

Subject: FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP BRAXTON -- FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mass is a time of silence and prayer, not idle chitchat, Pope says -- Mass is the highest form of prayer and not an appropriate moment for small talk, Pope Francis said. At church, Catholics should spend their time in silence before Mass, preparing "to meet with Jesus" instead of engaging in "chitchat," Pope Francis said Nov. 15 during his weekly general audience. "Silence is so important," he said. "Remember what I told you last time: we are not going to a show. Silence prepares us and accompanies us."

The Pope continued his new series of audience talks on the Mass, reflecting on the Eucharist as a form of prayer that is "the highest, the most sublime and, at the same time, the most concrete" way of encountering God's love. "This is the greatest grace: to experience that the Eucharist is the privileged moment to be with Jesus and, through him, with God and with our brothers and sisters," Pope Francis said.

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal... join us as Partners in Hope

On behalf of the ministries and programs funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and those they serve, we thank you for your prayers and generosity to the 2017 campaign. May you and your families feel the warmth of God's love and the comfort of His peace at Thanksgiving and always.

There will be a new **Vocation Committee** formed. This committee is for the expressed intentions for praying and actively advocating for vocations in our parishes.

There is still time to give to the World Mission collection. Also, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Mission collection.

These are important missions that we need to support.

We are remitting our final amounts to the National Office for the relief collections for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

The Diocese collected \$196,242 for Hurricane Harvey and \$63,982 for Hurricane Irma. Thank you to all your parishioners for your generosity in these collections.

Regards Michael D. Gibbons, CFO
Diocese of Belleville

Beginning with the December 2/3, 2017
Advent Missals

The Penitential Act, Gloria, Nicene Creed and Invitation to Communion prayer are being printed on the inside cover of English missals.

St. Edward and St. Stephen Catholic Churches

300 NW 5th Street, Fairfield IL 62837

Email stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com

Website: stedwardfairfield.com



812 N. Main Street, Flora IL 62839

Email: ststephenflora@yahoo.com

Website: ststephenflora.com

Rev. Father Charles Anyaoku, Pastoral Administrator

Email: fronyekaanyaoku@yahoo.com, cell phone: 618-641-8978, office phone: 618-662-6261

St. Edward Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Confession, Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday, 3:30 p.m.

Parish Office:

Peggy Garrison, Secretary
Office hours Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday,
8 a.m. to 12 noon Rectory/Office 847-7931
Fax – 847-7393 Parish Hall 847-7512

Bulletin Info:

Peggy Garrison, Parish Office.
Please submit by noon on Thursday

New Parishioners Register at the Parish Office

PSR Coordinator: Sarah Pickens

RCIA Coordinator: Ginny Barrett

Music Director: Denise Zurliene

Pastoral Council – 3rd Thursday

Altar Sodality – 3rd Monday

Men's Club - As announced

CYO Meeting - As announced

Food Pantry Distribution – 2nd Saturday 8am

St. Stephen Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Confession, Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sunday 8 to 8:20 a.m. or call for appointment

Parish Office:

Trudi Herdes, Secretary,
Office hours Monday & Wednesday mornings.
Office, Fax and Social Room - 662-8121
Rectory – 662-6261

Bulletin info:

Beth Fancher, 665-3163 submit by
Thursday email: bafancher@wabash.net

New Parishioner Register contact Dorothy

Uebinger 662-3711 email dot@wabash.net

Music Director: Diane Briscoe

PSR Coordinator: Paul Duquaine

RCIA Coordinator: Cheryl McCarty

Knights of Columbus – 1st Wednesday, 7 pm

Finance Committee – 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Altar Society - As announced

Pastoral Council - 4th Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Food Pantry Collection - First Weekend

Baptism, Marriage, Vocations, Sacrament of Anointing & Care of the Sick, contact
Father Charles Anyaoku or call St. Edward or St. Stephen Parish Offices.

**One thing I ask of the Lord, and this I long, to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. (Ps. 27, 4)
That should be our daily prayer. That should be our daily desire. That should be our daily wish.**



ST. EDWARD MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, November 18, 4:00pm—Jim Turner+
Sunday, November 19, 10:30am—Larry McClure+
Wednesday, November 22, 5:30pm-For Blessings Received
Thursday, November 23, 6:30pm—**No Mass**
Friday, November 24, 8:00am—Joe & Kathryn Basinger+
Saturday, November 25, 4:00pm—Marshall & Lucille Sork+
Sunday, November 26, 10:30am—Stacy Winkeler+
Rosary—Every Saturday 3:30pm and 2nd Sunday 10:00am

Weekly Contributions 11-12-2017

Envelopes(24) \$1,365.00
Loose 77.00
Total \$1,442.00
We need \$1,887.00

Building Fund \$132.00
Donation 200.64

Attendance: Sat. 18 Sun. 60



Garland Keck, Kim Buchanan,
Lanora Neavill, Ute Britton, Leon
Chamness, Jack Ciesielczyk, Jalain
Thompson, Phyllis Laird, Kurt Wiseman, Nanette
Williams, Julie Griffith, Gina Williams, Emilee
Stanley, Noreen Reeves, Paula Zdan, Maddox
Oppenheimer, Sara Kerchner, Charles Drechsel,
Dorothy Baylor, Eva Decker, Matthew Rorban,
Kathy Bramlet, Tom Colvin, Andrew Mayo, Robyn
Meagher, Sheila Zurliene, Sandra Henson, Andrew
Luna, Elaine Jeffers, Jodi Hunt, Claire Grosso,
Sarah Frye, Homer and Shirley Clark, Sam Ochs
and all priests who are sick.

**ALTAR SODALITY WILL MEET MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 20TH AT 6PM. ALL WOMEN ARE
INVITED TO HELP WRAP ADVENT BAGS.**

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: 1 Mc 1:10-15 Lk 18:35-43
Tues: 2 Mc 6:18-31 Lk 19:1-10
Wed: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31 Lk 19:11-28
Thur: 1 Mc 2:15-29 Lk 19:41-44
Fri: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59 Lk 19:45-48
Sat: 1 Mc 6:1-13 Lk 20:27-40
Sun: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28
Mt 25:31-46

Saturday, November 25
Lector: Nick Zurliene
EM: Jim & Margaret Thompson
Ushers: Don Zurliene, Tim Schoenborn
Gifts: John & Leslie Robison
Servers: volunteers

Sunday, November 26
Lector: Jen Wellen
EM: David Mills, Peg Garrison
Ushers: Scott Merkle, Paul Perez
Gifts: The Garrison Family
Servers: Will Wright, Jed Wellen

ST. STEPHEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, November 18, 6:00 p.m. mass – Maureen Maher+
Sunday, November 19, 8:30 a.m. mass – Al Uebinger+
Tuesday, November 21, 6:30 p.m. mass – Regina Buckleh+
Wednesday, November 22, 7:30 p.m. mass – For the living and deceased of the parish
Thursday, November 23, Thanksgiving - NO MASS
Saturday, November 25, 6:00 p.m. mass –Edward Jeneski+
Sunday, November 26, 8:30 a.m. - Mass of Thanksgiving
Rosary will be said a half an hour before each mass +designates deceased

Weekly Contributions 11-12-17

Envelopes..... \$ 1,590.00
Loose..... 159.00
Total \$ 1,749.00
We Need - \$1,731.00

Attendance: Sat.- 63 Sun. – 80

St. Stephen Activities for the Week

Sunday, November 19– Sacrament of Reconciliation 8 a.m.,
PSR following mass
Tuesday, November 21, Bible Study after mass
Wednesday, November 22, 7:30 p.m. Mass
Eucharistic Adoration 7 pm - midnight
Friday, November 24 Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 a.m. –
3:15 p.m. Servite Rosary 12:00 noon,
Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 26- Sacrament of Reconciliation 8 a.m.
NO PSR

Weekend Ministers

Saturday, November 25

Lector: Sam Pierce
Commentator: Volunteer
EM: Krista Weidner, Pat
Ridgeway, Dennis Holkenbrink
Altar Servers: Pierce Family,
Ushers: Don Talmant, Mike
Winka

Sunday, November 26

Lector: Beth Sulsberger
Commentor: Deb Zimmerman
EM: Phil & Beth Fancher,
Ted Whitehead
Altar Servers: Evelyn Stinner
Ushers: Tom Lancaster, Ted
Zimmerman



PRAYER INTENTIONS: Linda Griffy, Bill
Marks, Nichole Wheaton, Lisa Persinger,
Verna Oliver, LaVonne Kemmerer,
Patience McKnight, Clara Wilson, Claire
Fopay, Mildred Garrison, Ray Vaughn,
Anita Allen, Joe Falica, Lois Houlihan, Ray
& Irene Winka, Pat Venable, Chris Boyd,
Dr. Mark Wallace, Gerty Grundy, Ginny
Timm, Tracy Winka, Steve Dudzik, Ruth
Wilson, Mike Burge, Angie Borrelli, Roger
Wells, Tom Kasper, Becky Payne, Rita &
Judy Porter, Bob Bluhm, Rhonda Ryker,
Kelly Coan, Rick Harvey, Dr. Don Bunnell,
Duck Greenwood, Paul Weidner, Marilyn
Wheaton, Jim Brown, Jakob Lane, Ted
Zimmerman, Diana Fleener, Rodney
Greenwood, Robbie Porter

PSR Schedule
Fall, 2017

Nov. 19 - Class
Nov. 26 –No Class
Thanksgiving
Dec. 3 – Class
Dec. 10 – Class
(Practice for
Program)
Dec. 17 - No Class
Dec. 24 - No Class
Christmas
Dec. 31 - No Class
New Year

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

For the 3rd year, St. Stephen’s will sponsor a Tree of Joy program. This tree will be placed in the back of church with angel ornaments. On the ornaments have a number and information about a child of a seriously challenged family. Parishioner may choose one or several ornaments, purchase gifts, wrap them and return to church with the ornament attached. The gifts will be delivered to the families by Christmas so these children will have something under the tree Christmas morning. Applications are available at the back of church and are to be completed for individual family members in the community. All application information about the families will be kept in strict confidence. We will also need to limit the number of families for whom we will provide and will choose those deemed in most need. Pick up applications for families, fill out separate application for each family member, age’s birth to 12 and have the family complete the applications and return in envelope marked "Tree of Joy" no later than Nov. 12, to the parish office. Questions contact Cheryl McCarty. Thanks for your support for this worthy project.

The Clay City Ministerial Alliance Community Thanksgiving Service

will be November 19, 6 p.m. at the Flora First Church of God.

A time of refreshments and fellowship will follow the service

Corner of 12th and Rider Streets, Flora

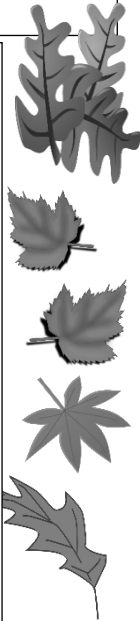
Guadalupe Project will be holding several fundraisers. Traditionally, the winter and holiday months are busy for non-profits, and with the record numbers, Guadalupe Project has been seeing that the winter months could be the busiest yet. The extra funds from the upcoming fundraisers will allow Guadalupe Project to continue to serve the young families who visit every month. Guadalupe Project is based on the foundation of building a culture of life. They promote the culture of life through the principles of working together to help each other. With this community spirit in mind, Guadalupe Project is supporting the project “Clay County’s Favorite Recipes.” The cookbook will be a compilation of favorite recipes from families in Clay County. Contact Laura Whitehead for more information and how to be become a sponsor. Email Laura at laura.whitehead.91@gmail.com or 618-599-6786

LECTOR WORKBOOKS ARE HERE. PLEASE PICK YOUR BOOK UP IN THE SACRISTY. We need new lectors, commentators, Eucharistic minsters and Altar Servers. Please consider helping with these wonderful ministries. Questions or just want more information about the ministries, catch me after church, call me or email me. Beth Fancher

THE LITTLE BLUE ADVENT BOOKS are here. Please take one copy per family.

Congratulations to Breanna Hinton who was voted first Runner-up in the Louisville Fall Festival Queen Contest. She was also named Miss Congeniality and received an award for casual wear. Nice going, Breanna. We’re proud of you.

And we’re also proud of Johnathon Hinton who was chosen Homecoming King at Greenville University, Greenville, IL. Nice honor Johnathon.



ST. EDWARD NEWS

PSR NEWS

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! AT THE END OF DECEMBER SARAH PICKENS AND HER FAMILY ARE MOVING TO INDIANA. WE ARE IN VERY DESPERATE NEED OF PSR TEACHERS. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN ANY WAY PLEASE PLEASE CONTACT SARAH. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

To “Prepare the way of the Lord” for your journey with the Jesse Tree, after Mass the weekend of Nov. 25-26, take a few parishioner/family names from the basket. Say some prayers for them this week. When you come to church next weekend. (Dec. 2-3, First Sunday of Advent) tie a ribbon on our Jesse Tree.

Jesse was the father of David, one of the earliest Kings of Israel. Since the Messiah was to come from the line of King in Israel, this “Jesse Tree” commemorates the ancestry of Jesus and helps us to “Prepare the way of the Lord” through our thoughts and actions.

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time---Still being prepared.

This parable today is of talents, trust, and service. New Testament “talents” are big piles of money. But in this story, they are God-given free gifts and baptismal charisms. Given to be used. For the benefit of others. Not to be hidden. Fear of doing something wrong can lead to inactivity. Lack of action and playing it safe are not kingdom of God Behaviors.

- *How does God make me worthy?
- *What does God have in store for me?
- *How will I stay busy (not be lazy)?

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday, November 20th: Altar Sodality—6:00pm
Wednesday, November 22nd: St. Edward Mass 5:30pm (Thanksgiving Mass)
Saturday, December 2nd: PSR & CYO DELIVERING ADVENT BAGS—MEET 9:00AM
Sunday, December 3rd: St. Edward Christmas Brunch following 10:30am Mass

THE LADDER HAS BEEN FOUND. THANK-YOU

THE LITTLE BLUE BOOKS FOR ADVENT ARE IN THE HALL. PLEASE TAKE ONE PER FAMILY.

Father Charles would like to wish everyone a Blessed and A Happy Thanksgiving!!!!

Let your talent be transformed and also be in the service of God.

In today’s Gospel, Mathew 25:14-30, the master says to the servants, **“Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”**

We are entrusted with different talents. Some receive great talents while others receive less. We may ask ourselves the pertinent question of how we use these talents. Some people may bury theirs because they are unhappy with what they received.

Again, the Scripture says that each was given according to his ability, capability, and personality. God knows each and every one of us because we are his creatures; He assesses our strengths and limitations.

We often look at people that we feel are very “talented” and compare ourselves to them while minimizing the very real and worthwhile gifts we ourselves have. Because we can’t sing a solo like some people, we feel we shouldn’t sing at all. Because we can’t be a professional athlete like some people, why join any team? Instead of using the talents we have, are we always dreaming about the ones we don’t have? We have the huge temptation of comparing our gifts with those of others, without recognizing that our own gifts are for a purpose. If we continue comparing our gifts with those of others we can never grow. We can only grow with our gifts when we acknowledge and appreciate what we have.

Our talents might not be spectacular, but they are real and important. In today’s first reading from the Book of Proverbs, we see the talents of the virtuous wife who has the skill of raising a family, caring for a spouse, and managing a home. To raise a family and keep a family together may not appear to be a spectacular talent, but it is an important one that is desperately needed today.

Furthermore, the Gospel reading goes on to pose a question for us. Are we using our talents and resources in the service of God and of His Church or for ourselves? The man in the Gospel who was given the least was not a bad man. He didn’t steal the money; he didn’t squander it. His only crime was that he buried the money in the ground and did nothing with it for the master. We can offer to the Church our talents, time, and treasures by being actively involved in church’s affairs. We need choristers, mass servers, cantors, lectors, and extraordinary ministers in the church. You should not bury your talents; the church needs your active participation in the liturgy.

More so, two things that keep us from using our talents are fear and sloth. We talk, we plan, we make resolutions, but our plans never get traction. Therefore, we should make our talents a blessing and not a judgement. The reading tells us that two of the servants allowed their talents to become blessings while the other buried his; it became a judgement. The first two servants were rewarded for their faithfulness, courage, and activity. The third servant was judged for his unfaithfulness, cowardice, and inactivity. Who is this third servant? Some interpreters say he stands for the Pharisees and scribes whose emphasis was on preservation rather than spiritual transformation. Therefore, we join St. Paul in today’s second reading that says we should stay awake, alert that we may serve the Lord.

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Would you like to help advertise the upcoming Cookie Walk? Well, you can very easily! Just share the following information with your friends by e-mail or Facebook.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

Basket Raffle/Craft Vendors

DECEMBER 2, 2017

9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

812 N. MAIN ST. – FLORA



Homemade holiday cookies and candy! \$7 a pound. You’ll have the opportunity to take the “walk” and pick up your own cookies and *Cookies-- Christmas candies – Specialty Items – Basket Raffle – Craft Vendors*

The perfect time to pick up that special holiday gift or treat for school, office, or party. Come in and select your own cookies, choose from our pre-packaged assortments, or call 662-8121 to place an order Saturday, December 2, from 9:00 to 1:00. 1/3 of all proceeds from the sale of cookies/candies will go to the Clay County Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry.

Hope you can make it!



The choir is practicing on Mondays at 7 pm until Christmas. There will be NO practice Monday before Thanksgiving. Practices will resume on Nov. 27 and continue until Christmas unless announced otherwise. All parish members are welcome.

If you would like to help earn money for St. Ann's general fund visit Goodsearch.com and register making St. Ann's your charity. Please type in "St Ann’s Altar Society" (no punctuation). Make it your homepage or just use it to search or make online purchases.

The St. Anne's Annual Basket Raffle has begun, and the drawings will be the day of the Cookie Walk. Please consider donating a basket, give items or money. Ticket sales will begin and the baskets will be available after Masses starting Nov. 11. We will accept baskets up until the morning of the Cookie Walk. Be creative, have fun, and help us raise money. The general fund supplies altar breads, altar cloths and covers, funeral dinner expenses, as well as paying for other necessities for our church. Baskets may be given to Pat Greenwood, Kathy Price or Erin Pierce.



**The next Altar Society rotating chairman are:
Gretchen Stinner. Beth Fancher. Jill Fehrenbacher**

Please consider purchasing SCRIP cards after weekend Masses or contact Erin Pierce at 662-4967. There are several retailers & restaurants participating in the program. St. Ann's buys the cards at a discounted rate and sells them at full face value. When you buy a card you receive a card worth the purchase price, for example a \$100 Wal-Mart card is worth \$100. Information contact Erin or visit shopwithscrip.com. Complete retailer list is on website.

