

St. Stephen News

Happy Birthday December 5th - Tina Winka and 6th – Bernie Brown
HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY Ray Winka – December 17.
Happy Anniversary December 5 - Jerry & Kathy Price

Please let Beth Fancher or Trudi Herdes know what dates you are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or any special events (i.e. births, graduations, marriage, etc.). We would like to pass this information on in the bulletin.

There will be Eucharistic Adoration each Sunday during PSR classes in the Adoration Chapel after Mass Everyone welcome

MASS INTENTIONS If you would like to have a mass intention said for a loved one who has passed, special intention or blessings received, please place name of intention and \$10 in an envelope and drop in the collection basket. If you would like specific date, try to get the information to Trudi as soon as possible, a couple weeks ahead or more before the date.

SERVERS We are in need of additional altar servers, lectors, commentators and Eucharistic ministers. Please contact Father Charles, Beth Fancher or Diane Briscoe if you would like to serve or would like more information about these ministries. All youth and adults are invited to serve. Please consider helping with these important and wonderful ministries.

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.

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. That should be our daily prayer. That should be our daily desire. That should be our daily wish.

December 15, 2019

St. Edward and St. Stephen Catholic Churches

300 NW 5th St. Fairfield IL 62837, phone 618-847-7931
Email: stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com
Website: stedwardfairfield.com

812 N. Main St., Flora IL 62839, phone 618-662-6261
Email: ststephen_flora@yahoo.com
Website: ststephenflora.com

Rev. Father Charles Anyaoku, Pastoral Administrator
Rectory Phone: 618-662-6261 Cell phone: 618-641-8978

MISSION STATEMENT

We, of St. Edward Catholic Church, Fairfield, united as a family of God's people strive to live out the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through a community spirit of love and service to one another. We endeavor to touch the lives of all with God's living presence and love. We hope to achieve these through: Participating in the sacraments and providing for the spiritual needs of all; the young and the elderly, those with special needs and those who are no longer very active in the parish. Providing a welcoming environment to all including new members who might like to join our parish and those who visit to worship with us. Using our gifts and talents for the life and growth of our parish and for the greater glory of God. Providing a comprehensive system of support services that will assist the poor and the needy as far as our scope can reach.

St. Edward Weekend and Daily Mass Schedule

Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Friday, 8:00 a.m.
1st and 3rd Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) Friday, 8:30 a.m.
1st and 3rd Saturday, 4:20 – 4:40 p.m.

Parish Office: Peggy Garrison, Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon. Rectory and Office 847-7931, Fax 847-7393, Parish Hall 847-7512
New Parishioner Register at Parish Office
PSR Coordinator Diana Zurliene, RCIA Coordinator Ginny Barrett, Music Director Denise Zurliene
Pastoral Council – 3rd Thursday, Men's Club – As announced Youth Ministry 3rd Sunday—5:30pm,
Food Pantry Distribution 2nd Saturday, 8 a.m.

Baptism, Marriage, Vocations, Sacrament of Anointing & Care of the Sick, contact Fr. Charles Anyaoku or call St. Edward or St. Stephen

MISSION STATEMENT

St Stephen Church aspires:
To be united in the love of God and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
To proclaim the word of God by a life of witness in our community and beyond.
To give the glory through assisting the weak and the less privileged.
Putting things back together, binding, healing, affirming, serving, restoring and educating the people of God.
To serve together in reconciling with one another and with God. Sharing our gifts and ourselves for the sake of the Gospel.

St. Stephen Weekend and Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, 8:00 a.m.
2nd and 4th Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) Wednesday after mass, 2nd & 4th Sat. 4:20– 4:40 pm.,
Sun 8– 8:20 am. or by appointment

Parish Office: Trudi Herdes, Secretary, Office Hours Monday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. to noon, Office, Fax & Social Room 662-8121, Rectory 662-6261
New Parishioner Register contact Fr. Charles, Trudi Herdes or Dorothy Uebinger 662-3711

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

ST. STEPHEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. MASS – Carroll & Virginia Sulsberger
Sunday, Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. Mass – For the living & deceased of the parish
Monday, December 16, 6:00 p.m. - Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 p.m. Mass – For Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m., Mass – John & Bertha Rudolphi+
Thursday, December 19, 8:00 am Mass – Dominic & Mary Talmant+
Saturday, December 21, NO MASS
Sunday, Dec. 22, 8:30 a.m. Mass – Al Uebinger+

Weekly Contribution- December 8

Envelopes.....\$1,337.00 (30)
Loose..... \$ 149.00
Total.....\$1,486.00

We Need - \$1,731.00

Retirement Fund for Religious - \$95
Attendance: Sat. 0 Sunday - 107

Weekend Ministers
Saturday, December 21 NO MASS

Sunday, Decemer 22, 8:30 a.m. Mass
Lector: Emily Milner
Commentator: Ted Whitehead
EM: Beth Sulsberger, Sam Pierce, Dorothy Uebinger.
Servers: Nolan & Max Duquaine Kehlin Crawford
Ushers: Jerod Fleener, Jerry Price

Please submit bulletin information to Beth Fancher, call 618-676-4292 email bafancher@wabash.net by noon on Wednesdays.

St. Stephen Upcoming Activities

Saturday, December 14, 5 p.m MASS
Sunday, December, 15, 8:30 a.m. Mass, NO PSR or Adoration
Monday, December 16, 6 p.m. Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 p.m. Mass
Wednesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. Mass, Adoration 7 pm- 12am Finance Committee
Thursday, December 19, 8:00 a.m. Mass
Friday, December 20, Divine Mercy Chaplet 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 pm. Servite Rosary noon, Chaplet to Divine Mercy 3pm
Saturday, December 21, NO MASS
Sunday, December 22, 8:30 a.m. Mass, No PSR

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, Clarice Schweighart, Ray & Irene Winka, Steve Dudzik, Ruth Wilson, Roger Wells, Bob Bluhm, Rhonda Ryker, Don & Mary Bunnell, Paul Weidner, Marilyn Wheaton, JR Means, Lois Houlihan, Cory Britton, Ed Perk, Georgia Klingler, Celeste Replogle, Georgianna Weber, Luke Miller, Steve Spitzner, Helen Powless, Nick Compton, Marie Elwat, Cindy Bloemer, Kennah Hiestand, Jean Quinn, Betty Greenwood, Claire Karasch, Judie Powless, Beth Reagan Snyder, Claire Fopay, Steve Feldhake, Harrison Hilliard, Pat Like, Carrie Nussmeyer

ST. EDWARD MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 14—NO MASS
Sunday, December 15, 10:30am—Larry McClure+
Thursday, December 19, 6:30pm—Blessings Received
Friday, December 20, 8:00am—St. Edward Parishioners
Saturday, December 21, 5:00pm—Dennis Milligan+
Sunday, December 22, 10:30am—Barb Wood+

Weekly Contribution 12/08

Envelopes(33) \$1,918.00
Loose 175.00
Total \$2,093.00
We need \$1,887.00

Building Fund \$175.00
Christmas Flowers 75.00
Ret. Fund Religious 115.00
Immaculate Conc. 177.00
Donations 30.00
Attendance: Sat-26 Sun- 73

Sat., December 21—5pm

Lector:Don Zurliene
E. Min:Tim & Jackie Schoenborn
Ushers:Jim & Margaret Thompson
Gifts:John & Leslie Robison
Servers:volunteers

Sunday, December 22—10:30am

Lector: Diana Zurliene
E. Min: Gary & Myrtle Snodgrass
Ushers: Rod & Peg Garrison
Gifts: The Bunting Family
Servers: Gabby & Ailyn Zurliene

Please submit bulletin information to Peggy Garrison at the Parish Office by noon on Wednesdays.

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Garland Keck, Kim Buchanan, Lanora Neavill, Leon Chamness, Tom Colvin, Jack Ciesielczyk, Jalain Thompson, Nanette Williams, Julie Griffith, Gina Williams, Emilee Stanley, Maddox Oppenheimer, Sara Kerchner, Charles Drechsel, Eva Decker, Matthew Rorban, Andrew Mayo, Robyn Meagher, Andrew Luna, Elaine Jeffers, Homer and Shirley Clark, Alice Zurliene, Tim Dittmer, Terri Venturelli, Linda States, James Rawls, GloryAlmon, Cathy Newville, Luke Dewees, Adam Reyling, Ruth & Ralph Langhauser, Teresa Williams, Randy White, Raymond Garrison, Noah Gollner, Mary Jean Ochs, Rusti Grogan, Ed Nelson, Wallace Hart, Mark Fleming, & all priests who are sick.

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: *Advent Weekday*
Nm 24:2-7,15-17a Mt 21:23-27
Tues: *Advent Weekday*
Gn 49:2,8-10 Mt 1:1-17
Wed: *Advent Weekday*
Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25
Thur: *Advent Weekday*
Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Lk 1:5-25
Fri: *Advent Weekday*
Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38
Sat: *St. Peter Canisius, Priest*
Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45
Sun: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

St. Edward and St. Stephen News

Are you a subscriber to The Messenger? Thank you! You've made a smart decision to receive enlightening and absorbing articles from prominent thinkers and local news all designed to give you new insights and hope. The Messenger.

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal... Blessed to receive, chosen to give

On behalf of the ministries and programs funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and those they serve, we thank you for your prayers and continued generosity to the 2019 campaign. May you and your families feel the warmth of God's love and the comfort of His peace at Thanksgiving and always.

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.

TO ALL PARISHIONERS: Someone is sending emails with my name on it. In case you receive any strange mails bearing my name, first verify its authenticity from me by calling this number 618-641-8978 before responding. Thank you - Fr. Charles

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

2019-2020 St. Edward and St. Stephen Masses and Special Services

Sunday, December 15 Reconciliation Service	St. Edward – 6:00 p.m.
Monday, December 16 Reconciliation Service	St. Stephen – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve	St. Edward Mass - 8:00 p.m. St. Stephen Mass – 11:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 25 Christmas	St. Stephen Mass – 8:30 a.m. St. Edward Mass - 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 31 Eve of Solemnity of Virgin Mary	St. Stephen Mass – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 1 Solemnity of Virgin Mary	St. Edward Mass – 8:00 a.m. St. Stephen Mass – 10:30 a.m.

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

There will NOT BE mass at St. Stephen's on Saturday, December 21.

Please pick up an angel on the Angel Tree, purchase items listed for the children and return the wrapped gifts no later than December 20.

FYI: Remember there are current bulletins in the mailbox on the south door.



If you would like to donate toward purchasing poinsettias for Christmas, in memory of loved one. Envelopes are at both entrances. Return in the offertory baskets.



Thank you to Frank and Bright Funeral Home for the 2020 calendars. Please pick them up in the back of church.

Choir practices for December are on Mondays at 7 pm, unless announced otherwise. All Parishioners are invited to join us !

The next three Altar Society rotating chairmen are Jill Fehrenbacher, Mary Beth Lancaster/Susan Schroeder, Erin/Emma Pierce.

We are in need of volunteers who would be willing to pick up parishioners who need a ride to Mass on occasion. If you are able to help in this ministry, please call Trudi at the parish office on Monday or Wednesday morning, or at 618-838-2720

The high school/young adult PSR class is being revised to a group for young adults in high school and college. Each class will be a stand-alone event. We would love to have any young people, in high school or college join us. Gatherings will include videos & discussion on topics of faith. See Paul Duquaine or Laura Whitehead with any questions. laura.whitehead.91@gmail.com or text 618-599-6786

St. Stephen Parish School of Religion 2019-2020 Calendar Sunday Class Time 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 15 – No Class	Dec. 22 – No Class Christmas	Dec. 29 – No Class New Years
January 5 – Class	January 12 – Class	January 19 – Class
January 26 – Class	February 2 – Class	February 9 – Class
February 16 – Class	February 23 – Class	

WELCOME VISITORS ATTENDING MASS THIS WEEKEND
Welcome to our churches. Come visit us again.



From Fr. Charles’ desk,

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

The True Identity of Jesus

Today’s Gospel is about discovering the true identity of Jesus and that of John the Baptist. From the prison John anxiously sent his disciples to inquire from Jesus whether he was “ He- who - is -to – come”. - The messiah, the long awaited Savior of the Jewish people- or whether they had to wait for someone else. This is the same John who in the past at the beginning of his ministry introduced Jesus to his disciples as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world’.’ (Jn. 2:29-31) And now, he was baffled.

The Hebrew prophecies about the Messiah came in many forms. Some, like Isaiah in today’s first reading, spoke about the time of the Messiah as a time of restoration and peace. Others saw the Messiah as a warrior, a commander, as John described last week, laying the ax to the roots of unproductive trees and cutting the down. Today, John pondered and reflected and considered those beliefs he shared with his fellow Jews about the Messiah. If Jesus was the Messiah whom he introduced, why did he not start acting like Messiah? Here I am in the prison suffering .Is setting those in prison free not a primary duty of Messiah? John’s notion of Messiah was political like that of his Jewish people. He failed to know the type and correct Messiah Jesus was. He doubted. He got it wrong. This was his weakness.

But in the Gospel of today’s mass, Jesus resorted to the section of prophet Isaiah in today’s first reading of the mass, and quoted Isaiah: “Go back, and report to John what you hear and see,” and he said “ the blind can see again, cripples walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, dead people are raised to life and the poor have the Good News of salvation preached to them.”

Prophet Isaiah had foretold these events as a proof of the coming of Messiah, but people did not understand him well. Isaiah was pointing at the spiritual Messiah while the people, including John the Baptist, were expecting a political messiah. John had only half of the identity of God shown through Jesus. John preached a God of divine retribution and vengeance but Jesus preached a God of divine love. John lived before the cross, so he could never have known the full extent of God’s love; God has given us his gift of knowing his love through the cross.

However, John’s question might be our own. We celebrate Christmas every year and sing the song, Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Then we go back to reading the papers after Christmas and ask, So where is the Kingdom? Is Jesus the one or shall we look for another? The message Jesus sends to John and to us is that the power of Christ’s coming is found not in the sound and fury of battle but in the changes within human hearts and lives.

We see the power of Christ’s coming at Christmas most vividly not in the brightness of our lights, the glitter of our decorations, the sound of our choirs, the size of our trees or the number of our gifts. The power of Christ Christ’s coming is shown in his entry into human lives to dwell there as a source of strength, faith and redemption. The real power of Christmas is manifested on the inside rather than on the outside.

Advent is a good time to identify whatever is keeping us from experiencing this power of the Messiah. Having Christ in our life comes with opening our soul in the sacrament of penance, to decide to take the teaching of Jesus to heart, embrace the gospel , live in his truth and also to love our neighbor . Happy Sunday!

ST. EDWARDS NEWS

REMINDER: NEXT SAT., December 21—There will be mass at St. Edward 5:00pm.

December PSR SCHEDULE
15TH—PSR (last class until Jan. 12)

January
5th—No class
12th—Resume classes

YOUTH MINISTRY

Thank-you to all the parishioners who purchased the St. Edward shirts. When they are finished, they will be on a table in the hall.

BIBLE STUDY

BIBLE STUDY WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 15TH AT 5:00PM IN THE PARISH HALL. ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT KEN OR THERESA NORDMANN. **At the conclusion of Bible Study, there will be St. Edward Penance Service at 6:00pm.**

CLOTHESLINE VOLUNTEERS:

If anyone is interested or available to volunteer at The Clothesline please contact Leslie Robison (842-9602--even if you are not sure but just have questions). Morning shift is 9-12:30 and afternoon shift is 12:30-4pm. Here are the dates for the rest of the year: Dec. 21st (9-1pm....Saturday). Please check your calendars and give Leslie Robison a call. Thank-you.

JESSE TREE

To “Prepare the way of the Lord” for your journey with the Jesse Tree, this last week, (Dec 21-22) parishioners are asked to read the Christmas Story from the bible (Mt 1:18-25, 2:1-12) as a quiet meditation or read aloud with your family. You may then tie your final ribbon on our Jesse Tree. Thank-you for everyone who participated in the “Jesse Tree” journey. We hope it helped fill your hearts and souls with the true meaning of Christmas.

HALL CLOSED

THE CHURCH HALL WILL BE CLOSED WED., DECEMBER 18TH—FRI., DECEMBER 20TH. THE TILE IS BEING STRIPPED AND WAXED. SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

PSR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, THE PSR KIDS WILL BE PERFORMING THEIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOLLOWING THE 10:30AM MASS. HOPE EVERYONE CAN JOIN US. I KNOW THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY HARD.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Jeff & Mary Murphy 12-18-1987 (32yrs.) Anthony & Elizabeth Zurliene 12-29-2018 (1yr.)

