

Announcements From Fr. Charles' Desk:

Due to new directives from the State of Illinois, and also from the diocese of Belleville, the ceremony of the First Holy Communion for our kids is postponed to June 14th 2020 for both St. Stephen and St Edward. (This date is tentative)

The State of Illinois has issued further directives in respect of containing this coronavirus pandemic through this month of May. We are told to continue obeying the shelter in place order. There will be no public Masses until the ban is lifted. I have been saying my daily and weekend masses privately. I assure you that my weekend homilies will be posted in the bulletin. I do record my weekend masses in YouTube which can be sent to you through my secretaries.

IF YOU WISH TO WATCH FATHER CHARLES SAY SUNDAY MASS HERE IS THE "YOUTUBE" ADDRESS: <https://youtu.be/hypBccSrrg>

This prayer is very important during Easter seasons, the Regina Caeli replaces the Angelus.

Queen of Heaven, Rejoice , Alleluia.

For He, whom you were worthy to bear. Alleluia.

Has risen as He said. Alleluia.

Pray for us to God. Alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.

Because the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray: O God , who by the Resurrection of your son, our Lord Christ, have been pleased to give joy to the whole world , grant we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive You in my body, my soul and my whole being. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart I embrace You as if you were already there And unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

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 Parish Offices.

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

ST. STEPHEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

NO MASSES OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Several Weekend Collection - \$3,279.00

Easter - \$780.00

Good Friday – Holy Land - \$85.00

Catholic Home Mission Appeal - \$40

Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal - \$75

Thank you so much to those who continue to help St. Stephen's financially. Please continue to mail them to the church or drop envelopes off in Fr. Charles mailbox slot on the west side, Main Street side of church.

Thank you to the 20 households that have already pledge 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 Services and Ministry Appeal. So far **\$3,898** has been pledged. If you have not please efforts to do so. Our goal \$4,976.

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

Linda Griffy, Bill Marks, Nicole Wheaton, Velma Oliver, Clara Wilson, Ray Vaughn, LaVonne Kemmerer, Patience McKnight, Mildred Garrison, Pat Venable, Clarice Schweighart, Irene Winka, Steve Dudzik, Ruth Wilson, Roger Wells, Rhonda Ryker, Don & Mary Bunnell, Marilyn Wheaton, Lois Houlihan, Cory Britton, Ed Perk, Georgia Klingler, Celeste Replogle, Georgianna Weber, Luke Miller, Helen Powless, Marie Elwat, Cindy Bloemer, Kennah Hiestand, Jean Quinn, Claire Karasch, Judie Powless, Claire Fopay, Harrison Hilliard, Becky Dulaney, Maria Pemberton, Joyce Heuerman, Fritz (Frank) Zimmerman, Mary Patridge, Clara Keys, Larry Hagen, Connie Schlabach

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

TO ALL ST. STEPHEN PARISHIONERS: IN ORDER TO OBEY THE SOCIAL DISTANCING CONCEPT, THE BISHOP HAS DECIDED AND DIRECTED THE PASTORS TO CANCEL ALL LITURGICAL SERVICES AND MASSES. PLEASE BEAR WITH US AT THIS MOMENT. LET US UNITE IN PRAYERS THAT GOD WILL COME TO OUR NEED. BE ASSURED OF MY PRAYERS. **PLEASE CONTACT ME AT 618-641-8978 OR Trudi Herdes WITH ANY QUESTIONS.** *Father, Charles, Pastoral Administrator*

HOME BLESSINGS - Contact Ted Whitehead to set up a time for Father Charles to come and bless your home. For more information see Ted or Father Charles.

We are in dire need of altar servers. Altar servers can be children who have received their first communion as well as any adult. All are welcome.

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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

ST. EDWARD MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

NO MASSES OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

The Scripture readings are below for your reading.

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, Elaine Jeffers, Homer and Shirley Clark, Alice Zurliene, Tim Dittmer, Terri Venturelli, Linda States, James Rawls, Cathy Newville, Luke Dewees, Ruth & Ralph Langhauser, Teresa Williams, Randy White, Raymond Garrison, Noah Gollner, Rusti Grogan, Ed Nelson, Mark Fleming, Mary Murphy, Ginny Barrett, Ernie Sork, Donna Sullivan, David Ochs & all priests who are sick.

Weekly Contribution 04/26

Envelopes(27) \$1,758.00

Loose 00.00

Total \$1,758.00

We need \$1,887.00

Building Fund \$247.00

Donations 25.00

Rice Bowl 142.42

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

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: Easter Weekday

Acts 11:1-18 Jn 10:11-18

Tues: Easter Weekday

Acts 11:19-26 Jn 10:22-30

Wed: Easter Weekday

Acts 12:24—13:5a Jn 12:44-50

Thur: Easter Weekday

Acts 13:13-25 Jn 13:16-20

Fri: Easter Weekday

Acts 13:26-33 Jn 14:1-6

Sat: Easter Weekday

Acts 13:44-52 Jn 14:7-14

Sun: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7 1 Pt 2:4-9 Jn 14:1-12

Let our actions reflect the trust and peace that can only be found in Christ Jesus. Stay close to Jesus and the Blessed Mother in prayer, asking that those who are suffering from the disease or from related anxiety may find healing and peace. Amen

St. Edward and St. Stephen News	
Respect Life Corner- “They did not yet understand.” (John 20:9) How fitting the Gospel reading today reflects our times. You would think the apostles would be beaming with joy in the realization that Christ did what He promised them He would do: Rise from the dead, defeat sin, with the offer of eternal life with Him! Instead, we hear about panic, misunderstanding and confused faith. They wonder if Jesus’s body has been stolen. They are shocked by the empty tomb and while some of them start to believe, they haven’t seen the risen Lord...yet. Christ enters into suffering himself and becomes the healing salve, the cure, of the world. In “our” sinfulness, we put Christ on the cross. He responds with His divine mercy and love, transforming suffering forever. In fact, His cross is life saving for us and world, especially during this time. We have faith that whatever we feel, wherever we are in our faith, Christ is with us. His resurrected love is the other side of darkness. We are better off because of His suffering. Learn, Act, Connect, Pray- Christ has risen for all of us. Let’s go out and meet Him. The apostles rejoiced when they had a personal encounter with Him. Let’s thank Him for His care and intervention in our lives. Through His salvation, we find eternal healing.	
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 by calling me at 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
Announcement: Due to COVID-19 AND THE UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES – THE CSMA FUND FOR MINISTRY HAS EXTENDED ITS DEADLINE TO TURN IN APPLICATIONS. THE NEW DEADLINE IS MAY 31.	
<i>SPRITUAL COMMUNION</i> <i>My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now, receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, And unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.</i> <i>SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL</i> <i>Saint Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the Wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan And all the evil spirits that prowl about the world. Seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.</i>	Pope Francis’s prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross to the joy of the resurrection. AMEN. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

St. Stephen News
We extend our sympathy to the family of Betty Greenwood, Tom Greenwood’s mother. She passed away April 26. A private, family burial took place at Elmwood Cemetery. May her soul rest in peace. The Little White books for the Easter Season are in a manila envelope in the white mailbox on the south door entrance at church. There are several chalk boards that will be removed from the walls in the Social Room before repainting the room. If interested in purchasing the boards or donating towards purchase of the paint, contact Jacquie Lueking or Deb Duquaine. Bids will be accepted. If you would like to contribute to the cemetery fence fund, please place your donation in an envelope marked 'cemetery fence.' and drop it in the collection basket. Thank you. The next three Altar Society rotating chairmen are: Beth Fancher, Jill Fehrenbacher, Mary Beth Lancaster/Susan Schroeder. <u>MASS INTENTIONS</u> 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. 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. Do you like to sew? Would you enjoy spending a little time sewing with an old-fashioned sewing circle? Clay County Health Department's hospice program is in need of lap quilts for hospice patients. They provide the fabric. All you need is a sewing machine and sewing notions. We would gather in the Social Room to visit and sew. You've never made a quilt but would like to come? No problem. We will teach you. Call Cheryl McCarty, 815-343-1502 for more information. 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 put these dates in the bulletin. 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.

St. Edward News

IF YOU WISH TO WATCH FATHER CHARLES SAY SUNDAY MASS HERE IS THE "YOUTUBE"

ADDRESS: <https://youtu.be/hypBccSrrg>

WE WILL RECORD ON SUNDAY MORNING AT ST. EDWARD AND ST STEPHEN. THEN THE VIDEO
WILL BE DOWN LOADED TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

TO ALL ST. EDWARD PARISHIONERS:

IN ORDER TO OBEY THE SOCIAL DISTANCING CONCEPT, THE BISHOP HAS DECIDED AND DIRECTED THE
PASTORS TO CANCEL ALL LITURGICAL SERVICES AND MASSES. PLEASE BEAR WITH US AT THIS MOMENT. LET
US UNITE IN PRAYERS THAT GOD WILL COME TO OUR NEED. BE ASSURED OF MY PRAYERS.

PLEASE CONTACT ME AT 618-641-8978 OR PEG GARRISON AT 618-599-2098 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

FATHER CHARLES, PASTOR ADMINISTRATOR, ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

**THANK-YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAVE BEEN MAILING OR DROPPING IN THE MAIL BOX, THEIR
WEEKLY DONATIONS. IT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.**

**GOD IS GOOD!
ALL THE TIME!
ALL THE TIME!
GOD IS GOOD!**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I AM THE GATE." Doorways and gates can protect those within. This the image of Jesus
today—gate and protector, shepherd and guide. Let Psalm 23 fill our prayer everyday this
week.

*~Because I am protected by the Good Shepherd, whom will I protect this week? How will I
do it?*

~On what right paths will I let myself be guided?

~What goodness and kindness will shine through my thoughts and actions this week?

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing
praise. Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and
they and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord, and
the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has
committed any sins, he will be forgiven. James 5:13-16

I know we can't be together this first weekend of May for our monthly anointing but if
each of us can read the scripture and know God is watching over us.

From Fr. Charles' desk,

Fourth Sunday of Easter (year A)

Acts 2:14, 36-41 1 Peter 2:20-25 John 10 :1-10.

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ as we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Easter known as
the Good Shepherd Sunday the Church invites us to reflect further not only on the
resurrection experience but also on our Savior's merciful tenderness so that we can
recognize the right he acquired over each one of us by his death. Today also offer us the
opportunity to pray genuine vocation in the church and for all who have the grave duties or
responsibilities to govern, lead or direct others in the world.

In today's Gospel reading, John 10:1-10, we hear Jesus declares himself as the Gate for
the sheep, and also says that through him they may have life in abundance. Jesus says that the
sheep follow the shepherd because they recognize his voice.

Jesus uses the image of a good shepherd to teach us how much he loves us , and also to
describe the kind of good leader he had shown us ,that he laid down his life for us .

One of the challenging factors facing every follower of Jesus today is to listen for the
Master's voice in the middle of competing voices and sounds demanding our attention,
conflicting noises assaulting our senses and dissonant messages loudly challenging our
beliefs, values and loyalties . What voices are you accustomed to hear? What voices are we
really listening to? What words and values are filling our ears and minds? Which voices are
really guiding our own life?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, today in this challenging time , in this middle of
pandemic , we hear voices around the world and also , they are loud and pervasive because
they are amplified by the media. They are destructive , therefore we are called to be cautious .
But , in the middle of all this voices and noises , there is also the voice of the Good Shepherd
speaking to us . The voice of the Good Shepherd calls us to live with dignity in the image of
God in which we were all created . We can follow the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd in our
life as it comes to us through the Gospel . May we also be good leaders to our parish , families
and kids and friends .

Happy Sunday of Good Shepherd to all !

