



Christmas - 2021

Weekend Masses: Saturday (Vigil) 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:30,11:00 AM

Reconciliation: Friday at 9:15 AM & Saturday: 3:00-4:00 PM

or by Appointment (Call Main Office) Eucharistic Adoration See Calendar pg 2 Parish Office (253) 631-1940 Faith Formation (253) 631-6175 13055 SE 192nd Street Renton, WA 98058

www.ststephenslife.com

See a listing of Parish Staff on the back inside

Words from Fr. Ed

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh

Something you may have never heard of, but is a beautiful preamble to our Christmas liturgy, is "the announcement of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord from the Roman Martyrology which draws upon Sacred Scripture to declare in a formal way the birth of Christ. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the announcement help pastorally to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history. This text, The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, may be chanted or recited, most appropriately



on December 24, during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. It may also be chanted or recited before the beginning of Christmas Mass during the Night. It may not replace any part of the Mass." (From The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ)

The Twenty-fifth Day of December, when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world,

when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness:

when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace;

in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees;

in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;

in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome;

in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace.

JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah.and was made man:

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

A Synodal Path for Christmas

Our Holy Father Francis has called for a synod (walking together) on the subject of synodality itself, how the Church relates within itself to one another. It's a beautiful topic to be addressed as Our Lord attempts to draw us into that oneness of heart and mind that characterizes the Church at Pentecost. Pope Francis uses 3 verbs in his homily to open the synodal process (two years of gathering and distilling contributions from the whole church): encounter, listen, and discern. Here is the opening to his homily:

A certain rich man came up to Jesus "as he was setting out on his journey" (Mk 10:17). The Gospels frequently show us Jesus "on a journey"; he walks alongside people and listens to the questions and concerns lurking in their hearts. He shows us that God is not found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality, but walks ever at our side. He meets us where we are, on the often rocky roads of life. Today, as we begin this synodal process, let us begin by asking ourselves – all of us, Pope, bishops, priests, religious and laity – whether we, the Christian community, embody this "style" of God, who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity. Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: "It's useless" or "We've always done it this way"?

Celebrating a Synod means walking on the same road, walking together. Let us look at Jesus. First, he encounters the rich man on the road; he then listens to his questions, and finally he helps him discern what he must do to inherit eternal life. Encounter, listen and discern. I would like to reflect on these three verbs that characterize the Synod. (Find the whole homily here...

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2021/documents/20211010-omelia-sinodo-vescovi.html)

We can practice these verbs during the Christmas season. Are we ready and willing to encounter all whom the Lord has put on our path? Are we willing to listen, truly listen to their hearts? Are we willing to seek the Lord's will together? St. Augustine had a favorite expression: "On the road to God together." May the Christ Child make Himself known wherever you are this Christmas Season. May He warm your heart and reveal His goodness to you.

Have a very merry Christmas, Fr. Ed and team +++

Weekly Readings

December 26 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

December 27 Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

December 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

December 29 The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

December 30 The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

December 31 The Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

January 1 The Octave Day of Christmas Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

January 2 The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

10:00 – 11:45a 6:30p - 7:15p 6:30p - 7:15p	Monday Food Bank (Drive by only) Mass - Live-streamed Tuesday Mass - Live-streamed
4:00p – 5:45p 6:30p - 7:15p	Wednesday Food Bank (Drive by only Mass - Live-streamed - Adoration and Confessions available after Mass until 9:00 Come spend time with Jesus! Sign-ups are necessary.
8:30a - 9:15a 9:30a - 9:45a	Thursday Mass - Live-streamed Distribution of Holy Eucharist
8:30a - 9:15a 9:30a - 9:45a 10:00 –11:45a	Friday Mass - Live-streamed Distribution of Holy Eucharist Food Bank (Drive by only)
8:30a - 9:15a 9:30a - 9:45a 5:00p - 6:00p	Saturday Mass - Live-streamed Distribution of Holy Eucharist Vigil Mass
8:30a – 9:30a 11:00 – 12:00p 5:00 – 6:00p	Sunday Mass (Live-streamed) Mass (Live-streamed) Mass

When Visiting Our Church

Thee chapel is limited to 10 people at one time. Some areas may be closed or noisy on occasion for maintenance work. Reminder: the parish phone is answered from 9 AM - 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

Open Church Hours

Monday - Friday 8 AM - 8 PM Saturday 8 AM - 10 AM and 2 PM - 8 PM Sunday 8 AM- 3 PM

Masks Requirements for Mass

Due to the risks of the Delta variant and our desire to protect our children and the vulnerable in our communities, the Archdiocese requires mask wearing during indoor Mass celebrations.

Please remember:

- Do not come to Mass if you are feeling ill.
- Do not come if you have a temperature.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Avoid close contact with people outside your family, (15 minutes of face-to-face contact within 6 feet of an infected person. Please wear a mask.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve Vigil 3:00pm and 5:00pm Christmas Eve Midnight 12:00am Christmas Morning 8:30 and 11:00am

Feast of the Holy Family Mass

Sunday, December 26th; 8:30am,11:00am and 5:00pm

Feast of Mary, Mother of God Mass

Saturday, January 1st -10:00am



Our Stewardship of Talents

annual renewal continues. You will see blue flyers in the pews to mark the areas you volunteer and ministries you are interested in. If you are currently sharing your talents at St. Stephen's, thank you! If not, please consider sharing your gifts with one ministry for one year. To explore your ministry interests

https://ststephenslife.com/talentspledge-form Don't forget to turn in

your blue Stewardship of Talents flyer in the Narthex and pick **up a Ministry book.** A huge thank you to those who are currently serving and those who are interested in sharing their talents at St. Stephen's. Stop by the Welcome Table for more information.

Eucharistic Adoration Schedule

PM. not

12:00 AM to 8:00 AM; 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Monday:

5:00 AM to 6:00 PM; 7:00 PM to 11:59 PM

Tuesday:

4:00 AM to 6:00 PM; 7:00 PM to 11:59 PM

12:00 AM to 6:00 PM; 7:00 PM to 11:59 PM

Thursday:

4:00 AM to 8:00 AM: 9:00 AM to 11:59 PM

5:00 AM to 8:00 AM; 9:00 AM to 11:59 PM

6:00 AM to 8:00 AM; 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; 6:00 PM to 11:59 PM.



Christmas Office Closure The Church office will be closed for a Christmas break, from the 23rd of December thru the 3rd of January.

Parish Financials

For the weekly bulletin collections report, we will be showing the last weekend's collection, the weekend before that, and the fiscal year to date through the last full month.

Weekly Collections			
	Dec. 11 & 12	Dec. 04 & 05	FY To date July 1 2021- Nov 30 2021
Collections-actual	36,676	13,576	365,671
Collections-Budget	22,564	17,061	355,547
Variance	14,112	(3,485)	10,124
*EFT-Actual	9,180	8,388	214,504
*EFT-Budget	14,536	13,471	225,627
Variance	(5,356)	(5,084)	(11,123)

Faith Formation Programs

Our Baptism Classes Are Currently on Hold. Please contact Teresa Wright at sstm.baptism@gmail.com for an alternative format. She will send information on how to complete the classwork as well as forms to complete and documents you must provide.



Once you have completed preparation your family will be put on our waiting list. We regret that we cannot guarantee when we will be able to schedule your child's baptism. Thank you for your kind patience.

Parents: Please sign-up for Flocknote so you can get program and parish news, as well as emergency updates! To sign up for Flocknote, go to the first page of our website: ststephenslife.com. Look at the dark green section on the left side of the page.



Why Become a Catholic?

Do you or someone you know wish to learn about the Catholic faith and receive the Sacraments of Initiation?

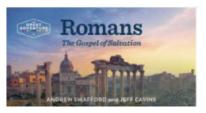
INQUIRY SESSIONS are for

- Those who want to learn about the Catholic faith.
- Those in other faith traditions who are interested in joining the Catholic Church.
- Adult Catholics who have not received all their Sacraments.

Inquiry Sessions for RCIA are Tuesdays, 7:00pm - 9:00pm in the parish Social Hall (will meet all covid-19 restrictions/ guidelines). If you have any questions, please contact, Anne Merklin, sstmassociate@gmail.com or call the parish office at 253-480-7108.



Our K-12th Grade Programs Have Started for This Fall For information on our programs please contact our Faith Formation office at (253) 631-6175, ext. 115. For K-5th grade contact Maria or Shannon at sstm.yfmoffice@gmail.com. For 6-12th grade contact Debbie at sstm.youth@gmail.com. We will continue to follow the Archdiocesan safety guidelines. Parents, if you have guestions please let us know we want to help!



This year, make a New Year's resolution to study the Bible! Come join us for our winter session beginning on January 11, 2022. We will be studying Romans: The Gospel of Salvation from Ascension Press. Currently, we have three Bible study sessions. We have two sessions meeting on Tuesday morning, one on Zoom and one at church, and one session meeting at church on Tuesday evening. The morning session begins at 9:20, and the evening session begins at 6:30. Each session lasts approximately two hours. We'd love to see you at any of them!

Registration is now open! Register with us or online between December 1, 2021 and January 2, 2022 and the cost is \$35.00. Late registrations submitted from January 3-5 must be done online and cost \$40.00. (We cannot guarantee a book by January 11 if you register late.) Registration is closed after January 5. To access the online registrations, go to https://ststephenslife.com/bible-study. For more information or help with registration contact: Karen Buchert at kasbuchert@comcast.net or the Faith Formation office at sstm.yfmoffice@gmail.com or 253-631-6175.



Are you a Baptized Catholic Who Has Never Received Confirmation? Wouldn't it be a great blessing to receive the Supernatural GIFTS of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation? Adult Confirmation Sessions Begin January 18th; 7-9 PM; in the Social Hall with safe social distancing and masks. Learn more about our Adult Confirmation Program (adults over the age of 19 years) OR if you are interested in Becoming a Catholic; by calling or emailing, Anne Merklin, 253-480-7108, ext. 126, or at sstmassociate@gmail.com.

WWW.STSTEPHENSLIFE.COM/YOUNG-ADULT-MINISTRY



Fr. Justin Ryan Director of Vocations Archdiocese of Seattle WHAT ARE THE WAYS I CAN HEAR GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE?

January 5, 2022 6:30 Mass 7:30 Gather St. Stepehn the Martyr

all are welcome

Young Adults

(18-28): Join us for fellowship food & fun.

Meet fellow Catholics,
grow your faith & participate service projects.

St. Stephen the Martyr

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month

Adult Confirmation

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We will meet in the Social Hall with safe social distancing and masks.

Learn more about our fldult Confirmation Program (adults over the age of 19 years)
 OR if you are interested in Becoming a Catholic; by calling or emailing,
 finne Merklin, 253-480-7108, ext. 126, or at sstmassociate@gmail.com.



Returning Catholics - While people become separated from active Catholic life for all kinds of reasons, Christ extends His invitation of love for all to return home.

- Our parish community welcomes anyone looking to rediscover their Catholic Faith!
- It is our hope and prayer that you'll feel welcome to join us for a time of rediscovery.
- Sessions will use safe social distancing and masks and/or by Zoom meeting.
- Contact Bill Swedberg at billswedberg@gmail.com or 253-631-1940 ext 121 to learn about our group meetings beginning soon!



December 26 - Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and so we can celebrate that we all belong to the holy family of God which makes us brothers and sisters to each other.

Thank you for your support to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul throughout the year and bringing the love of Jesus Christ to our neighbors. Through the generous Christmas fund donations of ALL our parishioners; we were able to raise \$2,200 and adopt 11 families. Providing them with gifts for each family member and a gift card to help them with their Christmas dinner.



Respect Life -The Respect Life Ministry would like to take this time to Thank You for all the support we received during this year, especially during the following events:

- The Closure of the Planned Parenthood in Kent through standing witness and prayer during our 40 Days for Life campaign
- The Rosaries said for Life, especially in May and October
- The "Boots & Shoes" fundraiser, which was a great success in putting shoes and boots on children getting ready for school
- "A Christmas Shop" for moms we help through Gabriel/PREPARES effort, by providing the toys, puzzles, games, books and much more for the "Toy & Book" department A Very Blessed & Merry Christmas to all!



Gabriel Project-PREPARES Ministry says thank you to all who helped make the "Christmas Shop" for our 9 moms with 33 children possible. Everyone was able to get a new coat with help from parishioners from the Republic of India & Vietnam, and our Knights of Columbus. Mary Kasprzyk and Respect Life Volunteers supplied an abundant choice of toys and books for all ages.

DIAPER DONORS: Women and men have adopted a diaper size monthly. We help13 babies and toddlers in diapers plus another dozen Moms that visit the Food Bank. Contact Andrea Devers, our Diaper Coordinator amdevers@gmail.com



Next year in Jerusalem!! Journey with Kathleen Tansey for her 6th time in the Holy land for Advent 2022. For details psj1350@comcast.net.



Year-end Stock Donations - Now is the time to initiate Year-end stock donations. It takes several business days for companies to transfer stocks and the holidays add more time. Contact Debbie Blakely if you have any questions about any year-end donations. sstmbookkeeping@gmail.com 253-480-7113



Are You Interested in Sending Your Child to St. Anthony School?

Applications are now available for 2022/23 All families interested in sending their children to St. Anthony School for a quality, Catholic education, should call the school office at 425-255-0059 or e-mail Jean Dang at dang@sasr.org. Applications for families new to the school are available at www.sasr.org and are due by February 8, 2022. There will be an open house on Sunday, January 30th, sign up at www.sasr.org.



For Your Christmas Giving, Outreach Is in Need of Gift Cards. Some suggestions are Fred Meyer, Target, gas cards or cards of your choice. You can put in collection basket marked Outreach. Thank you for your generosity. Darlene

Parish Information

New to St. Stephen's? Welcome! Learn more about our vibrant community by visiting our web site at www.ststephenslife.com. Registration forms are online or may be obtained from the ushers and put in the collection basket or mailed in. **Bulletin Notices:** The **article deadline is 12:00 PM on the Friday** a week before the weekend you wish it to appear (8 days in advance). Notices about parish events or items of interest to the parish are welcome, however posting cannot be guaranteed. Email notices to: ourbulletin@gmail.com.

Main Office Phone: TEL 253-631-1940 / FAX 425-255-2943 Ten digit phone numbers listed below are direct lines.

Pastor	Fr. Edward G. White	For Fr. Ed contact his a	assistant, Betty Mencke 253-480-7103 (100)
Deacon	Dec. Carl Chilo		sstmdeaconcarlchilo@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec. Sonny Ungco		sonny.ungco@gmail.com
Deacon	Dec.lke Tarabi		ike.tarabi@outlook.com
Dir. of Parish Operations	Tom Jones	253-480-7114 (103)	sstm.tjones@gmail.com
Pastoral Associate	Anne Merklin	253-480-7108 (126)	sstmassociate@gmail.com
Pastoral Assistant for Outreach	Darlene Simpson	253-480-7121 (127)	darsimpson@gmail.com
Office Manager/Pastor's Assistant	Betty Mencke	253-480-7103 (100)	bettymencke@gmail.com
Liturgy Coordinator	Janet Denby-Stewart	253-480-7115 (102)	sstm.liturgy@gmail.com
Pastoral Care	Marijean Heutmaker	253-480-7116 (106)	sstm.mari@gmail.com
Bookkeeper	Debbie Blakey	253-480-7113 (101)	sstmbookkeeping@gmail.com
Facilities & Parish Life Coordinator	Kim Anderson	253-480-7120 (129)	sstm.facilities@gmail.com
Director of Faith Formation	Shannon Battles	253-480-7112 (114)	ststephenskids@gmail.com
Youth Ministry	Debbie Blomquist	253-480-7110 (113)	sstm.youth@gmail.com
Young Adult Ministry/Talents Ministry	Beth Nieva		sstm.bethn@gmail.com
Evangelization & Communications	Bill Swedberg	253-480-7107 (121)	billswedberg@gmail.com
Baptism & Marriage	Teresa Wright	253-480-7106 (120)	sstm.baptism@gmail.com
Little Saints Preschool Director	Abbie Nelson	253-480-7105 (123)	sstm.littlesaints@gmail.com
Faith Formation Support Coordinator	Maria Trejo	253-631-6175 (115)	sstm.yfmoffice@gmail.com
Child Care Nursery	Liese Diachenko		StStephensChildCare@gmail.com.
St Stephen Housing Association		253-480-7122	office@ststephenhousing.org
SVDP Help-Line		206-767-6449	
Custodial Support	Brian Guenther, Soo Kim		briang.sstm@gmail.com

Marriage: Couples seeking Marriage must contact the church 9 months before their wedding date. Some preparation and Parish Registration are required before a date can be set. Contact Teresa Wright for details concerning marriage at (253) 631-6175, Ext. 120.

Annulments: (for those who are divorced): For compassionate and confidential answers to your questions and for help through the annulment process, please contact our parish Tribunal Advocate, Veronica Smith-Casem, at vsmithcasem@gmail.com or 425-301-0356.

Baptism: Preparation and Parish Registration are required for both Parents and Godparents/Sponsors. Baptisms are held monthly. Contact the Faith Formation Office for details (253-631-6175).

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) For adults desiring to become Catholic, including those needing baptism. Contact Anne Merklin 253-631-1940 ext 126. sstmassociate@gmail.com

Praying For Sick

Marie Peacock Albers, Nela Pacleb, Irene Bauman, JoAnna Bailey, Jim Dougherty, Brian W. French, Lydia Franada, Chad Horky, Mary Byersdorf, Leila Abada, Jaime Zara, Kelley Chazes, April Sedall, Nicole Paulsen, Shelby Talley, Christina Rafferty, Antonio San, Nicolas Nenita, San Nicolas, Rolf Ju, Emelita Joyosa, James Vaccaro, Marlene Hill, Teresa Wright, Precilla Del Rosario, Yvonne (Dawn) Kunkle, Romeo Velarde, Cristian Anthony Dinh, Jesse Boyovich, Jan Sykes, Joel Rivera, Julie Fernandez, Saksithan Hak, Lan Buck, Joshua Hecox, Rose Herlya, Manny Gutierrez, JJ Conavad, Adam Bynum, Xavier Mascaren, Ester Hansen, Henry de Guzman, Nicomedes Rodriguez, Molly Dinsmore, Baby Nyhla Wallace, Angelina Rivera, Alexander, Charito Rubis Galindo, Diachenko, Art Condes, Leticia Dela Cruz Reyes, Douk Ko, Nick Montecalvo, Joe Buss, Bernadette DeMarc, Jim Steckler, Felix Tarnate Jr, Marcia Hall, Gabriel Schafer, Teresraj Zacharia, Renee Walker

Serving in the Military

Captain Patrick Warfel, Captain Philip Clay LT Luke Carpenter (deployed) Stephen Snelling, Jack Cullers US, Zenaida Roth, Daniel Dobbs Japan, Joey Buslon Poland

Death

Molly Douglas, Jerry Mayer, Amparo Lopez, Rodney Maxie, Ely Castro, Marie Anderson, Mother of Carol Williams, Bill Pie' Sr., Wayne Delahanty, Ben Castillo, Rolando Valdez, Adrian Abada, Thelma Varona, Thomas Goff Sr.

To add names to the box, please email ourbulletin@gmail.com, or contact Betty Mencke, 253-631-1940. To contact the Prayer Chain, please see Teresa Wright, at 425-255 0301 or teresa2pray@gmail.com

Rachel's Corner: Hope and Healing After Abortion The Lord sets prisoners free; the Lord gives sight to the blind. The Lord raises up those who are bowed down. - Psalm 146: 7-8 When thoughts come to your mind regarding the day you were involved in an abortion decision, do they make you feel blind to hope, entrapped in regret and burdened with shame? Call for a compassionate, confidential conversation, and be free again. Registering now for our Virtual Healing Series. English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 Email projectrachel@ccsww.org Visit us at www.ccsww.org/projectrachel or www.facebook.com/projectrachelww Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services. You are loved with an everlasting love!



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