



# ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SPREADING THE LIGHT OF JESUS CHRIST

**AUGUST 22, 2021**

**21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **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

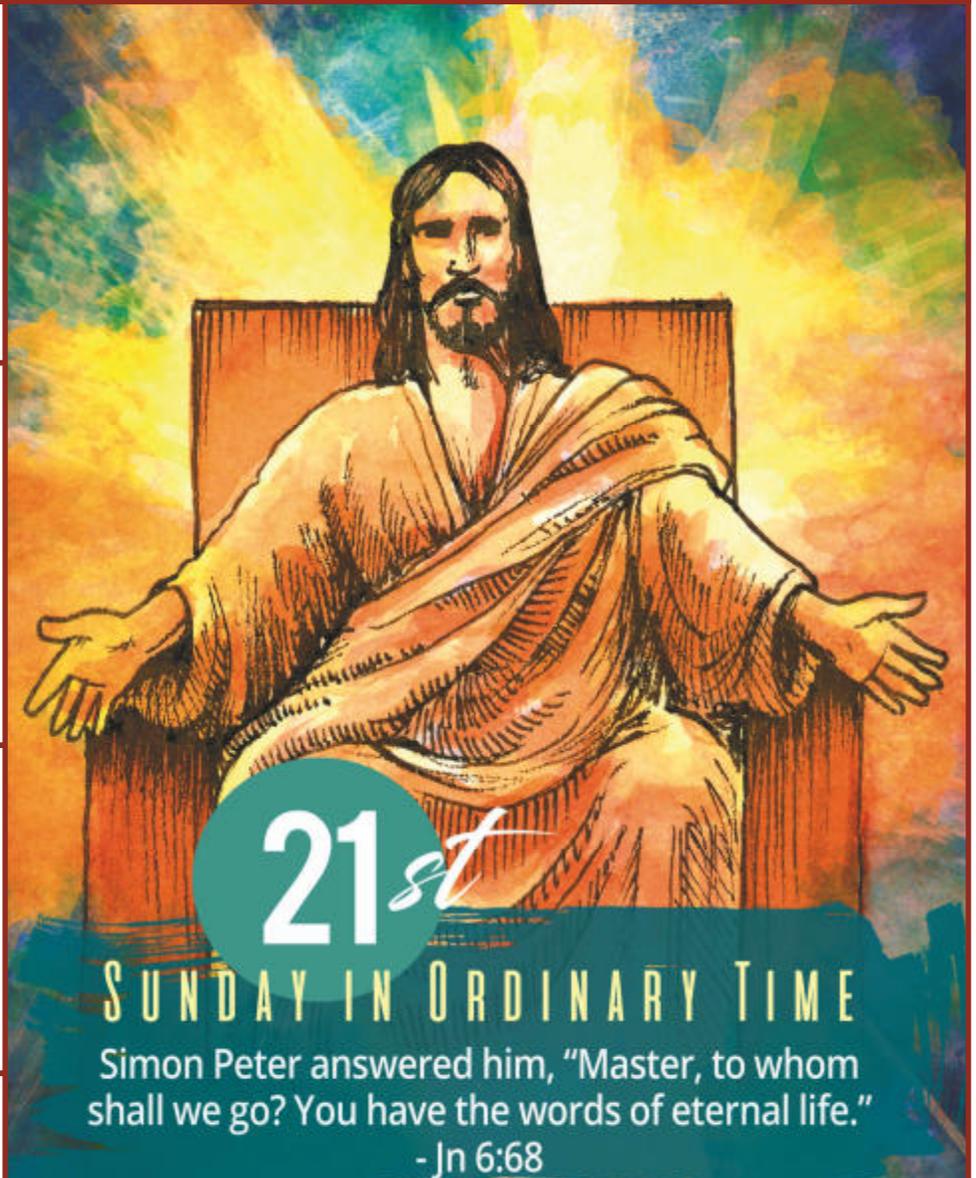
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Fr. Dermot Dunne — Pastor — Fr. Izzie Hernandez — Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Ed Dodenhoff — Deacon

Rev. Mr. Mike Ryba — Deacon

Rev. Mr. Mike Sweeney — Deacon

# ST. STEPHEN, PRAY FOR US

## The Sanctuary Lamp

August 21 to 27, 2021

### Blessed Marriage Sacrament of Deacon Dan and Anita Gratkowski.

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 Joseph Boyle (RIP).

#### Tuesday

8:30 a.m. Pray for V.V. Mathew (RIP).

#### Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Pray for vocations.

#### Thursday

Our Lady of Czestochowa

8:30 a.m. Pray for Maria Licenia Jurado de Parra (RIP).

#### Friday

8:30 a.m. Pray for Ada St. John (LIV).

#### Saturday

8:30 a.m. Pray for Nancy Shirina (LIV).

4:30 p.m. Pray for Judy Barchfield (RIP).

#### Sunday

7:30 a.m. Pray for Caroline Straughn (RIP).

9:30 a.m. Pray for Ray DeMarco (RIP).

11:30 a.m. Pray for the parishioners.

5:30 p.m. Pray for Fred Thibault (RIP).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## August 2021

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 2—Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training

October 2-3—Underwear Sunday Collection

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 3-4—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

**Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b**

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning their elders, their leaders, their judges, and their officers. When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people: "If it does not please you to serve the LORD, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." But the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD for the service of other gods. For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

### Second Reading

**Eph 5:21-32**

Brothers and sisters: Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

### Gospel

**Jn 6:60-69**

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

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

## A NOTE FROM FR. DERMOT



So much has happened and continues to happen in our beautiful faith community at St. Stephen Catholic Church.

We just enjoyed a parish picnic in honor of our retired Parish Secretary Bernie Kalle. Bernie Kalle, our parish and myself would like to thank you for your years of service. I would also like to offer my gratitude to those who made this wonderful event happen: Martha's Ministry, Cub and Boy Scouts, Squires and Consecrated Marian Ministry.

Our amazing parochial school has started and the joy of the children once again can be heard and seen. We have almost 250 students this year. Thank you, Mrs. Umoh and all the school staff, for helping in the faith and intellectual formation of our young disciples.

Our church has been moving forward as well. In our parking lot we have moved and added more ADA parking to help facilitate an easy entrance into our church for those who need it. The majority of the ADA parking is now on the north side of the Church, where you can drop someone by the sheltered walkway and then park close by.

Next month we will be hosting Unbound Ministry on September 18 and 19 at all our weekend Masses. This is an opportunity for our families to sponsor a child or vulnerable adult so that they can continue to live their lives with dignity. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Our Faith Formation team is hard at work registering our youth for classes to learn about their faith and to grow in their love of God and neighbor. We have approximately 400 youth registered. Classes will begin September 12, so now is the time to register your gifts from God, otherwise known as your children, for this year. Our Faith Formation Program is for PK4 all the way through High School youth group.

Over the summer we have had many new families join our parish and many move from the area. From May 1 till today, we have had approximately 100 new families join our parish. If you are new to our community, please consider sharing your talents with us by volunteering. From Altar Servers for your children, to the many other liturgical ministries for adults, I am sure you can find one that is right for you. For example, helping with the faith formation of youth, supporting our pro-life ministry and the many other ministries we offer. Please stop by the office and we can share with you all the many ways you can get involved.

As we all move forward, COVID-19 is still trying to mess up our daily lives. Please continue to practice safe behavior and take any means you can to protect yourself and others. We continue to disinfect our church regularly to help with the eradication of this virus. If you are unvaccinated or do not have natural immunity, please continue to wear a mask while on church property.

On a final note, the St. Joseph Statue is almost finalized and hopefully the craning will begin soon. Thank you to the many parishioners who generously donated funds to help with this spiritual enhancement to our Church especially in this Year of St. Joseph. Whose statue is next?

Anyway, that is enough from me. May the good Lord continue to fill your hearts and your homes. Find peace in the joy of knowing that you are deeply loved by God and you are consecrated to your Savior Jesus Christ, in union with Mother Mary and all the saints.

Peace and joy,

Fr. Dermot

# OUR PARISH SCHOOL

## Middle School House Program

Our school had a very busy first week of school getting students back into their routines. One exciting event that took place during the first week was the Middle School House Sorting Ceremony for new 7th graders and all 6th graders.

Aristotle once said, “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” In order to teach a child, we must first reach that child. One tool we use to reach each child in our Middle School is the House System established in 2019. The House System builds a sense of spirit and belonging. Each house is comprised of students from grades 6 through 8 which provides the opportunity to create new friendships, experience leadership and learn teamwork skills. Additionally, the House System allows the students to become more involved in planning community service projects and other school events.

The students are sorted into four houses: St. Jude House, St. Francis House, St. Therese House and St. Michael the Archangel House. Each house has its own crest, credo and prayer, and is led by an elected house prefect. During the Sorting Ceremony, students drew House names from the “sorting hat,” which for us is a bishop’s miter, which determined which House they will be a member of during their time in middle school. During the year, students earn points for their Houses through daily activities and planned challenge events all with the goal of gaining the most points and being awarded the House Cup.

Last year’s winner of the House Cup was the St. Francis House which was presented to them during the Sorting Ceremony and will display in their House for this school year. Congratulations St. Francis House and let the games (and learning) begin!



## FAITH FORMATION

### Register Today!

Registration for Faith Formation 2021-2022 is still ongoing! Forms are available at the Office of Faith Formation or on our website at <https://ststephencatholic.org/faith-formation-k-8>.

Our classes are starting soon! Pre-K starts Sunday, September 12. Kindergarten through Grade 6 starts Sunday, September 12 and Wednesday, September 15. Grade 7 starts Monday, September 13. Our Confirmation Grade 8 and High School starts Monday, September 13 (Session A) and Monday, November 1 (Session B).

Parents, we could use your help! This year we will continue the safety protocol by asking parents to bring supplies in faith formation classes. Please bring supplies in a gallon sized baggie with child's name written on it.

### Supplies List



### Do you have questions or would like to volunteer?

Kim and Gracielle will be at front of the church after Masses on Saturday and Sunday, August 21 and 22. They will be there Saturday after the 4:30 p.m. Mass and on Sunday after the 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses.

## TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT



Follow us on Instagram

@st.stephen\_lifeteen

and find the

St. Stephen Young Adult  
Group on Facebook.



### EDGE Night

Middle Schoolers, join us for our weekly EDGE nights starting Wednesday, September 15, from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

### Life Teen Night

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 chapel.

# CHILDREN'S SECTION



**GOSPEL**

After Jesus compared himself to manna, and said that he was sent from heaven, many of his followers turned away from him. They just could not accept what Jesus was saying. It was too hard for them to understand. We have something they did not have. We have the Holy Spirit to help us. Sometimes what we learn might be hard for us to understand, too, but we never need to walk away. We can have faith in Jesus. We can ask him to help us.

**PRAYER**

Dear God, give me the faith to trust Jesus always. Amen.

**PUZZLE**

Find your way through the maze to Jesus.



**MISSION**

Have you ever learned something about God that was hard to understand? Talk about it with your family, and together pray for each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn what God wants you to.

**Question of the Week**

August 22, 2021

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Which of Jesus' sayings do you find hard?**

*Question of the week provided by Sadlier.*



## PARISH NEWS

### New Catholic News and Lifestyle Website

Bishop Gregory Parkes has launched [GulfCoastCatholic.org](http://GulfCoastCatholic.org), a news website to help Catholics know, live and share the faith. You'll find articles that inform and, hopefully, inspire. Plus, each article can be shared via social media with one click. [GulfCoastCatholic.org](http://GulfCoastCatholic.org) will provide timely and relevant articles for staying up to date with Catholic life. We will also share stories about people who are Courageously Living the Gospel. Visit [GulfCoastCatholic.org](http://GulfCoastCatholic.org) to check out the website and to sign up for our free, weekly email of top stories.

### Men's Club Scholarship

The St. Stephen Men's Club would like to thank the 2021 Graduates for their participation in this year's Annual Scholarship Program. It is our honor to announce to the parish this year's scholarship winner decided by the Men's Club Committee of Members. Congratulations to Miss Callie McCool for her selection as our 2021 Men's Club Scholarship Award winner! Callie was given this award on Saturday, August 21, at the 4:30 p.m. Mass. She will be receiving a check for \$750 prior to her departure to Seton Hall.

### Update to Bereavement Ministry Webpage

Our Bereavement Ministry is excited to announce that our webpage, Funerals, has been updated to assist families with planning a Funeral or Memorial Mass for their loved one. The site walks the family through the whole process including Flowers, Hymns, First and Second Readings, Psalms, Gospels and Prayers of the Faithful. Many families have already used the site, and give it praise for its ease of use and clear explanations. It can be accessed by two different ways: [www.ststephencatholic.org](http://www.ststephencatholic.org) and click the Funerals tab on the top right or you can go directly to it by typing <https://ststephencatholic.org/funerals-1>. Please check it out!

### Parish Choir

Choir practices will start on September 8, 2021. Choir practices will now be on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Mike Sweeney at [dcnmike@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:dcnmike@ststephencatholic.org).

# 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

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## 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  
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enrollment



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CASH PRIZES

# TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

DOORS OPEN  
5:30 P.M.

GAMES START  
6:30 P.M.

## ST. STEPHEN FAMILY LIFE CENTER



# EAT

# SLEEP

# GOLF

# REPEAT



### 28th Annual Men's Club Golf Scramble

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Stephen Men's Club Golf Scramble will be on November 6, 2021 at the Summerfield Crossings Golf Club in Riverview, FL. Please consider sponsoring this event. The proceeds from Men's Club Golf Scramble benefit youth education and local charities. The tournament is the primary fundraising event for the Men's Club Scholarship program, which since its inception, has awarded over \$35,000 in scholarships. If a sponsorship is not practical for you currently, please consider joining us for a round of golf. It is a \$75 entry fee (\$300 for a foursome) and includes a basket of range balls to get the bad shots out of your system before the real fun starts. This includes a round of golf, lunch, dinner, beverages and a gift pack. To register or to become a sponsor visit <https://ststephencatholic.org/mens-club>.

# PARISH FINANCE

## Donations

“Practicing charity is the best way to evangelize.”

*Pope Francis*

### Parish

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



### Annual Pastor Appeal

We have reached 94.07%  
 \$362,418.12 pledged!  
 \$325,024.56 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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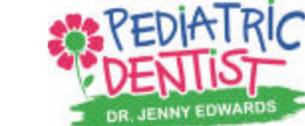
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