

INFORMATION FOR BOTH PARISHES

His Excellency, Bishop Braxton will celebrate a Wedding Anniversaries Mass for couples in the Diocese who are celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries (these include 25th, 30th, 0th,50th, 60th,and all years beyond) on Sunday, June 3rd, 1:30 PM, at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Please contact Trudi at St. Stephen or Peggy at St. Edward, by the end of May, if you would like to attend

St. Patrick’s Parish, Ruma, will hold its 59th Annual Strawberry Festival on Sunday May 20. The Strawberry Festival features Fried Chicken Dinners, serving from 11AM-4:00PM with strawberries and ice cream. Quilt/Cash Bingo starts at noon. In addition there will be a large country store, homemade jams, baked goods, magic shows, music, balloonatic, silent auction, raffle and lunch stand. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00a.m. on Sunday morning.

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal... using your gifts to serve one another

Each year the success of The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal depends upon the generous response of every Catholic household -- **it depends on you!!** Every dollar donated to The Appeal is restricted and supports only the work of 14 diocesan ministries which serve thousands of people throughout southern Illinois each year. To learn more about the good works your gift makes possible, visit www.diobelle.org and click on The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal poster or call Judy Phillips at 618-722-5007 – she’d love to hear from you!

A Pilgrimage of Peace to the Holy Land

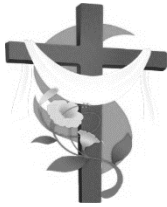
Prayer- Solidarity – Peace

You are invited to join us on a once in a lifetime “Pilgrimage to the Holy Land,” Nov. 26 to Dec. 7, including visits to Nazareth, Cana, Sea of Galilee, Mt. Tabor, Mt of Beatitude, Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, CRS Projects in the area and more. \$3,339 from Chicago plus \$195 in tips. Pilgrimage coordinator is Cheryl Sommer, CRS Coordinator. Download from brochure and registration form, www.GoCatholicTravel.com/18017 or for more info contact Cheryl at 618-234-1166 or send an email to crsdiobelle@gmail.com. Register today.

If you love the person you are married to . . . you will love them even MORE after attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. Your love and relationship will be enriched for many years down the road. It's a gift that keeps on giving! The next weekend is August 3-5, in St. Peters, MO. More info by clicking on www.stl-wwme.org or call at 314.649.7317.

CHANGE IN SCHEDULE in Mt. Vernon. Please note that the Reader (Lector) Workshop scheduled for May 5 at St. Mary the Immaculate Conception in Mt. Vernon has been rescheduled for September 8. The location remains the same. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please watch the monthly mailing for registration form and additional information.

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:

Friday 8:30am.

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:

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.

ST. EDWARD NEWS

CALENDAR & SCHEDULES: The May calendar and schedules are in the bulletin this week. If not available to perform your ministry please find a replacement. Thanks.

PSR CHILDREN'S CHOIR---- They will practice after PSR classes on Sunday's.
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

May 6th—Pharaoh, Pharaoh (last performance for this PSR year)

Any questions please contact Laura Zurliene

CSMA

Way to go St. Edward! We have surpassed our goal for The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. Our goal was \$3400 and to date we have collected \$3536. If you have not made your contribution you still can. Please write the check to St. Edward.

Thank you from The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS & LECTORS NEEDED

If anyone is interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister or be a Lector please contact the church office to set up training. If enough people interested we will hold a training session for these very important ministries. Thank-you.

PLEASE KEEP GABRIELLA ZURLIENE & STELLA ZURLIENE IN YOUR PRAYERS AS THEY ARE PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST. FIRST COMMUNION WILL BE SUNDAY, MAY 6TH, DURING THE 10:30AM MASS.

FREELANCE WRITER WANTED: The Messenger is seeking a talented freelance writer/photographer to contribute feature stories and photographs to the newspaper. Good writing ability a must, but journalism experience not required. The freelancer would be expected to contribute at least on feature story/photograph per issue. He or She can reside anywhere in the diocese. Remuneration is \$75 per story, \$25 per photo used. Interested persons should email their resume, three sample feature stories (or links) to themessengereditor@gmail.com

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Please keep Kennedy Zimmerman and Ethan Milner in your prayers as they will receive their First Communion on Sunday, May 6, during the 8:30 a.m. mass.



This year's Mother/Daughter Banquet will be held on Thursday, May 17, 6 p.m. Meat will be provided, please bring a side dish or desert. All women of the parish are welcome. If you have any questions please see Emma Pierce.

"I want to thank everyone that said prayers for me during my recent extended illness and for the many cards, food & flowers. A special thanks for my family who stayed with us night and day. I feel so blessed that God gave me this wonderful family.

Thank you to Dr. Cycholl, Clay County Health Dept., Richland Hospital and all the people who cared for me, as well as Father Charles and Dorothy Uebinger for bringing me communion. Thank you and may God bless each of you." - Irene Winka

Anyone wishing to make a monetary contribution to the Guadalupe Project may place their donation in an envelope labeled "Guadalupe. Put in the collection basket.



Cookbook Copies of "Family Favorites: Clay County's Favorite Recipes" are available after Mass in the social room. Books are \$15. All proceeds benefit Guadalupe Project. Contact Laura and she can get copies to you.

SUMMER CASH GIVEAWAY RAFFLE

\$20/ticket

Every week from Memorial Day - Labor Day we are giving away two \$100 cash prizes.

GRAND PRIZE awarded after Labor Day: \$500 and \$1,000!

One ticket enters you in all of the drawings all summer!

Winners announced on WNOI Radio every Wednesday from May 30 - September 5.

All proceeds benefit Guadalupe Project. If you would like to help sell these tickets or purchase one, see Laura Whitehead.

Please Support The **2018 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal!**

A most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded. Thank you to the 18 households who have already pledged to support the mission of the Church to teach, preach, minister and serve in the name of Jesus through their financial support of the Catholic Service and Ministry appeal. So far \$2,819.80 has been pledged. NO gift is too great or too small. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, please use an envelope on the table in the back of church.

If you have not yet done so, there's still plenty of time. May God bless you. Our parish participation goal for the appeal is 39 households and our financial target is \$4,850.00. No gift is too great or too small. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, please use an envelope on the tables in the back of church.

From Father Charles' desk:
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Today we heard from John's Gospel that Jesus is the true vine and we are the branches. We cannot do without Him. The vine also needs the branches; it is the branches that produce the fruit. This statement means that Christ also needs us. In today's Gospel reading, John 15:1-8, Jesus says, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you."

Is it possible that we who are now children of God will someday find ourselves like those broken branches or crumpled leaves that people put into bags? It is possible, if we let ourselves be separated from Christ. Just as branches get separated from trees, we can be separated from the Lord. When we become detached from our source of life, Jesus Christ, we die spiritually.

How do people become detached from the Lord? Seldom is it one dramatic moment when people turn from Christ. Usually, detachment from the Lord is gradual, as people begin to give way on small things, discarding what seems to be insignificant religious practices that lead to the abandonment of more important ones such as the sacraments – Eucharist, Penance, Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing of sick, Confirmation, Holy Orders(priesthood). People may take these sacraments for granted without engaging spiritually. Maybe they don't believe what they practice. Then comes a moment when they are coming to church, saying the words and singing the songs, with words that no longer speak from their hearts. They express a faith that is no longer in their hearts and is no longer a part of them.

We need to stay in contact with the living Lord, which can be done through the community of the church. In today's first reading, we see Saint Paul staying in contact with the Jerusalem church, the center of the apostolic faith. He did this by becoming part of the church.

We also stay in contact with the living Lord by nurturing our prayer life. We all need a personal prayer life. We all can have a personal prayer life. The celebration of the liturgy, Sunday Mass, does not exhaust the spiritual life of a Christian. The liturgy is the center and summit of our worship, it should radiate into a daily routine of personal prayer.

Again, we stay in contact with the living Lord through the expression of our faith in the works of charity toward others (compassion and mercy). We stay in contact with the Lord when we are showing compassion to less privileged people (Read- Mathew25:34-40).

Dear sisters and brothers in the Lord, we stay in contact with the Lord in order to bear fruit, fruit that will last. It is only when we remain in Christ that we bear fruits. Again he says, "Ask for whatever you want and it you will be done for you" it is a promise, he can never deceive us because he is faithful, he can never be unfaithful. Faithfulness is his nature.

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St. Stephen News

2018 PSR SCHEDULE

April 29 – Classes
May 6 – No Class, First Communion
May 13 – No Class, Mother's Day
May 20 – Last Class, Pizza Party

There will be Bible study after Mass on Tuesday evenings until 8 p.m.

There will be training for new Eucharistic ministers, Lectors and Commentator in May. Contact Beth Fancher if interested.

The next three rotating chairmen are Mary Beth Lancaster/Susan Schroeder, Deb/Vivian Duquaine, and Etchison/Whitehead/Winka.

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 Anonymous Angel simply by making a yearly donation to St. Anne's to help with the charitable project for which we are responsible. Contact Joann Stanford for more information.

Don't forget to look in the display case at the north entrance. There are great gift items for Communion and Confirmation.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

