

INFORMATION FOR BOTH PARISHES

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.” Let us learn to listen better to each other and God by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend in Springfield is March 23-25. Register or for more info. call 314-649-7317 or www.stl-wwme.org

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal Commitment Weekend March 3-4

Next weekend marks the beginning of The 2018 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. Through this annual campaign, 14 ministries and programs that provide service to thousands of people throughout our Belleville Diocese are funded. Please watch your mail for additional information and how your gift makes a difference in the lives of many!

February is Catholic Press Month. Twice a month, The Messenger comes to your home to feed your faith with page after page of photos, features, local and national news. The Messenger’s content is important and cannot be found in secular publications. Please renew your subscriptions by returning The Messenger subscription envelope either by mail or in your parish collection basket (\$25), the E-Edition online \$25 or both \$30.

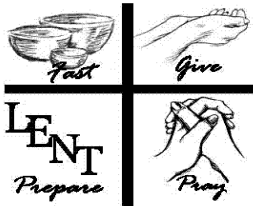
Hospice of Southeastern Illinois Volunteer Training Hospice Volunteer training is being offered by Carle, Richland Memorial Hospital, Olney., March 1 and 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If interested call 800-375-9343 or 618-392-2745. Info on bulletin board.

Prayer is the light of the spirit

Prayer is the light of the spirit true knowledge of God, mediating between God and man. The spirit, raised up to heaven by prayer, clings to God with the utmost tenderness; like a child crying tearfully for its mother, it craves the milk that God provides. It seeks the satisfaction of its own desires, and receives gifts outweighing the whole world of nature.

Prayer stands before God as an honored ambassador. It gives joy to the spirit, peace to the heart. I speak of prayer, not words. it is longing for God, love too deep for words, a gift not given by man but by God’s grace. The apostle Paul says: We do not know how we are to pray but the spirit himself pleads for us with inexpressible longings.

Practice prayer from the beginning. Paint your house with the colors of modesty and humility. Make it radiant with the light of justice. Decorate it with the finest gold leaf of good deeds. Adorn it with the pinnacle of prayer. In this way you will make it a perfect dwelling place for the Lord.



St. Mary’s Brunch at St. Marie, 8 a.m. to noon Sunday March 4, MENU: sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, breads, fruit Adults \$7 children \$3

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul & Western Catholic Union present “No Gun Smoking” dinner theater, March 10, McCormick Center, Belleville, ticket information 618-394-0126.

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: ststephen_flora@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:

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

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

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 INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 24, 6:00 p.m. mass – Robert & Agnes Feldhake+
Sunday, February 25, 8:30 a.m. mass – For the living & deceased of the parish
Tuesday, February 27, 6:30 p.m. mass – Roger Beard+
Wednesday, February 28, 7 a.m. mass – Marilyn Mylius+
Thursday, March 1, 8:00 a.m. – Margo Etchison+
Friday, March 2, **7 p.m. Stations of the Cross** 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
3 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
Saturday, March 3, 6:00 p.m. mass – For the Living and deceased of the parish+
Sunday, March 4, 8:30 a.m. mass – Jim Stanford+

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

Weekly Contributions 02-18-2018

Envelopes..... \$1645.00
Loose..... 206.00
Total \$1801.00

We Need - \$1,731.00
Support the Churches in Central & Eastern Europe - \$20.00
Attendance: Sat. – 61 Sun. – 84

Weekend Ministers
Saturday, March 3
Lector: Cheryl McCarty
Commentator: Volunteer
EM: Paul Birk, Dennis Holkenbrink, Gerald Klein
Altar Servers: Pierce Family
Ushers: Jim McCarty, Jerry Price

Sunday, March 4
Lector: Beth Sulsberger
Commentor: Ted Whitehead
EM: Randy Wells, Deb Zimmerman, Pat Ridgeway
Altar Servers: Max, Sam & Nolan Duquane
Ushers: Ted Zimmerman, Tom Lancaster

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.



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, 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, Paul Weidner, Marilyn Wheaton, Jim Brown, Jakob Lane, Ted Zimmerman, Diana Fleener, Robbie Porter, J.R. Means, Clarice Schweighart, Maura Smith, Cory Britton, Lucille Anderson

St. Stephen Activities for the Week

Sat. February 24, Sacrament of Reconciliation, noon to 1p
Sun. February 25, Sacrament of Reconciliation 8-8:20 a.m. PSR following mass.
Tues. February 27, Bible Study after 6:30 mass
Wed. February 28, Parish Council, Eucharistic Adoration 7 pm- midnight
Friday, March 2, Stations of the Cross – 7 p.m. 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration, 12 noon - Servite Rosary, 3:00 p.m. - Chaplet of Divine Mercy

ST. EDWARD MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 24, 4:00pm—For Father Charles & all priests in the Diocese
Sunday, February 25, 10:30am—Ian Penrod+
Thursday, March 1, 6:30pm—Kelly Clark+
Friday, March 2, 8:00am—Parishioners of St. Edward
Friday, March 2, 6:00pm—Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 3, 4:00pm—Marshall & Lucille Sork+
Sunday, March 4, 10:30am—Larry McClure+
Rosary—Every Saturday 3:30pm and 2nd Sunday 10:00am

Weekly Contributions 02-18-2018

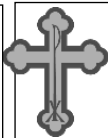
Envelopes(29) \$1,251.00
Loose 48.00
Total \$1,299.00
We need \$1,887.00

Building Fund \$ 112.00
Donations 50.00
Black & Ind. Mission 110.00

Attendance: Sat. 39 Sun. 48
Ash Wed.----83

Saturday, March 3
Lector: Don Zurliene
EM: Sally Conley, Diana Zurliene
Usher: Tim & Jackie Schoenborn
Gifts: Jay & Lisa Fyie
Servers: volunteers

Sunday, March 4
Lector: David Mills
EM: Peg Garrison, Sarah Pickens
Ushers: Paul Perez, Devon Butler
Gifts: The Pickens Family
Servers: Jack Mills, Hayden Felowitz



PRAYER INTENTIONS:
Garland Keck, Kim Buchanan, Lanora Neavill, Ute Britton, Leon Chamness, Jack Ciesielczyk, Jalain Thompson, Kurt Wiseman, Nanette Williams, Julie Griffith, Gina Williams, Emilee Stanley, Noreen Reeves, Paula Zdan, Maddox Oppenheimer, Sara Kerchner, Charles Drechsel, Eva Decker, Matthew Rorban, Kathy Bramlet, Tom Colvin, Andrew Mayo, Robyn Meagher, Sheila Zurliene, Sandra Henson, Andrew Luna, Elaine Jeffers, Homer and Shirley Clark, Alice Zurliene, Tim Dittmer, Megan Young and all priests who are sick.

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: *Lenten Weekday*
Dn 9:4b-10 Lk 6:36-38
Tues: *Lenten Weekday*
Is 1:10, 16-20 Mt 23:1-12
Wed: *Lenten Weekday*
Jer 18:18-20 Mt 20:17-28
Thur: *Lenten Weekday*
Jer 17:5-10 Lk 16:19-31
Fri: *Lenten Weekday*
Gn 37:3-4,17b-28a Mt 21:33-43,45-46
Sat: *Saint Katharine Drexel*
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sun: *THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT*
Ex 20:1-17 1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25

ST. EDWARD NEWS

Our condolences to Sam Ochs and his family with the passing of his brother, Albert N. Ochs on Feb. 13th. May the soul of Albert and all the faithfully departed "Rest in Peace".

Father Charles birthday is Saturday, February 24th. We will be celebrating on Sunday, February 25th with a potluck following 10:30am mass. The church will provide meat, pasta and drinks. Please bring a covered dish and come and wish Father a Happy Birthday!!!!

PSR CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The children's choir has started again. They will practice after PSR classes on Sunday's.
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:
March 4th ---Lent (2:41)
April 1st ---The Solid Rock
May 6th ---Pharaoh, Pharaoh
Any questions please contact Laura Zurliene

Alice Zurliene has been moved to a rehab facility in downtown Evansville. They are not sure how long she will be in there. If anyone would like to send her a card, you can just mail it to her house and the family will get it to her: **311 SW 3rd St., Fairfield, ILL 62837.**

ZURLIENE BEEF STEW LUNCH WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH STARTING AT NOON. THE LUNCH WILL BE HELD AT DON & DENISE ZURLIENE'S HOME. PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH OR DESSERT. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb 25th: Birthday Potluck for Father Charles following 10:30am mass
Mar 4th: Beef Stew Lunch at Don Zurliene's home—12:00pm
Mar 9th: Food Pantry Set up—8:30am
Mar 10th: Food Pantry Distribution—8:00am
Mar 15th: Altar Sodality Salad Luncheon—11am to 1pm
Mar 17th: St. Patrick's Day Dinner—time TBA
Mar 18th: Meeting with parishioners involved with Holy Week Liturgies—5:00pm

CALENDARS & SCHEDULES

The calendars and schedules for the month of March are in the bulletins this weekend. If you can not fulfill your ministry duty, please find a replacement. Also, next weekend the Holy Week schedules and times will be available. **Father Charles will be holding a meeting with all parishioners that will be involved with Holy Week on Sunday, March 18th at 5:00pm in the hall.** If you are not on the schedule but would like to help with Holy Week you can attend the meeting and we will definitely find a job for you. Thank-you.

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

We will be having a Plant Sale along with the Rummage Sale on April 13 & 14.. Please be thinking about plants to sale or getting plants started for the sale. Bernie Brown and Beth Fancher will be chairing this part of the sale. If you want to help. please let us know.

March 11 - There will be a St Anne's Altar Society meeting after mass on Sunday morning in social room.

April 13/14 - Rummage Sale and Plant Sale Start your spring cleaning and save your good clean items for our annual St Stephen rummage sale. No clothes.



The next Altar Society rotating chairman are: Etchison, Winka & Whitehead; Bernie Brown, Donna Myers

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the Catholic Church, or is interested in joining or returning to the Church, the RCIA program is in session and currently working on Confirmation preparation. Info contact Father Charles at 662-6261 or Cheryl McCarty at 815-343-1502.

Cookbook Copies of "Family Favorites: Clay County's Favorite Recipes" are available after Mass in the social room. Books are \$15 each. All proceeds benefit Guadalupe Project. If you have any family or friends who would like to purchase a cookbook, contact Laura and she can get copies to you.



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.

Eucharistic Adoration Schedule **Wednesdays** - 7:00 p.m. until 12 midnight
Fridays - 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. 12 noon - Servite Rosary 3:00 p.m. - Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Second Sunday of each month - Adoration for the intentions of Guadalupe Project 9:45 -10:15 a.m. when PSR is not in session 10:30. - 11:00 a.m. when PSR is in session

. MEALS ON WHEELS We are scheduled to deliver Meals on Wheels in March. There is a sign up sheet on the table outside the Social Room. Delivery includes two routes Monday through Friday, all month. You can sign up for a day or for the whole week. More information contact Beth Fancher 618-676-4292. Please plan on helping with this wonderful program.

2018 PSR SCHEDULE

February 25 – Classes
March 4, 11, 18 – Classes
March 25 – No Class, Palm Sunday
April 1 – No Class, Easter
April 8, 15, 22, 29 – Classes

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. Call Erin 662-2266 erinmp1968@aol.com

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.

From Father Charles’ desk:

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent

During this season of Lent, we are on a spiritual journey. Our Lenten journey is meant to be a symbol for us, a reminder of the meaning of our Christian life. Every Lent begins with this story of Jesus’ temptation in the desert, and every year on the Second Sunday of Lent, we hear the Gospel story of the Transfiguration.

Therefore, in the Gospel we have just heard, we climb the high mountain with Jesus and His three disciples, Peter, John, and James. With them, we become witnesses to His Transfiguration. By His Transfiguration, Jesus is giving us a beautiful glimpse of our destiny and our “destination.” He is showing us what our earthly pilgrimage is leading us to. For just a brief moment, we get to see the goal of our Christian lives.

The Transfiguration is a sign of Jesus’ resurrection, and His Transfiguration is a promise of our own resurrection. In the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah are meant to symbolize the Law and the Prophets. They are there to testify to the disciples, and to us, that Jesus is the Messiah – that Jesus is the One who fulfils everything that God was promising in the Old Testament. That is why Moses and Elijah vanish at the end of the scene. Because with the coming of Jesus, the Law and the Prophets are fulfilled. All we need is Jesus who shows us the face of God.

The Transfiguration also reveals to us the mystery of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit comes in the form of a cloud and overshadows the mountain. Out of this cloud, the Father’s voice speaks and declares, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!” My brothers and sisters, these are great words of hope and encouragement for us today. God our Father has given us His own Beloved Son to be with us, to teach us, and to intercede for us.

That’s why we also hear the story of Abraham and his beloved son Isaac in the first reading today, because Abraham trusted God so completely, so totally, that he did not withhold from God his only beloved son. This story is not easy for us to understand, how a father could agree to sacrifice his only son! But we know that Abraham believed that God could give life to the dead. Therefore, he put his hope in God, and by his faith he gave glory to God. Abraham, through his love and obedience, shows us the perfect image of God’s love and God’s passion for our salvation. That is what St. Paul is talking about in today’s second reading. St. Paul tells us: “If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own son but handed Him over for us all.” God loves us so much that He is willing to hand over His only son to suffer and die for us.

We need to love God as He has loved us – by giving all of ourselves to Him as Christ gave himself up for us. Let us ask for the grace to make ourselves more worthy of His greater love for us – through the faithful practice of our Lenten disciplines, through our sacrifices and our penances, and through our prayer and almsgiving. Let us look to Abraham as our father in faith. Let us live with his same faith. Let us live with his same confidence in our Father’s love.

So, we need to examine ourselves today. What are we still holding back from God? What do we have in our lives that is getting in the way? What is stopping us from giving ourselves completely to God? Let’s not hold anything back from God. Jesus alone is with us – if God is for us who can be against us?

Today, in His Transfiguration, Jesus is promising us that we journey with Him. If we follow Him with true devotion, He will change our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body in the resurrection. May we pray, so as to listen to His word and to follow His example, so that on our earthly pilgrimage, our lives may be transfigured by the light of His presence.

St. Stephen News

We extend our sympathy to Jim and Sandy Sulsberger and family. Their son, David Sulsberger passed away February 15. He funeral service was at St. Stephen’s on February 24. He was buried in St. Stephen Cemetery. May his soul rest in peace.

If you are interested in donating towards the Easter flowers fund, there are envelopes at both entrances. The flowers can be donated in the memory of loved ones. Turn the envelopes in the offertory basket during mass or give to Trudi.



Choir practice for Holy Week has begun. Every Monday evening, 7 pm and continue on Mondays unless announced otherwise. All new members are Welcome!



Anonymous Angels of the Altar St. Anne’s Altar Society is inviting members of the parish to join in caring for the needs of our parish by becoming an “Anonymous Angel of the Altar.” A parish member can become an angel simply by making a yearly donation to St. Anne’s to help with the charitable project for which we are responsible. St. Anne’s Altar Society purchases altar breads, altar cloths and flowers for the altar, as well as supplying the votive candles. They also provide the funeral dinners for families of parish or families of those buried at St. Stephen’s Cemetery. In addition they provide supplies for the kitchen and contribute to the purchase of gifts for First Communion, Confirmation and Graduation classes and for new mothers and the newly married from our parish. If you decided to become an Anonymous Angel of the Altar, you may do so by putting your donation into an envelope labeled “Angels of the Altar,” and dropping it into the collection basket or mailing it to St. Stephen’s. If you pay be check make your check out to St. Anne’s Altar Society. A receipt will be proved to you. The members of St. Anne’s Altar society will keep their Anonymous Angels of the Altar and their intentions in their prayers.

1BIBLE STUDY This series of Bible Study has begun on Tuesday evenings following 6:30 p.m. mass. Trust, Confidence in the God of Salvation is the second theme. It teaches us to rely on the God who created and redeems us. This theme will be discussed starts Feb. 27 through March 20. There will be no Bible Study on March 13. Bible passages that help us discover the virtues that challenge and provide us the most fulfilling way to live well and be a part of each study. Materials are furnished. Please join us for all or as many sessions as possible as we seek God’s Word to keep acting within us.

