

St. Edward and St. Stephen Catholic Churches

300 NW 5th St. Fairfield IL 62837
Email stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com
Website: stedwardfairfield.com



812 N. Main St., Flora IL 62839
Email ststephen_flora@yahoo.com
Website: ststephenflora.com

FROM FATHER CHARLES' DESK: Next weekend, every parish in the diocese will be participate in the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. This annual collection supports the ministries and agencies in our diocese whose scope of services could not be duplicated by an individual parish. Our parish participation goal for the appeal is **39 households** and our financial target is **\$4,850**. You will have the opportunity to make your pledge or at Mass next weekend. No gift is too great or too small. If you do not receive a pledge card in the mail or forgot to bring it, please use one of the in-pew envelope. Please be as generous as you can.

March 6 - Ash Wednesday St. Stephen 7 a.m. St. Edward 6:30 p.m. **LENT BEGINS**

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – 24 February 2019
Picking up from last week. After Saint Luke’s version of the Beatitudes, Jesus continues his Sermon on the Plain (the Sermon on the Mount is St. Matthew’s telling). “Give to everyone ... Do to others.. Love your enemies.. Be merciful..Stop judging.. Stop condemning..Give in good measure.” This recalls the Jewish sense of mitzvah – both the doing of the commandments and the doing of acts and deeds beyond duty that connect us to God. Christians distill the older list of 613 to the golden rule and the 8 Corporal and 8 Spiritual Works of Mercy. Let me carry the Gospel Luke 6:27-38 with me this week and read it every day.
What deed will I do beyond what I already “have to” do?
What from this list is really hard for me to do? Will I try?

Black History Month: As Black History Month comes to an end, take a moment to remember those in our parishes and communities that have suffered from racism in history and present. We all must ask ourselves; Where have I not lived as an example of Christ’s love? Where have my attitudes or perceptions caused me to devalue persons of other cultures or ethnicities? When have I been unnecessarily suspicious or allowed preconceived notion to overshadow the human nature of another? When have I seen the “other” instead of welcoming an opportunity to listen to the story of that person’s life, struggles, or joys? Pray that the Lord my clear our minds and use us for His glory. Remind us Lord that you said, “blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” and fill our spirits so that we may give services of justice and peace. Amen

Hospice of Southeastern Illinois Volunteer Training, Monday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 5. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Carle Richland Memorial Hospital, 800-375-9343 or 618-392-2745 by February 25.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation If you want to know about our faith, or would like to join us, contact Father Charles at 618-662-6261, Cheryl McCarty at 815-343-1502, Ginny Barrett at 618-335-6926, or Mary Murphy at 618-599-5018

Please pray for these students as they continue their preparation for Confirmation. Allie Parker, Ellie Fleener, Nolan Duquaine, Maria Whitehead, Rachel Holkenbrink, Ellie Pierce, Andrea Moody, Jackson Mills, Ailyn Zurliene and Andrew Milligan.

Listed in the Messenger: We have received fish fry information from the following parishes: St. Henry, Belleville; St. Mary, Belleville; St. Teresa, Belleville; St. Mary, Centralia; Sacred Heart, Du Quoin; Holy Trinity, Fairview Heights; St. Joseph, Freeburg; St. Agatha, New Athens; St. Michael, Paderborn; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Renault.

Rev. Father Charles Anyaoku, Pastoral Administrator
Email: fronyekaanyaoku@yahoo.com, phone: 618-662-6261

St. Edward Mass Schedule:
1st and 3rd Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

St. Stephen Mass Schedule:
2nd and 4th Saturday 5 p.m.,
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Confession, Sacrament of Reconciliation
Friday – 8:30 a.m.

Confession, Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday after mass, Sunday 8 – 8:20 a.m. or
call for appointment

Parish Office: Peggy Garrison, Secretary
Office hours Tuesday, Wednesday
& Friday, 8 a.m. to noon
Rectory/Office 847-7931 Fax 847-7393
Parish Hall 847-7512

Parish Office: Trudi Herdes, Secretary, Office Hours
Monday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. to noon, Office, Fax &
Social Room 662-8121, Rectory 662-6261

Bulletin Information to Peggy Garrison, Parish
Office. Please submit by noon on Thursday

Bulletin information to Beth Fancher, 665-3163
submit by Thursday, email bafancher@wabash.net
New Parishioner Register contact Father Charles,
Trudi Herdes or Dorothy Uebinger 662-3711

New Parishioners Register - Parish Office
PSR Coordinator: Peggy Garrison
RCIA Coordinator: Ginny Barrett
Music Director: Denise Zurliene

Music Director: Diane Briscoe
PSR Coordinator: Paul Duquaine
RCIA Coordinator: Cheryl McCarty
Sacristan: Sam Pierce

Pastoral Council – 3rd Thursday
Altar Sodality – 3rd Monday
Men’s Club - As announced
CYO Meeting - As announced
Food Pantry Distribution 2nd Saturday 8am

Knights of Columbus – 1st Wednesday, 7 pm
Finance Committee – 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Altar Society - As announced
Pastoral Council - 4th Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Food Pantry Collection - First Weekend

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 23, 5:00 p.m. MASS – Robert & Agnes Feldhake+
 Sunday, February 24, 8:30 a.m. mass- For the living & deceased of the parish
 Tuesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m. mass – Regina Buckleh +
 Wednesday, February 27, 6:30 p.m. mass – Margo Etchison+
 Thursday, February 28, 8 a.m. mass– Catholic Extension Donors
Saturday, March 2, NO MASS
 Sunday, March 3, 8:30 a.m. mass – Gaylord Schweighart+
Rosary begins 30 minutes before mass

Weekly Contribution 02/17/19

Envelopes.....\$1,678.00 (37)
 Loose..... \$ 183.00
 Total\$1,861.00
We Need - \$1,731.00

\$5.00 Anonymous donation for fund to purchase New Church doors

Attendance: Saturday- no mass Sunday - 90

Weekend Ministers

Saturday, March 2 NO MASS

Sunday, March 3 Lector- Beth Sulsberger
 Commentator- Phil Fancher
 EM – Emily Milner, Beth Fancher, Jim Fehrenbacher
 Servers – Max and Nolan Duquaine, Ethan Milner
 Ushers – Justin Fleener, Jerry Price

St. Stephen Upcoming Activities

Saturday, February 23, 5 p.m. mass, Potluck for Fr. Charles’ birthday following mass
Sunday, February 24, 8:30 a.m. mass,
Tuesday, February 26, 6:30 mass, Bible study
Wednesday, February 27, 6:30 p.m. mass, Adoration 7 p.m. -12midnight Finance Committee following mass
Thursday, February 28, 8 a.m. mass
Friday, March 1, Divine Mercy Chaplet 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 pm. Servite Rosary 12 noon, Chaplet to Divine Mercy 3 pm.
Saturday, March 2, NO MASS
Sunday, March 3, 8:30 a.m. mass

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Linda Griffy, Bill Marks, Nicole Wheaton, Velma Oliver, LaVonne Kemmerer, Patience McKnight, Clara Wilson, Mildred Garrison, Ray Vaughn, Joe Falica, Pat Venable, Chris Boyd, Clarence & Clarice Schweighart Painter, Ray & Irene Winka, Steve Dudzik, Ruth Wilson, Roger Wells, Becky Payne, Bob Bluhm, Rhonda Ryker, Dr. Don Bunnell, Paul Weidner, Marilyn Wheaton, J.R. Means, Lois Houlihan, Cory Britton, Lucille Anderson, Debbie Jones, Ed Perk, Georgia Klingler, Gene Leonard, Celeste Replogle, Georgianna Weber, Steve Spitzner, Helen Powless, Nick Compton, Cindy Bloemer, Kennah Hiestand, Jim McCarty, Sister Kate Kuenstler, Kathryn Erwin Dunnigan, Luke Miller, Betty Greenwood, Claire Karasch, Judie Powless, Mari Reichel, Jean Quinn

ST. EDWARD MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 23—NO MASS

Sunday, February 24, 10:30am—Blessings for Fr. Charles Anyaoku
 Thursday, February 28, 6:30pm—Blessings Received
 Friday, March 1, 8:00am—Catholic Extension Donors
Saturday, March 2, 5:00pm—Marilyn Dooling+
 Sunday, March 3, 10:30am—Kelly Clark+
Wednesday, March 6, (Ash Wednesday) 6:30pm—Patty Brunell+

Weekly Contr.—02/17/2019

Envelopes(40) \$2,156.00
 Loose 76.00
 Total \$2,232.00
 We need \$1,887.00
 Building Fund \$442.00
 Donations 20.00

Attendance: Sat. 37 Sun. 52

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Garland Keck, Kim Buchanan, Lanora Neavill, 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, Cody Burroughs, Terri Venturelli, Linda States, Connie Cusick, James Rawls, Jim Thompson, all priests who are sick

Saturday, March 02: 5:00pm

Lector: Mike Oppenheimer
E.Min: Tim & Jackie Schoenborn
Ushers: Ken & Theresa Nordmann
Gifts: John & Leslie Robison
Server: volunteer

Sunday, March 03: 10:30am

Lector: David Mills
E. Min: Peg Garrison, Ginny Barrett
Ushers: Scott Merkle, Rick Rennier
Gifts: The Bunting Family
Servers Jackson Mills, Hayden Felowitz

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: Weekday
 Sir 1:1-10 Mk 9:14-29
Tues: Weekday
 Sir 2:1-11 Mk 9:30-37
Wed: Weekday
 Sir 4:11-19 Mk 9:38-40
Thur: Weekday
 Sir 5:1-8 Mk 9:41-50
Fri: Weekday
 Sir 6:5-17 Mk 10:1-12
Sat: Weekday
 Sir 17:1-15 Mk 10:13-16
Sun: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Sir 27:4-7 1 Cor 15:54-58 Lk 6:39-45

ST. EDWARD NEWS

REMINDER: NEXT SATURDAY, March 2nd—There will be mass at St. Edward—5:00pm.

PSR NEWS

Feb 24th—PSR CLASS 9:00am No Confirmation
Mar 3rd—PSR CLASS 9:00am Confirmation—5:00pm
Mar 10th—PSR CLASS 9:00am No Confirmation
Mar 17th—PSR CLASS 9:00am Confirmation—5:00pm
Mar 24th—PSR CLASS 9:00am No Confirmation

CYO NEWS

The CYO will be doing a fundraiser to raise money for NCYC this fall in Indianapolis. On the weekends of March 30th-31st and April 6th-7th, they will be selling religious jewelry. These pieces would make nice gifts for First Communion, Confirmation, Easter Baskets, Mother's Day and Graduation. The CYO will get half of everything they sell. Please help support our youth. Thank-you in advance.

LOOKING AHEAD

February 24th—Bible Study 6:00pm (The Gospel of Luke)
March 3rd—Zurliene Beef Stew Dinner (noon) at Don Zurliene's house.
March 6th—Ash Wednesday (St. Stephen—7:00am) (St. Edward—6:30pm) Lent begins
March 9th—Food Pantry Distribution 8:00am
March 14th—Altar Sodality Salad Luncheon (11:00am—1:00pm)
March 16th—St. Patrick's Dinner 6pm (after mass)
March 21st—Pastoral Council 7:00pm

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Sunday, February 24th is Father Charles' birthday. We will be having a potluck luncheon to help him celebrate. The parish will provide meat & drinks. Please bring covered dish or dessert. Everyone is invited.

ZURLIENE BEEF STEW

On Sunday, March 3rd, Don Zurliene and crew will be having a Beef Stew dinner at noon. This will be held at Don's house. Please bring covered dish or dessert. Everyone is invited.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

St. Patrick's Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 16th after 5:00pm mass. There are sign up sheets on the bulletin for workers & how many attending.

Our Condolences to Teresa Tibbs and her family with the passing of her mother, Lowanda Bachstein. May Lowanda and all the faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen

Lanora Neavill is in a nursing home in Carmi. If anyone would like to send her a card here is her address:
Lanora Neavill, Wabash Christian Village Carmi, IL 62821

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Special Events!

POT LUCK St. Stephen parishioners are invited to attend a pot luck dinner in honor of Father Charles' birthday this Saturday, February 23, immediately following the 5 p.m. mass. **Tableware and drinks** will be provided. Please plan to attend for an evening of good food and good company!

February Birthdays

Feb. 14 Krista Weidner's birthday
Feb. 17 Dorothy Uebinger's birthday
Feb. 24 Father Charles' birthday

MARCH DELIVERY OF MEALS ON WHEELS

We are scheduled to deliver meals in March. We deliver Monday through Friday starting around 10:30 a.m. It takes about an hour. We have two routes. Questions call Beth Fancher 618-676-4292 or email bafancher@wabash.net. All help appreciated!
Please consider helping with this Wonderful ministry.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Dan Sulsberger who will retire as the Flora Economic Development Director. Enjoy your retirement!

Pastoral Council

The newly elected council members are Larry Timm and Paul Duquaine.

The rest of the council are Cheryl McCarty, Susan Schroeder, Emily Milner and Justin Fleener.

PLEASE BRING OLD PALMS to burn for ASH WEDNESDAY. Leave them in the Social Room.

BULLETINS ARE NOW ON THE BOOKSHELVES by the tables at the entrance doors in church. Pick one up, lots of information. There are extra bulletins in the mail box on the south door of the church.

Please pick up a Little Black Book on the bookshelves in back of church. These are 6-minute meditations on the Sunday Gospels of Lent. They begin on March 3rd.

If you are celebrating an occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, new birth, or wedding, please contact Trudi Herdes at church or Beth Fancher 618-676-4292, bafancher@wabash.net We would like to pray for you, put it in the bulletin and complete our list.

St. Stephen PSR 2019 Calendar Sunday Class Time 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

March 3 Class April 7 Class
March 10 Class April 14 No Class Palm Sunday
March 17 Class April 21 No Class Easter
March 24 Class April 28 Class
March 31 Class

From Fr Charles Anyaoku's desk...

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-23; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-39

In today's Gospel reading Jesus urges us to love and forgive our brothers and sisters who hurt us. He calls us to not take vengeance but instead to offer love and blessing. This particular passage in the scripture is the most difficult part of the Gospel message. These words of Jesus seem different from the way we tend to live. Jesus says, "Love your enemies...Do good to those who hate you ... Bless those who curse you..." Forgiving our enemies has never been a popular commandment, but it is crucial for spiritual health.

We may find the concept of forgiveness, love, and reconciliation a huge lesson in spiritual development and growth, but Jesus Christ always emphasizes the necessity for one to forgive from his heart. He knows the implications and benefits for the spiritual growth that follow. Forgiveness and reconciliation enrich our souls and enable us to speak freely with God.

In today's first reading we have a good example of this forgiveness and reconciliation when David had the opportunity to take revenge against Saul, but instead he did not because he believed that revenge was for God. Here, despite the soldier's attempt to persuade David to take away the life of Saul, as the Lord had delivered Saul's life into his grasp, he did not. David reiterated that only God had ultimate power to administer and reward anyone according to his deeds, and he says, "The Lord will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness ... [and] I would not harm the Lords anointed."

Again, forgiveness is a sign of strength and should be incorporated into our spiritual life and growth. There are several passages in the scripture where Christ makes reference to the necessity of forgiveness and love in our spiritual growth. The Lord would like us to respond to our enemies as Christians. Due to our baptismal dignity, in the face of conflict, we choose the way of Christ who did not look at those who crucified him, but instead looked to the glory that awaited him in heaven. In fact, there is blessing in forgiving rather than taking revenge, it gives us opportunity to draw to their attention the need to live in unity and peace. We had many saints who took Christ as their model – St. Stephen, the first martyr, and so many others.

Forgiveness often enables us to pray freely without being distracted. It also makes our prayer effective. Christ says, "When you pray, forgive all who hurt you so that your father in heaven will forgive you." So, forgiveness makes one free and safe from people around him. We can break the cycle of revenge, retaliation, and resentment and be set free. When one fails to forgive, his freedom remains but he will live in fear and anxiety. Hatred is evil, and we must be aware of it. The moment we start hating a person, we become his or her slave. That person is inserted into our thoughts. In effect, we take that person with us wherever we go. That person becomes a burden on our spiritual life.

So, only an experience of God's grace can deliver us from the feelings of anger and resentment. It is a mutual love of God which can make the world we know different from the world that gives glory to God.

Forgiveness is not easy, brothers and sisters in the Lord, but it begins with wanting to forgive. We can forgive when we think more on the glory that awaits those who love God. Christ forgave those who killed him because his heart was focused on the glory of God awaiting him. Therefore, we too should see him as our model since we have been promised for eternal life.

NB: I wish to thank you all for your love and your support for my pastoral assignments. Thank you for your good wishes on my birthday celebrations. I am forty eight (48) today, please celebrate with me.

St. Stephen News

WEEKEND MASS the Saturday evening mass rotates between St. Stephen and St. Edward Churches. The first and third Saturdays will be at St. Edwards and the second and fourth Saturdays will be at St. Stephen. The mass on Saturdays will be at 5 p.m. The Sunday morning mass times will remain the same.
St. Stephen 8:30 a.m. St. Edward – 10:30 a.m.

**WELCOME VISITORS ATTENDING MASS Welcome to our church.
Come visit us again.**

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

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, 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

Goodsearch: 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.

SCRIP: 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.

Altar Society: The next three rotating chairmen are: Donna Myers, Beth Fancher, Jill Fehrenbacher

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



