



ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

*“The Word of
God, the Day
whose light
shines upon the
angels... put on
flesh and was
born of the
Virgin Mary.”*

- St. Augustine



ST. STEPHEN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

10424 St. Stephen Circle, Riverview, FL 33569-8732

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CELEBRATE WITH US!

Most Holy Eucharist:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30am; 5:30pm
 Saturday Vigils 4pm, 6pm
 Monday-Saturday 8am
 Wednesday 7pm
 Please let us know if you are homebound or hospitalized.

Reconciliation (Confession):

Saturday 3:00pm & 5:00pm
 Sunday 10:30am & 5pm
 Wednesday 8-9pm
 Or by appointment

Baptism of Infants: For infant baptism, please make arrangements one month in advance by calling the Religious Education office, 671-4434 to set up an appointment with our Sacrament Coordinator.

Youth & Adult Confirmation: Please contact the Religious Education Office at 671-4434.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, Youth & Children: If you are over 7 years of age and desire to learn more about the Catholic Church, or wish to become Catholic, please call the Religious Education Office, 671-4434.

Marriage: Please make arrangements with a priest or deacon to begin preparation at least six months in advance.

Anointing of the Sick: First Saturday at 8am Mass or any time upon request. Kindly inform the parish office of those who are ill for visitation and sacraments.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday 8:30-9:30am, 8-10pm
 First Friday 8:30-10am

Sacrament of the Sick

First Saturdays during the 8am Mass and by appointment

Morning Prayer: Monday-Saturday 7:40am

Recitation of the Rosary:

Monday-Saturday after daily Mass or Adoration

Church address:

5049 Bell Shoals Road
 Valrico, FL 33596
 Phone: 813.689.4900
 Hours: 8:30am to 4pm, M-F

St. Stephen Catholic School:

10424 St. Stephen Circle,
 Riverview, FL 33569-8732
 813.741.9203

Religious Formation Office:

10428 St. Stephen Circle
 Riverview, FL 33569-8732
 Phone: 813.671.4434

Pastor's Page

Happy New Year!

My dear friends,

Today is a special day of celebration as we observe the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the World Day of Prayer for Peace, and New Year's Day! It is a time of new beginnings as we recommit ourselves to become authentic disciples of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

As we begin a new year, it is good to pause and to reflect on our lives and how the Lord is calling us to grow. In the garden of our lives, is there any portion that needs to be weeded of bad habits or sinful tendencies? Is there any portion which needs a bit more TLC so that it can flourish in the sight of God? Don't make your goals too high or difficult to achieve but truly reflect on what would help you to truly grow spiritually.

Need suggestions? 1) If you are not praying each day and prayerfully reflecting on the Sacred Scriptures, do so! 2) Make a commitment never to miss your Sunday obligation. 3) Get involved in a parish ministry. 4) Reach out each and every day to someone in need. 5) Make each Friday a day of prayer and abstinence for those most in need of our prayers.

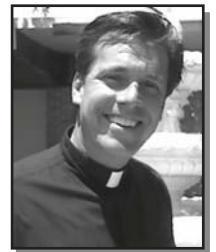
Feel overwhelmed by the demands of life? Learn from Mary. Rather than reacting to the events of life, she prayerfully reflected on them. It seems to me that far too often as we experience the hurricanes of life, we forget that we are called to remain in the eye of God rather than the wall of the storm. By "treasuring these things in her heart," Mary was able to respond to the events of the day and to see God's hand in them. A powerful lesson for us all!

On another note, Fr. Jose, Fr. Emery, and I would like to thank you for the many cards, gifts, and prayers offered to us during this Holy Season. We all feel so blest to serve you as priests and pray that this New Year will be one of special grace and blessings for you and your loved ones. Indeed, on behalf of all the clergy, staff, and faithful volunteers of St. Stephen, have a Happy New Year!

In His Most Holy Name,

Fr. Bill

Fr. Bill Swengros
 Pastor

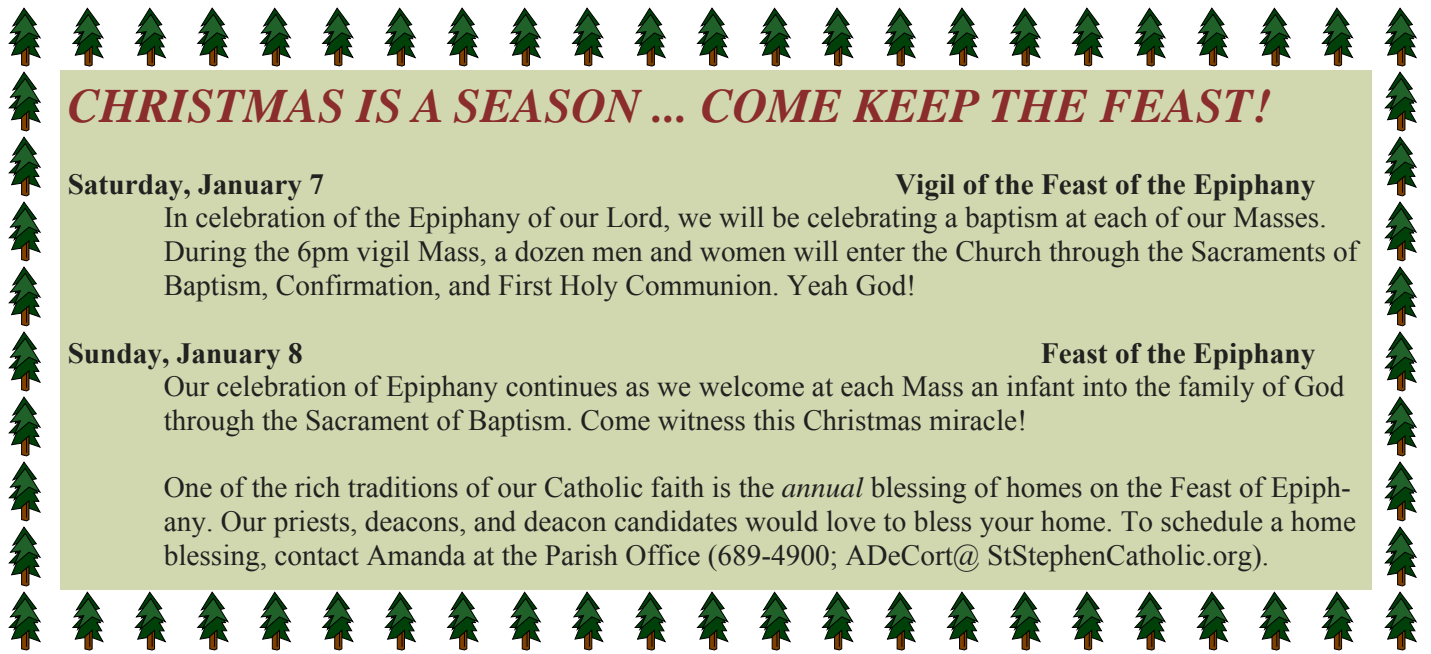


Words of Wisdom: "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas time, not in a cold manger of our heart but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so warm with love for one another."

– Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Think About It: "Gazing at the divine Little One in the crib, I tell him with ineffable happiness: 'You are my all.'"

– Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity



CHRISTMAS IS A SEASON ... COME KEEP THE FEAST!

Saturday, January 7

Vigil of the Feast of the Epiphany

In celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord, we will be celebrating a baptism at each of our Masses. During the 6pm vigil Mass, a dozen men and women will enter the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. Yeah God!

Sunday, January 8

Feast of the Epiphany

Our celebration of Epiphany continues as we welcome at each Mass an infant into the family of God through the Sacrament of Baptism. Come witness this Christmas miracle!

One of the rich traditions of our Catholic faith is the *annual* blessing of homes on the Feast of Epiphany. Our priests, deacons, and deacon candidates would love to bless your home. To schedule a home blessing, contact Amanda at the Parish Office (689-4900; ADeCort@ StStephenCatholic.org).

Knights of Columbus - Faith and Morals Series

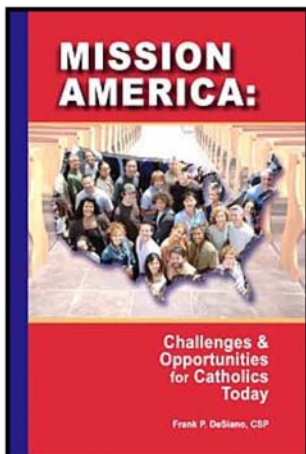


Keeping Kids Safe from Technology

How do we keep our children (and ourselves) safe these days with so much technology and personal access available? It is a real and growing concern for parents and children. To address these issues and answer your questions, recently retired Deputy Sherriff Terri Montaldo will present challenges and solutions during the January Faith and Morals presentation, brought to you by St. Stephen council of The Knights of Columbus.



Terri will speak on subjects relevant to our times, such as bullying of our youth, cyber-bullying, and internet safety of your child. Please make time for this very informative evening in a relaxed atmosphere where the only dumb question is the question *not asked*.



Catholics in today's world?

On one side of us – secularism.
On the other side – many drifting to evangelical churches.

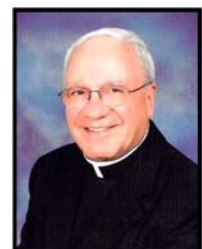
What can Catholics do about it?

Come find out from Father Frank DeSiano, CSP
in his seminar

Amazing Faith: Living and Sharing the Good News Today (A Parish Agenda for Today)

7:00pm on Friday January 27, 2012
in St. Stephen Church, Valrico FL

Fr. Frank DeSiano, a Paulist Priest, will give an overview of what Catholic parishes can do to address the needs of modern Americans in their search for faith. Find out how various trends in today's world impact the people you know who are not attending Mass. He'll also explain how it affects personal and parish evangelization efforts to active and inactive Catholics, strategies of welcome, and inviting people to OCIA.



Start the new year becoming more effective in the Mission of Christ!

We celebrate!

One of the most profound moments during Mass is when we receive the Blessed Sacrament. As you approach the minister, be mindful of what you are to receive. Prepare your heart to enter communion with your Creator! As a sign of our great reverence and deep devotion for the Blessed Sacrament, we bow our heads just prior to approaching the minister to receive the Eucharist. Most people bow before stepping forward to receive. Then clearly extend your tongue or lift and extend your hands, one placed open upon the other, so that the minister can easily give you Holy Communion. If you are not receiving the Precious Blood, you are encouraged to pause and bow as you pass the chalice. Remember it contains the Eucharistic Lord! Also be sure to remain in the Church until the priest has left. May our active participation in the Sacred Liturgies always reflect our love for the Lord!



Faith On-Line:

Have some free time on your hands while waiting in the airport, school pickup lines, or doctor's offices? Why not do some spiritual reading? I've downloaded Dante Alighieri's "The Divine Comedy" onto my phone. This fictional work has inspired some of the greatest saints and theologians throughout the ages. Three volumes long, you will find it provides a lifetime of inspiration.

We want to celebrate!

Are you or a fellow parishioner celebrating a special milestone such as a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or other special event? Are you expecting a child or preparing to move? Please call Bernie at the parish office and let us know! We would like to remember you in our prayers and invite you to bring up the gifts at the Sunday Mass. Let your parish family be a part of your celebration!

Note Well!

If you, a member of your family or a friend are ill and unable to attend weekly Mass, please inform us by calling Fr. Jose or Deacon Dan at the parish office. No Catholic should be deprived of the opportunity for frequent reception of Communion. Also, if you are scheduled to be admitted to the hospital for surgery, please let us know so that we can celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and, if you would like, visit you in the hospital.

Prayer for Vocations:

God of Hope, You are the source and force of all that gives life to the world. You have allowed our Church to assist you in bringing life, justice, and peace to our brothers and sisters. Please send us more ministers to continue the mission of your Son. In a special way, I pray for (names _____). I ask that their hearts be open to your invitation to serve our Church in need of strong and gentle ministers of the Gospel. May they grow in their understanding of how you are calling them forth through the needs of others and the stirrings of their own hearts. Touch their imaginations so they may dream of the possibilities of this commitment to Christ, especially as priests, deacons, and religious. For this, I pray: Our Father...



Come Holy Spirit:

As we begin our New Year, let us pray for all those to be confirmed just over seven weeks from now on **February 18**. May these young men and women be open to the fullness of the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

V. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Q&A Ask It Basket

Q: How can a person grow in contrition for their sins?

A: Contrition is a realization of how much we have hurt God, our own faith life and the faith life of our Catholic community. This can only be done with God's help through prayer and reflection on our life.

www.StStephenCatholic.org

Lost & Found

If you have lost a pair of sunglasses, your car or house keys, watch or umbrella, please stop by the parish office to claim it! We are starting the collection bin for these items fresh for 2012, and will donate the standing, unclaimed items to charity! **Help save the lost!**



The Mustang

January 1, 2011
SCHOOL NEWS



HAPPY NEW YEAR

ALUMNI UPDATE



Nick Rose, son of Bob and Bonnie Rose, recently finished his first semester as a plebe at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Nick started at St. Stephen Catholic School in August 2001, the year the school opened. He attended St. Stephen from 3rd – 8th grade, and went on to attend Tampa Catholic High School. He graduated from Tampa Catholic in May 2011 and entered West Point June 26. During his first few months at the United States Military Academy, he has completed the summer boot camp, affectionately known as "Beast", attended Military Movement classes, participated in organized sports activities including basketball and paint balling, and last month completed the Tough Mudder Adventure Race in New York with his company. We are so proud of Nick and all of our alumni!

COMPUTER LAB

St. Stephen Computer Lab is an exciting place to be! Mrs. Seifert takes an interdisciplinary/cross-curricular approach to teaching our technology curriculum; computer skills are not taught in isolation, but in conjunction with our academics.

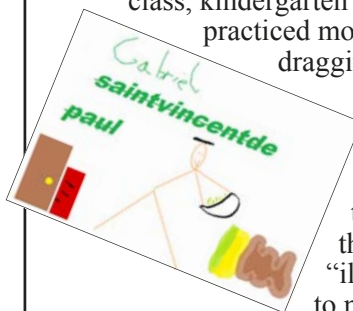
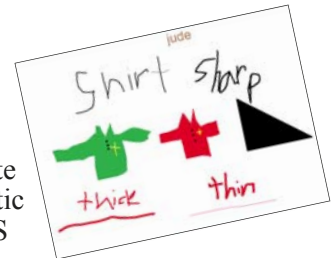
During the month of November, each grade level focused on two Saints to study. In computer class, kindergarten thru second graders practiced mouse skills like

dragging, highlighting, and double-clicking to create our own saintly artistic masterpiece using MS Paint. We also spent

time learning about major parts of a computer through interactive lessons using the SmartBoard, "illustrating" our spelling words, and learning how to navigate on the internet. We visited great websites

too like www.abcya.com and www.netSMARTz.org.

Grades 3-5 are currently learning exciting MS Word skills while learning more about Advent and the Jesse Tree. One of the things that we are all working on is using SmartArt to design, rearrange, and expand our own personal family tree. Older grades will even create a family symbol to place on their digital family tree to emulate the Jesse Tree.



Middle school students learned the basic tools of Windows Live Movie Maker while making their very own movie. They worked in groups to create a movie depicting November's Missal changes. It was a tough project, but the outcome certainly prepared our students for the Mass changes in a fun and technologically

enriched way. When finished, they shared their group project on the big screen!

All of the grade levels are constantly practicing their typing skills. Visit our school's website >Electives>ComputerLab>Favorite Tech sites for some of the websites that we use to improve our typing skills.



From the Holy Father:**“What is Real Peace?”**

“Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity.” We Christians believe that Christ is our true peace: in him, by his Cross, God has reconciled the world to himself and has broken down the walls of division that separated us from one another (cf. Eph 2:14-18); in him, there is but one family, reconciled in love.

Peace, however, is not merely a gift to be received: it is also a task to be undertaken. In order to be true peacemakers, we must educate ourselves in compassion, solidarity, working together, fraternity, in being active within the community and concerned to raise awareness about

national and international issues and the importance of seeking adequate mechanisms for the redistribution of wealth, the promotion of growth, cooperation for development and conflict resolution. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”, as Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:9).

Peace for all is the fruit of justice for all, and no one can shirk this essential task of promoting justice, according to one’s particular areas of competence and responsibility. To the young, who have such a strong attachment to ideals, I extend a particular invitation to be patient and persevering in seeking justice and peace, in cultivating the taste for what is just and true, even when it involves sacrifice and swimming against the tide” (Benedict XVI, Message, World Day of Peace, 2012, n. 5).

Saints of God

This Friday we celebrate the feast of **St. André Bessette of Montreal.**

Born in 1845, André was the eighth of twelve children born of a French Canadian couple. At the age of 12, both his parents died and he was adopted as a farmhand. He later tried his hand as shoemaker, baker, blacksmith, and even a factory worker in the US during the Civil War. At 25, he tried to join the Congregation of the Holy Cross. After the intervention of a bishop, he was admitted into the order despite his poor health. He was given the job as doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal ... a ministry he retained until his death in 1937. He was known for his great devotion to St. Joseph and for a wondrous gift of healing. The “miracle worker” of Montreal is responsible for the creation of St. Joseph Oratory, the largest shrine dedicated to St. Joseph in the world. He was canonized in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI.



St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary, pray for us!

Prayer to St. Joseph ~

Over 1900 years old

Oh St. Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

Oh St. Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power I may offer my Thanksgiving and Homage to the most Loving of Fathers.

Oh St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss his fine Head for me, and ask him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen.

**Faith in Action:**

**FAITH
IN ACTION**

“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart” (Lk 2:19). How lightly Mary held Jesus.

She did not clutch Him to her but held Him out for the world to know. She knew that He did not belong to her alone. From the moment of His birth she was called upon to share Him with strangers who flocked to see Him. In the same way, we are also called to hold our blessings lightly, being willing to share what God has given to us with those whom God may lead to us. As this New Year begins, let us look to Mary as a grace-filled model of sharing all that God might ask of us.

www.StStephenCatholic.org

Did You Know...**May we worship Mary?**

No. Only God can be worshipped. But we can revere Mary as the Mother of our Lord. [1971]

By worship, we mean the humble, unconditional acknowledgement of the absolute superiority of God over all creatures. Mary is a creature like us. In faith she is now our Mother. And we should honor our parents. There is a biblical basis for this, since Mary herself says, “For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed” (Lk 1:48b). So the Church has Marian shrines and places of pilgrimage, feast days, hymns, and prayers: for instance, the rosary. It is a compendium of the Gospels.

YOUCAT is a Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church

Faith for **Adult Faith Formation**

Our Families

Series...



Monday Nights from 7-8:15pm at Beef O'Brady's on Bell Shoals Rd. in the front private room. Come enjoy some *chips & salsa* as we explore our Catholic Faith and see how to put it into action!

January 2nd: No class this night. Enjoy the night off with family and friends, or rest up for the week to come. Faith For Our Families resumes next week.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Now thru Jan. 24th (12 week study)
7-8:30pm in the church "Upper Room"
The Gospel According to Luke
Led by Deacon Rick



Our class is up and running. Thank you to all who are participating! **We will be holding our next class on January 31st: *The Infancy Narratives of Jesus*. (4 sessions)** This study will focus on the connection between the Old and New Testaments. Deepen your longing for the Messiah's coming again and ask God to be Emmanuel "God with us." Come open the Bible with newcomers and experienced Bible students alike. Study set fee: \$20*

Wednesday Night Bible Study

6-6:45pm in Room 2 (Church), led by Joe Emnet

Each Wednesday we will be studying the upcoming Sunday readings! Bring your Bible and get ready to prepare more fully for Sunday Mass.

Mass and Adoration immediately follow this Bible Study. Turn your Wednesdays into a night of study and worship!

Wednesday Nights

6:15-7:15pm in the St. Stephen School Flex Room

We will begin again soon for 2012! Check the bulletin or parish website for presentation dates. See you then! Don't forget to bring a friend...

Thursday Morning Introduction to the Bible

Led by Mrs. Nancy Slade

Where: at the church

When: 10 to 11:30am



We will be starting our next class on January 19th: *Women in the Old Testament*. These women have rich stories that are vital to God's relationship with the covenant people. This study introduces readers to women whose stories offer courage and insight. Come open the Bible with newcomers and experienced Bible students alike. Call RE.*



Thursday Night Faith Study

We are excited to be offering our next study...

When: Starts February 2nd, from 7-9pm

Where : Room 3 (Church)

Our identity as Catholics means that we are the inheritors of the deeds of holy men and women who for over 2,000 years have built a great civilization and spread the Gospel throughout the world. Church history is not just the recitation of popes, places and events; it is a story of adventure, intrigue, rebellion, reform and devotion. This is our story; this is our family. If we know the past, and how we fit into the story, we will be better prepared to face whatever may come in the future. Fee is \$30.*

Tuesday Morning and Friday Morning Apologetics

Tuesday's Class meets 10-11:30am at the ROC Center. **Study topic: Responding to Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses.** Thank you to everyone who is participating! For those who missed this one - there will be another study soon; call Sue in the Religious Education Office for info.*

Friday's Class will begin January 6th, from 10-11:30am at the ROC. Study topic: **Beginning Apologetics I Study – How to Explain and Defend the Catholic Faith.** (9 sessions) **Can you answer these questions?** How can you believe in God when there is so much suffering in the world?... Why is Mary such a big deal to Catholics?... Do Catholics believe in the "Rapture"?... Aren't there errors and contradictions in the Bible?... Most Catholics can't. Come and join us to learn how to **explain** your faith clearly, **defend** it charitably, and **share** it confidently with the enormously popular Beginning Apologetics Series. Study set fee is \$11.00. Please sign up with Sue at the RE office!*

Sunday Evening Bible Study

From now through January 8th - **join us!**

Introduction to the Bible led by Deacon Rick (7 sessions with a New Year's break), 7-8:30pm in the church
Our class is up and running. **Thank you to everyone who is participating. We will be holding our next class very soon after this one ends.** Come open the Bible with newcomers and experienced Bible students alike. The new study topic will be announced soon; make a reservation now!* Plan to bring a friend!

*For more information, to reserve a seat for an upcoming study, or order materials, contact Sue at the Religious Formation Office: (813) 671-4434. Deacon Rick is always ready to welcome you and answer questions you might have.



Religious Education News

Blessings in the New Year from your Religious Education Staff! Welcome, new parishioners! If you would like to register your child for our Home Study program, or if you are transferring from another Religious Education program, please stop by or call our office this week. 671-4434 or e-mail: restaff@ststephencatholic.org. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 4:00pm, and Fridays by appointment. We are also available during class times on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

Religious Education classes resume:

- **Kindergarten-Grade 5** on Sunday, January 8 and Wednesday, January 11
- **Preschool and OCIC** on January 8
- **OCIY** on January 10

Help children talk about God by asking questions after their religion class. Avoid the standard “What did you learn about today?” Use the papers your child brings home as starting points for discussion. Or try these questions:

- ♦ What was the hardest thing to understand in class?
- ♦ What did you like about the lesson?
- ♦ What didn't you like?
- ♦ Why would God want you to know about this (topic of the class)?



The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - January 1st

Reflections from an OCIA Candidate:

On Sunday mornings I learned new ways to read, interpret, reflect upon and understand the Gospel. Through group discussions, I learned how to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ to my everyday life. I learned how to look for and recognize the presence of God in my life at all times, not just while in church on Sunday. I have learned many things in OCIA, the most important is that the journey of faith can begin at any time and it does not end with baptism. It is a life journey. Ultimately, OCIA has helped me to form a closer and more meaningful relationship with God, my family and my friends.

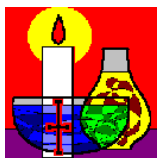
On New Year's Day, the Octave of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God. New Year greetings also include an expression of hope for a peaceful New Year. It begins anew each calendar year. The Order of Christian Initiation is an ongoing process at our parish. It begins anew each time a participant makes that initial phone call or walk in.

Evangelization is an on-going process for all Catholics to spread the good news of the Gospel. It is a wonderful time to share the good news with your relatives, friends and neighbors. There are many who are interested in the Catholic Church and would love to know more. Why not consider discussing your faith with family and friends who are searching for meaning in their lives? In the Order of Christian Initiation process, we often minister to individuals who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive both their Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

We welcome you! For more information about the OCIA process please call:

Rosie Bridges, Sacrament Coordinator, 671-4434.

www.StStephenCatholic.org



LIFE  **TEEN**

Sunday January 1st **7:00 - 8:30 PM**

Sunday Night Improv

JOIN US AT THE ROC HOUSE

For a hilarious night
Starring You & Your Friends!

Disclaimer: This guy won't be there. Sorry.

For more info on our High School Ministry, visit our website or use your phone to scan the code on the right:



Confirmation News Update

Before the break, several items came due. Each 8th grade candidate should have received a postcard over the Christmas break informing you of the status of these requirements according to our records. The final deadline for all paperwork is at the Faith Formation Morning Retreat on Saturday, January 14, 2012.



Happy New Year!

It's the time of year for resolutions. How many of yours pertain to your faith life? There are a ton of resources out there to help you grow in faith. For your Android or Apple smartphone, download the app "Ibreviary" for liturgy of the hours, daily readings and reflections. Online check out lifeteen.com or catholic.com for great blogs, podcasts, videos, and articles. Do you have a long daily commute? Take a look at the "Lighthouse Media" display in the hallway by the kitchen and bathrooms for great CDs on a variety of topics. Whatever we choose to do in the upcoming year it is imperative that we first remain firmly rooted in Christ. Take a look at whatever interests you, and find a way to fit it into your schedule. You'll be glad you did!



Check us out on the web!



Upcoming Confirmation Retreat for Parents and Candidates

The Faith Formation Morning Retreat is coming up fast on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Both the candidate and at least one parent are required to attend this retreat. Please make sure that this date is on your calendar, and arrive at 7:45am. See you there!



www.StStephenCatholic.org/YouthMinistry



www.facebook.com/StStephenEDGE

Youth Minister—Jeff Falanga
JFalanga@StStephenCatholic.org

Please visit our website for more information on events, dates, permission slips and forms.
www.StStephenCatholic.org

Asst. Youth Minister—
Kim Davis
KDavis@StStephenCatholic.org

Ministry News

Community for Women

Community For Women cordially invite you to get out and play Bunko after the holidays. Come and bond with adult women!

When: Jan 6th
Where: Multi-purpose room



Food, Fun, Prizes!

If you would like to bring a White Elephant Christmas gift please do! For more info call Nancy: 662-9076.

Toastmasters

Learn to communicate effectively with Spirited Toastmasters. Learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking - vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership potential and build confidence. **We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Angel's Wing of St. Stephen School, 7:00-8:30pm.**

For more information, please email Patrick Murphy at pmurphy30@verizon.net (813) 943-1873, or Andrew Magann at andrewmagann1@gmail.com (813) 445-3087.



De Colores!

COME JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST CURSILLO ULTREYA OF THE NEW YEAR!

On Thursday, January 5, 2012, we will be celebrating Jesus' love at our first Ultreya of the New Year! What a great way to start off the New Year in prayer, praise and fellowship! The Ultreya will begin with a pot luck supper at 6:30 and continue with a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Come join us for this special evening where we can give thanks to God for all of the wonderful blessings and gifts of the past year. We look forward to sharing in your joy and hope for the New Year. Everyone is welcome to join us to see what the Cursillo movement is all about. For more information, please contact Keith Remson at 813-748-2433 or Liz Hauer at 813-732-8029, lzhfsu@yahoo.com.



Prayer Line

Prayer Line: Scientific studies have confirmed what we have always known: prayer does make a difference. Do you have a special prayer request or would you like to be on our prayer chain? Please call Steve Dulkoski (571-3222) or the Parish Office (689-4900).



Christ Renews His Parish

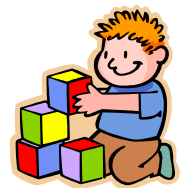
As we look back over this past year, we see joy and we see heartache. Christ blessed us with each of the joys we encountered during 2011 and He watched over us as we faced each heartache. Have you ever wondered how you would have gotten through without Christ watching over you? I know the results would have been different had I not had a **renewed spirit**. Perhaps it is time for you to renew your spirit – and a great way to do that is by participating in a Christ Renews His Parish weekend. This powerful, energizing weekend will help to make your 2012 journey a little less rocky! Experience for yourself the joy and the excitement of this amazing weekend. Take a minute and **do something for yourself** –

Next Men's Weekend:
March 17-18, 2012
Next Women's Weekend:
March 24-25, 2012



Enroll on-line at www.ststephencatholic.org.

Sunday Nursery



Our wonderful Nursery, open Sundays during the 9:30am Mass, will be back in service after the new year. Enjoy your family time during the holidays!

For the new year, consider joining this ministry, where you receive little ones in the name of the Lord! Parents can donate hours for SSCS Service Hours, as well - Deo Gratias!

Contact Audra Bartling at 310-1656 or Nursery@StStephenCatholic.org.

Ministry News

Saint Vincent de Paul



Thank you, St. Stephen families, for your generous support of the poor at our door!

MOMS



Ministry Of Moms Sharing – Enriching the Vocation of Motherhood

It’s more than a prayer group! It’s a way to meet other women in our parish! Come and explore our Catholic faith from a mother’s perspective! Make this valuable commitment to yourself. You deserve it!

MOMS will begin a faith-filled journey discussing *A MOMS JOURNAL* by Sister Paula Hagen in January. Come join us **Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30am** or **Sunday evenings, 6-8pm**. Do something for yourselves, so you can continue to do for others! For more information contact Karen Taylor at 661-1579 or e-mail MOMS@ststephencatholic.org.

Ministry of the Week: Local Mission at Dover



On Saturday, December 3rd, many volunteers from two ministries at St. Stephen teamed up to bring the love of Christ through missions to people of our own country. The San José Home Makers and the Blessed Trinity Mission (Panama Mission), gathered to meet the dental and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters living and working in Dover. A local fledgling ministry called Mission Smiles has built a mobile dental unit and it was utilized to minister to the migrant workers in Dover. St. Stephen had more volunteers turn out for this project than at any location since its inception! Thank you to all who were involved! We were truly blessed by being able to serve these people bringing the love of Christ to them and receiving it in return.

Randy J. Ruscini, DMD



The Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese of St. Petersburg

presents

Annulment in the Catholic Church

When: January 31, 2012 at 7pm

Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church

This informative presentation will be given by a judge from the Tribunal and will provide an opportunity to explore the various grounds for marriage nullity, dispel myths about annulments and answer questions.

If you have experienced a failed marriage, or know someone who has, or are just curious about the annulment process, please consider this your personal invitation to the upcoming seminar, “Annulment in the Catholic Church.”



New Year Prayer

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Time, Talent, & Treasure

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

From the Office

May God bless you
for your generosity!

Your Gifts To God ...
And To Your Parish

THANK
YOU!

December 24-25, 2011

Attendance:	7,716
Collection total:	\$ 63,482
No. of Envelopes:	1,208
Average Gift:	\$ 35.56



Thank you for joining us today and for helping to
make St. Stephen such a vibrant family of faith!

Special Collection: This weekend we will have a second collection to help retire our debt which is about \$1.3 million dollars (\$942,998 for our school and \$371,401 for the Bell Shoals property). Each month we pay \$20,000 towards our debt (principle and interest). With your help, we would like to retire this debt as much as possible so that it will not be a burden to us as we build a new church and parish center on the Boyette property. Thank you for your generosity. If you have any questions or concerns about parish finances please contact Tom Doyle (tdoyle@ststephencatholic.org; 689-4900) or any member of the parish Finance Council.

Over 70 with a Giving Heart? If you are over 70 ½ years of age and have an IRA with a required minimum distribution, you are able to make a **TAX FREE** donation to St. Stephen! In this way, all of your money goes to your favorite charity rather than Uncle Sam. For more information, please contact your financial advisor or Tom Doyle.



You have returned with bulletins from Hawaii and Florida — thank you! ...and welcome back!

Building Update:

This month we will begin a review of the 75% plans for the new Church. Our intention is to be fully prepared to pull permits once we have secured all the funds pledged through our Building Our Future Together capital campaign. Thank you so much for your faithful generosity!



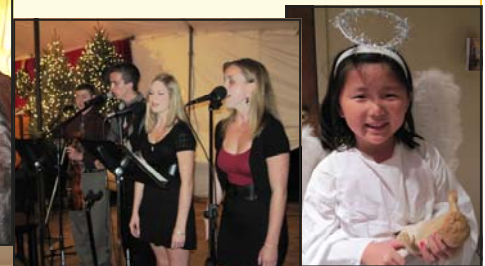
Deo Gratias!

Our heartfelt thanks go this week to our amazing Arts and Environment team, whose work delighted all attending our masses this past weekend!



Deo Gratias!

One thing that separates us from the rest is the **phenomenal involvement of our youth**. Thank you for participating in our Living Nativity, providing the animals, and for all participants in the Christmas pageants! Everyone enjoyed your presence very much!



Epiphany - January 8, Blessing of Homes;
Vocation Awareness Week - January 8-14;
Faith & Morals Series - January 18;
Speaker: Fr. Frank DeSiano - January 27

Register online for the Christ Renews His Parish weekends at www.StStephenCatholic.org. "Ministries", then "Christ Renews His Parish".

Save the Date!

This Week At St. Stephen

Events of the Week

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1		
9:30am	Nursery Open	RM4
MONDAY, JANUARY 2		
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM9
7pm	EDGE Grades 6-8	MPR & CH
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3		
10am	Blessed Stitches	RM4
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
5:15pm	Children's Choir	CH
6pm	Cultural Diversity Ministry	RM7
6:30pm	OCiY	RM5
6:30pm	Returning Faith	RM9
7pm	Adult Faith Talk	RM7,8
7pm	Knights' Monthly Planning	RM3
7pm	Returning to Faith	RM9
7pm	OC0	
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4		
9am	Encounter Prayer Group	RM5
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM9
6pm	Bible Study	RM9
6pm	Life Teen Pizza Rolls	ROC
6pm	Boy Scouts	RM5-9
6pm	Knights' Monthly Business Mtg.	MPR
7pm	Mass	CH
7pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM5
7pm	Al-Anon	RM7
THURSDAY, JANUARY 5		
8:30am	Evangelism Action Meeting	RM3
9:30pm	MOM'S Meeting	RM4,6-8
10am	Adult Bible Study	RM3
10:45am	Meals on Wheels	KIT
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
6:30pm	Cursillo Ultreya	MPR
7pm	Bible Timeline Study	RM9
7pm	Panama Mission Prep Mtg.	RM2
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6		
8:30am	Food Pantry	KCN, RM3
7pm	CFW Zumba Night	MPR
7pm	Squires	RM6-8
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7		
8am	OCIA Presentation Rite and Retreat	RM6-8
1pm	Altar Server Meeting	RM3
2pm	Divorce Support Group	ROC
5:15pm	New Registrations-Welcome!	RM2
6pm	Children's Liturgy of the Word	RM4
6pm	OCIA	RM6-8
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8		
9:30am	Nursery Open	RM4
9:30am	OCIC Children	RM3
9:30am	RE Pre-School Classes	RM5,9
10:45am	New Registrations-Welcome!	RM2
7pm	Adult Bible Study	RM9
7pm	Divine Mercy Cenacle	RM2
7:30pm	Life Teen	CH

FACILITY KEY:
 RM# = Classroom by #
 MPR = Multi-Purpose Room CH = Church
 SCH = St. Stephen School ROC = ROC Center
 KCN = Kitchen
 POR = Portico Screened Area

Mass Schedule and Intentions

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1	
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	
8am	For the Parishioners
9:30am	†John Joyce (3rd Anniv.)
11:30am	†Richard Davis
5:30pm	†Roger Urbanski
MONDAY, JANUARY 2	
St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	
8am	†Mary Lou Mohr
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3	
Most Holy Name of Jesus	
8am	†Diane Allain
9:30am	School Mass - Joby Ayalloore
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4	
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious	
8am	Vocations
7pm	Tim Childers
THURSDAY, JANUARY 5	
St. John Neumann, Bishop	
8am	†Cathy Helbers
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6	
St. André Bessette, Religious	
8am	†Mary Hudyma
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7	
St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest	
8am	†Margaret Record
4pm	†Mark Giacomelli
6pm	†Ernie Grandville
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8	
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD	
8am	Intentions of Margaretta Delgado
9:30am	†Tara Burleson
11:30am	For the Parishioners
5:30pm	†Jeff Karcz

Scriptures of the Week:

Monday:	1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 29-34
Wednesday:	1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
Thursday:	1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11
Sunday:	Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 Mt 2:1-12

We're Here to Serve You!

Fr. Bill Swengros	Pastor
Fr. Jose George	Parochial Vicar
Fr. Emery Longanga	Parochial Vicar
Deacon Dan Gratkowski	Ministry to Sick and Homebound
Deacon Rick Zeitler	Adult Education Coordinator
Therese Jackson	Principal
Kelly Goudreau	Director of Religious Education
Tara Dibble	K-5 Religious Ed Coordinator
Jeff Falanga	Middle School Youth Minister
Kim Davis	Religious Ed Ass't. High School
Matthew Irwin	Youth Minister
Rosie Bridges	Sacrament Coordinator
Jeanne Schneider	Pastoral Assistant
Chris Westfall	Music Minister
Jose Rivera	Music Minister
Tom Doyle	Parish Manager
Denise Moyer	Pastor's Assistant
Bernadette Kalle	Parish Secretary
Gretchen Robens	Communications
Patrick Albert	Director of Maintenance

PLEASE PRAY

Please remember the sick and homebound in prayer:

Cheryl Booth	Chuck Lowe
Karen Bourget	Ann & Patrick Magu
Alice Brady	Robert & Carol Marden
Tina Brancato	Linda Markham
Wayne Brassey	Rose Midulla
Delia Caceres	Dorothy Miller
Antoinette Cuellar	Marg Burke Miller
Sabrina DeWolf	Luis Montilla
Michael Dragoni	Thomas Moyer
Paul Durkin	Alex Neilsen
John Eilerman	Edwin Osalaud
Caroline Fermin	Toni Parra
Veronica Gaskill	Joe & Rosemary Peak
Sal Gaeta	Frank Romano
Kathy Gregorick	Casie Rowe
Nancy Grow	Carol Sahmy
Maria & Morris Hammond	Helga Schliesmann
Jay Herrin	Mary Scott
Dennis Hickey	Raegan Sheppard
Joan John	Ed Sleyzak
Joyce Johnson	Elena Smith
Rose Karam	Luke Streeter
Ellie Kavalieros	Kinley Strohl
Vincent Kennedy	Shirley Sullivan
Tom Kiple	Gail Swanson
Karen Kirschenmann	Kyle Sweetnam
Keith Kruska	Jack Tennenbaum
Martha Lao	Bob Unger
Richard & Janet Lausier	Linda Vaughan
Ricky Lausier	Tatum Woodworth

Please remember the deceased in your prayers, especially **Ann Marie Lambert** and **Matthew Gallagher**.

Thank you for your prayers. Help us keep these lists updated! To add a name, contact the Parish Office (689-4900). Each person is on the list for two weeks, unless requested otherwise.

Today's Quote:

"Youth is a gift of nature, but age is a work of art."

Garson Kanin