

**Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve/Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

*This year, the calendar aligns so that the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 24, 2017 (Christmas Eve). This has not occurred since 2006. The following are frequently asked questions regarding this calendar issue.*

***Are the faithful able to attend one liturgy on December 24<sup>th</sup> to fulfill their obligation for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas? Will it 'count' for both'?***

Despite falling on a Sunday, the faithful are still obligated to participate in two Masses between December 23-25<sup>th</sup>: one for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (anytime from 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> until 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>) **AND** one for the Christmas Solemnity (either on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> after 4 p.m. or Monday, Christmas Day.) As the Church, we therefore complete our Advent journey with all four Sundays in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

***What are some options for art and environment (decorating) for Advent and Christmas for the weekend?***

Given the short timeframe between the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Masses, some adjustments may need to be made for the Christmas art/environment of the church.

Here are some examples and suggestions:

Decorate the church for Christmas earlier in the week before the Fourth Sunday of Advent with larger/complex items (i.e. trees, nativity scenes, etc.); however, make notable distinctions for the Advent liturgies that it is not yet Christmas (keep Christmas lights off, the image of the Christ child out of the nativity scene, postpone placing flowers around the sanctuary until after the Advent celebrations, etc.).

If possible, keep lights dimmer for the Advent liturgies; then illuminate the church more for Christmas liturgies.

December 17<sup>th</sup> begins the "O Antiphons" of the Church, when the season of Advent focuses on preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth. If the church is being used for weekday celebrations and rites between December 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, consider using this as a reason to begin to transition the church environment during this time.

Be sure to continue to use violet altar cloths and vestments for any remaining Advent liturgies.

***Is January 1, 2018, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God a holyday of obligation?***

Whenever the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God falls on a Saturday or on a Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated. If your parish regularly celebrates Mass on Sunday evening, the Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family should be celebrated on the evening of December 31. While the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1 liturgically outranks the Feast of the Holy Family, since January 1, 2018 is not a holyday the precept to attend Mass is not attached to it as it is for the Feast of the Holy Family.

# St. Edward and St. Stephen Catholic Churches

300 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Fairfield IL 62837

Email [stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com](mailto:stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com)

Website: stedwardfairfield.com



Third Sunday of Advent

812 N. Main Street, Flora IL 62839

Email: [ststephen\\_flora@yahoo.com](mailto:ststephen_flora@yahoo.com)

Website: [ststephenflora.com](http://ststephenflora.com)

**Rev. Father Charles Anyaoku, Pastoral Administrator**

Email: [fronyekaanyaoku@yahoo.com](mailto: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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

Altar Sodality – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

Men's Club - As announced

CYO Meeting - As announced

Food Pantry Distribution – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 8am

**St. Stephen Mass Schedule:**

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

**Confession, Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Saturday noon-1 p.m. & Sunday 8:00-8:20 a.m.  
or call for appointment

**Parish Office:** Trudi Herdes, Secretary,

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. to noon  
Office, Fax and Social Room - 662-8121

Rectory – 662-6261

**Bulletin info:** Beth Fancher, 665-3163 submit by

Thursday email: [bafancher@wabash.net](mailto:bafancher@wabash.net)

**New Parishioner Register** contact Father Charles,

Trudi Herdes or Dorothy Uebinger 662-3711  
email [dot@wabash.net](mailto:dot@wabash.net)

**Music Director:** Diane Briscoe

**PSR Coordinator:** Paul Duquaine

**RCIA Coordinator:** Cheryl McCarty

Knights of Columbus – 1st Wednesday, 7 pm

Finance Committee – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Altar Society - As announced

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, December 16, 4:00pm—Jim Turner+  
Sunday, December 17, 10:30am—Larry McClure+  
Thursday, December 21, 6:30pm—Special Intentions  
Friday, December 22, 8:00am—Gerald Horman+  
Saturday, December 23, 4:00pm—John Robison III+  
Sunday, December 24, 10:30am—St. Edward Parishioners -- 6 pm—Marshall & Lucille Sork+  
Monday, December 25, 11:00am—Parishioners of St. Edward

Rosary—Every Saturday 3:30pm and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10:00am

Weekly Contributions 12-10-2017

Envelopes(25) \$1,377.00  
Loose 111.00  
Total \$1,488.00  
We need \$1,887.00

Building Fund \$ 95.00  
Immac. Concept. 80.00  
Ret. Fund for Rel. 85.00  
Donation 20.00

Attendance: Sat. 23 Sun. 45



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.

PENANCE SERVICE

St. Edward: Thurs. December 21<sup>st</sup> –6:00pm

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25  
Tues: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25  
Wed: Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38  
Thur: Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45  
Fri: 1 Sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56  
Sat: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66  
Sun: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,14a,16 Rom 16:25-27  
Lk 1:26-38

Saturday, December 23

Lector: Nick Zurliene  
EM: Ken & Theresa Nordmann  
Ushers: Kent Ochs, Don Zurliene  
Gifts: John & Leslie Robison  
Servers: volunteers

Sunday, December 24

Lector: David Mills  
EM: Jeff & Mary Murphy  
Ushers: Libby & Anne Pond  
Gifts: The Garrison Family  
Servers: Jed Wellen, Jackson Mills

ST. STEPHEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 16, 6:00 p.m. mass – Howard & Madonna Guellner+  
Sunday, December 17, 8:30 a.m. mass – for the living and deceased of the parish  
Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 p.m. mass – Regina Buckleh+  
Wednesday, December 20, 6:30 p.m. mass – John & Bertha Rudolphi+  
Thursday, December 21, 8:00 a.m. – Herman Rudolphi+  
Friday, December 22, Eucharistic Adoration, 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.  
Saturday, December 23, 6:00 p.m. mass – Sharon Pierce+  
Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve 8:30 a.m. mass – For the living and deceased of  
the parish and mass – 10 p.m. – Al Uebinger+  
Monday, December 25, Christmas Day, 9:00 a.m. – For the living & deceased of the parish  
Rosary will be said a half an hour before each mass +designates deceased

Weekly Contributions 12-10-17

Envelopes..... \$ 885.00  
Loose..... 185.00  
Total ..... \$ 1,070.00

We Need - \$1,731.00

All Saints Day - \$10.00

Immaculate Conception - \$153.00

Retirement Fund for Religious - \$125

Attendance: Sat. - 67 Sun. – 75

Weekend Ministers

Saturday, December 23

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

Sunday, December 24

Lector: Susan Schroeder  
Commentor: Phil Fancher  
EM: Beth Fancher, Randy Wells,  
Emily Milner  
Altar Servers: Max, Sam & Nolan  
Duquane  
Ushers: Kole Greenwood, Lucas  
Whitehead

St. Stephen Activities for the Week

Sat. Dec. 16, Sacrament of Reconciliation noon – 1 p.m.  
Sunday, December 17, Sacrament of Reconciliation  
8 – 8:20 a.m., No PSR  
Tuesday, December 19, Bible Study after mass  
Friday, December 22, Eucharistic Adoration  
8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Serve Rosary 12:00 noon,  
Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00 p.m.  
Sat., Dec. 23, Sacrament of Reconciliation, noon – 1p.m.  
Sun., Dec. 24,- Christmas Eve mass 10 p.m.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation 8-8:20 a.m.

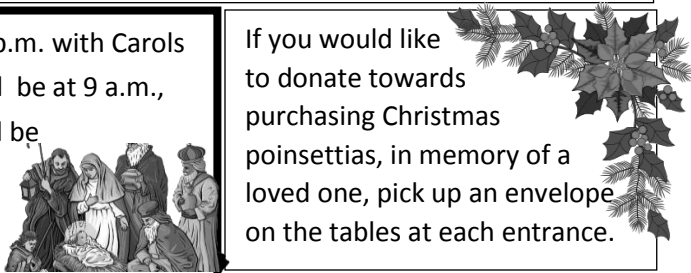
PRAYER INTENTIONS: Linda Griffy, Bill Marks, Nichole  
Wheaton, Lisa Persinger, Verna Oliver, LaVonne Kemmerer,  
Patience McKnight, Clara Wilson, Claire Fopay, Mildred  
Garrison, Ray Vaughn, Anita Allen, Joe Falica, Lois Houlihan,  
Ray & Irene Winka, Pat Venable, Chris Boyd, Dr. Mark Wallace,  
Gerty 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, Kyle Schroeder, Bob Tackett

PSR Schedule 2017

Dec. 17, 24, 31 No Classes

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. New Years Eve, Dec. 31 mass will be at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. New Years Day 8:30 a.m. See December/January Calendar.



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

Many thanks to all who provided gifts for our Angel Tree angels this year. Thirteen children were blessed by your generosity. Christmas blessings to you!



Please note St. Stephen email address and website are:  
Email: [ststephen\\_flora@yahoo.com](mailto:ststephen_flora@yahoo.com)  
Website: [ststephenflora.com](http://ststephenflora.com)

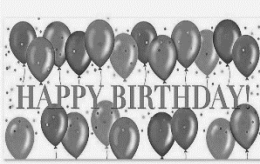
New Parishioner Registration: contact Dorothy Uebinger, Trudi Herdes or Fr. Charles

New Confession times are: Saturday noon-1:00 & Sunday 8:00-8:20

2018 Sunday offerings envelopes are available

**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. Erin [erinmp1968@aol.com](mailto:erinmp1968@aol.com) call 662-2266.

Happy Birthday to Ray Winka. Help him celebrate his 88th birthday on December 17, with our birthday wishes and prayers for good health.



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

If you would like to help earn money for St. Ann's general fund visit [Goodsearch.com](http://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.

Please consider purchasing SCRIP cards after weekend Masses. 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, Contact Erin or [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) Retailer list is on website.

**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.

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



ST. EDWARD NEWS

**PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD**

*To "Prepare The Way of the Lord" for your journey with the Jesse Tree, this last week, (Dec. 17-23) parishioners are asked to read the Christmas Story from the Bible, as a quiet meditation or read aloud with your family. Next weekend, (Dec. 23-24, Fourth 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.

**Third Sunday of Advent—How will I Answer?**

Questions are put to John the Baptist today. Who are you? What do you have to say for yourself? Worthy questions for each of us.

**\*What truth, what goodness will I voice this week?**

**\*What will I do to back up these words?**

**\*How can I lead this person, \_\_\_\_\_, to Jesus, the Light of the World?**

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

**We will once again have a Christmas Choir for Christmas Eve Mass. Practice will be held Wednesday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Anyone wishing to participate is welcome to come.**

**PRE CANA DAY:** Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Carbondale will be presenting a **Pre Cana Day on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.** Couples ay go to the parish website, <http://www.stfxcarbondale.org/PreCana> to download the registration for, fill it out and mail it in with the \$40.00 registration fee. **The cutoff date for registration is January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

**We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> following 10:30am mass. Anyone that is available to help it would be greatly appreciated. The more hands make for quick work. Thank-you in advance.**

**The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal  
Join us as Partners in Hope**

The True joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming New year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity. CSMA

FROM FATHER CHARLES’ DESK:

Praise be to Jesus both now and forever, amen. In today’s liturgy, the church celebrates the Third Sunday of Advent. This Third Sunday of Advent in the Church’s liturgy is called ‘Gaudete Sunday’ or the Sunday to rejoice because it marks the halfway point of Advent. The vestments get a little lighter and the rose candle on the advent wreath is lit. This Sunday goes back to a time when Advent was a period of deep penance and fasting. Therefore, the halfway mark was a relief and a time to rejoice. Gaudete Sunday resonates a song in my mind, and it goes like this...

Rejoice in the Lord, rejoice in the Lord, rejoice in the Lord;

Rejoice in the Lord,

Rejoice in the Lord. Alleluia – rejoice in the Lord, alleluia.

So, we are called to rejoice and be glad in the Lord for the Lord’s coming is near.

In today’s Gospel reading, John the Baptist expressed himself by saying that he is not the light, instead he came to testify to the light that all might believe. He came to testify that Jesus is the Savior of the world. He described his mission and said, “I baptize with water for repentance; the one who is coming after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Today’s reading tells us about John the Baptist who says, “I am the voice of the one crying out in the desert, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’” John the Baptist is calling us for repentance, to make God’s way straight and clear. Do we have the capacity to welcome the Lord when He comes? How do we make His way straight in our lives? Are we willing to point to the light as John did?

Christ’s coming will bring salvation, justice, and peace. The first reading, Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11, describes the coming of the Messiah and His Mission: “I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul, for He has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice.” Christ’s coming will be joyous and a blessing for us.

The second reading, 1 Thessalonian 5:16-24, encourages us to rejoice and be thankful to God in all circumstances because it is God’s will for us in Christ Jesus. He goes further to say that God is faithful to His word and He can never deceive us.

Dear sisters and brothers in the Lord, may we rejoice in the Lord for He is good. He has called us to salvation, and He can never deceive us. His ways are holy, life, and truth. His coming into our hearts would give us peace of mind and happiness. May the light of Christ always shine in our hearts and our minds.

NOTE: I wish to thank all parishioners for your active participation in today’s liturgy. I wish to express also my appreciation to the coordinators and directors of PSR of both parishes, Mr. Paul Duquaine and Mrs. Sarah Pickens, for your support and cooperation. I am ever grateful for your generosity and support. I wish to express my unalloyed gratitude to the music directors of St. Stephen and St. Edward. May almighty God bless you always. I thank you all. **Happy Sunday and rejoice in the Lord.**



December and January Calendar for St. Stephen and St. Edward Parishes

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.

Sunday, December 31, New Years Eve - St. Stephen - 8:30 a.m.  
St. Edward - 10:30 a.m.  
St. Stephen - 6:00 p.m.

Monday, January 1, New Years Day – St. Stephen - 8:30 a.m.  
St. Edward - 10:30 a.m.

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.



