

The Church’s Year of Grace, Wonder of Wonders, Miracle of Miracles

Now that we have celebrated Thanksgiving, the Feast of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, and the end of the Liturgical Year. We are now entering the season of Advent during which we contemplate, with expectation, the great Mystery of the Incarnation the Word of God made flesh in Mary’s womb “infinity dwindled into infancy”!

I am sending you a meditation on our seemingly small place in the universe, Wonder of Wonders and Miracle of Miracles, which reminds us that the God who is God is not God the way we would be God, if we were God. I invite you to keep this brief meditation and review it from time to time when you find you are distracted by minor and ultimately insignificant details. Perhaps this will help you and me to become aware of a higher viewpoint and a wider perspective.

Meanwhile be assured of my prayers for you, and those who are dear to you, during these wintery days of Advent anticipation. May the Advent Liturgies, especially the Scripture readings, inspire us so that we may not long for secular holidays but for truly sacred Holy Days. Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/>

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

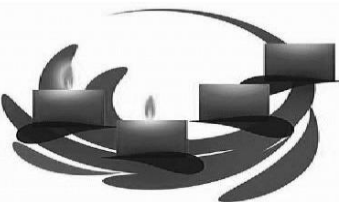
The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Bishop of Belleville

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.

A special thank you to all those who contributed to the Retired Diocesan Priests Collection. While collection donations have not as yet been received from all parishes, total proceeds as of November 20, 2017, are \$70,502.54.

Judy Phillips, Office of Development
Catholic 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

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. 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

ST. EDWARD MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 2, 4:00pm—Dennis Milligan+
Sunday, December 3, 10:30am—St. Edward Parishioners
Thursday, December 7, 6:30pm—Gerald Horman+
Friday, December 8, 8:00am—Kris Huffstodt+ (**Immaculate Conception**)
Saturday, December 9, 4:00pm—John Robison III+
Sunday, December 10, 10:30am—The Deceased of the Clark Family+

Rosary—Every Saturday 3:30pm and 2nd Sunday 10:00am

Weekly Contributions 11-26-2017

Envelopes(29) \$1,493.00
Loose 125.00
Total \$1,618.00
We need \$1,887.00

Building Fund \$182.00
Christmas Flowers 10.00
All Saints Day 50.00

Attendance: Sat. 22 Sun. 43

Saturday, December 9

Lector: Diana Zurliene
EM: Jim & Margaret Thompson
Ushers: Dave & PJ Cavanaugh
Gifts: John & Leslie Robison
Servers: volunteers

Sunday, December 10

Lector: Jen Wellen
EM:David Mills, Emily Milligan
Ushers: Scott Merkle, Paul Perez
Gifts: The Felowitz Family
Servers: Grace & Andrew Milligan



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.

FOOD PANTRY:SET-UP DECEMBER 8--8:30AM
FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION DECEMBER 9—
8:00AM. ALL HELP NEEDED.

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11
Tues: Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24
Wed: Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37
Thur: Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri: Gn 3:9-15,20 Eph 1:3-6,11-12 Lk 1:26-38
Sat: Is 30:19-21,23-26 Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8
Sun: Is 40:1-5,9-11 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

ST. STEPHEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 2, 6:00 p.m. mass – Connie Myers+
Sunday, December 3, 8:30 a.m. mass – St. Anne’s Altar Society
Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m. mass – Gerald & Pat Klein+
Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. mass – Roger Beard+
Thursday, December 7, 8:00 a.m. – Regina Buckleh+
Immaculate Conception, Friday, December 8, 7:00 p.m. – Maureen Maher+
Saturday, December 9, 6:00 p.m. mass – For the living & deceased of the parish
December 10, 8:30 a.m. mass – Jim Stanford+

Rosary will be said a half an hour before each mass +designates deceased

Weekly Contributions 11-26-17

Envelopes..... \$ 1,210.00
Loose..... 187.00
Total \$ 1,397.00

We Need - \$1,731.00

**Catholic Campaign for Human
Development - \$10.00**
Orscheln Ind. Foundation Donation - \$600

Weekend Ministers

Saturday, December 2

Lector: Jim Fehrenbacher
Commentator: Volunteer
EM: Dorothy & Jim Croy,
Sam Pierce
Altar Servers: Pierce Family,
Allie Parker
Ushers: Don Talmant, Mike Winka

Sunday, December 3

Lector: Gerald Klein
Commentor: Ted Whitehead
EM: Phil & Beth Fancher,
Emily Milner
Altar Servers: Max & Nolan
Duquane, Evelyn Stinner
Ushers: Dennis Holkenbrink,
Randv Wells



St. Stephen Activities for the Week

Sunday, December 2, Sacrament of Reconciliation
8 – 8:20 a.m., PSR Class
Tuesday, December 5, Bible Study after mass
Wednesday, December 6, Council after mass
Eucharistic Adoration 7 pm - midnight
Friday, December 8 Immaculate Conception,
Eucharistic Adoration 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Serve Rosary 12:00 noon,
Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 10,- Sacrament of Reconciliation
8 – 8:20 a.m. PSR Program Practice after mass

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, Ashlyn Smith

PSR Schedule
Fall, 2017

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

Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass will be at 10 p.m. with Carols starting at 9:30 p.m. and Christmas Day Mass will be at 9 a.m., December 25. See December Calendar on last page.



The Tree of Joy is now up and ready with angels in place! You may make your selections at any time. There are some tips on the back of each angel to assist you. Any questions contact Cheryl McCarty. Thank you in advance for your generosity in sharing.



Come and celebrate the true Reason for the Season with Santa at Guadalupe Project! We are excited to invite everyone to our Christmas event! Santa will be visiting, and we will have a beautiful photo set where your child can pose with Santa at a manger scene. Sunday, Dec. 10 from 12 noon to 4:00 pm..

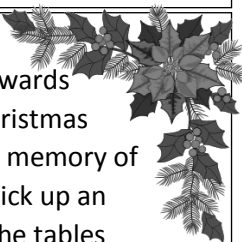
There will be door prizes and refreshments. Tickets for photos are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

We will also be having a drive for diapers, wipes, and formula. Anyone can come from 12-4 and visit Guadalupe Project, bring donations, enjoy refreshments, and tour the building.

If you would like to donate tickets, we would like to be able to give away 75 tickets to families who have visited Guadalupe Project. To donate a ticket, contact Laura at laura@guadalupeproject.net or mail \$10 per ticket to PO Box 181, Flora.

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

If you would like donate towards purchasing Christmas poinsettias, in memory of a loved one, pick up an envelope on the tables at each entrance in church.



St. Stephen Christmas program will be December 10, 7:00 p.m. with a Church Dinner before. The dinner will be at 5:30 pm, For the Potluck, bring side dish and desserts... meat will be provided.

Sympathy is extended to Janet and Neal Fehrenbacher on the death of Neal's mother, Mildred Fehrenbacher who passed away Sunday, November 26 in Effingham. Her funeral service was November 29 at Frank & Bright Funeral Home, with interment in Elmwood Cemetery. May her soul rest in peace.

The choir is practicing on Mondays at 7 pm until Christmas. Practices will continue until Christmas unless announced otherwise. All are welcome.



It was nice to see so many of you share the memory of your loved ones by displaying their pictures around the altar during the month of November. The pictures are now on the cart in the back of church and you can pick them up there. Thank you.

ST. EDWARD NEWS

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 Dec. 2-3, take a few parishioner/family names (that are on labels) from the basket. Send these parishioners/families a Christmas Card. Use the labe on the envelopes for your convenience. You may sign your name or simply put "From a parishioner of St. Edward Church". When you come to church next weekend, (Dec. 9-10, Second 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.

First Sunday of Advent—Standing watch. Always ready.

We are challenged not to slide easily into this new liturgical year. We must be on guard. We must be ready to act in the ways Saint Matthew laid out last Sunday (Matthew 25:1-13). Simply stated, Christ the King says heaven-worthy acts are work s of mercy. These spiritual and corporal works offer needed guidance for weekly behavior.

- *What work of mercy needs doing?
- *What will I do this week to work on it?
- *How can I engage others to help?

Lector workbooks available in church office if anyone would like one.

NATIVITY SETS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

This Advent...for you, your family, and children: a new exhibit of Nativity sets from Around the World...Over 50 nativities from Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa and here at home. Free and open to the public – at the Cathedral for five days – December 8 through December 12. Call Cathedral 618-234-1166 for more info.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: We will be purchasing Christmas Flowers in a couple of weeks. If anyone would like to donate towards them "In Memory of or In Honor of" please use your envelope provided in your collection box or you can put in any envelope with names printed on it. Thank-you.

Correction on December Calendar: Monday, December 25th the correct Mass time for St. Edward is 11:00am. Sorry for the confusion. Peg

FROM FATHER CHARLES’ DESK:

Theme; Waiting in joyful hope

Today, the church begins the Liturgical year. I am wishing everyone a blessed liturgical year (Liturgical year B). In the course of this year, the church retells the story of our salvation, a story that is centered on Christ. There is a twofold aspect to Advent: It is a time of preparation for Christmas in which the first coming of Christ is recalled; at the same time it directs our thoughts to the second coming of Christ.

It is divided into two parts. The first part, which runs from the beginning until December 16, expresses the eschatological aspect of Advent. The second part, which runs from December 17 to December 24, focuses on the first coming of Christ at Bethlehem.

The Liturgy turns to the passages in Scripture that speak of the two coming s of Christ. The Old Testament readings center on the messianic hope of Israel as it takes shape and grows. The Gospel readings focus on Jesus in whom the messianic prophecies are fulfilled, and on his forerunner, John the Baptist.

Sharing the word of God

First reading (Isaiah 63:16-17;64:1,3-8).This is a lament over the misfortunes that have befallen God’s people . The author (a returned exile) entreats God to come and save his people. it recalls God’s past goodness, and candidly acknowledges the ingratitude and sinfulness of his people. There is a note of urgency about it as it strives to bring its hearers to a recognition of their plight from which God alone can deliver them. The dominant note, however, is one of confidence in God ’s loving kindness.

Note: Advent is a time of preparation; a time of waiting for the coming of the Lord. There is need we prepare ourselves for God’s coming by trusting in God ’s mercy and love. The church gives us an opportunity in preparing well by reconciling with God through the sacrament of penance (confession).

The second reading and the Gospel are concerned with the final coming of Christ, something the early Christians believed was imminent.

Second Reading (1 Cor. 1:3-9) Paul gives thanks for the many charismatic gifts God has bestowed on the Corinthians. He is confident that as they wait for Christ’s coming in glory, God will keep them steadfast in bearing witness to him.

Note: What spiritual gifs do we have in order to wait for Christ’s coming? They are; Faith, love ,perseverance, self -control, mercy , fortitude, hope, steadfastness, fear of God and peace.

Gospel (Mk 13:33-37) This urges us to stay awake at our appointed tasks, because we do not know the hour when the Jesus , our Master , will return. We must live in such a way as to be always ready to meet the Lord. For the faithful, the Lord ’s coming is not something to fear ; it is something to look forward to because the lord will come as redeemer , not as judge.

Therefore, brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us ,”STAY AWAKE AND KEEP WATCH” for his coming is imminent. Let us persevere in the Lord by doing good , right at all times.

Shalom!

REFLECTION

The season of advent gives us an opportunity to make a new beginning. Advent is a season of hope. It would be hard to exaggerate the value of hope. It is said that while there is hope there is life.

This has an even deeper meaning in reverse: while there is hope there is life. As long as there is hope, no situation is impossible. It is the task of Christians to keep hope alive in the world. Advent summons us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.

In the final analysis, he is our hope.

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

St. Anne’s Altar Society Minutes, November 5, 2017

In attendance were: Alison Harvey, Trudi Herdes, Dorothy Uebinger, Vivian and Deb Duquaine, Gretchen Stinner,, Joann Stanford, Berenice Brown, Linda Etchison, Abigail Etchison, Jean Guerrettaz, Marilyn Stanford, Susan Schroeder, Donna Myers, Erin, Emma and Anna Pierce, and Lois Hout.

The meeting opened with a prayer and minutes from the last meeting, August 20, were read, and a motion was made by Gretchen Stinner to approve them and seconded by Vivian. The treasurer’s report was disbursed.

Old Business: For the upcoming Basket Raffle, Erin Pierce informed us of the WNOI Bazaar next weekend where she will be raffling selected baskets, and she will then move the raffle baskets to the Social Room here. Also, she informed the Altar Society that after this year, she will no longer be Basket Raffle Chairman and that we need a new chairman for next year.

In Cookie Walk news, flyers are being distributed, Linda will repaint and set up the big wooden sign. We also plan to label and stuff envelopes with the Cookie Walk Letter after the meeting. There will be sign-up sheets to work at the set-up and Cookie Walk which is Saturday, December 2.

The Blood Drive in October went well, with 4 St. Anne’s members volunteering.

After a review of the necessary items for the Welcome Baskets, we unanimously voted to approve a budget of \$15 per Welcome Basket for new parish members.

New Business: We had election of officers: Chairman: Trudi Herdes, Vice Chairman: Vivian Duquaine, Secretary: Deb Duquaine Treasurer: Marilyn Stanford The next meeting will be Sunday, January 21, 2018 immediately following Mass.

The next **Altar Society rotating chairman** are: Jill Fehrenbacher, Mary Beth Lancaster /Susan Schroeder, and Erin and Emma Pierce.

CRY ROOM St. Stephen’s Cry Room is in the Library, which is equipped with a TV set up with a live feed of the Mass

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 LITTLE BLUE ADVENT BOOKS are here. One copy per family please.

Prayer Chain: When a parishioner has an intention & requests prayers, Erin Pierce will initiate the prayer chain. She will contact Fr. Charles, who will determine the prayers. An email will be sent to all members, who will pray for the intentions. Each member should endeavor to assure the obligation is met. Contact Erin 662-2266. erinmp1968@aol.com call 662-2266.

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. Contact Erin or shopwithscrip.com. Retailer list is on website.

December Calendar for St. Stephen and St. Edward Parishes

Friday, December 8, Immaculate Conception - St. Edward – 8:00 a.m.
St. Stephen – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13, Reconciliation Service - St. Stephen – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 13, Reconciliation Service - St. Edward – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 23 – Regular mass times at both churches
St. Edward – 4:00 p.m. St. Stephen – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24 - Regular mass times at both churches
St. Stephen – 8:30 a.m. St. Edward – 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve masses – St. Edward – 6:00 p.m. St. Stephen – 10:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day - St. Stephen - 9:00 a.m.
St. Edward – 11:00 a.m.



