

St. Stephen R. C. Church

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



“From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.”

- Lk 1:48b-49, 52

This Week's Mass Intentions

Monday, August 16 ~ Weekday

8:00am ~ Mary Panepinto (Panepinto Family)

3:30pm ~ McKeating & McKee Wedding

Tuesday, August 17 ~ Weekday

8:00am ~ Charles Miller (Michele Fusco & Family)

~ Mr & Mrs Morbito (The Zannoni Family)

Wednesday, August 18 ~ Weekday

8:00am ~ John Calvano (Virginia & Savino)

~ Richard & Mary Jane Pyc 59th Wedding Anniversary

Thursday, August 19 ~ Weekday

8:00am ~ John Karl (Holy Name Society)

~ Marcy Buell (Cathy & Noel Wilhelm)

Friday, August 20 ~ St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

8:00am ~ Margaret Berdine (Family)

Saturday, August 21 ~ St. Pius X, Pope

4:30pm ~ Ezequiel Luis "Ziggy" Ruiz (Kinga Mierzejewski)

~ Leon Eberle (Mike & Patty Joseph)

Sunday, August 22 ~ Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

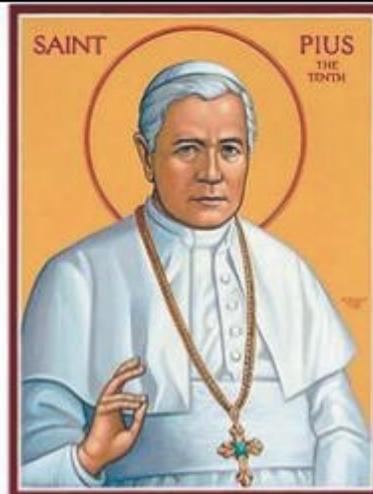
7:30am ~ Jackie & Ernie Kazmierczak (Thomas Kazmierczak Family)

9:00am ~ Paul Gipp (Wife, Georgianna)

~ Jack Gersitz (Amy Finn & Judy Gersitz)

11:00am ~ Joan Clark (Marty & Mary Bobak)

~Joanne Moscati (Deacon Frank Kedzielawa)



"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary."

~ Pope Saint Pius X



The ~ Sanctuary Lamp ~ Wine Offerings ~ Host Offerings are all available upon request.

The memoriam is for a week and is a \$25 offering.

Memorial's may be in memory, honor, or for the intentions of a loved one.



Keeping you in our Prayers.....

Kevin Beyer Jr. † Pat Fitzgerald † Susanne McMahon † Megan Johnson † Pat Muoio †

Brett Lombardo † Mary Jane & Richard Pyc † Frank Costanzo † Bethany Dzielski †

Olga Demicke † Eveylen Strobel † Brian Fitzpatrick † Bill Appenzeller † Denise N. Baker †

Bill Ortiz † Maria DelSignore † Luann Moliterno † Mary Pascucci † Pat Paolucci † Jim Caprio †

Micheal Peters † Maria Schnettler † Ellen DiLaura † Linda Morinello & Children † Sharon Koehler †

And the Deceased..... Alejandro Literato

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



GOSPEL MEDITATION August 15, 2021

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

They are courageous, wise women who ground us, focus us, and inspire us. They are the good mothers who walk with us and light our way. They teach us life lessons and help us heal and navigate through challenges and difficulties. We need people to point the way. Sometimes, these wise ladies are not our biological mothers but women in our lives, who through their strong and faithful presence, anchor us and remind us that we are loved. We need these women. Human beings do their best when they have cheerleaders in their lives. They show us that even when facing despair there is always a brighter tomorrow.

Jesus needed his mother. She had to be that faithful anchor, that guiding presence, in his life. Jesus needed to be affirmed and encouraged just like any other human being and Mary had to be there, right by his side, doing precisely that. Even when her heart was pierced as he was nailed to a tree, she did not give up hope. Most certainly, she continued to wait, watch, hope, and love until he took his final breath. That's what mothers do. Even when their heart breaks, they persevere.

Today, our Blessed Mother is our cheerleader once again. Taken up to heaven in body and soul, she points to and directs us toward our final destiny. Life eternal waits! Any disappointment, fear, or anxiety can be set aside as she gently reassures us of God's love and promise. Always a mother filled with grace and hope, she calls us to reaffirm our faith in God and in the gifts we have each been given. We can persevere and do what we need to do to live life well, with faith, hope, and love as our guiding lights. Knowing who we are and who we will one day become helps us to better chart the course and direction of our earthly lives. Looking to the example of our Blessed Mother, we receive the assurance we need.

Fr. Chris' Corner.....

Last week I read *Apollo One* by Ryan S. Walters. For those who do not know, Apollo One was the first mission in the Apollo program to send a man to the moon, which followed the successful Mercury and Gemini programs. On January 27, 1967, astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee entered the capsule of Apollo One for a routine "Plugs out" test and were tragically killed in a fire on the pad of the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Following the tragic fire, NASA was forced to examine what went wrong that led to the deaths of three Americans. The investigation from NASA revealed several major problems including: (1) dangerous 100% oxygen environment (2) high amount of flammable material in the capsule (3) poorly constructed hatch.

I bring up the tragedy of Apollo One and the investigation which followed, because we too are called to look into our own lives when things go wrong, and we fall to sin. We do this when we make an examination of conscience before receiving the sacrament of confession. Too often, we become like the members of NASA who believed that nothing major could go wrong. Whereas NASA believed a fire could never occur during a routine test, we sometimes believe that we have done nothing major wrong, and we do not pause to reflect on what may be occurring under the surface. Similarly, NASA was under intense pressure to get man to the moon within the decade, and some felt that the rush to develop the rockets led to catastrophe of Apollo One. We also feel pressured to get everything done within our day, and because of the fast pace of life, we sometimes forget to stop, enter into prayer, and examine moments in our day when we have not lived as we know we ought. We acknowledge that we have sinned but we also acknowledge the great mercy which God has for us, the mercy which is offered as a gift. There are numerous examinations of conscience which one can go (you can find them by doing a quick internet search). If you are not by a computer I simply recommend sitting in silence and reflecting sincerely on the ten commandments. A good examination makes for a good confession and a good confession makes for a good saint.

August 15, 2021

Generations in Faith Formation

(Formerly referred to as Religious Education)

Start Up Meeting for all families is scheduled for August 30th at 6:30pm in the church. Materials and program calendars will be available. The meeting will be brief but your attendance is appreciated.

Registration for the 2021-2022 Faith Formation Program has been mailed. Registration forms and packet pick ups are also available at the Faith Formation office and at www.ststephenswny.com.



Changing the way
our children learn

Honoring student achievement and hard work has been the purpose of the **President's Education Awards Program**. This program has provided individual recognition from President Biden and the Secretary of Education to those students whose outstanding efforts have enabled them to meet challenging standards of excellence.

The President's Award for **Outstanding Academic Excellence** was awarded to these students from the St. Stephen Class of 2021: **Will Benz, Matthew Dionne, Nolan Klein, Christian Krawczyk, Eden Krebs, Hugh Mathieson, Levi Mathieson, Hailey McMahan, Campbell Murphy, Gabriel Pawelczyk, and Emma Sentz.**

The President's Award for **Outstanding Academic Achievement** was awarded to **Isabel Garcia, Isabelle Haney, Ava Hickox, Samuel Iuvino, and Giorgio Panepinto.**

We are preparing for the new school year! If you are interested in our school or would like a tour, please email principal@ststephensqi.org or call 773-7647



Respect Life Committee

Please consider joining the Respect Life Committee. We meet the third Wednesday of every month at 7 PM in the church Library.
Questions?
Call Mark or Kathy at 773-5726.

Quote from Wole Soyinka, from Climate of Fear: The Quest for Dignity in a Dehumanized World:

“Sadly, it is within the religious domain that the phenomenon of rhetorical hysteria takes its most devastating form. I am aware that, in some minds, this tends to be regarded as a delicate subject. Let me declare very simply that I do not share such a sentiment. There is nothing in the least delicate about the slaughter of innocents. We all subscribe to the lofty notions contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but, for some reason, become suddenly coy and selective when it comes to defending what is obviously the most elementary of these rights, which is the right to life. One of my all-time favourite lines comes from the black American poet Langston Hughes. It reads, simply, ‘*There is no lavender word for lynch.*’”

During the weekends of August 14-15 and August 21-22, St. Stephen's Respect Life Committee is sponsoring a collection of new baby items to donate to the Grand Island Family Justice Center satellite to support pregnant and parenting survivors of domestic violence. Let's help pregnant domestic violence survivors to choose life! Needed items include: baby and toddler food (jarred/pouch food, infant cereal, yogurt melts, toddler puffs, teething cookies), formula powder, baby wipes, juice boxes, individually portioned applesauce cups, eating utensils (bottles, bottle cleaners, children's plasticware, bowls, plates, sippy cups), baby shampoo, baby wash, lotion, diaper creams, pacifiers, and teethers. They also welcome gift cards to such places as BuyBuyBaby, Walmart, and Target. Please place donations in the baby bed in the narthex. Thank you!!

August 15, 2021

Parish News & Up-Coming Events

Early bird winners for the big cash raffle that is a part of Rockin' the Grounds:
Joseph Fanara & TJ Pyc. Winning \$100.00 each! Congratulations!!

Our Online Giving is getting an upgrade to a newer, easier-to-use platform! If you currently give online, you will soon be receiving an email with instructions on how to log into the new system. Best of all, your existing payment and donation information will be migrated over so you will not have to set up your gifts again! Keep an eye on your email for more information coming very soon.

Blood Pressure Clinic: August 21 & 22 after Masses. Please stop in.

Coming Soon: Weekly Bible Study: Reviewing Sunday Mass Readings, Beginning Tues., Sept. 14 @ 7pm in the Library/Community room.

*During the summer months, the church will be locked at 3:30pm each weekday.

ROCKIN'THE GROUNDS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 5-9 PM

WE STILL NEED YOU.....

Cash Raffle tickets and Pre-Sale tickets for Quarter Chicken & Pulled Pork Sandwich dinners are available. Call or Stop by the Rectory, 8-4 Mon.-Fri., 773-7647 option 1.

Please consider donating items or making a basket for the Basket Raffle. Drop off at the rectory (8-4 Mon.-Fri.)

Please consider volunteering; there are a lot of positions open. Call the rectory at 773-7647 option 1.

We're still looking for vendors for our Craft Fair. Please contact Julie Scott at 775-5500 or Julie.scott22@gmail.com

OUT OF PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? – Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Retrouvaille is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages. For details or to register call (716) 474-9371 or visit <https://www.HelpOurMarriage.org>. The next weekend is September 17-19 2021. All calls are confidential and pre-registration is required. Space is limited

St. Gregory the Great invites you to bring your lawn chairs, blankets and enthusiasm to our Ministry Center for a free outdoor showing of "The Staircase" Wednesday August 25 @ 7:30pm, starring William Peterson, Barbara Hershey and Diane Ladd. If the weather is nice, we will watch outside, if the weather is inclement, we will move it inside. The story centers around the Sisters of Loretto in Santa Fe 1873 with the construction of the chapel with the free standing staircase believed to be a miracle of perhaps St. Joseph himself!

Catholic Charities would like to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to all who made a donation to the 2021 Appeal. Thank you for believing in the mission of their work and for making HOPE possible. **CONGRATULATIONS on exceeding your parish goal!!** We are able to be there for those in need because of people like you!! Thank you on behalf of everyone at Catholic Charities and those they serve across Western New York.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

STAY CONNECTED

CLERGY

Pastor -
Rev Raymond G. Corbin Ext 102
Frrayssp@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar -
Fr. Chris Emminger Ext. 107
Frchriseimminger@gmail.com

Deacon Frank Kedzielawa
773-3364
Frank@amklawyers.com

Deacon Tom Sutton
329-2292
Deacontoms2020@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Max Mauro
Ext# 126
maxmauroSSMusic@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE

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ststephenswny@ststephengsi.com

Business Manager
Karen Sweet / Ext. 104
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Admin Asst.
Sandra Beyer Ext. 101

Cemetery Inquiries Ext. 101
sscemetery@ststephengsi.com

Admin Asst.
Lori Lenz Ext. 114

TRUSTEES

Richard Sander 773-3929
Carl Walbert 773-2518

PARISH SCHOOL

PK3 – GR 8
773-7647 Opt#2
Fax 773-1438
www.ststephengsi.org

Principal - Lynn Ortiz Ext 120
ortizl@ststephengsi.org

Admin Asst.
Ramona Dewitt Ext 129

FAITH FORMATION

773-7647 Opt. #3
Fax 773-2231

Coordinator -
Rebecca Cambria - Ext 122
cambriar@ststephengsi.org

Admin Asst.
Denise Ricotta Ext.117

MASS SCHEDULE :

Saturday - 4:30pm (Organ/ Piano)

Sunday - 7:30am (Organ), 9:00am (Choir) 11:00am (Contemporary Ensemble)

Daily Mass : Monday to Friday - 8:00am *Holy Days: Check Bulletin or Website

PARISH MEMBERSHIP New parishioners can register online or stop at the rectory for more information.

WEDDINGS Arrangements must be made with a parish priest no less than six months before the wedding. Pre-marriage preparation is required.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND Call the rectory to make arrangements for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or to have Holy Communion brought to the home. A Communal Anointing of the Sick is held on the last Friday of each month at the 8:00am Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION First Friday each month 8:30am - 6pm

BAPTISMS Please call the parish deacons to arrange a baptism. Parents must be registered parishioners. Baptisms may be scheduled during any weekend Mass or privately.

RECONCILIATION (*CONFESSIONS*) Saturday: 3:00–4:00 in the Daily Mass Chapel, or anytime by appointment.

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