



ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SAINT STEPHEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Grandparent's Day, the Friday of Catholic Schools Week



We would like to extend a hearty welcome to those who have recently moved to our parish. We certainly hope you feel at *home*! Feel free to register Saturday at 5:15pm or Sunday at 10:45am (Room 2); join us also Sunday at 12:30pm for a Welcome Reception!

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Pastor's Page

GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

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

My friends,

Our children are one of the greatest gifts of God. They remind us of how much He loves us and fill our lives with so much love and joy. They also challenge us to become the best Christians possible. I often say that parenthood is one of the surest means by which to grow holy. Often it is not until we have a child that we experience love for the first time. They teach us the meaning and value of sacrifice, and they give our lives much meaning and purpose. Thank God for our children!

Let us also offer a prayer of thanksgiving for our parents. They are the first teachers. Parents teach children what it means to be a fully actualized person, sharing the basic skills which the children will use throughout life. Parents are the first evangelists! They are the first to introduce their children to the Lord and to develop a life-long passion for our faith. Let us pray in a special way for all our parents and guardians, especially those who are alone or who are raising children in difficult circumstances. May they know our love and support!

We also pray for all others involved in the education enterprise — teachers, professors, staff, coaches, and home school parents. How can we begin to thank you for all you do?

In a special way we remember one of the most important ministries of our parish, St. Stephen Catholic School. It is devoted to providing the finest *Catholic* education possible, inspiring and motivating students to sustain a life-long passion for learning. We strive to follow the example of Jesus, the best teacher ever, by providing an environment where each and every child is encouraged to develop to his or her fullest potential – mind, body, spirit, and soul.

The results are indisputable. Our graduates are known for excelling in high school and college. In fact, one of the “complaints” the students often make is they were academically “over-prepared!” They also feel that they have been given a strong moral compass which assists them in the challenges our young people face every day.

Given our unique Catholic mission, we also have the opportunity to “rescue” kids who are not thriving in other school environments. Their grades, behaviors, and general disposition were abysmal with only continued failure in sight. With a great deal of parental involvement, prayer, and one-on-one intervention with our experts on staff, all of these kids have turned their lives around and are now college-bound. Praise God!

Don't take my word for it. Visit our school. Talk to our teachers, parents, and the students. Then share the good news with others. This week we have begun open enrollment for the next school year and there are limited openings. Financial aid is available. In fact, there is a special grant for all those transferring from public schools.

Again, let us offer a prayer for our school and for all our parents and teachers in whatever forum they serve ... may God bless you for all you do for our children!

Fr. Bill

Pastor, St. Stephen Catholic Church



The Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese of St. Petersburg

Rev. William Swengros, JDC
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, our pastor Fr. Bill Swengros, 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."



Pray for Our Parish:

*Lord God, help us to build a Church,
not only of brick and mortar,
but of living stones, your holy people,
a family of faith, hope, and love.*

*Fill us with your Holy Spirit
that we may have the wisdom and insight,
courage and strength to know and follow your holy will
and grow together in Christ.*

*May we be one in mind and heart
as we build a house of prayer worthy in which to gather
and give you glory and praise for generations to come.
Amen.*

REMEMBER THE HOLY LAND

Father Jacoub Nasser and a group from the Roman Catholic Church in Bethlehem (in the Holy Land) are visiting our parish this weekend. They will speak to us about the Christian struggle in the Holy Land. This is a Church mission to maintain the existence of the Catholic people in the Holy Land. Catholics used to be the majority, but now account for less than 1.5% of the population.

They also have some beautiful wood carvings which are all handmade by the Christian people there. Feel free to browse the items they brought with them in the portico this weekend, "Holy Renditions" from the Holy Land. Proceeds benefit the neediest of the families with food and other necessities.



THE *Dynamic*
CATHOLIC INSTITUTE
www.DynamicCatholic.com

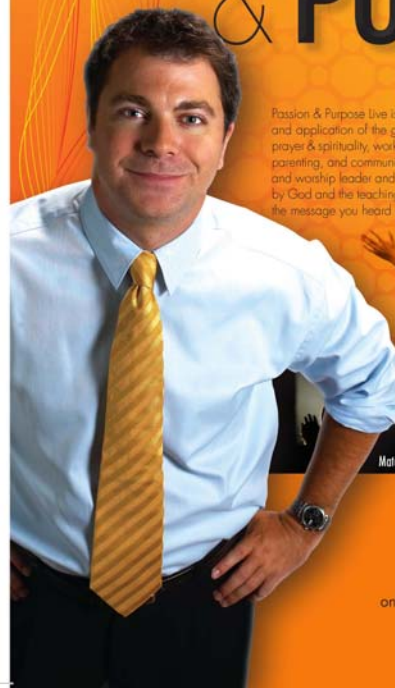
LIVING EVERY DAY WITH

PASSION & PURPOSE

with **Matthew Kelly**

and Special Musical Guest **Eliot Morris**

Passion & Purpose Live is the inspiring yet practical experience of dynamic teaching and application of the genius of Catholicism to every aspect of your life, including prayer & spirituality, work, dating & marriage, personal finances, health & well-being, parenting, and community involvement. Beloved author and speaker Matthew Kelly, and worship leader and musician, Eliot Morris, prepare a unique message inspired by God and the teachings of the Church for each location. You'll leave knowing that the message you heard was created just for you.



Materials included in ticket price: Mass Journal, Workbook, Audio CD and More!

Come join us for this very special event:
SATURDAY, FEB 11TH 9AM-1:30PM
St. Mark the Evangelist Church
9724 Cross Creek Blvd. Tampa, FL 33647

GENERAL SEATING: \$39 tickets available
online now at www.StMarkTampa.org/feb11h

PRIORITY SEATING: \$49 please call Cyndi
at 813-907-7746 ext.303

Come Holy Spirit

Prayer for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: On February 18th, Bishop Brown will join us as two hundred of our young parishioners will open their hearts and souls to the fullness of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Let us join them in prayer:
(St Augustine)

*Breathe in me O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.*

*Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy.*

*Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.*

*Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.*

*Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy.*

Thought for the day: “What tenderness there is in Jesus' love for man! In his infinite goodness, he established, with each of us, bonds of sublime love! His love has no limits.” – St. John Bosco

Do you have a question? Everyone has a question and the **Ask It Basket** would love to answer them. If you have a question about church practices, beliefs, morality or any other question related to our Catholic Faith, please send them to: jschneider@ststephencatholic.org. Please put the word “question” in the subject line.

*Jeanne Schneider, Pastoral Assistant
689-4900, ext. 317 for your calls, too!*



From the Holy Father:

“Where does Faith Begin?”

“Upon what is this faith in God the Father based? It is based upon Jesus Christ: his person and his story reveal the Father to us, he makes him known to us, insofar as this is possible in this world. Believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, leads us to be “reborn from above,” that is, from God, who is Love (cf. John 3:3). And let us recall again that no one makes himself a human being: we are born without our doing anything, the passivity of our being born precedes the activity of our doing. The same is true in regard to being Christian: no one can make himself a Christian by his own will

alone; being Christian also precedes our doing: we must be reborn in a new birth. St. John: “To those who received him he gave the power to become children of God” (John 1:12). This is the meaning of the sacrament of baptism; baptism is this new birth that precedes our doing. With our faith we can encounter Christ, but only he can make us Christians and give our will, our desire, an answer, the dignity, the power -- which we do not have ourselves -- of becoming children of God” (Benedict XVI, Angelus, 9 January 2012).

Faith in Action:

“Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties” (1 Cor 7:32).

How many anxieties do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about attaining ever more material possessions? Yet, God tells us that only the hand that is open to give can also be open to receive His peace and joy. A heart or a hand clenched in anxiety and greed can never truly receive anything.



First Friday Devotions: This Friday is the first Friday of the month, a beautiful opportunity to develop your relationship with God. This is a good time to examine your conscience and participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Friday Mass is offered in commemoration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 8:00am, and there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:30. On Saturday morning, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick during the 8:00 am Mass.



Safe Environment:

Child abuse is a tragic reality which can be prevented. How? 1. **Talk to your children** about appropriate personal boundaries. Teach them that it is OK to say “NO,” get away, and seek help. 2. **Help your children** make a list of the people they can turn to for help if they have a problem. 3. **Teach your children** that unsafe touch can happen with people they know and trust, not only with strangers. 4. **Respect your children’s personal boundaries.** Teach them to trust their intuition about others. 5. **Be aware** of those who have contact with your children and be sure it is a “Safe Environment” with at least two adults supervising whenever possible. For more information, please call our Religious Education Office (671-4434).



Words of Wisdom: “Never read books [or watch movies or television shows] you aren't sure about . . . even supposing that these bad books are very well written from a literary point of view. Let me ask you this: Would you drink something you knew was poisoned just because it was offered to you in a golden cup?”

– St. John Bosco

TAKE HOME REFLECTIONS:

1 Deuteronomy 18:15-20 A prophet is someone who speaks for God. Do you know anyone today who could be called a prophet?

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 How can we keep God at the center of our life?

Mark 1:21-28 We must listen to lawful authority. Do you believe that God has authority over us?

**St. Stephen
Catholic
School**

The Mustang

January 29, 2012
SCHOOL NEWS



[Below is a letter that was written by an eighth grader, J.J. Niekro, about Catholic Education.]

Sometimes I never realize how fortunate I am. I never have to worry about food, water, or shelter. One of the things I am most fortunate in is my Catholic education. My parents know that this type of education was the most valued and exceptional education you could possibly get. My mom drives me forty-five minutes each day just to get me to school. Undoubtedly, she knows this education will help me succeed in life.

First, in our education we learn about Jesus' mission. At public schools kids just learn to be respectful to others. At my Catholic school, we learn to follow Jesus in everything we say and do. I can see the difference between me and my public school friends, and how we treat each other. On the other hand, learning about Jesus gives me a stronger relationship with him. When I pray, I feel I have a better connection with Jesus because of the things I have learned in school. Also, I can pray to a saint when I need a specific intention. In summary, doing all these things helps me continuously follow Jesus in every breath I take, and step I make.

Tragically, a few years ago my dad, uncle, and grandfather passed away within 100 days of each other. I was very close to all three of them and was devastated when they passed. My Catholic education taught me one very important thing, even when I was young. I learned God is always with me, and I am never alone. This helped me get through everyday life after their passing. In the meantime, my friends and teachers at school proved to be great positive influences for me. These people helped me gain strength in some of the toughest times of my life. All in all, the topics we learn about, and the quality of teachers and friends I have here help me get through everyday life.

Furthermore, my friends act differently than Catholics. I always say a prayer before a baseball game and my friends will ask me what I am doing. I tell them I am praying to God, and they still can't completely understand. Learning about God before everything I do has helped me remember him in everything I do. For instance, I always correct my friends when they say "Oh my God". I do this because I have been taught to never say the Lord's name in vain; I try to carry on this message to my friends. All in all, I try to show my friends my Catholic faith and to help them make positive moral choices because of my Catholic education.

In conclusion, my Catholic education has made such a difference in my life. It teaches me right from wrong and how to follow Jesus. Without this great education, I would not have the knowledge I have gained from my education. My life shows that a Catholic education can affect you in a positive way not just academically, but spiritually. ☺

A Team Excelling at Faith, Academics, and Service

Throughout Catholic Schools Week (CSW) we will be focusing on how each part of our "Team" helps us strengthen our faith, gain and apply knowledge, and serve the community. Each day we will say a special prayer from the Liturgy Guide provided by NCEA in remembrance of the team members we are focusing on that day.

Monday: Our Students

Tuesday: The Community

Wednesday: Our Priests -

the spiritual leaders of our team

Thursday: Teachers and Staff

Friday: Our Families

As Catholic Schools Week approaches, it is a good time to reflect as a teacher about what we do in our daily lives in the classroom. As I ponder the Catholic Schools Week theme –"I find myself enthralled at the opportunity to guide students to excel in all three areas. While teaching science I am able to talk about not only creation, but the creator. Knowing that there is a God, who is behind all the amazing things we study, enhances the topics we study. In social studies, we can tell our side of the story as Catholics. We are able to do service projects for our community, not because it is politically correct, but because we are following in the footsteps of more than 10,000 Saints who have set the example of what it means to serve a community. Having faith, academics and service entwined in one allows us to truly assist each child in reaching their full potential. I would like to take this chance to thank you for giving teachers this opportunity to further the mission of Christ. I pray that God will bless you for all the time, treasure and talent you have given to our school.

-Submitted by Maria Hoffmann



2012-13 OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS on Jan. 30, 2012!

Please contact Carin at 741-9203 or cshadwick@ststephencatholic.org to schedule a tour.

Come and see all the wonderful things our school has to offer!

Information about our school may be found at

www.ststephencatholic.org





Have you ever considered becoming Catholic? I did...

I must admit that, being someone who enjoys diving into the depths of his faith, I have found the Church's history to be inspiring as well motivational. To know that the Mass we celebrate today is the same as that celebrated by the early Christians is incredible, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit cannot be denied. Also, the papacy which continues today with Pope Benedict XVI can be traced all the way back to St. Peter himself, when Christ said that He would build His Church with Peter as its rock. Even though the Catholic Church has seen its share of ups and downs through the centuries (after all, the human element is present), it has endured for more than 2,000 years and remains today as one of the world's greatest institutions.

Coming from a Christian background that included various forms of worship, I was keen on the traditional Catholic Mass and its structured beauty but, as I learned more about the Mass and the Sacraments, I began to see its even greater majesty. Some say that the Catholic Church is old-fashioned; I say that the Catholic Church holds fast to the same beliefs and values that it has held for centuries. As I told my kids as they were growing up, if it was wrong before, it's still wrong today.

Whatever your personal reasons for becoming Catholic may be, I am sure that God put them on your heart for a reason. Explore and find the truth of the Church, not someone's ideal of what they think the Church should be. Seek and ye shall find. Look to the beauty of Christ's Church and experience more of the faith that Christ gave us in His Church.

Dan Connelly, OCIA Team



If you would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith please contact Rosie Bridges, Sacrament Coordinator, 671-4434, ext. 317.

Did You Know

Why did Jesus work miracles?

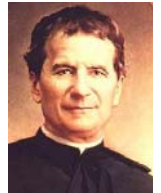
The miracles that Jesus worked were signs that the kingdom of God was beginning. They expressed his love for mankind and reaffirmed his mission.
[547-550]

Jesus' miracles were not self-aggrandizing displays of magic. He was filled with the power of God's healing love. Through his miracles he showed that he is the Messiah and that the kingdom of God begins in him. Thus it became possible to experience the dawn of the new world: he freed people from hunger (Jn 6:5-15), injustice (Lk 19:8), sickness, and death (Mt 11:5). By driving out demons, he began his victorious advance against the "ruler of this world" (meaning Satan, see Jn 12:31). Nevertheless, Jesus did not remove all misfortune and evil from the world. He directed his attention principally to freeing man from the slavery of sin. His central concern was faith, which he also elicited through miracles.

YOUCAT is a Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church

www.StStephenCatholic.org

Saints of God: This week is "Catholic Schools Week" and on Tuesday we remember one of the best and most influential educators of all time: **St. John Bosco** (1815-1888). St. John lived at a time when only boys from wealthy families could afford an education. From his youth, St. John felt called to work with poor and orphaned children. He felt that every child was important. He rejected corporal punishment and favored providing children with real and meaningful choices which optimized success. His efforts were so successful, Pope Pius IX encouraged him to start the Salesians so that his ministry and philosophy of education would be duplicated throughout the world. We thank God for the Salesian fathers, brothers, and sisters who have faithfully served in our parish, especially those who are educating our parishioners at Tampa Catholic High School. Let us also pray for all teachers and parents: may they be blessed for all they do for our children!



Prayer to Our Lady Help of Christians:

*Most Holy Virgin Mary, Help of Christians,
how sweet it is to come to your feet imploring your perpetual help.
If earthly mothers cease not to remember their children,
how can you, the most loving of all mothers forget me?
Grant then to me, I implore you, your perpetual help in all my necessities,
in every sorrow, and especially in all my temptations.
I ask for your unceasing help for all who are now suffering.
Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners.
Grant through your intercessions many vocations to the religious life.
Obtain for us, O Mary, Help of Christians,
that having invoked you on earth we may love and eternally thank you in heaven. Amen.*

Saints

Think About It: "When tempted, invoke your Angel. he is more eager to help you than you are to be helped! Ignore the devil and do not be afraid of him: He trembles and flees at the sight of your Guardian Angel." – St. John Bosco

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 30th—Topic: The Church—Reflecting the Light of Christ; Images and Mission of the Church



Tuesday Night Bible Study

Jan. 31st thru Feb. 21st (4-week study)
7-8:30pm in the church “Upper Room”

The Infancy Narratives of Jesus

Led by Deacon Rick

We will be starting our next class on January 31st.

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* Call to reserve your seat today!

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

February 1 - There will be no session tonight.

Thursday Morning Women in the Old Testament

Led by Mrs. Nancy Slade



Where: at the ROC Center **When:** 10 to 11:30am

Our class just started but it is not too late to join us! *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.* Call the Religious Ed Office for information.*



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 from 10-11:30am at the ROC. Just started. It is not too late to join! 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

Led by Deacon Rick - 8:30pm in the church

Our class has ended. **Thank you to everyone who participated. We will be holding our next class very soon.** 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.

Glad You Asked...

Today we look at the “Greetings and Dialogues”

Priest: The Lord be with you
People: And with your spirit.

What does this mean?

By greeting the people with the words “The Lord be with you”, the priest or deacon expresses his desire that God’s Spirit be given to the people of God, enabling them to do the work of transforming the world that God has entrusted to them.

The response “*And with your spirit*” (*Et cum spiritutuo*) refers to the gift of the Holy Spirit he received at ordination. In their response, the people ask God’s help for the priest to use the spiritual gifts given to him in ordination and in so doing, to fulfill his function in the Church.

Increase Our Faith Increase



Our Faith Increase Our Faith

Faith On-Line: Recently the Holy Father shared that he hoped all Catholics would learn to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Now it is easier than ever. Check out www.DivineOffice.org, www.ibreviary.com, or www.universalis.com. Of course, you can always join us for prayer Monday thru Saturday at 7:40am for our communal celebration of Morning Prayer or Lauds!



www.StStephenCatholic.org

Religious Education News

The Religious Education Office would like to extend a sincere THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers who assisted with Saturday's First Reconciliation Retreat. We could not run our program without your help and talent!!! (*Fr. Jose, Deacon Rick, Deb Durrell, Carol Nelson, Doreen Doyle, Gina Lewandowski, Adrienne Vander Ploeg and the exceptional youth volunteers!*) May God Bless All of You!

Parenting from the Pews

We’ve heard a lot about “full, active, conscious participation” with the implementation of the new translation of the Roman Missal. This can be a hard concept to wrap your mind around when you have little ones. However, if you can engage your children in what they are seeing take place during the Mass, you can teach them to fully, actively, and consciously participate as is appropriate for their age.



Sit close enough to the front so you can point out different parts of the Mass as they are happening. Ask your children to let you know when something you’ve pointed out is taking place.

During the Preparation of the Gifts, ask your child to count how many chalices are on the altar when the priest “sets the table.” When the Eucharistic Prayer begins have your children listen for the ringing of the bells. When there is incense explain to your children that the smoke carries their prayers to heaven and ask them to quietly whisper a prayer.

Try these tips and let me know how it goes. For more tips or to share what works for you, email me at tdibble@ststephencatholic.org.



Sunday Nights
 6:30pm Dinner
 7–8:30pm Life Night

Wednesday Nights
 7:00pm Party @ the ROC

Parents: We are currently in need of families to sign up to provide **Sunday dinner**. We will team you up with another family. Please help support this important part of your teen’s youth group experience!



We have a huge new need to expand our adult volunteer team. We are trusting God for 15 new Core Team members to come forward this spring to join the team of dedicated volunteers already serving our teens. If you love God and love teens, we’ll find the perfect role for you in this important ministry! Together we have the privilege of leading teens closer to Christ!



Super Bowl Potluck
 Sunday, Feb. 5th

Freshmen: Snack Foods
 Sophomores: Desserts
 Juniors/Seniors: Drinks

Confirmation Requirements Update

ALL Forms and Requirements for 8th Grade confirmation are now past due. At this point, if you are missing requirements, and we have not heard from you to work out a plan to get caught up, we will assume that you have decided not to continue with preparation this year. Please contact us ASAP if you are missing forms as the Mass program will be going to print shortly and we would like to include everyone’s name. (671-4434) Thanks!



EDGE
 5th Annual
Lenten Retreat!
 March 24-25, 2012



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT! LOOK FOR THE INFO PACKETS IN THE BACK HALLWAY OF THE CHURCH OR ON OUR WEBSITE. SPACE IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 56 WHO REGISTER, SO DON’T WAIT!

Confirmation Masses and Rehearsals

Confirmation Masses will be held on February 18 at 9:30am and 1pm. All candidates have been assigned a Mass based on the class they are enrolled in. Rehearsals for both Masses will be held at the church on Tuesday, February 7. The 9:30am Mass will rehearse at 6pm and the 1pm Mass will rehearse at 7:30pm.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!

www.StStephenCatholic.org/YouthMinistry



Find us on Facebook

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.

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

Ministry News

Toastmasters

JUST TWO DAYS TILL—FUN!! PARTY!! OPEN HOUSE!!



Come to Spirited Toastmasters **Open House this Tuesday, January 31.** Come meet the members and see how we have loads of fun while we learn the skills and confidence we need to effectively express ourselves in any situation. There will be all sorts of goodies to eat, so if you are coming directly from work, don't worry about supper. Whether you are a professional, student, stay-at-home parent or retiree, Toastmasters is the most efficient, enjoyable and affordable way of gaining great communication skills. By learning to effectively formulate and express your ideas, you open an entirely new world of possibilities. You'll be more persuasive and confident when giving presentations, and you'll improve your one-on-one dealings with others. We meet 7:00-8:30pm on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at St. Stephen Catholic School. For more information, please contact Patrick Murphy at pmurphy30@verizon.net, 943-1873 or Andrew Magann at andrewmagann1@gmail.com, 445-3087.

Come to the Spirited Toastmasters Open House on Tuesday, January 31.



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING TO -

- ◆ REVITALIZE YOUR FAITH?
- ◆ DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST?
- ◆ ENRICH YOUR PRAYER LIFE?



Nativity Social Hall A-D, 705 E. Brandon Blvd.
Saturday, February 4, 2012; 8:30am to 4pm
 Bring your Bible and a bag lunch! Call 655-9414.

There will be teachings and sharing on the themes of "God's Love", "Salvation and Repentance", "New Life through Gifts of the Holy Spirit" and "Growth and Transformation in Christ".

This seminar has been experienced by over 100 million Catholics around the world. Be a part of the one-day seminar, hosted by Nativity Church Prayer Group. Fr. Carlos Rojas will be one of the speakers, with a gifted team to help you step closer to the source of Christian empowerment...

Christ Renews His Parish

Understanding God Moments

What are God moments? Quite simply, they are moments when something happens or something is said that makes you feel in your heart that THIS is the Lord speaking to you.

We have God moments all the time because God is speaking to us all the time. But are we listening? Are we able to "tune in" to His message?

During the CRHP experience, we become more aware of God moments and are able to open our hearts to His message. It is a miracle that CRHP participants often comment with such words as, "I became so much closer to God during the weekend and I am now more aware of His presence and His desires in my life."

Being closer to God and strengthening your relationship with Him is what a CRHP weekend is all about. It is VERY personal and very much filled with God moments. Don't you think it's time for you to experience some God moments for yourself? Enroll online at www.ststephencatholic.org

Next Men's Weekend:

March 17-18, 2012

Next Women's Weekend:

March 24-25, 2012

Community for Women

All women of the parish are invited to

ZUMBA Night

Feb. 3rd — 7:00pm in the church multipurpose room. Come for an evening of fun and getting to know other women in the parish!

We will be working hard that night, so if you would like to bring your favorite dessert, that won't stop us! For meeting info call Nancy 662-9076.

Ministry News

Respect Life Yard Sale

Your **SPRING CLEANING** can help the Respect Life Ministry raise funds to educate our parish and community about Life Issues!

As you clean your closets, pack your clean, gently used and very good condition furniture, books, tools, clothes, jewelry, toys, baby and household items.

Collection will be Thursday, March 29, 9am to 9pm in the church tent.

Call Jeanne Lewis (689-5777) for more information.



Career Transition Ministry

OUR EXCITING NEW 18-WEEK PROGRAM IS STARTING ON MONDAY, 1/23/2012!

The St. Stephen Career Transition Ministry is beginning its new program on Monday, 1/23/2012. Our first workshop will be covering an overview of the program, discussing why you want to be part of this program and what your plan is for the future. CTM has been instrumental in helping many parishioners land jobs as a result of our resume preparation, interviewing tips and self awareness programs. These areas will also be covered at a later date in the program. Most of our facilitators are professionals from our very own parish who are willing to share their time and talents with us. All sessions are held at St. Stephen Catholic School on Boyette Road from 7:00pm to 9:00pm every Monday evening, excluding holidays. Come join us and meet many others who are also job searching and who will offer you prayers and support during this very difficult time of your life.



For more information or to help facilitate a workshop, please contact John or Sheila Nemia at 672-2552 or ctministry@ymail.com

M.O.M.S.

Ministry of Moms Sharing (MOMS) is more than a prayer group! It is a way to meet other women in the parish! Come and explore our Catholic faith from a mother's perspective; make a valuable commitment to yourself! You deserve it...



We are discussing *MOMS - a Personal Journal* by Sr. Paula Hagen. For more information, contact Karen Taylor at

661-1579 or email MOMS@StStephenCatholic.org. **Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30am or Sunday 7-9pm.**

Ministry of the Week: Craft Group



St. Stephen has a crafty group that meets Tuesday mornings throughout the year to make all kinds of imaginative, creative gifts for craft sales. This group has donated all proceeds to our new church building fund, and has fun and fellowship doing it!!

If you like to make things with your hands, join the Craft Group this Tuesday, January 31 at 10am in Room 2 as they resume their creative efforts for the new year! If you want to learn something new, or have some ideas of your own, you are most welcome!

For any questions, contact Caren at Crafts@StStephenCatholic.org.



Around Town

Catholic Women's Club of Hillsborough County
Meeting Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 10:30am at the Mary Martha House of Christ the King Church, second floor. (821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa)

A brief business meeting will be followed by program speaker Father David Toups, pastor of Christ the King Church. A light lunch will follow. All interested Catholic women in the area are welcome. For more information and to RSVP, call Sherry: 813-610-2947.



From the Office

Thank You

Time, Talent, & Treasure

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

*May God bless you
for your generosity!*

**Your Gifts To God ...
And To Your Parish**

January 21-22, 2011

Attendance:	3,724
Collection total:	\$ 30,184
No. of Envelopes:	1,031
Average Gift:	\$ 24.62

Special Collection: Next weekend we will have a second collection to help retire our debt which is about \$1.3 million dollars (\$925,243 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.

Did you know that it costs the church about \$400 a month in bank fees for processing checks? Please consider having your offertory and debt reduction contributions electronically drawn from your account every month. Visit the church office to pick up the form today!

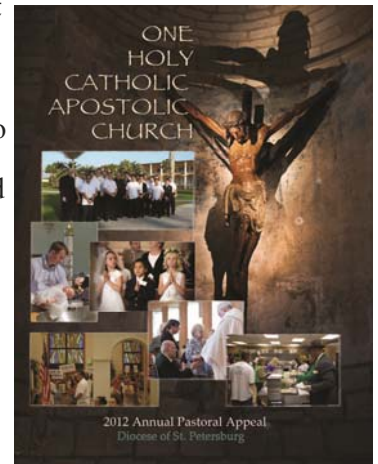
Over 70 with a Giving Heart? If you are over 70 ½ years of age and have an IRA with a required minimum distribution, you are able to make a **TAX-FREE** donation to St. Stephen! In this way, all of your money goes to your favorite charity rather than Uncle Sam. For more information, please contact your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



Annual Pastoral Appeal

We have successfully topped our 2011 APA assessment by \$15,365.68 in pledges, and have already been notified of \$1,342.15 collected of the overage! The amount collected above our assessment will come directly back to our parish, and be appropriated by the Finance Council.

Our 2012 APA assessment is \$357,626. Please prayerfully consider participating again for our APA this year, as you did so generously this previous year! This week you should receive an explanatory letter from our pastor and Bishop Lynch. Thank you for helping to support our seminarians, the poor, and educational needs — our work as “one holy, catholic, apostolic Church”.



Deo Gratias!

Thank you to all who supported our Life Teen members traveling to Washington D.C. for the annual Life March on the capitol, exercising our right to demand rights for the unborn. Two young people received scholarships for the expenses — thank you for helping us sponsor them. Thank you also for the Lewis [extended] family who gave them hospitality while there!

May God Bless All of You!

Thank you for bringing bulletins back from your trips to North Carolina, Wisconsin, We love the news from other communities around the country!

Annulment Workshop - January 31, 7pm;
Confirmation with Bishop Brown - February 18;
Ash Wednesday - February 22;
Lenten Mission w/ Greg & Lydia Trainer - Feb. 25-29;
Men's CRHP XIII - March 17-18;
Women's CRHP XIII - March 24-25;
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion - April 1;
Easter Sunday - April 8; Spring Jubilee - April 19-22.

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 29

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

9:30am	Nursery Open	RM4
9:30am	RE Pre-School Class	RM5&9
9:30am	OCIC Children's Class	RM3
10:45am	New Registrations-Welcome!	RM2
11am	Mystagogy	RM6
11am	Adult Confirmation	RM2
12:30pm	New Parishioner Welcome	ROC
1pm	Baptism Class	ROC
7pm	Knights Planning Meeting	RM5
7pm	M.O.M.S. Meeting	RM9
7pm	Divine Mercy Cenacle	RM2
7:30pm	Life Teen	CH

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
7pm	EDGE Grades 6-8	MPR & CH

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
5:15pm	Children's Choir	CH
6pm	Cultural Diversity	RM4
6:30pm	OCIC	RM5
6:30pm	Returning Faith	RM9
7pm	Adult Faith Talk	RM7,8
7pm	Returning to Faith	RM9
7pm	Adult Education	RM6

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9am	Encounter Prayer Group	RM5
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
6pm	Bible Study	RM2
6pm	Life Teen Pizza Rolls	ROC
6pm	Boy Scouts	RM5-9
7pm	Mass	CH
7pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM5
7pm	Al-Anon	RM2
7pm	Hospitality Ministry	RM4

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9:30am	MOMS Meeting	RM4,6-8
10am	Adult Bible Study	ROC
10:45am	Meals on Wheels	KIT
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
6:30pm	Cub Scouts	RM5-9
7pm	EPIC Catholic Study	RM3

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:30am	Food Pantry	KIT & RM3
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

2pm	Divorce Support Group	ROC
5:15pm	New Registrations-Welcome!	RM2
6pm	Children's Liturgy of the Word	RM4
6pm	OCIA	RM6-8
7pm	Wild at Heart - Youth	RM6-8

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:30am	Nursery Open	RM4
9:30am	OCIC Children	RM3
9:30am	RE Pre-School Classes	RM5,9
10:45am	New Registrations-Welcome!	RM2
11am	Mystagogy	RM6
11:30am	Adult Confirmation Class	RM2
1:00pm	Baptisms	CH
2pm	Hospitality Ministry	RM2
7pm	M.O.M.S. Ministry	RM9
7pm	Divine Mercy Cenacle	RM2
7:30pm	Life Teen	CH

FACILITY KEY:

RM# = Classroom by #	ROC - So. side house
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 29

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am	For the Parishioners
9:30am	†Manuel Bautista
11:30am	†Mary Therese Jennings
5:30pm	†Maria Santiago

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

Saint John Bosco, Priest

8am	†Jim and Mary Wilson
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

8am	†Saralee Freeman
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

The Presentation of the Lord

8am	Vocations
7pm	†Victor and Edna Pankauski

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

Saint Ansgar, Bishop

8am	†Mary Lou Mohr
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8am	†Linda Fessell
10am	All School Mass

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4


8am	†Patricia Villani
4pm	†Bill Cammarata
6pm	†Lawrence Bohall

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8am	For the Parishioners
9:30am	Rudy Greo
11:30am	Marie Claire Rillen
5:30pm	†Matthew Gallagher

For special occasions, such as an anniversary or birthday, consider the gift of a Mass said in honor of the occasion! Flowers are also a beautiful way to thank God for the special moments in your life.



Stop by the parish office and we will help with arrangements.

Scriptures of the Week:

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14,30,16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10,14b,24-25a,30-19:3; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2,9-17; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18;

Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Friday: Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4,6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23; Mk 1:29-39

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	Linda Markham
Karen Bourget	Rose Midulla
Alice Brady	Dorothy Miller
Tina Brancato	Marg Burke Miller
Wayne Brassey	Luis Montilla
Antoinette Cuellar	Alex Neilsen
Sabrina DeWolf	Thomas O'Keefe
Chase Dhaemers	Edwin Osalaud
Paul Durkin	Toni Parra
John Eilerman	Frank Romano
Caroline Fermin	Casie Rowe
Sal Gaeta	Carol Sahmy
Veronica Gaskill	Lee Santos
Kathy Gregorick	Helga Schliesmann
Nick George	Scott Schoenrock
Maria & Morris Hammond	Mary Scott
Sally Horvath	Raegan Sheppard
Joan John	Elena Smith
Joyce Johnson	Luke Streeter
Rose Karam	Kinley Strohl
Vincent Kennedy	Shirley Sullivan
Tom Kipley	Gail Swanson
Karen Kirschenmann	Kyle Swetnam
Aiden Kirk	Jack Tennenbaum
Keith Kruska	Mario Tirone
Victoriano Lin	Bob Unger
Chuck Lowe	Linda Vaughan
Ann & Patrick Magu	Tatum Woodworth
Robert & Carol Marden	

Please remember the deceased in your prayers.

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.