

Fridays during Lent, 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross at St. Stephen and St. Edward

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

April 9 – Lenten Penance Service – St. Stephen 6:00 p.m.
 April 11 – Lenten Penance Service – St. Edward 6:00 p.m.
 April 16 - Chrism Mass
 April 18 – Holy Thursday - 6:30pm St. Edwards Adoration 7:30pm – 9:00pm
No mass at St. Stephen

April 19 – Good Friday - **Stations of the Cross 3 p.m., Passion 7 p.m. - St. Stephen**
 Stations of the Cross 4:30 p.m, Passion, 5:00 p.m.- St. Edward

April 20 – Holy Saturday - **Easter Vigil – 8:00 p.m. St. Stephen**
 No Mass at St. Edward

April 21 – Easter Sunday - **8:30 a.m. St. Stephen** 10:30 a.m. St. Edward

First Communion is May 5 Confirmation is May 4 at Holy Cross, Wendelin

All are invited to the **Annual Diocesan Spring Blessing of the Farm**, April 30, 1P.M. at Frey Farms. Frey Farms is located at 22251 CR 700 E; Dahlgren. Frey Farms can be arrived at by traveling on Interstate 64, exit 100 south onto IL-242, 3 miles to turn right onto Belle Prairie Rd. Turning west onto Belle Prairie Rd. travel 1 mile, Grubb Memorial Drive, veer left turning onto CR 2200 N, turn right onto CR 700 E. Farm will be on your left “Farm Blessing” signs will also lead you to the farm. Those attending bring seed and soil in marked containers, animals, farm machinery to be blessed. Food collected for the needy of the area.

A most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not done so as yet, there’s still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – in any amount are needed and can be made through your parish or at www.diobelle.org (Click on “Giving to the Diocese”). Your generosity supports 15 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year’s appeal and all those we serve. Thank you.. God bless you always.

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.

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 Marv Murphuy at 618-599-5018

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

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, March 30, NO MASS

Sunday, March 31, 8:30 a.m. mass – Kathryn Fleener+
Tuesday, April 2, 6:30 p.m. mass – Kenny & Evelyn Myers+
Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 p.m. mass – Ed Tritschuh+
Thursday, April 4, 8:00 a.m. mass– Catholic Extension Donors
Saturday, April 6, NO MASS
Sunday, April 7, 10:30 a.m. Mass– Gerald P. Judd+
Stations of the Cross – Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

Weekly Contribution 03/24/19

Envelopes.....\$1,437.00 (46)
Loose..... \$ 257.00
Total\$1,694.00
We Need - \$1,731.00

Donation to purchase new entrance doors - \$5

Attendance: Saturday- 90 Sunday - 78

Next Weekend Ministers

Saturday, April 6, NO MASS

Sunday, April 7, 10:30 a.m. Lector- Mary Roy
Commentator- Phil Fancher
EM – Dorothy Uebinger, Beth Fancher, Emily Milner
Servers – Nolan and Max Duquaine
Ushers – Justin Fleener, Jerry Price

St. Stephen Upcoming Activities

Saturday, March 30, NO MASS

Sunday, March 31, 8:30 a.m. mass.
Tuesday, April 2, 6:30 mass, Bible study, Choir Practice 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 -pm. mass, Adoration 7 p.m. -12midnight
Thursday, April 4, 8 a.m. mass
Friday, April 5, Stations of the Cross 6 p.m.
Divine Mercy Chaplet 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 pm.
Servite Rosary noon, Chaplet to Divine Mercy 3p.
Saturday, April 6, NO MASS
Sunday, April 7, 10:30 a.m. Mass
Tuesday, April 9, Lenten Penance Service 6 p.m.

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Linda Griffy, Bill Marks, Nicole Wheaton, Velma Oliver, Clara Wilson, LaVonne Kemmerer, Patience McKnight, 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 and Mary Bunnell, Paul Weidner, Marilyn Wheaton, J.R. Means, Lois Houlihan, Cory Britton, Debbie Jones, Ed Perk, Georgia Klingler, Gene Leonard, Celeste Repogle, Georgianna Weber, Steve Spitzner, Helen Powless, Nick Compton, Cindy Bloemer, Kennah Hiestand, Sister Kate Kuentler, Luke Miller, Jean Quinn, Betty Greenwood, Claire Karasch, Judie Powless, Marie Elwat, Beth Reagan Snyder Michelle Huff Freezeland.

ST. EDWARD MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, March 30, 5:00pm—John Robison III+
Sunday, March 31, 10:30am—Renata Pranger+
Thursday, April 4, 6:30pm—St. Edward Parishioners
Friday, April 5, 8:00am—Catholic Extension Donors
Saturday, April 6, 5:00pm—Jim Turner+
Sunday, April 7, 8:30am (Men’s Sausage Dinner)—Larry McClure+
Stations of the Cross—Fridays at 6:00pm

Weekly Contributions 03-24

Envelopes(30) \$1,482.00
Loose 75.00
Total \$1,557.00
We need \$1,887.00

Building Fund \$220.00
CSMA 110.00
Cath. Relief Serv. 10.00

Attendance: Sat. 0 Sun. 75

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, 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, James Rawls, Glory Almon, Cathy Newville, all priests who are sick

Saturday, April 6: 5:00pm

Lector: Don Zurliene
E. Min: Tom & Jackie Schoenborn
Ushers: Jim & Margaret Thompson
Gifts: Ray & Sally Conley
Servers:volunteer

Sunday, April 7: 8:30am

Lector: David Mills
E. Min: Peg Garrison, Emily Milligan
Ushers: Scott Merkle, Kent Ochs
Gifts: The Bunting Family
Servers : Jackson Mills, Hayden Felowitz

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17-21 Jn 4:43-54
Tues: Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit
Ez 47:1-9,12 Jn 5:1-16
Wed: Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30
Thur: Saint Isidore, Bishop
Ex 32:7-14 Jn 5:31-47
Fri: Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest
Wis 2:1a,12-22 Jn 7:1-2,10
Sat: Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-53
Sun: Fifth Sunday of Lent
Is 43:16-21 Phil 3:8-14 Jn 8:1-11

ST. EDWARD NEWS

REMINDER: NEXT SATURDAY, April 6th—There will be mass at St. Edward 5:00pm, Also mass for Sunday, April 7th will be at 8:30am for Men's Sausage Dinner.

PSR NEWS

Mar 31st—PSR CLASS 9:00am Confirmation—5:00pm

Apr 7th—NO PSR OR CONFIRMATION (MEN'S SAUSAGE DINNER)

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. This is a fundraiser for NCYC in Indianapolis, IND.

LOOKING AHEAD

March 31st—St. Edward Mission with Fr. Robert Zwilling 6:30pm

April 1st—St. Edward Mission with Fr. Robert Zwilling 6:30pm

April 7th— (Mass at 8:30am) Men's Club Sausage Dinner 11:00am

April 7th—Holy Week Meeting 6:00pm

April 11th—Lenten Penance Service (St. Edward) 6:00pm

MISSION

St. Edward will be having a Mission Retreat on Sunday, March 31st & April 01st.

Schedule is as follows:

Sunday, March 31st

5:30pm Light meal in the hall

6:30pm Topic—Reconciliation & the Eucharist

7:30pm Reconciliation

Monday, April 1st

5:30pm Reconciliation

6:30pm Topic—Interior Life/Sacred Scripture being read as the word of God

7:30pm Light Refreshments

CSMA

Congrats St. Edward Parishioners: We have surpassed our \$3,400 goal for The Catholic Service and Ministry appeal. To date we have collected \$3,671. If you have not donated yet there is still time.

HOLY WEEK MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH AT 6:00PM IN THE HALL. ANYONE THAT WILL BE INVOLVED WITH HOLY WEEK WILL NEED TO ATTEND: LECTORS, SERVERS, COMMENTATOR, USHERS, AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS. THANK-YOU.

ST. EDWARD PENANCE SERVICE WILL BE HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH AT 6:00PM.

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Thanks to the 27 households that 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 \$4,737.90, has been pledged. If you have not yet responded, please make every effort to do so. Our goal is 37 households and \$4,850.00.

Thank you to all those who gave their time, volunteering to deliver Meals on Wheels in March. Those that serviced: Jim & Jill Fehrenbacher, Tom & Mary Beth Lancaster, Bernie Brown, Jean Guerrettaz, Phil & Beth Fancher, Lora Delaney, Jane Henson, Pat Ridgeway, Dan & Mary Talmant Tyler & Susan Schroeder, Dorothy Uebinger.

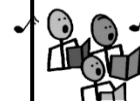
We also thank those that help with Food Pantry weekly!

We will hold our ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE/PLANT SALE on April 12 and 13.

We will accept good clean items for sale. No CLOTHING.

All plants, starts, seeds and garden supplies accepted.

There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday, 6 p.m. during Lent at St. Stephen



Choir Practice for Holy Week has begun at 7 pm. Practice will continue on Mondays unless announced otherwise.

There will NOT be a mass on Saturday, April 6 at St. Stephen Sunday, April 7, mass will be at 10:30 a.m. at St. Stephen

Lenten Penance Service- St. Stephens, April 9, 6 P.M

Altar Society met Sunday, March 17 after Mass:

Rummage and Plant Sale is coming up April 12-13. Drop off times Wednesday all day and Friday morning. Sale times are Friday 3-6pm and Saturday 8-11am. Please bring items to donate, or help at the sale, and especially come shop at the sale!!

If you are a Rotating Chairman and you are in charge of an event, please try to call volunteers from lists A, B, or C depending on which list Linda tells you to use so that all volunteers on the lists will be called upon.

The next meeting will likely be the Mother-Daughter Banquet. We are undecided on what we are doing for the banquet and date it is, depending on who's in charge of it.

Happy April Birthdays: Jim McCarty – April 1, Cheryl McCarty – April 13



Envelopes for donating towards Easter flowers can be found at both entrances.



Today , we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Year C

(Joshua 5:9a.10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3,11-32)-- By God's mercy and forgiveness there is hope for a repentant sinner .

Today's Gospel reading is a great parable for Lent. Our Lord Jesus told this parable we have just heard because the Scribes and the Pharisees had complained about Jesus ' kind treatment to sinners.

According to today's Gospel, the tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say concerning the kingdom of heaven , and the Pharisees and the Scribes complained . They said , " This man welcomes sinners and eats with them" . Then Jesus replied them with this parable. This parable could be called the parable of the prodigal (younger) son, the parable of the self-righteous (older)son, and the parable of the all Merciful and loving Father. Each of these persons in the story speaks to us in different ways.

The parable of the prodigal son or wasteful son who demands his inheritance, goes off to a distance country and loses it all. The church presents this parable in reminding us of our stands before God when we commit sin. This unnamed 'distance country ' is a way of living , a condition of the heart. The bible says, " And he left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery" . Sin can take us far from God, from self and from others. Anybody who is in a state of sin is in a distance country. When you hate or refuse to forgive , you are too many miles away from God. We have wandered in a strange land because of our sins. We need to ask for assisting grace from God to enable us realize our condition of wretchedness. We need to come back home where we belong.

During lent , we are expected to be honest about our sins. Whatever our sins may be , we know from this parable that God is a loving and forgiving father who welcomes back the repentant sinners with open arms. There is no one who can claim to be perfect . it is only God who is perfect . It is a sign of moral awakening and spiritual maturity to be able to say, " I have sinned" . It is also a sign of humility . in the sacrament of penance , we receive God's mercy and forgiveness. I would encourage all to participate actively in this Lenten penance service since it gives us an opportunity to say , " I am sorry Lord , for I have sinned against you " . We receive the gifts of God's mercy and forgiveness.

The parable does not condemn the older brother , self -righteous son ,who feels that his younger brother should not come easily .He holds that he must undergo some pain , humiliation , but he does not realize that the grace of God surpasses our failings , and his grace abounds.

When we come across people who realize they have done wrong , they need our recriminations. They need our help to begin to walk once more with the church. Repentant sinners don't need our resentment but our help along the way back, they need to be encouraged.

Finally there is the father willing to take a repentant son back and seeking to bring reconciliation to his family. God , father in his infinite mercy has brought salvation for all through his only Son Our Lord Jesus to reconcile us with the father by his death and resurrection .And through the ministry of the church , he has sent the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of our sins , and so the church has the power to remit us and reconcile us to God. May we ask God in this mass , to grant us his spirit and strength to desist and detest our sins, and renew us with his grace in order to come back to him with contrite heart and be able to say , " Lord , I have sinned , by your grace grant me your forgiveness. Amen.

St. Stephen News

WEEKEND MASSES The Saturday evening mass rotates between St. Stephen and St. Edward Churches. The 1st and 3rd Saturdays will be at St. Edwards and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays will be at St. Stephen. Saturdays masses 5 p.m. The Sunday morning mass times will remain the same. St. Stephen 8:30am. St. Edward 10:30 a.m.

St. Stephen PSR 2019 Calendar

April 7 - Class	April 28 Class
April 14 No Class	May 5 – No Class 1 st Communion
Palm Sunday	May 12 – No Class Mothers Day
April 14- No Class	May 19 - Last Class– Pizza Party
April 21 No Class - Easter	

Our Church will be selling the partial lots that we own on Holly Lane, Flora. If anyone is interested in purchasing this property or has any questions concerning this matter, please contact Trudi Herdes at church.

Altar Society: The next three rotating chairmen are: Etchison/Whitehead/Winka, Berenice Mary Brown, and Donna Myers.

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.

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.

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

