

A Prayer for COVID-19 Pandemic

***May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.***

***May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.***

***May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving
their health or making their rent.***

***May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.***

***May we who have to cancel our Trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.***

***May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult
of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.***

***May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.***

***As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.***

***During this time when we cannot physically wrap our
arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to
our neighbors.***

Announcement 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.

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

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.

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. 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.



ST. STEPHEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

NO MASSES OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

May 10 - Several Weekend Collection - \$4,446.00

Food Pantry – (2 months) \$550.00
Catholic Home Mission Appeal - \$100.00
Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal - \$650.00

This weekend is a special collection for Seminarian Education. If you don't have an envelope, place donation in a blank envelope marked for Seminarian Education. Thank you

Cemetery Fence Fund – In memory of Mr. & Mrs. John T. Frank and James D. McCarty - \$250.00

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 21 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 **\$4,548** has been pledged. If you have not please efforts to do so. Our goal \$4,976.

Remember: Food Pantry and Guadalupe Project are in need of our help.

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, SteveDudzik, 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, Frank Zimmerman, Mary Patridge, Clara Keys, Larry Hagen, Connie Schlabach, Nursing home residents

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 adults are welcome.

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: 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, David Ochs & all priests who are sick.

Weekly Contribution 05/17

Envelopes(22)	\$1,412.00
Loose	00.00
Total	\$1,412.00
We need	\$1,887.00
Building Fund	\$ 82.00
Donations	30.00
Seminarian Educ.	40.00
Ascension	40.00
Cath. Comm. Camp.	40.00

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

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: *Sts. Bede the Venerable, Gregory, Mary Magdalene*

Acts 19:1-8 Jn 16:29-33

Tues: *Saint Philip*

Acts 20:17-27 Jn 17:1-11a

Wed: *Saint Augustine of Canterbury*

Acts 20:28-38 Jn 17:11b-19

Thur: *Easter Weekday*

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Jn 17:20-26

Fri: *Saint Paul VI, Pope*

Acts 25:13b-21 Jn 21:15-19

Sat: *Easter Weekday*

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 Jn 21:20-25

Sun: *Pentecost Sunday*

Acts 2:1-11 1 Cor 12:3b, 12-13 Jn 20:19-23

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

A Prayer for Our New Bishop

O God, eternal shepherd of the faithful, who tend your Church in countless ways and rule over her in love, grant, we pray, that Michael, your servant, whom you have set over your people, may preside in the place of Christ over the flock whose shepherd he is, and be faithful as a teacher of doctrine, a Priest of sacred worship and as one who serves them by governing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

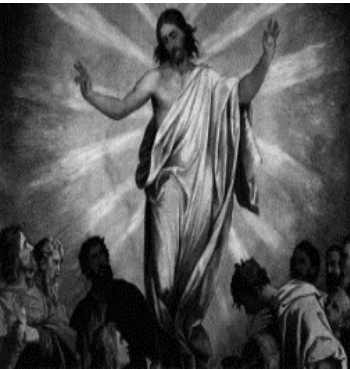
(Roman Missal: “Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions,” no. 3)

SPRITUAL COMMUNION

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.

SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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.



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.

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.

St. Stephen News

Let us pray for our parishioners Andrew Koester and Olivia Mintun, as they prepare to get married on June 27. Andrew and Olivia will be married at St. Anthony’s in Effingham. May God bless them with their future plans.

May Birthday: Clara Harvey – May 28th.

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. contact 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.

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.

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 662-6261 or Cheryl McCarty 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

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: It will be live streamed between 10:45-11:00am (depending on arrival time of Father). It will be on Facebook under David Michael Mills Facebook page.

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

CATHOLIC SERVICES MINISTRY APPEAL

Here is an update on CSMA goal. To date we have collected \$3,786 toward our parish goal of \$4,582. If you have not mailed in your pledge, there is still time to do it. Thank-you to the 23 parish households that have donated.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: ASCENSION OF THE LORD

***Before and After Ascension.** In the gospel for today, Jesus, toward the end of the Last Supper with his own, speaks to God: it is now time to do what I came to do (be lifted up on the cross). Let this doing be about eternal life for them and for all I pray for these disciples given to me (and all those to follow) so that they may continue this work you have given to me and, now, to them.*

~How will I give glory to God?

~What fills my praying this week? For what and for whom?

~What works will I do because of this praying?

CATHOLIC TRIVIA: Mary Magdelene

The penitent woman who washed Jesus’ feet with her tears and dried them with her hair (Luke 7:36). This association is both common and mistaken because this episode is followed in Luke by a reference to a Mary Magdala “from whom seven devils had been cast”. She also has been identified incorrectly with the Mary of Mary and Martha (of Bethany), because of the story of this Mary also anointing Jesus’ feet (John 12:3).

Veronica:

Tradition holds that a woman with this name wiped the face of Jesus as he was on his way to Calvary (the Sixth Station of the Cross). “Veronica” is really the two Latin words, vera and icon, true image, referring to Jesus’ face, The word veronica is used not only as a personal name, but also as the name for the veil that tradition says was used. This veil is considered to be among the Volto Santo (Holy Face) relics. Some say it was actually the centurion’s wife, Seraphica, who did this work of mercy and late discovered Jesus’ face on the cloth. Other legends say the woman was Martha and still others, Zacchaeus’s wife, or the woman Christ healed of an issue of blood (Mark 5:25:34). No mention of an actual person named Veronica can be found earlier than the fifth century.

I HOPE THIS FINDS ALL ST. EDWARD PARISHIONERS DOING WELL. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING A SEPARATE MAILING FOR PLANS ON REOPENING OUR PARISH. WILL HAVE A LETTER FROM BISHOP BRAXTON AND FATHER CHARLES. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT THE RECTORY OFFICE.

Subject: Reopening Plan for St Edward Church Fairfield amid COVID-19 Hello St Edward family, I pray that you and your loved ones are healthy. As you may have seen, Bishop Braxton, together with Cardinal Cupich and the Bishops of Illinois recently shared their multi-phased plan for reopening churches in the six dioceses of Illinois. Specifically,

- Phase I allows for parishes to reopen for Baptism, Reconciliation, Weddings and Funerals with a limit of 10 attendees (excluding ministers).
- Phase IA allows for parishes to reopen for private prayer and adoration with a limit of 10 attendees (excluding ministers).
- Phase II allows for reopening for weekday and weekend Masses for larger groups depending on the guidelines from the state and the capacity of the church building. We do not have a timetable for Phase II, but no weekday or Sunday Masses with a congregation of any size are allowed until we reach this phase.

Our St Edward Church Reopening Plan First and foremost, it is important for everyone to understand that our efforts will prioritize the safety and wellbeing of all while maintaining due respect and reverence for the sacraments and liturgical norms of our faith.

I will assemble a Parish Reopening Leadership Team to lead our efforts. Together, we will attend required training to ensure that our parish reopening plan conforms to the guidelines developed by the diocese in collaboration with civil and healthcare authorities. We will also assemble a starter kit of protective and cleaning supplies, as well as guidance on purchasing/maintaining supplies ongoing.

Volunteers Needed We will need volunteers to assist with various aspects of our parish reopening plan. Importantly, leadership team members and volunteers should not be part of a “vulnerable population” (that is, not over the age of 65; no underlying medical condition such as diabetes; lung disease; undergoing cancer treatment, etc.), if possible. I ask all of you who are younger than 65 and healthy with no underlying health conditions to consider assisting with one of three reopening teams:

- Set-up team. Sample duties include ensuring that all supplies needed for each sacramental celebration/gathering are ready for use, entrances and exits are marked and propped physically open prior to attendees’ arrival/departure, windows are opened, etc.
- Greeting team. Sample duties include assisting in managing the flow of congregants as they enter the church, making sure attendees use hand sanitizer upon entering, are wearing a mask, and are reminded not to enter if ill; directing people to appropriate seating/waiting areas, etc.
- Cleaning team. Sample duties include maintaining and cleaning essential and trafficked areas of the church before and after the church has been used. Masks and gloves will be provided, if you do not have your own, in addition to approved cleaning/disinfecting supplies.

Templates for Parish Communications Re: Church Reopening Amid COVID-19 The Reopening Leadership Team and I will make sure that all volunteers are properly trained. Please send us a message at dzurliene2@gmail.com ; and fronyekaanyaoku@yahoo.com to indicate your willingness and ability to volunteer. From those that step forward, we will also request that some act as volunteer captains to help lead each of the three teams. **Timing for Our Reopening** As I mentioned, the Parish Reopening Leadership Team members and I will need to complete required training, which will take place late in the week of May 17. Once we complete the training, we will need to review and complete tasks assigned to all parishes as part of the reopening process provided by the diocese. Therefore, the soonest that any parish in the diocese will realistically open for sacramental celebrations (weddings, funerals, reconciliation) is likely the weekend of May 30; private prayer or Eucharistic Adoration, will follow when we are ready. However, our parish, like all others in the diocese, will move forward at a pace and timing appropriate for its own situation. Following our training webinar, at St Edward , we will only open our church once the Reopening Leadership Team and I feel confident that we have the right volunteers in place to make it possible to reopen. Again, the need for parishioner assistance cannot be overstated..The guidelines and measures required to reopen are designed to protect our wellbeingand that of our broader community. As we learn from the first pages of Scripture, we indeed are “our brother’s keeper.” Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed, “that they all may be one” (Jn 17:21) and commanded us “love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (Jn 13:34). Our collective patience, willingness to help and the care we take to reopen is a demonstration of our unity and love for one another. May God grant you His peace during this difficult time and may He manifest His love and presence to you in abundant ways. If you have any questions, please contact me at St Edward Parish office Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr Charles Anyaoku