to all those who seek to live their faith, loving and committing themselves to their Neighbors in Need.

<u>Parishioners, please join us making PB&J sandwiches on December 12.</u>
<u>Call Sheryll Prokop for details: 480-242-4677.</u>

Are you interested in becoming a Vincentian or a volunteer for SVdP? Would you like to take a tour of our main campus in Phoenix? Please let us know what day of the week works best for you. We need a minimum of 5 people to schedule a tour. Email us at <a href="mailto:svdp@ststevensaz.org">svdp@ststevensaz.org</a> or call 830-214-3599.

Looking ahead: 5th Sunday collection December 30-31

Save your travel size toiletries for our drive in February



# ACTIVE COUNCILS/MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS AT ST. STEVEN'S PARISH

#### **COUNCILS**

#### **MINISTRIES**

Altar Servers	Deacon David Runyan	deacondavid@ststevensaz.org
Arts & Environment	Liz Fenn	lfenn60@comcast.net
Audio/Visual		
Bible Study Group for Women		
Divine Mercy Cenacle		
Eucharistic Ministers	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Gift Shop		
Grief Support		
Hospitality		
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Lectors.......sigillo.....sigillovirginia@gmail.com
Legion of Mary......Ruben Chairez.......480-326-5628

Martha's......Nikki Galovich/Marie Sarro.....480-287-1292/516-458-7952

Music Coordinator .......Catherine Poquette ......catherine@ststevensaz.org

Patriotic Rosary .......480-802-0992

Prayer Line...... Barb Schuler......773-720-1080 grandmaschuler@yahoo.com

Seven Sisters Apostolate ......Lyne Boucher.....480-612-4746
Spirit Fire Prayer Group ......Jan Mclean .....508-423-2402

Spirit Fire Prayer Teams......Marie DiBone......623-217-6633
St. Steven's Giving Garden ......Lyne Boucher & Debbie Nease.......480-612-4746

St Vincent de Paul Help Line....... 623-289-6744, press 7 to leave a message and

someone will return your call or .... email at svdp@ststevensaz.org

#### **ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND**

2:30 SVDP MEETING—HALL

2:45PM - 3:45PM LITURGY CONFESSIONS

4:00PM - LITURGY MASS

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

8:00AM - LITURGY MASS
9AM AND 11 AM: CHRIST IN OUR NEIGH-BORHOOD PRESENTATION—HALL
10:00AM - LITURGY MASS
11:15 OCIA (RCIA) ORDER OF CHRISTIAN
INITIATION OF ADULTS—RM3

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 4TH 8:00AM - LITURGY MASS

9:00AM - GRIEF SUPPORT—RM 3

Calendar Subject to Change - check with individual ministry to confirm dates/times

# \*PARISH CALENDAR

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
8:00AM - LITURGY MASS
8:45 ADULT FORMATION—HALL

4:30 ADULT FORMATION—HALL

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

8:00AM - LITURGY MASS
9:00AM - CHURCH CLEANING
10:30AM—DIVINE MERCY CENACLE—HALL/
FOYER
11:00AM - LEGION OF MARY - RM2

11:00AM - LEGION OF MAKY - RM2
11:00AM STAFF MEETING -OFFICE CLOSED
5PM R.E. WITH YADI -RM3, RM2, HALL
6:30 CHOIR PRACTICE—FOYER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
8:00AM LITURGY MASS
8:45 RESPECT LIFE -HALL
10AM WOMENS STUDIES-FOYER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

8:00AM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION LITURGY MASS 9AM LEGION OF MARY AUXILIARY FUNCTION—HALL 11AM PATRIOTIC ROSARY—HALL

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH**

2:45PM - 3:45PM LITURGY CONFESSIONS 4:00PM - LITURGY MASS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH** 

8:00AM - LITURGY MASS
9AM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONUTS/
COFFEE—HALL
10:00AM - LITURGY MASS
11:15AM OCIA (RCIA) ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS—RM3
4PM VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNERHALL



# St. Steven's Giving Trees







Maggie's Place gives homeless or new mothers and their infants a loving home environment while they develop the skills to live independently.

Giving tree with tags on display from Nov 25th. Please support Maggie's Place with an <u>unwrapped</u> gift, to be returned here to the church by December 10th

For any questions please contact:
Amy 480-203-5583



Faith Formation through Catechesis and Religious Education



# THE BIBLE and the VIRGIN MARY

JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Tuesdays in the Hall at 8:45am and 4:30pm, whichever time is more convenient for you.

12/05 - Session 2 - Handmaid of the Lord

12/12 - Session 3 – Wedding at Cana, Garden in Eden

COME PICK UP A
BOOK ANYTIME
DURING OFFICE
HOURS (except
Mondays 9-10:30

# ST STEVENS LENDING LIBRARY IN CLASSROOM 3

DONATIONS OF CATHOLIC BOOKS ARE MOST WELCOME! PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER WITH YOUR DONATIONS FEEL FREE TO CONTACT VICKI KAISER AT vkaiser\_rn@yahoo.com WITH ANY QUESTIONS

<u>All Bulletin announcements</u> must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance and be emailed to donna@ststevensaz.org

<u>Mass Announcements:</u> Any mass announcements must be submitted to Donna at the front desk by Thursday the week of or earlier.

All Announcements/Slides must be submitted for approval to Fr. Wilfred





#### **Catholic Charities Community Services**

With over 20 services and programs, we help the most vulnerable in central and northern AZ. Offering low cost counseling services, shelter for homeless veterans, services and shelter for victims of domestic violence, programs for children 5 and under, support and counseling for women with an unexpected pregnancy, affordable housing through Housing for Hope, recruits and serves foster families and many more.

#### Learn, volunteer and donate!

Phoenix: 602-285-1999 | Prescott: 928-778-2531 | Flagstaff: 928-774-9125 Cottonwood: 928-634-4254 | Bullhead City: 928-758-4872

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# JOB OPPORTUNITY

# **Coordinator of Liturgy**

To provide leadership in the planning, preparation, and execution of all parish liturgies. The coordinator of Liturgy assists the Pastor by bringing vision and leadership to the Worship life of St Steven's parish.

# To apply please visit

www.saintstevensparish.org to download the Application form and **Email it and Resume to** <u>frwilfred@ststevensaz.org</u> For more info call: 480 895 9266



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ARIZONA



# Respect Life meeting Dec 7 at 9:00am following 8:00am Mass in the Hall.

Our Mission is to raise awareness and educate all parishioners about life issues facing us today. This next year will be very important and challenging for the abortion issues in AZ and the

country. Please come join us and learn what we can do to spread the word.



Questions call Anne DeRose 480 802-9127 or Dick/Barbara Hubbard 480-855-7272.

We are in need of Hospitality Ministers at all masses,

if interested please contact Gene De La Torre 480-226-2940

# Seven Sisters Apostolate



eeking a quietness in the day, in the midst of your usual routin you steal away to pray for your beloved Pastor-unbeknownst by most - effecting eternal affairs.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE CON-**SECRATION OF OUR NATION** 

The Patriotic Rosary will be every Friday in the Hall from 11:00-12:00 **Ouestions** regarding the Rosary, please call Harry or Pat, 480-802-0992

St Steven's Giving Garden

# **GARDENING CLASSES**

Learn to grow a vegetable & herb garden in the desert. Classes are every Saturday 7am-10am.

No sign-up necessary

Lyne Boucher 480-612-4746



Are you looking for an APOSTOLATE you can belong to on your own time & day? Please call Lyne Boucher 480-612-4746

# **Art & Environment**

Ministry that maintains appropriate decorations for the Liturgical Seasons. If you would like to join Arts & Environment **Email: Liz Fenn** Ifenn60@comcast.net

The Divine Mercy Cenacle is a

The Crystal Card Project

Recycled greeting cards are sold to support "My Sisters Place" a charity that helps support victims of domestic violence

**Please consider donating** your used greeting cards to be repurposed.

There is a drop-off bin for donations at the parish office. To learn more contact Gail Erickson 480-785-6608

Walking with Moms in Need is a parish-based,

USCCB nationwide initiative to better serve pregnant and parenting mothers facing difficulties. It provides parishes with a streamlined process to help them walk with and accompany moms in their communities.

For information, please contact:

Carol Carnese: 540-287-6971

group of parishioners dedicated to delving deeper into the writings of St. Faustina, learn more about the Eucharist and the message of mercy. Each meeting consists of prayer, a study of Sacred Scripture, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. This practice is excellent for spiritual growth and to give a deeper understanding of our merciful Lord.

Please contact Lyne Boucher

480-612-4746



8am Sunday Choir

Do you want to be part of a vibrant ministry that sings and plays music to lead congregation during

mass? We are looking for experienced singers and instrumentalists who have the heart for service and want to share their gift. We rehearse Tuesdays 6:30pm Please contact Catherine Poquette at catherine@ststevensaz.org

Interested in serving as an **Extraordinary Minister** of Holy Communion during mass? We would love to have you serve here St. Steven's Catholic Church Contact Paul Pluskowski 920-246-9192

The Legion of Mary is a Marian organization with members in many cities in most countries. It was founded in 1921 by Frank Duff in Dublin, Ireland. We have had a Legion of Mary branch at St. Stevens for some 35 years. Our branch is called "Our Lady of Hope" and we focus on our spiritual growth for the Glory of God. We invite you to come and see how we answer our parish's apostolic and spiritual needs of taking Christ to our home bound parishioners. We meet Wednesdays at 11AM in classroom No. 2. For more information please call Ruben at 480/326-5628



# **GRIEF SUPPORT**

A safe, confidential, nonjudgmental environment guided by our Roman Catholic Faith; walking with you on your grief journey.

**Group Meetings are the** 1st & 3rd Mondays 9am - 10:30 am Room 3 one-on-one meetings by appt. **Contact Bette Wheaton** 480-802-6982

wmydesk@aol.com

# MINISTRY TO THE SICK

We need a few more outstanding people to help with taking the **Eucharist to homebound** parishioners.

Would you like to help? This is a very rewarding ministry. It brings joy to those homebound and makes them feel a part of the church. It also brings endless satisfaction to you, the minister.

Please contact Yadi at the office 480-895-0818

# Ministry to the Sick

We bring the Eucharist to those who cannot attend mass, for those who would like Communion at home please contact

Dennis: 480-895-6540

# **ALTAR SERVERS**

are needed for all masses **Training is Monday-Friday** by appointment with Deacon David Runyan Adult Altar Servers serve weekday and weekends. Youth Altar Servers, ages 9 and older, usually serve weekend Masses. Call the office to schedule with **Deacon David** 480-895-9266

## **Attention Parishioners:**

Please call Donna at the parish office 480-895-9266 to assist with anointing of the sick, last rites, funeral, mass offering or other inquiries.

Interested in becoming a LECTOR?

Contact our lead Lector Virginia for training 480-440-2569 or email Virginia at sigillovirginia@gmail.com

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