



# ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SPREADING THE LIGHT OF JESUS CHRIST

**AUGUST 15, 2021**

## THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### Mass Schedule

Monday—Saturday 8:30 a.m. (chapel)

Saturday Vigil 4:30 p.m. (church)

Sunday 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

and 5:30 p.m. (church)

Livestreamed Masses — Daily Mass  
and Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

### Adoration

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### Reconciliation

Monday and Friday after the  
8:30 a.m. Mass.

Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday at 2:45 p.m.

### Church Office/Pastoral Care:

(813) 689-4900

**School:** (813) 741-9203

### Faith Formation:

(813) 671-4434

**Maintenance:** (813) 734-5877

10118 Saint Stephen Circle

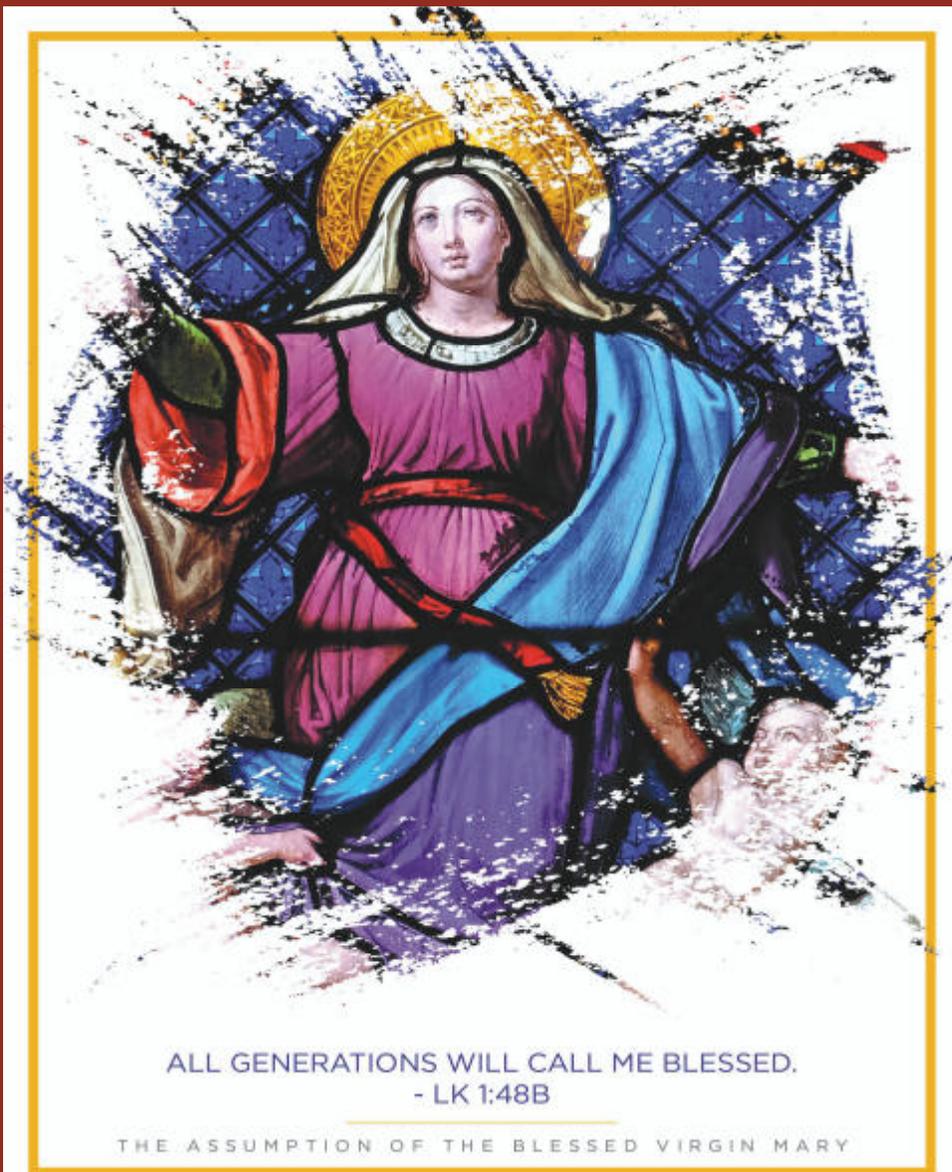
Riverview, FL 33569

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Fr. Dermot Dunne — Pastor — Fr. Izzie Hernandez — Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Ed Dodenhoff — Deacon

Rev. Mr. Mike Ryba — Deacon

Rev. Mr. Mike Sweeney — Deacon

# ST. STEPHEN, PRAY FOR US

## The Sanctuary Lamp

August 14 to August 20, 2021

**In loving memory of Joseph Orama.**

If you are interested in having the sanctuary lamp burn in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call (813) 689-4900.

### Monday

**8:30 a.m. Pray for Ken Nicholas (RIP).**

### Tuesday

**8:30 a.m. Pray for Rowena Spencer Alpin (RIP).**

### Wednesday

**8:30 a.m. Pray for vocations.**

### Thursday

**8:30 a.m. Pray Fr. Bill Swengros (LIV).**

### Friday

**8:30 a.m. Pray for Elucia and Guerin Jean Pierre (RIP).**

### Saturday

**8:30 a.m. Pray for Richard Jaquez (RIP).**

**4:30 p.m. Pray for Miguel Martinez (RIP).**

### Sunday

**7:30 a.m. Pray for Mr. and Mrs. Francis Redmond (RIP).**

**9:30 a.m. Pray for the parishioners.**

**11:30 a.m. Pray for Freda Diaz (RIP).**

**5:30 p.m. Pray for Frank N. Carver Jr. (RIP).**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## August 2021

August 15—Bernie’s Farewell Parish Picnic

August 20—Silver Rose Prayer Service

August 24—BINGO Night (every fourth Tuesday)

August 28—World Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

## September 2021

September 7—Blue Mass

September 10—Young Adult Adoration—XLT Praise and Worship (second Fridays)

September 11—Day of Prayer Retreat

September 12—Faith Formation Classes Begin

September 18— St. Vincent de Paul Annual Tea

September 18-19—Unbound speaker Fr. Gillespie

## October 2021

October 2—Annual BUNCO Night

October Weekend Masses—Pro-Life Rosary Decade

October 15—Father/Daughter Dance

## November 2021

November 2— All Souls Day Mass

November 6—Men’s Club Golf Tournament

## December 2021

December 3 to 4—24 hour Exposition —A Day With The Lord

December 8—Immaculate Conception Mass

December 9—Eastern Hillsborough Community Band Concert

December 14—Advent Penance Service

December 16—Christmas Concert

*This schedule is subject to change.*

For more information, please visit our full calendar of events on our website at <https://ststephencatholic.org/>.

# SUNDAY READINGS

## First Reading

Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

God's temple in heaven was opened,  
and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple.

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun,  
with the moon under her feet,  
and on her head a crown of twelve stars.  
She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.

Then another sign appeared in the sky;  
it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns,  
and on its heads were seven diadems.

Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky  
and hurled them down to the earth.

Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth,  
to devour her child when she gave birth.

She gave birth to a son, a male child,  
destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod.

Her child was caught up to God and his throne.

The woman herself fled into the desert  
where she had a place prepared by God.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“Now have salvation and power come,  
and the Kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Anointed One.”

## Second Reading

1 Cor 15:20-27

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through man,  
the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die,  
so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,  
but each one in proper order:

Christ the firstfruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;

then comes the end,

when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father,

when he has destroyed every sovereignty

and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death,

for “he subjected everything under his feet.”

## Gospel

Lk 1:39-56

Mary set out  
and traveled to the hill country in haste  
to a town of Judah,  
where she entered the house of Zechariah  
and greeted Elizabeth.  
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,  
the infant leaped in her womb,  
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,  
cried out in a loud voice and said,  
“Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
And how does this happen to me,  
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

For at the moment the sound of your greeting  
reached my ears,  
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.  
Blessed are you who believed  
that what was spoken to you by the Lord  
would be fulfilled.”

And Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, and has  
scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.”

Mary remained with her about three months  
and then returned to her home.

Today's readings are from the *Sunday Missal-Prayerbook and Hymnal for 2021*.

# A NOTE FROM EDDIE GEMMA

## A Message To Our Youth



It is that time of year again! Fresh notebooks ready to be filled. Newly sharpened pencils ready to write. Fresh coffee for parents as they prepare for another school year filled with sporting events, choir/band concerts, theatrical happenings and so much more! Students are ready to face the year's challenges and are refreshed from a summer vacation that feels like it just began a week ago. Juniors are preparing for their SAT/ACT. Seniors are preparing their resumes and starting college applications. Freshmen are getting acquainted to new halls and getting lost on their way to their first class. Lastly, sophomores are just freshmen that have a better idea of what is going on. Yes, the 2021-2022 school year has begun!

As we journey into this new academic school year together, let us talk about how we, as a community, are going to stand behind our students. First, let us pray daily for our students as we know school is stressful. Pray that they may be educated in a safe environment. Pray that any distraction may be put to the wayside so the focus can be on three things: God, family and schoolwork. Lastly, pray that the challenges our students face may lead them to becoming better and stronger Catholics.

High School students, there will be times of strife and questions will arise regarding life, faith and so much more. For those looking for answers, looking for community, for those who just need a place to get away from the rest of the world for a few hours, our High School Life Teen group meets Sunday nights following 5:30 p.m. mass until 8:00 p.m. This is an environment where we ask the tough questions, discuss our conflicts, eat food and occasionally use our head to hit a cabbage across the gym floor (yes, that is something we actually did). No matter where you are in your faith life, whether it is strong or faded, please join us—you are welcome here!

Middle School students, EDGE youth group is hosting its last summer/back to school night Saturday, August 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Starting Wednesday, September 15, we will be hosting weekly EDGE nights from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is open to all current 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

### An Address to all Current Students

Yes, sadly, summer vacation is over. School begins anew. With this new year, I have a few challenges for you.

**Challenge number 1:** Face each struggle this year knowing that you will get through it. God does not give you more than you can handle.

**Challenge number 2:** Be easy to forgive those who have done you wrong in the past. High School is a time for growth, you are still growing into who God is calling you to be and mistakes are part of that process. Have a little grace for those who have trespassed against you, just like God does for us.

**Challenge number 3:** Step outside your comfort zone. Trying new things might seem scary and it is easy to find your spot and stay in your comfort zone, but you will never regret trying something new, even if it is something you quit after a week—just give something new a try.

**Challenge number 4:** Begin every day in prayer. Pray for help with your struggles. Pray that God will give you the strength to seek new horizons, meet new people and expand your understandings.

**Challenge number 5:** Do not be afraid to show the world what a strong Catholic you truly are. Yes, I know this one is the hardest challenge of all. Jesus told us this would be hard. Be true to yourself and your faith, embrace the adversity for those who hate you, for they hated Christ before they did so to you. Stay strong and know that if God is with you, who cares who is against you. We here at St. Stephen we are praying for you, have a great year and may God bless the 2021-2022 school year!

# TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT



## EDGE Night

EDGE is fellowship for Middle School students. Join us for our last summer EDGE night on Saturday, August 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Stay tuned for our next gathering!

## Life Teen Night

Life Teen is fellowship for High School students. Join us tonight, August 15, for Life Night after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. We will meet in the Family Life Center for food and then join together in the Youth Room for fellowship.

We are currently seeking volunteers to provide meals for Life Night. Find the St. Stephen Life Night food sign up on our website at <https://ststephencatholic.org/highschool>.

## XLT Praise and Worship

Join us for adoration and more on Friday, September 10 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. XLT Praise and Worship will happen in the St. Stephen chapel.

Follow us on Instagram @st.stephen\_lifeteen and find the St. Stephen Young Adult Group on Facebook.

# OUR PARISH SCHOOL

2021-2022

## WELCOME BACK MUSTANGS



# FAITH FORMATION

## Faith Formation Volunteers Needed!

Please consider sharing your time and talent with our K-8 children this year! You can help lead them to Christ! We are in need of lead teachers, assistant teachers, youth volunteers and hall monitors during our Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. Please contact Kim Davis at the Office of Faith Formation if you are available for any of the below volunteer positions, (813) 671-4434 or [Kim@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:Kim@ststephencatholic.org).

### Volunteer Positions

#### Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Kindergarten—1 teacher and 1 assistant  
Grade 4—1 teacher and 1 assistant  
Grade 5—1 assistant  
Grade 6—1 assistant

#### Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Grade 1—1 teacher  
Grade 4—1 teacher and 1 assistant  
Grade 5—1 teacher and 1 assistant

#### Monday 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Grade 7—2 teachers and 3 assistants



#### Wednesday 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Grade 1—assistant  
Grade 2—2 assistants  
Grade 3—1 teacher  
Grade 4—1 assistant

#### Wednesday 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Grade 1—1 assistant  
Grade 2—2 assistants  
Grade 3—1 teacher  
Grade 6—2 teachers and 2 assistants

### Why Volunteer

Joan — Kindergarten Teacher

“Besides enjoying being with the kids, it is a great feeling when you see them realize a point which you are addressing. It is rewarding when they continue to apply what you have discussed/covered. In all my years of 'teaching' I have also found out that I have learned more about the Catholic Church than I ever knew—a sideline reward!”

Rosanna — 2nd Grade

“I was blessed with a grandfather, a Brother before he married, who shared his love and knowledge of God with me during every visit. He passed away a year after my First Communion. I never forgot what he taught me. I first started volunteering to get the hours for school, but through that experience I found I enjoyed working with children and sharing what my grandfather taught me about God's love.

I also enjoy learning. The beauty of being a catechist is that I did not have to study theology. The guide books and teaching references have lots of information and the answers. It is a refresher in my own Faith Formation every year.

Teaching also has many rewarding moments that keep me coming back. For example, seeing the children I prepared for First Communion receive their Confirmation and then continue to be involved in the parish. The kids reaffirm my love for teaching every year.”

Ceicely — 3rd Grade

“One of the best and most important gifts I can give my children is a strong foundation upon which they can build their faith. Volunteering in the church is one of the ways I do that. Hopefully, by seeing me share my faith with others and gladly giving my time through acts of service, it will build a sense of community for them. My parents were active members in our church growing up and instilled in me that faith is not passive, it is strengthened through action and service and I hope to pass that on to my own children.”

Sean — 7th Grade Teacher

“I wanted to give back to our church that has done so much for all Saint Stephen's families. I could not think of a better way than helping out in Faith Formation. It is very rewarding and I am looking forward to this year.”

# CHILDREN'S SECTION



**GOSPEL**

Mary was humble. She loved and trusted God. God had been good to Abraham and to the people of Israel. Mary would do as God asked. God, the mighty one, chose her out of many women to be the mother of his only Son. Be like Mary. Do not brag about your goodness. Do not act like you are better than others. Then God will lift you up to a place of high honor with him in heaven.

**PRAYER**  
Lord, help me be humble, kind, and loving.



**PUZZLE**  
Which picture name begins with this letter?  
Circle the picture that starts with that sound.

**M**   

**B**   

**H**   

**MISSION**  
I will hear and do what God asks in a humble manner.



**Question of the Week**

August 15, 2021

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
*(Solemnity and Holy Day of Obligation)*

**Elizabeth recognized Mary's great trust in God. Where in your life do you need to trust God more?**

*Question of the week provided by Sadlier.*

## PARISH NEWS

### Silver Rose Prayer Service

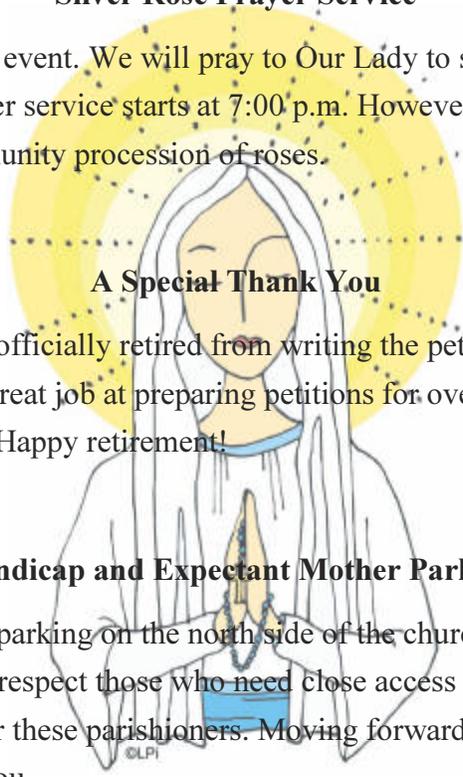
Join us for a spiritually heart-warming event. We will pray to Our Lady to strengthen our efforts to restore the culture of life in our society. The prayer service starts at 7:00 p.m. However, feel free to join us at Mary's Garden at 6:30 p.m. to participate in the community procession of roses.

### A Special Thank You

After about 20 years, Troy Lovell has officially retired from writing the petitions for the Masses here at St. Stephen Catholic Church. Troy did a great job at preparing petitions for over 1,000 Masses. Troy, thank you for your hard work and generous service. Happy retirement!

### Handicap and Expectant Mother Parking

Our church parking lot now has ADA parking on the north side of the church. This parking allows for easy access to the side doors of the church. Please respect those who need close access to the church and leave the handicap and expectant mother parking spots for these parishioners. Moving forward, feel free to use the covered walkway which this entrance provides. Thank you.



# MINISTRY NEWS



## St. Vincent de Paul Tea

Saturday, September 18, 2021  
11am to 1pm  
St. Stephen Family Life Center  
The cost is \$20 per person  
for an array of homemade goodies!!!  
Reservation deadline Wednesday, September 8



Can't make it? Make an online donation of the price of a ticket at [svdpriverviewfl.org](http://svdpriverviewfl.org)

## ST. STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

is privileged to honor

## Our Lady of Fatima



World Famous Pilgrim  
Statue Visit

Sat. August 28th, 2021  
Holy Mass 8:30 am

followed by  
the Holy Rosary, brief  
presentation on the  
Fatima message, and  
Brown Scapular  
enrollment



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CASH PRIZES



CASH PRIZES

# TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

DOORS OPEN  
5:30 P.M.

GAMES START  
6:30 P.M.

## ST. STEPHEN FAMILY LIFE CENTER



## Homebound Ministry Returns!



## Read Below!



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion bring the Eucharist to those parishioners who are unable to celebrate Mass because of illness or physical limitations. Ministers feed the homebound not only with the Body of Christ but also with the Word. Ministers enrich the lives of those they visit with the news of the community, insights from the homily and prayers. Homebound ministers are required to attend an orientation, complete a Safe Environment Training and a level 2 fingerprinting. Volunteer applications for this ministry can be picked up at the parish office or accessed from the St. Stephen website. Visit this link: <https://ststephencatholic.org/volunteering>. Once the application is completed and returned to the parish office, you will be contacted to schedule an interview.

# PARISH FINANCE

## Donations

“Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord and not for others, knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment of the inheritance; be slaves of the Lord Christ.” -*Colossians 3:23-24*

### Parish

Scan the QR code below with your smartphone to make an online donation to our parish!



### Annual Pastor Appeal

We have reached 93.60%!  
 \$360,633.12 pledged!  
 \$321,334.06 paid!  
 Thank you!



Scan the QR code above with your smartphone to make an online donation to the Annual Pastoral Appeal!

#### Mass Collections

August 7 and 8, 2021  
 Offertory: \$17,082.88

#### WeShare—Online Donations

August 2 to 6, 2021  
 Offertory: \$15,787.13

#### Debt Reduction/Monthly Debt

\$3,405.07/\$40,000.00

## CONTACT US

**Call (813) 689-4900 and ask for one of the following, dial their extension or dial the alternative number.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Tom Doyle — Parish Manager — Ext. 3040                | Fr. Dermot Dunne — Pastor — Ext. 3010                 |
| Lisa Lopez — Parish Secretary — Ext. 3060             | Fr. Izzie Hernandez — Parochial Vicar — Ext. 3070     |
| Denise Moyer — Pastoral Care Assistant — Ext. 3210    | Rev. Mr. Mike Sweeney — Director of Music — Ext. 3260 |
| Avery Thayer — Communications Coordinator — Ext. 3050 | Faith Formation — (813) 671-4434                      |
| Susan Magann — Administrative Assistant — Ext. 3030   | Parish School — (813) 741-9203                        |
| Robert Duffy — Maintenance — (813) 734-5877           |   |

## HOTLINES

Diocese of St. Petersburg (727) 344-1611	St. Stephen Catholic Church (813) 689-4900
Police — 911 Florida Abuse Registry Hotline — (800) 962-2873 Diocesan Victim Assistance Minister — (866) 407-4505 Girls and Boys Town Abuse Hotline — (800) 448-3000 Childhelp USA National Abuse Hotline — (800) 422-4453 Florida Elder Helpline — (800) 963-5337 Florida Council Against Sexual Violence — (888) 956-7273 Safe Environment Program Manager — (727) 344-1611, Ext. 377	Bereavement Ministry— Bereavement@ststephencatholic.org Career Transition Ministry— Career_Transition@ststephencatholic.org Meals On Wheels— Meals_on_Wheels@ststephencatholic.org Homebound Ministry— Homebound@ststephencatholic.org Prayer Line— Prayer_Line@ststephencatholic.org Society of St. Vincent de Paul/Food Pantry— (813) 325-6440 Alcoholics Anonymous— (813) 933-9123 Pregnancy Center— (813) 631-4398

Looking for help? 211 Tampa Bay Cares, which offers local information and referral services, is available by calling 2 1 1 on the phone.



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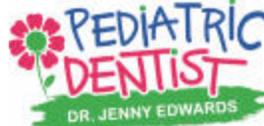
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