



# ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

## Vocation Awareness Sunday

*Most gracious Heavenly Father,*

*We thank you for our faithful priests and bishops, whose spiritual fatherhood and example of fidelity, self-sacrifice, and devotion is so vital to the faith of your people.*

*May our spiritual fathers be guided by the examples of Saints Peter and Paul, all the Apostles and their saintly successors. Give them valiant faith in the face of confusion and conflict, hope in time of trouble and sorrow, and steadfast love for you, for their families, and for all your people throughout the world. May the light of your Truth shine through their lives and their good works.*

*Assist all spiritual fathers, that through your Grace they may steadily grow in holiness and in knowledge and understanding of your Truth. May they generously impart this knowledge to those who rely on them. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

### 40 Days for Life



See page 5 for more



ST. STEPHEN  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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



### WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL!

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to those who have recently moved to our parish. We certainly hope you feel at *home*! You are encouraged to register Saturday at 5:15pm or Sunday at 10:45am (Room 2) — to find a place to grow, explore the depths of your faith, and give others a helping hand.

## CELEBRATE WITH US!

## Pastor's Page ALL THINGS NEW

### 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 dear friends,

Today is Vocation Awareness Sunday ... the perfect weekend for the ordination of parishioners Ed Dodenhoff, Matt Shirina, and Ed Smith. For these gentlemen, this marks the culmination of a process which began over a decade ago. While each call is unique, for most, it begins with a still quiet voice, inviting us to grow in our relationship with God. The more we grow in love with the Lord, the more we feel drawn to serve Him. It is like falling in love all over again!

For our new deacons, none of this would be possible without the support of their wives and children. Emily, Nancy, and Teresa: thank you and may God bless you! As Anita Gratkowski and Laura Zeitler will attest, it is not always easy to be married to a deacon but I'm pretty sure you already know that! For the kids: thank you for sharing your dads with us all. May you all be filled with the choicest of God's blessings!

Once a month I meet with a group of men and women called RAD. All are high school age and older and are actively discerning God's call for them. We share a meal and fellowship and spend some time in Eucharistic Adoration. Our next meeting is Saturday, October 22 after the 6pm Mass in the rectory. If you are interested in joining us, please let me know.

There is no question that there is a vocation shortage in the church. In the next twenty years, two-thirds of the priests of our diocese will retire. At the same time, studies project that the number of Catholics will increase. We need to beg the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into the field (Mt 9:37-38).

We also need to encourage our young people to consider a vocation to the priesthood and religious life. Studies indicate that most of our young people report that they have never been asked. In fact, most have been discouraged! Who is a good candidate? Someone who has a strong faith, a vibrant personality, and a great desire to help others. The same qualities which would make someone a good father or mother, would make them a good priest, deacon, brother, or sister.

Please think of two or three people you feel might have a vocation. Who knows? God may use you to stir His call into the flame!

Growing together in Christ!

*Fr. Bill*



Fr. Bill Swengros  
 Pastor



## Take, Eat and Drink: Drawing Deeper Faith through Understanding the Mass

# PARISH WORKSHOP

"For Catholics, the Eucharist is not simply a way of worshipping God, it is *the* privileged means of experiencing the presence of Christ Jesus and participate in his work of redeeming the world."  
- John Baldovin

## Drawing Deeper Faith Through Understanding the Mass and the New Roman Missal

A **workshop** with video and discussion

Presented by Terry Modica

Find out how the upcoming changes in the words of Mass can strengthen your faith and deepen your relationship with Christ while it enlivens the experience of Mass for you!

**October 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm - 9:00pm**

or

**November 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am - Noon**

**St. Stephen's Catholic Church**

*Take, Eat and Drink* explores the various elements of the Roman Catholic Mass in light of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal. By candidly discussing the language and structure of the Mass, the film highlights the laity's response to God's dialogue of love through the Eucharistic sacrifice.

**It is an intimate meditation on how we speak to God, how God speaks to us,  
and how we speak to one another in relationship to God.**

This documentary features Fr Rick Hilgartner, Executive Director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Fr Gary Dowsey of the "Hey, Fr Gary!" show on SpiritFM Catholic Radio, Fr John Gerth of the "Ask Fr J" fame of Lifeteen.com, and Fr Bill Swengros.

[www.gnm.org/studios](http://www.gnm.org/studios)





# Building Our Future Together

ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPAIGN

**Building Update:** Father Bill and Tom Doyle, our parish manager, met with Bishop Lynch and his team two weeks ago. We have sent a letter to every registered family with the gist of the meeting. If you didn't get one, please call or stop by the parish office. Thank you!



## Any Issues with Pledges?

It is extremely important that you continue to fulfill your pledge so that we can in fact BUILD OUR FUTURE TOGETHER! If you have made your pledge, but have not received pledge reminders, or if there has not been a transaction with your credit card or bank account, here is a list of contacts who can help:

- ◆ For issues with credit card deductions, contact Marie Bornstad, 727-344-1611, [mcd@dosp.org](mailto:mcd@dosp.org).
- ◆ For issues with automatic payments or automatic withdrawals, contact Kathy King, 727-344-1611, [kck@dosp.org](mailto:kck@dosp.org).
- ◆ For all other issues, contact Building Our Future Together Committee, Rick Hughes, 813-657-0343, [boft@StStephenCatholic.org](mailto:boft@StStephenCatholic.org)

## 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.*

**Friendly Reminder:** As parents, we would never do anything to deprive our children of the experiences they need to develop physically, intellectually, or emotionally. Yet, many parents deprive their children of the spiritual experiences they need ... to participate at Mass EACH weekend, to attend Religious Education programs, and daily prayer at home. As we begin a new liturgical year, let's redouble our commitment to our children's spiritual well-being!

**Safe Environment:** Child abuse is a tragic reality that affects not only our Church but the entire community. When one in every four girls and one in every five boys are sexually abused before the age of 18, it is a problem that can not be ignored. We must all work together to be a part of the solution. To that end, our Church has required level II background screening checks as well as mandatory training to all those who work with children and vulnerable adults. We also offer classes each year to parents and children in order to end the cycle of abuse. For more information, please call our Religious Education Office (671-4434).



**Don't forget our service men and women!!** Please remember the young men and women who are separated from their loved ones as they serve our country. Take a moment to visit the beautiful memorial book next to the American flag in the front of our church. If you would like to have your loved one remembered in this special way, please leave your information with Bernie at the parish office. Electronic images are welcome. Let us pray peace in the world and for their safe return home!

## Thought for the Day:

“The Holy Rosary is the storehouse of countless blessings.”

– Blessed Alan de la Roche



**Craft Fair!**

**Room 2 & 3  
Back Hall**

## St. Stephen Annual Craft Fair

**Come and browse for great**

**Christmas gifts**

**Household Decorations**

**Hard-to-Find Items**

**Raffle Tickets**

Proceeds to benefit our Building Fund! Thank you for your support!



**Friday, October 14th is quickly approaching and St. Stephen needs YOU to stand up and be counted for Life! Plan to bring your ministry members and friends to support the cause. This can be a family experience, too! For two short hours (7am to 5pm) your presence can make a world of difference in helping another family **CHOOSE LIFE!****

**Where: Women's Health Center, 2010 E. Fletcher Rd, Tampa 33612**

**To be part of this LIFE-CHANGING experience,  
contact Clarissa now at (813) 453-8304.**

# Did You Know...

**First Aid:** The parish First Aid kit is located in the kitchen under the telephone. The AED is located just around the corner above the fire extinguisher. If you use them, please let a staff person know so that they can be stocked and secured. It will also help us to ensure that our church is always a safe environment. Thank you.

(BTW: If you would like to be trained in CPR, please contact John at 655-7875. Thank you for caring!)

**Diocesan Animal Policy:** In order to ensure the safety of all of our parishioners as well as their pets, it is prohibited to have animals on Diocesan property other than service animals. This includes both our church and school campuses. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**AA and NA Meetings:** Do you feel your life is out of control? Do those you love and respect think you drink too much? Help is here! Our parish is blest to host Alcoholics Anonymous and AL Anon meetings. For more information, please call the parish office or Bob at 651-0210. Get help now!

**Mass Offerings:** The Mass is the most powerful of all prayers since it is a participation in the redemptive act of Jesus Christ. Throughout history, it has been praised as a sure means of assisting both the living and deceased to attain eternal salvation. Each Mass is offered for the intentions of all who are present. A special intention for the Mass may also be requested. In this case, it is usually announced in the bulletin and may be included in the prayers of the faithful. The suggested donation is \$20. You may also request an “unannounced” Mass. This Mass will be celebrated during a private celebration. It could be celebrated by one of the priests of the parish who is not scheduled for Mass that day or by a retired priest, foreign missionary, or a priest who is not assigned to a parish. The suggested offering is \$10. For more information, stop by the parish office.

**Let the children come!** Infants and children are always welcome at St. Stephen. We support the parents as they discern how best to teach their children about the Mass. For some, the best option may be to drop off your children at our nursery. In that way you can pray while they play! For others, the cry room is the best option. In this way, you and your children can



participate in the Mass together while allowing your children to be children without distracting others. For others, the best option is to have your children with you in the church so you can teach them about the Mass. If they are having a “bad hair day”, you can always choose one of the other options. The important thing is that YOU are going to church and are able to pray and that you and your children always feel WELCOME. (PS: If the nursery is not open during your Mass time, contact Amanda at the parish office and let’s see if we can open it!)

**Mind Your Manners!** At every Mass there seems to be a growing number of people who habitually arrive late. While “late arrivals” are sometimes unavoidable, please try to leave early enough to spend some quiet time with the Lord BEFORE Mass begins. Another problem is people who habitually leave early. Remember that Mass does not end until the closing song ends. While some may have to leave early due to a personal emergency, please try to plan your day so that you can enjoy the full Mass. If you are trying to avoid traffic, why not spend a few extra moments in prayer or visit with some of your fellow parishioners? Remember, no one ever died of an overdose of prayer!!



**Mass Communication:** We would love to serve you better. The Holy Father has encouraged us to take advantage of modern technologies to promote the Gospel. Help us communicate with you in a more timely and less expensive manner. Please send an email to Bernie (BKalle@ststephencatholic.org) and we’ll add your email address to our database. Let us know if there are changes in the names or number of those living in your household, phone numbers, address, etc. We would be glad to send you information on our ministries, offertory envelopes, or electronic giving. Also, if you would not like to receive periodic emails from the parish, let us know. Help us to serve you better! Thank you!



**Prayer of St. Francis Before the Crucifix:** “Most high, glorious God, let your light fill the shadows of my heart and grant me, Lord, true faith, certain hope, perfect love, awareness and knowing, that I may fulfill Your holy will. Amen.”

**St. Stephen  
Catholic  
School**

# The Mustang

October 9, 2011  
SCHOOL NEWS



Support our school by attending  
**SPIRIT NIGHTS**



- **BEEF O'BRADY'S**  
Summerfield  
Wed., Oct. 12
- **BLOOMINGDALE PIZZA**  
Bell Shoals Rd.  
Tues, Oct. 18

JUST TELL THEM YOU ARE  
THERE TO SUPPORT SAINT  
STEPHEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

10% OF SALES GO TO  
SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!

## MISSION STATEMENT

St. Stephen Catholic School is devoted to inspiring students to achieve their full academic potential while demonstrating a desire to continue Jesus' mission by applying Catholic morals, beliefs, values and practices in their everyday lives. We are committed to motivating students to sustain a lifelong love of learning.

## SAINT STEPHEN SCHOOL ALUMNI

Please email  
[cshadwick@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:cshadwick@ststephencatholic.org)  
to let us know what you have  
been doing since your time at St.  
Stephen. We love pictures!

**We are proud of our alumni!**  
**Parents, we'd appreciate any  
info from you, too!**  
**Help us highlight your St.  
Stephen alumni!**

## SECOND GRADE NEWS



The 2011-2012 school year is off to an awesome start! Even though we have only been in school for a little over a month, second grade, 2B, is truly a great team. One way that the students have exemplified teamwork was by collecting and bringing in box tops for the school. They brought in so many, that our class actually won an ice cream party for bringing in the most box tops out of all the classes! It was so exciting for them to be

rewarded for their efforts. Another way that 2B has worked together was during the St. Vincent De Paul canned food drive. They encouraged each other to bring in cans and made sure that we were keeping track daily. Although we did not bring in the most, I was proud of their enthusiasm and the genuine care they showed for feeding the poor. It makes me so happy to see the students working towards one goal.

You can also find 2B working together in our classroom daily! During the regular school day, students participate in learning centers. This is one of their favorite activities because they are able to move around the room and complete work together. They put spelling words in groups, sing phonic songs, and play "Addition Top It"! Most of the activities require a partner so that way if a student needs support they can turn to a classmate. They are really building trust in each other while they are learning!

A way that I am trying to continue the teamwork throughout the year is by giving the class a letter for every time they collectively display positive behaviors. Currently, they are trying to earn the letters to spell the word "teamwork". When the word is spelled, they will get to choose a way to celebrate. This can be movie and popcorn, extra recess time, fun free-time in the classroom, or something that they agree on. After this celebration they will have a new word to earn letters for. I am confident that we are going to keep up the team spirit!



~ Submitted by Stephanie Utroska,  
Second Grade Teacher



## 2011-2012 ENROLLMENT

**Give your child the gift of a Catholic Education!**

**We accept students throughout the year, as space allows.**

Information about our school may be found at [www.ststephencatholic.org](http://www.ststephencatholic.org)

We have space in most classes. Please give us a call at 741-9203, ext. 304 to schedule a tour. We look forward to welcoming you and your child into our school team!



**From the Holy Father:  
"Keep Them Asking!"**

"Dear friends—Be prudent and wise, build your lives upon the firm foundation which is Christ. This wisdom and prudence will guide your steps, nothing will make you fear and peace will reign in your hearts. Then you will be blessed and happy and your happiness will influence others. They will wonder what the secret of your life is and they will discover that the rock which underpins the entire building and upon which rests your whole

existence is the very person of Christ, your friend, brother and Lord, the Son of God incarnate, who gives meaning to all the universe. He died for us all, rising that we might have life, and now, from the throne of the Father, he accompanies all men and women, watching continually over each one of us" (Benedict XVI, World Youth Day Welcome Ceremony, 18 August 2001).

### TAKE HOME REFLECTIONS:

**Isaiah 25: 6-10** When we want to celebrate an event we have a party. When we go to heaven do you think Jesus will celebrate with us?

**Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20** Why do we always want more than we have? What does it mean when it says that we are riches in the love of Jesus?

**Matthew 22: 1-14 or 22: 1-10** How many times have we thought that doing something else is more important than attending Mass?

**Faith in Action:** "My God will fully supply whatever you need..." (Phil 4:19). The secret to being a good steward is to trust that God will supply us with all that we need. However, we have to let go of the expectation that we should also have all that we want. Good stewards must learn to live differently. We must turn away from materialism, want less, share more and learn to be grateful for God's many blessings.



FAITH  
IN ACTION

**Faith On-Line:** Two weeks ago I asked for recommendations for daily meditations. The best I received was *Our Daily Bread* by RBC Ministries. Although it is not Catholic and does not offer push notifications, it does provide an excellent commentary on the day's Scripture passage. *Church Fathers: Daily Minder* by Saint Benedict Press offers a daily excerpt from a Church Father, a focus thought, and closing prayer. If you would like, it can send daily reminders to you. Lastly, *Regnum Christi* will gladly send you an email each day with a devotional based on the readings from the day's Mass. It is a great way to help you focus your thoughts and grow in holiness. If you have other suggestions, let me know! —  
[www.StStephenCatholic.org](http://www.StStephenCatholic.org) Fr. Bill

**Words of Wisdom:** "All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."

— St. Francis of Assisi

### Q&A Ask It Basket

**Q:** Are there ministries that I can do at home? I am a shut-in but would like to help...

**A:** We do have some ministries that could lend themselves to be done by shut-ins. Very good question. I will do some research. Thank you for your question.

## Saints of God



This Friday is the Feast of **St. Callistus I, pope and martyr.** His life reads like a movie! Callistus was a slave in the imperial Roman household. Put in charge of the bank by his master, he lost all the money deposited, fled and was caught. (Sound familiar?) After doing some time in jail, he was granted an early release so that he could recoup some of the money. Evidently he took this too far and was arrested for brawling in a synagogue! He was then condemned to work the mines in Sardinia. The emperor's mistress arranged for him to be released. He was then hired to manage the first Christian burial grounds in Rome (still called the catacombs of St. Callistus). Pope Zephyrinus ordained him deacon and made him his friend and advisor. After the pope was martyred, Callistus was elected pope by a majority vote of the clergy and laity of Rome. St. Hippolytus was so upset, he let himself be set up as the first antipope in the history of the Church. The schism lasted about 18 years. He accused St. Callistus of being too lenient on criminals, allowing marriages between slaves and free women, and of allowing the ordination of men who were married several times. He didn't feel that mortal sin was a just reason to depose a bishop, and was lenient on those who denied the faith during persecution. During a riot in Trastevere, Callistus was martyred. After Peter, he was the first Pope to be commemorated as a martyr. What is the message? The Church is made up of saints and sinners alike. We all depend upon the mercy of God for our salvation.

**Think About It:** "No athlete is crowned but in the sweat of his brow." — St. Jerome

## 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!

**October 10<sup>th</sup> Topic: I Believe in God.** We will discuss Faith in God as Mystery and Trinity. Great discussions happen here. Come and bring a friend!

**October 17<sup>th</sup> Topic: Man and Woman in the Beginning.** Discussing the creation of man and woman, the fall and the promise, original sin.

**October 24<sup>th</sup> Topic: The Good News: God Has Sent His Son – Son of God, Son of Mary, Mysteries of Christ's Life.** We will focus on knowing more about Jesus. Don't miss it! Bring a friend...

### Tuesday Night Bible Study

From now through October 25th (10 week study)  
from 7-8:30pm Church Upper Room

**The Acts of the Apostles** Led by Deacon Rick

Our class is up and running. Thank you to everyone who is participating. **We will be holding our next class right after this one ends, starting November 1.** Come – open the Bible with newcomers and experienced Bible students alike! We look forward to seeing you and a friend at our next class!

### Tuesday Morning:

#### Beginning Apologetics 1 Study

Now thru Oct. 25 (9 weeks), 10-11:30am

**How to Explain and Defend the Catholic Faith ... has started at the ROC Center**

Thank you to everyone who is participating. For those who could not make this study – don't worry! We will be starting another Apologetics 1 Study later this year in the evening during the week.

### 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! Come and bring a friend!

## Thursday Morning Bible Study

Starting November 10...



### Introduction to the Bible (7 sessions)

Led by Mrs. Nancy Slade

Come and open the Bible with newcomers and experienced Bible students alike. Participants will be comfortable finding their way around the Bible, develop a better understanding of its themes and writing styles, and gain clear insights about Catholic use and interpretation of the Bible. Study set fee: \$20.



## Thursday Night Bible Study Jeff Cavin's "Bible Timeline" Study

7pm in Room 3 (Church)



**The study is up and running, and the discussions are excellent.**

**Thank you and welcome to those who just joined this study during the recent entry point.** If you

couldn't make this study this time around... don't worry. There will be another Bible Study starting after this one in a few months.

## Saturday Morning Bible Study

**When: Starting October 8th through December 10th (10 weeks)  
from 9:00 to 10:30am**

**Where: Room 3, downstairs at the church**



### Acts of the Apostles

**Led by Dr. Bob Kalle and Deacon Rick**

Come open the Bible with newcomers and experienced Bible students alike. The study class will go for ten weeks. This study will look at the excitement of Pentecost and how it enlivened the early believers in their struggles to establish communities of faith – struggles surprisingly like those today. Study set fee: \$20. Seat reservations are still being taken and scholarships are available if needed.

(Deacon Rick's Bible Study Suggestion: Why not start the day with morning Mass at 8:00am and then go to Bible Study? What a great combination!)

**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

Kindergarten – Grade 5 Religious Education classes will be collecting canned food items for St. Vincent de Paul October 16 through October 26. Please bring the items to class. Many thanks for your generosity. Non-perishable food may be dropped off at the church kitchen during the week throughout the year.

First Reconciliation **Rite of Becoming a Penitent** will take place at all Masses next weekend! Parents: If you did not attend any of the Orientation sessions, contact the RE Office this week (671-4434). The wooden cross for this Rite is included in the packet.

No class next Wednesday, Oct. 12, for preschool – the building is being used for an adult retreat.



## APPRECIATING OUR CLERGY!

This weekend we take time to thank our wonderful clergy – Fr. Bill, Fr. Emery, Fr. Jose, Deacon Dan, and Deacon Rick. We also thank our newest clergy – Deacon Ed Dodenhoff, Deacon Ed Smith, and Deacon Matt Shirina. We are so very blessed to have you!

*“Friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience.”*  
1 Thessalonians 5:12



## What is RCIA?

In our Parish, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is called “OCIA, or “Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.” Both names refer to the same thing: a series of rites, conducted in the context of learning about the faith and spiritual formation, through which a person is fully incorporated into the Body of Christ, the Church.

Our parish continues to respond to those who seek Jesus. We respond each time someone calls, walks through our door and asks I need a community of faith that will show me how to belong, how to be present in the moment with Jesus. I am proud to say we at St. Stephen share this love for Christ. We welcome you to a community of faith.

Each day calls come into our office with questions from those seeking God’s truth. When were asked why is St. Stephen growing so....the answer is “you!” The answer is you allow the Holy Spirit to lead you to a place where you see community, a place where you see the work of Jesus happen each moment of the day.

We give thanks to God as He continuously strengthens each of us who seek to do His will in offering a gentle, humble, and clear welcome to the Catholic faith. “Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15).

*For more information about the OCIA process at St. Stephen please contact  
Rosie Bridges, Sacrament Coordinator, 671-4434*



# Youth Ministry



**PIZZA ROLLS**  
Every Wednesday  
from 7:00—8:45 at



**This Sunday's topic:  
Meet the Miracle Man!**

**See you at the ROC  
From 7:00 to 8:30!!!**

## EPIClesis

**Fall Retreat  
Fri Nov 4—Sat Nov 5  
Sign up today!**

**Registration available @ all  
H.S. events or on website**

**Set the world  
on fire!**

For more information about High School Youth Ministry contact Religious Education at 813.671.4434 or [Mirwin@StStephenCatholic.org](mailto:Mirwin@StStephenCatholic.org)



**St Stephen LifeTeen**



### EDGE Saturday Night Open ROC Youth Group

Our next social night is this Saturday, October 15, 2011, immediately following the 6pm Mass until 9pm. Bring your friends and hang out! Food is provided.

### Girls of Grace

**Girls of Grace** is our group for girls only. All Middle School girls are invited for an evening of fun, prayer, and sharing! During the school year we meet twice monthly on a Saturday. We begin at the 6pm Mass as a group, and then head over to the ROC Center until 9pm October 8th and October 22nd.



### Confirmation Retreats and Interviews

Call the Religious Ed Office at 671-4434 to schedule your interview and retreat date. Please call the Religious Education Office to schedule an orientation if you have not already attended one. If you are interested in adult confirmation, please contact Rosie Bridges at the Religious Ed Office.



### Wild at Heart



Calling all Middle School Boys! Join us on the school grounds Saturday, October 8th & 22nd for some fun, and meet some new friends. We eat pizza, play (wiffleball, basketball, kickball, and manhunt) and pray. The group is run by high school teens, with some adult supervision. If you are new to the area, want some Christian friends, or just want to have a

### Volunteers Needed!

The middle schoolers of St. Stephen are thirsting for faith! Volunteer to minister to our youth and help quench their thirst! We are especially in need of help with general supervision and providing meals during our Saturday Youth Group.... whatever your talents are, we need you!

### EDGE Basic Training

Have you ever had a friend ask a question about the Catholic Faith? Have you ever answered that question with a "huh?" Come to Basic Training and learn how to answer these questions! Join us every week on Thursday from 7-8:30pm at the ROC Center. The first Thursday of the month is Rosary Making! Don't know how to make rosaries? We'll teach you! A great opportunity for service hours!



Scan this code w/ your phone!

Youth Minister—Jeff Falanga  
[JFalanga@StStephenCatholic.org](mailto:JFalanga@StStephenCatholic.org)

Please visit our website for more information on events, dates, permission slips, and forms.  
[www.StStephenCatholic.org/YouthMinistry](http://www.StStephenCatholic.org/YouthMinistry)

Asst. Youth Minister—Kim Davis  
[KDavis@StStephenCatholic.org](mailto:KDavis@StStephenCatholic.org)

# Save the Date!



*Come and See:  
The Gift of Divine Mercy*

*October 16, 2011  
7:00 to 8:00pm*

*Upper Room of the Church*

*Blessed John Paul II declared that the message of Divine Mercy is the message for the third millennium, to all people, as "God's gift to our time."*

*What is this gift of Divine Mercy?*

*We invite you to  
Come and See*





**Mark Your Calendar!**

## Annual Father - Daughter Dance

The CFW annual Father-Daughter Dance will be held on Friday, **October 21, from 7-10pm** in the Multi-Purpose Room. This is a great opportunity for dads and daughters to spend some time together and dance the night away! This year's theme is "**A Gala Evening**". Come dressed in your finest and join in the magic!



 **MARRIED AND IN LOVE**®



**ONE DAY, PARISH MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CREATED AND PRESENTED BY WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

## MARRIED AND IN LOVE ...MOST OF THE TIME!

Just two more weeks to sign up for  
MARRIED AND IN LOVE... MOST OF THE TIME!

**When: Saturday, October 22**

**Where: Parish Multipurpose Room**

Come away for a day and refresh your marriage! Take time to just be a couple, without all the distractions of your busy lives. Learn from other couples how to make your marriage shine, how to make your family shine. Child care will be provided and meals and materials are all included in the small fee of \$35.

Sign up today — registration forms are available at the church office and website. A couple will be available after Masses this weekend to answer any questions you might have and to help you with registration!

## Couples' Game Night!

**Fun!**

**Have Fun Together!**

**When:** October 22, 7-9:30pm

**Where:** church upper rooms

Bring a snack to share...

Childcare provided: \$5 donation per family -  
Contact Penny Abbruzese at 653-4513 for  
more information!



## Healing Mass

### Mass of Remembrance for Infants Lost

Has your family been touched by infant or pregnancy loss? October 15 is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. Join us **Wednesday, October 12** for a Mass of Remembrance and Healing. Families will have an opportunity to remember their lost children with their parish community who also mourns their loss. Adoration, an opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, and Benediction will follow.



# Ministry News

## Christ Renews His Parish

### Love as Jesus Loved

How do you expect the Lord to treat you, when you ask for his help? Do you approach with fear and doubt, or with faith and confidence? Jesus never turned anyone aside who approached him with sincerity and trust. And whatever Jesus did, he did well. He demonstrated both the beauty and goodness of God in his actions. The Lord treats each of us with kindness and compassion and he calls us to treat one another in like kind. The Holy Spirit who dwells within us enables us to love as Jesus loves. Discover the kindness and compassion of Jesus for yourself during the next Christ Renews His Parish weekend retreat.

Enroll on-line at [www.ststephencatholic.org](http://www.ststephencatholic.org).

**Next Weekends: Women's - October 15-16, 2011**

**Men's - April 14-15, 2012**

## Men's Club

Get a foursome together and sign up for the **November 5th Golf Scramble at Summerfield**. Please call Dan Gang with any questions: 813-494-3722.



## Saint Vincent de Paul

Holiday Food Basket distribution will be a very important mission this year! We are blessed with a very supportive community, allowing us to minister to those in need.

We have begun registering families, and will continue to do so until November 11. We can see already that the need will be greater than ever...

**On the October 22-23rd weekend we will distribute bags for our annual grocery drive with lists attached for you. Thank you!**

**Catch more ministry news on our website: [www.StStephenCatholic.org](http://www.StStephenCatholic.org)! Sign up for our e-newsletter there too --**

## Career Transition Ministry

### HOW IS YOUR JOB SEARCH GOING?

Could you use a little help and support with your job search? The St. Stephen Career Transition Ministry was started to help the unemployed and the underemployed with resume preparation, interviewing tips, job negotiation and much, much more. We have been helping parishioners for two years now and have seen many people land quality positions as a direct result of our free weekly workshops. Come join us at our next session on Monday, October 10 at St. Stephen Catholic School on Boyette Road from 7 to 9pm. Most of our facilitators are from our very own parish and are willing to share their time and experience with us. We also offer you moral support and prayer during this very difficult time of your life. There is hope and things will change with the right tools in your hands. For more information, please contact John or Sheila Nemias at 672-2552 or [ctministry@ymail.com](mailto:ctministry@ymail.com).



## Men's Faith Breakfast

Our October 2011 Men's Faith Breakfast will be held on **Thursday, October 13, 2011**. As always, we will meet at the Buckhorn Country Club, 2721 S. Miller Rd., Valrico, FL 33594, at 6:30am.

A continental breakfast is served at a cost of a love offering. We will be discussing the readings for Sunday, October 16, 2011. Please come, bring a friend and RSVP to me: Don DeCort [don@decortkirknerlaw.com](mailto:don@decortkirknerlaw.com).



## M.O.M.S.



**Need your baby fix?** The Ministry of Mom's needs a special person to help watch our little ones in the nursery during meetings. The MOM's ministry meets September through May every Thursday from 9:30am to 11:30am. A small stipend will be provided.

Please contact Karen Taylor @ [MOMS@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:MOMS@ststephencatholic.org) or (813) 661-1579

## Community Board

### Annual Hispanic Mass Saturday, Oct. 15, 11am



Celebrate with Bishop Lynch a Mass in honor of "Our Lady of Mercy", Patroness of Peru. Rosary and procession of flags begin at 10am at the Cathedral of St. Jude in St. Petersburg.

Ever wonder why 1 out of 10 Americans are Ex-Catholics? From Evangelical Mega-Church Pastor into the One Church - Come hear

### ALLEN HUNT

Discover the Hidden Treasures of the Catholic Church!  
When: Saturday, October 22, 2011  
Where: St. Clement Catholic Church, Plant City  
Mass at 4pm, Talks at 5:15 Tickets: \$10, \$15 w/dinner  
[www.StClementpc.org](http://www.StClementpc.org)

Multi-Cultural Event Celebrating

### "Unity in Diversity: All Saints"

October 29, 9:30am to 2:30pm  
at Nativity Catholic Church



All-Florida

### RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

Excellent national and state speakers share how "With God All Things Are Possible"

October 14-15, 2011 at St. Martha School, Sarasota

For details and registration, visit the Diocesan website at [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org) and click on the Florida Respect Life Conference button, or call 941-441-1101.

**Shrines of France:** You are invited to join Fr. Bill for a 9-day pilgrimage to the Shrines of France October 9-18, 2012. If you have a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady of Lourdes, the Miraculous Medal, St. Vincent de Paul, or St. Therese of Liseux, this is the trip for you!

We will have an information session on October 23<sup>rd</sup> following the 11:30 Mass. Brochures are available in the parish office. Call Margie at 800-644-4659 for information.



**Please remember us!** All estates and trusts left to the parish should specify, to "Robert N. Lynch, Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Petersburg, or his successors in office, a Corporation Sole, for the benefit of Saint Stephen Parish." If you need help completing this document, one of our parishioners, who is a lawyer, has offered to help free of charge. Please call Tom Doyle, our parish manager, 689-4900, for more information. Thank you and remember, God will not be outdone in generosity!



### Diocesan Animal Policy:

In order to ensure the safety of all of our parishioners, as well as their pets, it is prohibited to have animals on Diocesan property other than service animals. This includes both our church and school campuses. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!



### Scrip Cards

Earn "Scrip Dollars" for the parish while you shop, donate, or eat out! Great holiday gifts, too—

- Restaurants
- Grocery
- Gas
- Home Improvement
- Department Stores

Ask at the office or go to the parish website — or order direct:  
[www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com)  
(code: 7A43C9358914)

# Deo Gratias!



## Time, Talent, & Treasure

*Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life*

If you were a sponsor or participant in the **Angels Among Us** annual gala benefitting the St. Stephen Catholic School, we thank you immensely for your support! Without you, the quality of education for our children would not be so bright - Thank you again!



**DEO GRATIAS!** And recognition to the student body of St. Stephen Catholic School for their super collection of 1,705 pounds of food, donated to the Food Pantry during the Ministry Fair.



This was accomplished in a two weeks food drive by the students. From our SVDP volunteers and on behalf of the families that we serve, God bless you for a great job!!

Thank you for bringing back bulletins from Italy, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Florida! Welcome home, too!



### Ministry of the Week: Martha's Ministry

If you love hospitality, then this is the ministry for you! We set up and serve refreshments at parish receptions and special meetings. Join the fun - serving the Lord and his people!

Martha\_Ministry@StStephenCatholic.org



### Annual Pastoral Appeal

We are so close to making this year's goal for the Annual Pastoral Appeal. **To date we have reached 98.6% of our goal - only \$5,100 to go!** To date, 934 families have participated in the Appeal; everyone counts! The money raised through the Annual Pastoral Appeal funds hundreds of vital ministries throughout our five-county diocese. Remember you can specify what ministries you would like to support by checking the appropriate boxes on the envelopes.



APA also helps us! What is not pledged must be paid from our offertory. In addition, every cent collected above our assessment is deposited into our savings account. Best of all, 100% of the money collected is "tax free." In other words, it is not figured into next year's assessment. This means that every dollar donated to APA is like giving \$1.20 to the parish! What could be better? Helping those in need while helping our parish! For more information, please contact Tom Doyle at the parish office. Pledge envelopes are available at every exit to the church. Thank you for your generosity!

### Save the Date!

Healing Mass - October 12; World Mission Sunday - October 15-16;  
 Women's XII Christ Renews His Parish Retreat - October 15-16;  
 Father-Daughter Dance - October 21; Project Cure - October 30;  
 Men's Club Golf Scramble - November 5; Parish Picnic - November 13;  
 Thanksgiving - November 24; First Sunday of Advent - November 26

Register online for the Christ Renews His Parish weekends at [www.StStephenCatholic.org](http://www.StStephenCatholic.org).



*"I return to You  
 what is Yours, O Lord,  
 whatever the gift may be.  
 All that I have is Yours alone,  
 a gift You've entrusted to me."*

*May God bless you  
 for your generosity!*

### Your Gifts To God ... And To Your Parish

October 1-2, 2011

Mass attendance	3,557
Offertory:	\$ 26,059
Average donation....\$	23.70
Envelopes	970
Debt Collection:	\$ 8,137

Who is missing? Please think of who you did NOT see sitting in Church this weekend. Give them a call and let them know they were missed!

**Tired of Writing Checks?** Our parish offers an Automatic Offering Plan. You can choose to have money automatically withdrawn from your savings, checking or credit card account on a monthly or semi-monthly basis. There is no charge for this service and it can be stopped at any time with only a week's notice. No more envelopes, no more writing checks, no more having to remember to bring your cash! For more information, please contact Tom Doyle at the parish office (689-4900; [tdoyle@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:tdoyle@ststephencatholic.org)).

<b>September Automatic Payments:</b>	
<b>Offertory:</b>	<b>\$6,526.67</b>
<b>Debt Collection:</b>	<b>\$1,300.00</b>

# This Week At St. Stephen

## Schedule of Events

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

After Masses - Craft Sale	RM2-3
9:30am Nursery Open	RM4
9:30am RE PreSchool Class	RM5&9
9:30am OCIA	RM7
9:30am OCIC-Children	ROC
10:45am New Registrations	back of church
11am Catechumenate Session	RM6-8
11am OCIA - Inquiry Group	RM9
1pm Baptisms	CH
7pm Divine Mercy Cenacle	RM5
7:30pm Life Teen	CH

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

12pm Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
7pm EDGE - Middle School	CH
7pm Career Transition Ministry	SCH

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

10am Apologetics Class	ROC
10am Crafts Group	RM2
12pm Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
3pm Life Path Hospice	ROC
5:15pm Children's Choir	CH
6pm Life Path Hospice	ROC
6pm Cultural Diversity Ministry	RM3
6:30pm OCIA & OCIC Ch. Tour	CH
7pm Adult Faith Talk	RM7-8
7pm Returning to Faith	RM9
7:30pm Caregivers Support	RM2

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

9am Encounter Prayer Group	RM5
12pm Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
6pm Boy Scouts	RM5-9
6pm Bible Study	RM2
6pm Life Teen Pizza Rolls	ROC
7pm <b>Healing Mass</b>	CH
7pm Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
7pm Al-Anon	RM2

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

9:30am MOMS group	RM4,6-8
11am Meals on Wheels	KCN
12pm Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
6:30pm Cub Scouts	RM 5-9
6:30pm BINGO	MPR
7pm Bible Timeline Study	RM3
7pm EDGE Basic Training	ROC
7pm Open the Scriptures	CH
7pm Boy Scouts	RM4
7pm Blessed Trinity Mtg.	RM4

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

11am Food Pantry	KCN-MPR
7pm Men's Club	ROC

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

9am Acts of the Apostles	RM3
8:30am Legion of Mary	ROC
11am FOCUS group-Mass	CH
2pm Divorce Support Group	ROC
6pm Children's Liturgy of the Word	RM4

(No new parishioner registrations Saturday)

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:30am Nursery Open	RM4
9:30am OCIA	ROC
10:45am New Registrations	Back of church
11am OCIA - Inquiry Session	ROC
4pm Divine Mercy Workshop	RM6-8
6:30pm Open Forum	MPR

## Mass Schedule and Intention

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

#### TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

8am	For the Parishioners
9:30am	†Joyce & Renaud Families
11:30am	†Mr. & Mrs. William Nicholas
5:30pm	†Anthony Cucinotta

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

8am	†Betty Stubenrauch
1:45pm	Elementary School Mass

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

8am	†Ted Plossl
9:30am	Middle School Mass

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

8am	Vocations
7pm	†Vivian Quinones

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

8am	Roger Fernandez
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### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

<b>Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr</b>	
8am	Brendan Logan

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

8am	Betty Greene
4pm	For the Parishioners
6pm	†Iras Donahue

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

#### TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

8am	†Emily Tluczek
9:30am	†John Sharpe
11:30am	†Theresa Baker
5:30pm	†Katherine Tobias

## Scriptures of the Week:

<b>Monday:</b>	Rom 1:1-7; Lk 11:29-32
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Rom 1:16-25; Lk 11:37-41
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Rom 2:1-11; Lk 11:42-46
<b>Thursday:</b>	Rom 3:21-30; Lk 11:47-54
<b>Friday:</b>	Rom 4:1-8; Lk 12:1-7
<b>Saturday:</b>	Rom 4:13,16-18; Lk 12:8-12
<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 45:1,4-6; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

## 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.
Matthew Irwin	High School 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 for

Please remember the sick and homebound in prayer, especially:

Diane Allain	Ann & Patrick Magu
Cheryl Booth	Robert & Carol Marden
Karen Bourget	Ruth Markham
Alice Brady	Linda Markham
Tina Brancato	Patricia Marshall
Wayne Brassey	Matthew McCant
Delia Caceres	Dorothy Miller
Mike Childers	Patricia Mitchell
Antoinette Cuellar	Luis Montilla
Sabrina DeWolf	Thomas Moyer
Michael Dragoni	Edwin Osalud
John Eilerman	Toni Parra
Carol Fahmy	Margaret Record
Caroline Fermin	Casie Rowe
Sal Gaeta	Helga Schliesmann
Nancy Grow	Mary Scott
Maria & Morris Hammond	Raegan Sheppard
Jay Herrin	Ed Sleyzak
Dennis Hickey	Elena Smith
Mary Hudyma	Luke Streeter
Joan John	Kinley Strohl
Joyce Johnson	Shirley Sullivan
Ellie Kavalieros	Gail Swanson
Vivian King	Kyle Swetnam
Karen Kirschenmann	Jack Tennenbaum
Keith Kruska	Linda Vaughan
Martha Lao	Tatum Woodworth
Chuck Lowe	

Please remember the deceased in your prayers, especially **Charles Hale, Jr.**, **Tina Moschgat** and **Ivan Lechowich**.

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.