

St. Edward and St. Stephen Catholic Churches

300 NW 5th Street, Fairfield IL 62837
 Email stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com
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812 N. Main Street, Flora IL 62839
 Email: ststephen_flora@yahoo.com
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Rev. Father Charles Anyaoku, Pastoral Administrator

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

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
From its first generations, the Church has invoked Mary in prayer. The first prayer give dates from the third century; it is often called the “Subtuum praesidium” from the first Latin words. The second became popular more than a thousand years later. Some of the other texts addressed to Mary ar the Hail Holy Queen and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ANCIENT PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

*We turn to you for protection,
 Holy Mother of God.
 Listen to our prayers
 And help us in our needs.
 Save us from every danger,
 Glorious and blessed Virgin.*

MEMORARE

*Remember, most loving Virgin Mary,
 Never was it heard
 That anyone who turned to you for help
 Was left unaided.
 Inspired by this confidence,
 Though burdened by my sins,
 I run to your protection
 For you are my mother.
 Mother of the Word of God,
 Do not despise my words of pleading
 But be merciful and hear my prayer.*

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:

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

New Parishioner Register contact Father Charles,

Trudi Herdes or 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

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 30, 4:00pm—Dennis Milligan+
Sunday, December 31, 10:30am—Deceased of the Parish
Monday, January 1, 10:30am—John Robison III+
Thursday, January 4, 6:30pm—Blessings Received
Friday, January 5, 8:00am—For St. Edward Parishioners
Saturday, January 6, 4:00pm—Jim Turner+
Sunday, January 7, 10:30am—Gerald Horman+

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

Weekly Contributions 12-24-2017

Envelopes(31) \$1,425.00
Loose 55.00
Total \$1,480.00
We need \$1,887.00

Building Fund \$1,177.00
Donation 50.00
For the Needy 349.00
Christmas Offering 1,675.00

Attendance: Sat. 35 Sun. 32

Saturday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 7

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, Homer and Shirley
Clark, Sam Ochs and all priests who are sick.

Monday, January 1—New Year’s Day 10:30am

Lector: Diana Zurliene
E. Mins: Peg Garrison, Sally Conley
Ushers: Jim & Margaret Thompson
Gifts: John & Leslie Robison
Servers: volunteers

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: Nm 6:22-27 Gal 4:4-7 Lk 2:16-21
Tues: 1 Jn 2:22-28 Jn 1:19-28
Wed: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6 Jn 1:29-34
Thur: 1 Jn 3:7-10 Jn 1:35-42
Fri: 1 Jn 3:11-21 Jn 1:43-51
Sat: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Mk 1:7-11
Sun: Is 60:1-6 Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 Mt 2:1-12

ST. STEPHEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 30, 6:00 p.m. mass – Evelyn Myers+
Sunday, December 31, New Years Eve, 8:30 a.m. mass – For the living and deceased
of the parish, 6:00 p.m. mass – Tom Scanlan+
Monday, January 1, New Years Day, 8:30 a.m., Jim Stanford+
Tuesday, January 2, 6:30 p.m. mass – Catholic Extension Donors
Wednesday, January 3, 6:30 p.m. mass – Dominic and Mary Talmant+
Thursday, January 4, 8:00 a.m. – Peggy Kessler+
Saturday, January 6, 6:00 p.m. mass – Mildred Fehrenbacher+
Sunday, January 7, 8:30 a.m. mass – For the living and deceased of the parish

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

Weekly Contributions

12-24-17

Envelopes \$1110.00
Loose..... . 141.00
Total \$1,224.00

We Need - \$1,731.00

Christmas Offering

Envelopes - \$1835.00
Loose - 284.00
Total - \$2119.00

Christmas Collection for the needy - \$65.00

Attendance: Sat. - 83 Sun. – 60

Weekend Ministers

Saturday, December 30

Lector: Cheryl McCarty
Commentator: Volunteer
EM: Dorothy & Jim Fehrenbacher, Sam
Pierce, Beth Sulsberger
Altar Servers: Pierce Family
Ushers: Jim McCarty, Jerry Price

Sunday, December 31

Lector: Deb Zimmerman
Commentor: Ted Zimmerman
EM: Beth & Phil Fancher, Ted Whitehad
Altar Servers: Max, Sam & Nolan Duquane
Ushers: Justin Fleener, Jacob Whitehead

St. Stephen Activities for the Week

Saturday, Dec. 30, Sacrament of
Reconciliation, noon – 1p.m.
Sun., Dec. 31,-. No PSR Mass 8:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation 8-8:20 a.m.
New Years Day, Monday, January 1, mass
8:30 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, David Sulsberger,
Doug Frost

PSR Schedule 2017 December 31 - No

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Please welcome to our parish family Reagan Erbacher, who made his First Communion last weekend. Also welcome Alan Huff. He made his First Communion during the Christmas Eve mass. We ask that you keep both men in your prayers as they continue their journey to faith.



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 call 662-2266.

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.

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 Retailer list is on website.

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.



ST. EDWARD NEWS

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—Family.

Every child is born to greatness in the Lord. Every child is full of grace – even when growing old. Every family is Holy. This is the message today. Not only Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. But also, me and mine. Also, yours.

- *How will I cherish my children, my family this week?
- *How can I grow and become strong in the Lord?
- *How will I strengthen family life by mercy works?

PRE CANA DAY: Saint Francis Xavier Parish in Carbondale will be presenting a **Pre Cana Day on Saturday, January 20th, 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 16th, 2018.**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP TERESA WILLIAMS AND LIBBY POND IN YOUR PRAYERS. THEY WILL BE LEAVING JANUARY 18TH-26TH FOR THEIR MISSION TRIP TO HAITI.

As the new year begins we once again are in need of Mass Intentions. Anyone wishing to have a mass said for someone that has passed, blessings received, for a particular family matter. Please put in an envelope with intentions and \$10 per mass and just drop in the collection basket. Thanks.

PSR classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th at 9am.

WE WILL BE TAKING DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH AFTER 10:30AM MASS. ALL HELP IS NEEDED. IT SURE MAKES IT GO A LOT QUICKER. THANK-YOU

May God Bless you and your families abundantly as we prepare for the New Year!!

FROM FATHER CHARLES' DESK:

Feast of the Holy family

The Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph are put before us by the church this weekend as a model for our families. We call them "The Holy Families" but that does not mean that they did not have problems. Just as every family has to face problems and overcome them, or put it another way, has to carry a cross, so also the Holy Family had to carry crosses. Their many crosses come to mind as we the scriptures.

We can easily imagine how misunderstood both Mary and Joseph must have been when Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Their story would never be believed.

Even Mary herself had it very rough early in the pregnancy when Joseph was planning to divorce her before the angel intervened in a dream.

When the time for Jesus's delivery came it took place in an animals' shelter since Bethlehem was already so crowded.

Then the family had to flee to Egypt as refugees because Jesus's life was in danger due to Herod, in much the same way as refugees from war- torn countries are now entering many western countries.

Mary and Joseph suffered the awful experience of losing Jesus for three days when he was twelve years old and the only satisfaction they got from him was that he had to be about His Father's business.

We do not hear of Joseph any more so we presume that before Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee Joseph had died – The Holy Family suffering the greatest pain of all families, the pain of bereavement and separation through death.

Jesus 's public ministry must have taken its toll on Mary. Simeon had predicted in the Temple that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary's soul. We can imagine one such occasion as we read in Mark 3:21 that when Jesus returned to Nazareth one day his relatives came to take him by force convinced that he was out of his mind. Not a very pleasant experience for any family, no matter how holy.

The saddest moment of all came when Mary watched her son die on the cross. What kept the Holy Family together and sane throughout all of these trials and crosses? The answer is 'Love for each other and God.' Jesus 's love for Mary and Mary's love for Jesus, and the love of both of them for God the Father. We can see Jesus's love for his mother when he was dying on the cross and was worried about leaving her behind so he asked his close friend and disciple John to look after her, saying to Mary , Woman behold your son', and to John ' behold your mother(John 19:26-27).

What holds our families together in times of difficulty is love and forgiveness. It is love which triumphs in the end, even if for a while love may have to take the form of some honest talking

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

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.

Respect Life Corner

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – December 30-31 2017

Family.

Every child is born to greatness in the Lord. Every child is full of grace – even when growing old. Every family is holy. This is the message today. Not only Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. But also, me and mine. Also, yours. .

How will I cherish my children, my family this week?
How can I grow and become strong in the Lord?
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