

# St. Stephen Catholic Church

*Welcomes You*

Phone: 813-689-4900  
www.ststephencatholic.org

5049 Bell Shoals Rd.  
Valrico, FL 33596  
Office Hours: 8:30am-4pm, Mon.-Fri.



## May God Bless America!



### Have a Happy and Safe 4th!

#### Prayer 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. We ask this in Thy Most Holy Name. Amen.*

# Celebrate With Us!



## Pastor's Page BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



My dear friends,

### 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 3-3:45pm  
 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

**Morning Prayer:** Monday-Saturday 7:40am

**St. Stephen Catholic School and  
 Early Childhood Center:**  
 10424 St. Stephen Circle  
 Riverview, FL 33569-8732  
 Phone: 741-9203

**Religious Formation Office:**  
 10428 St. Stephen Circle  
 Riverview, FL 33569-8732  
 Phone: 671-4434

### Our Mission at St. Stephen:

Formed by Word and Sacrament, we, the Catholic family of St. Stephen, are a Eucharist-centered community of faith called to worship God, grow in holiness, and share our faith by loving and serving our neighbor.

[www.StStephenCatholic.org](http://www.StStephenCatholic.org)

Please join me in welcoming Fr. Jose George to our parish family. Fr. Jose was born in India and has ministered in a number of dioceses throughout the United States. Most recently, he has served as parochial vicar at Incarnation in Tampa. It is certainly a blessing to have him appointed to our parish. Fr. George, "Welcome Home!"

This weekend we also celebrate Independence Day. This unanimous declaration by the thirteen colonies on July 4, 1776, eloquently expressed the hopes and dreams of a people: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." More than just a historical document, it continues to shape and challenge our nation's conscience.

As a nation, the fundamental rights and freedoms on which our nation was founded have been threatened as never before. Unfortunately, the unalienable right to life for a child in the womb, the disabled, chronically ill, or aged is threatened as never before.

Recently, our Bishops addressed the threat of physician-assisted suicide. As Catholics, we agree with the founders of our country: each life has certain unalienable rights which the government must protect. Life is the fundamental human right and a gift from God and no one has the right to take the life of another. The bishops remind us that "respect for life does not demand that we attempt to prolong life by using medical treatments that are ineffective or unduly burdensome. Nor does it mean we should deprive suffering patients of needed pain medications." Thankfully, in the United States, our doctors and medical personnel do a wonderful job at helping patients control suffering. Our task is to provide love, support, companionship, prayers, and assistance in their time of need, to help them through this last chapter of life's journey.

This Independence Day weekend, let us once again renew our declaration of dependence upon God and independence from the tyranny of the culture of death. Let us lead the effort to defend and uphold the principle that each of us has a right to *live* with dignity through every day of our lives.

If you have any questions or concerns, please see me or any one of our priests or deacons. If you would like to do more to help those who are facing end of life issues, please consider joining one of our ministries: Hope Is Contagious, Cenacle of Divine Mercy, Care Givers Support Group, Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick, Parish Nurses, or Respect Life Committee.

May God bless you and your loved ones! Enjoy the 4th!

*Fr. Bill*

Fr. Bill Swengros  
 Pastor



PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JULY 4.

# Did You Know...

***What does it mean to say: I believe in the Holy Spirit?***

**To believe in the Holy Spirit means to worship him as God just like the Father and the Son. It means to believe that the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts so that we as children of God might know our Father in heaven. Moved by God’s Spirit, we can change the face of the earth.**

Before his death, Jesus promised his disciples that he would send them “another Counselor” (Jn 14:16) when he was no longer with them. Then when the *Holy Spirit* was poured out upon the disciples of the original Church, they learned what Jesus had meant. They experienced a deep assurance and joy in their faith and received particular CHARISMS; in other words, they could prophesy, heal, and work miracles. To this day there are people in the Church who possess such gifts and have these experiences.

**YOUCAT** (from Catechism of the Catholic Church) [683-686]

**From the Holy Father:  
“True Adoration”**



“Dear brothers and sisters, what does this history of the past have to say to us? What is this history's present? What is in question here first and foremost is the priority of the first commandment: to adore God alone. Where God disappears, man falls into the slavery of idolatry, as the totalitarian regimes of our own time have demonstrated, along with the various forms of nihilism that make man dependent upon idols, upon idolatry – they enslave him. Second: the primary end of prayer is conversion – the fire of God transforms our hearts and makes us capable of seeing God, of living according to God and of living for the other. And the third point: The Fathers tell us that this history of a prophet is also prophetic, if – they say – it foreshadows the future, the future Christ, it is a step on the path to Christ. And they tell us that here we see the true fire of God: the love that leads the Lord all the way to the Cross, to the total gift of Himself. True adoration of God, then, is to give oneself to God and to men – true adoration is love. And true adoration of God does not destroy, but renews. Certainly, the fire of God, the fire of love burns, transforms, purifies, but it is precisely in this way that it does not destroy but rather creates the truth of our being, recreates our hearts. And thus, truly alive by the grace of the fire of the Holy Spirit, of God's love, may we be adorers in spirit and in truth. Thank you.”

(Benedict XVI, Audience, 15 June 2011. For full text see [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)).



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



## TAKE HOME REFLECTIONS:

**Zechariah 9:9-10** Jesus was very concerned about the poor. It was never about the money or the fame. Are we more concerned about money than helping the less fortunate?

**Romans 8:9, 11-13** We are called to take care of our mind, heart and soul. Perhaps while we are exercising we could also be praying. Try it this week. Do you take enough time to pray and enrich your relationship with God?

**Matthew 11:25-30** Jesus assures us that He is “gentle and humble of heart.” What does that mean? How can we improve the way we approach others?



**FAITH  
IN ACTION**

### **Faith in Action:**

*"For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." - Mt 11:30.* When we think of being good stewards, we may think that God asks too much of us by asking us to generously share our time, talent and treasure. However, the yoke of stewardship is not heavy. Good stewards learn that by turning away from the materialism of the world, we can experience great joy in spending more time with God and sharing more of our gifts with others.

# Building Our Future Together

## Baptismal Preparation

The Baptism Ministry is in need of Catechists (teachers of the Catholic faith) to teach both *English and Spanish classes*. This ministry involves the teaching of a bi-monthly class for parents and godparents as they prepare to baptize their child in the Catholic Church. The class teaches parents and godparents about their role and their responsibilities concerning the Sacrament of Baptism. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome parents and children into our community! Please consider being part of this wonderful ministry! For more information, please contact our Religious Education Office, Rosie Bridges, at 671-4434 or email her at [rbridges@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:rbridges@ststephencatholic.org).



## Preparación Bautismal

El Ministerio Bautismal está solicitando personas interesadas en participar como Catequistas, (instructores, maestros de la fe católica). Las clases se ofrecerán en dos idiomas: *Ingles y Español*. Las mismas se llevaran a cabo dos veces al mes. La intención primordial es instruir/guair a los Padres y Padrinos en la preparación que ellos adquirirán para bautizar su niño(a) dentro de la Iglesia Católica. La clase también aspira a instruir a los Padres y Padrinos acerca de su papel y responsabilidades

concernientes al Sacramento del Bautismo. A la vez que estas clases nos ofrecen la oportunidad de darles la más calurosa bienvenida a los Padres y a sus hermosos niños (as) a nuestra comunidad Católica. Baptism. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome parents and children into our community! Please consider being part of this wonderful ministry! For more information, please contact our Religious Education Office, Rosie Bridges, at 671-4434 or email her at [rbridges@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:rbridges@ststephencatholic.org).

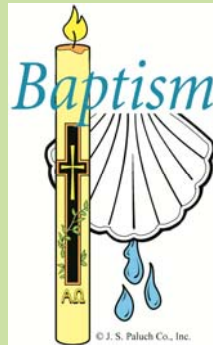
Para más información al respecto, no dude en comunicarse con nuestra oficina de Educación Religiosa; con la Sra. Rosie Bridges al teléfono 671-4434 o al correo electrónico: [rbridges@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:rbridges@ststephencatholic.org).

## **Q&A** Ask It Basket

**Q:** Don't all roads lead to God?

**A:** No one can know who will be saved. Even when someone seems to have lived a very destructive life, we cannot judge whether that person has been saved or not. People can always repent, even at the last minute, and turn to God.

[www.StStephenCatholic.org](http://www.StStephenCatholic.org)



Let us welcome new members of our Catholic family of St. Stephen, baptized in June:

**Carter Sharpe Airgood,**  
son of Alexander & Jennifer Airgood

**Benjamin Michael Basilicato,**  
son of Anthony & Cynthia Basilicato

**Travis Allen Blair,**  
son of Michael Thornsberry & Stephanie Blair

**Sean Mackey Connell,**  
son of Mark & Amy Connell

**Grace Rose Hazuka,**  
daughter of Shohn & Sara Hazuka

**Grace Victoria LaBarbera,**  
daughter of Matthew & Renee LaBarbera

**Aaron Gerard Lord,**  
son of Dennis & Honeychille Lord

**Soren Charles St. Amant,**  
son of Jeffrey & Andrea St. Amant

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
Sunday, July 10  
8:00am—12:30pm



This summer be  
the giving type!

Cruise in, lei back and donate blood two times between May and August and be entered to win a Royal Caribbean cruise for two, courtesy of AAA Auto Club South. PLUS, receive a wellness checkup, cholesterol screening and a tropical beach towel just for surfing in to



save lives! Visit [fbsblood.org](http://fbsblood.org) for guidelines and restrictions.

# Growing Together in Faith

## Saint for the Week



**Saints of God:** On Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, we remember **St. Isabel of Portugal** (1271-1336), the daughter of the King of Aragon. At twelve years of age, she was given in marriage to King Denis of Portugal. He was famous for his work in service for his country and his poor morals. Elizabeth kept true to her strong faith and strove to win her

husband over by her gentleness and extraordinary forbearance despite his neglect and abuse. Elizabeth was known for her care for the poor, orphans and women and for her efforts to bring peace to the people of Portugal. At a time when royalty professed their independence from God and an unquenchable thirst for worldly pleasures, Elizabeth proclaimed through word and deed her utter dependence upon God. Today, her life gives us great inspiration of how to live in the world but not of the world. St. Elizabeth, pray for us!

**Think About It:** “If you love peace, all will be well”  
— St. Elizabeth of Portugal

### Guidelines for the Reception of Holy Communion:

As Catholics we believe that the Christ is truly, really, and substantially present in the Eucharist - Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. It is the heart and summit of our Church because it is the Real Presence of Christ (Jn 6). It serves as the sign of our unity or communion with Christ and with His Church. St. Paul warns us to always approach the altar worthily (1 Cor 11:28-29). Active Catholics who have already received their First Holy Communion, are in a state of grace, and have fasted for an hour are welcome to share in Holy Communion. All others are invited to come forward for a blessing with their arms folded across their chest. The full guidelines are printed in the front cover of our worship aide.

**Gluten Intolerant?** If you have an adverse reaction to the gluten found in bread, including the Holy Eucharist, you have several options. First, you are welcome to receive the Lord in the Precious Blood. Remember, He is fully in present in the smallest drop of his Precious Blood as well as in the smallest particle of the Host. Second, there are low-gluten altar breads available which contain less than 0.01% gluten. If you would like to know more about the procedure we use at St. Stephen to distribute the low-gluten Hosts, see Fr. Bill or Denise after one of the Masses.



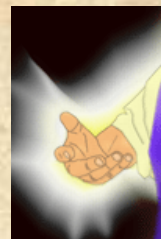
### Mass Communication:

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. For emergency purposes (major cancellations, etc.) we can text you if your phone receives texts, too. Please provide that number and phone carrier as well.



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.



## A Prayerful Invitation

For the empty chair beside me in the pew, I pray that it may soon be filled by you.

For the person who drives by the church each weekend, I pray that you turn in.

For the person who one day left Mass and never returned, I pray that you come home.

For those who have been confused or hurt by abuse, I pray that they give us another chance.

Everyone has a desire to feel loved, wanted and needed. GOD FULFILLS ALL OUR NEEDS. If you or someone you know have thought about returning home you will find the door wide open. If you would like to accept the invitation for yourself or someone else please RSVP: [jschneider@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:jschneider@ststephencatholic.org)

## Journey to Hope

Perhaps you are not aware that we have a *support group for the divorced*. We meet on the first and third Saturday at 2:00pm in the ROC Center; next is **July 16**. Our group includes support, discussion on a topic and spiritual reflection. Our group grows each month and is open to all. We are about to go onto the webpage of: [ststephencatholic.org](http://ststephencatholic.org). Last month we discussed loneliness and changing life



and are just learning to have fun with each other. For further information call Jeanne

Schneider, Pastoral Assistant 689-4900, ext. 314.

## FertilityCare Services

Unleashing the knowledge of your Fertility....There is an alternative to artificial methods of birth control and artificial reproductive technologies. Learn about FertilityCare and NaPro Technology, which teaches a woman about how her body works, how this information can be used constructively to improve her health, and how all of this impacts in a positive way her future. It is truly a bold new way of thinking, approaching and healing in women's health. It is 99% effective in avoiding pregnancy and highly effective to achieve pregnancy which allows couples to naturally plan their families. Additionally it offers couples who are experiencing infertility hope to achieve their dream of pregnancy without artificial reproductive technologies. This is accomplished while following the teachings of the church.

To learn more about the program, please come attend an introductory session on **Tuesday, July 19 at 7:30pm** at the church. To register, please email [www.FertilitycareTB@aol.com](mailto:www.FertilitycareTB@aol.com) or contact Linda Mackenzie, RN, CFRCP at 681-5409. Websites to review: [www.Fertilitycare.org](http://www.Fertilitycare.org) or [www.NaProTechnology.com](http://www.NaProTechnology.com).

[www.StStephenCatholic.org](http://www.StStephenCatholic.org)

# Adults!

### NEW: Tuesday Night Bible Study (It's Not Too Late to Join Us!)

From now thru August 9 (7 weeks) from 7-8:30pm  
Church Upper Room

### The Passion and Resurrection Narratives of Jesus Led by Deacon Rick



The study class will go for 7 weeks and compares the particular insights found in the passion and resurrection accounts of the four Gospels. The core of our faith incorporates both the pain of the cross and the hope of the resurrection into daily living. Study Set fee: \$20. Seat reservations are still being taken and scholarships are available if needed. For reservations and more information, please call Sue in the Religious Formation Office at 813-671-4434 or see Deacon Rick. We look forward to seeing you and a friend there!

Coming soon...**Tuesday Morning Beginning Apologetics 1 Study:  
How to Explain and Defend the Catholic Faith**  
At the ROC Center from 10-11:30am

We just finished our recent class and at the end of August we are looking to start this exciting study again. For more information about that study, please call Sue in the Religious Formation Office at 813-671-4434 to pre-register, or see Deacon Rick.

### Wednesday Night Bible Study 6-6:45pm in Room 2 (Church)

Led by Joe Emmett (this week Deacon Rick is leading with the Gospel of Mark). Mass and Adoration immediately following. Turn your Wednesdays into a night of study and worship! Come and bring a friend!

### 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. If you couldn't take this study this time around...don't worry. There will be a chance to join it during an entry point in late summer/early fall. For seat reservations then and more information on this Thursday night Bible study, please call Sue in the Religious Formation Office at 813-671-4434 or see Deacon Rick. See you there!

## Faith for Our Families



**Series...Monday Nights** from 7-8:15 pm 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!

**July 4th** No meeting tonight. Enjoy the 4th with friends and family!

**July 11th** This week we will explore **The 8th Commandment** — "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Great discussions happen here. Don't miss it! Make sure to bring a friend or two!

**July 18th** This week we will explore **The 9th Commandment** — "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife" and **Purity of Heart**. Bring a friend!

**St. Stephen  
Catholic  
School**

# The Mustang

July 3, 2011  
SCHOOL NEWS



## 2011-2012 ENROLLMENT

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

## SCHOOL SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning June 13:  
Mon. & Wed. 10am to 2pm  
Tues. & Thurs. 10am to 4pm  
Closed Fridays & July 4-8  
Resume regular hours Aug. 8

## I ♥ BINGO! Do you?

St. Stephen's hosts BINGO every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, doors open at 5:30 and BINGO starts at 6:30. BINGO is a fundraiser for our school but it is also a social outlet for many people in our parish and larger community. Invite a parent or grandparent to a BINGO date at St. Stephen's.

We need help to maintain and grow this ministry. We want to feed those who gather for BINGO both physically and socially. If you are interested in being a caller, donating raffle prizes, making food, or helping in anyway please contact Mrs. Julianne Gonzalez at 813-741-9203 or [jgonzalez@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:jgonzalez@ststephencatholic.org).

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SUMMER FUN & LEARNING

Summer is here! This is the perfect time to create “learning centers” and fun activities at your house. You and your child can have a great time creating these together. You can make them fun as well as educational.

### Math Center

This center can be portable and be used in the car, the back yard, or take it with you while waiting for the doctor or dentist. Fill a bag with a few pennies, buttons, beads, pasta, shells and rocks They can be used for counting and exploring numbers, measuring, sorting, and making patterns.

### Math Activities

Count the steps needed to walk from one room to the other, count the money in your piggy bank, make a special snack using different shapes, collect different items and make patterns, sort the laundry, or go on a shape, number, or color hunt around your house or neighborhood.

### Language Arts Activities



Have your child help you write the grocery list, go on a letter hunt, find letters in books, use shaving cream on a cookie sheet to write letters, use cookie cutters and play dough to make letters, or keep a summer journal.

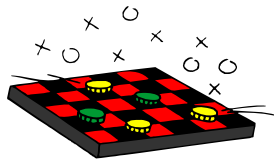
### Science Activities

Go outside, observe and explore nature all around you, lay on a blanket and watch the clouds go by – what shapes and pictures can you see in the clouds? How many different kinds of animals can you find?



### Religion

Practice and reinforce the following prayers: Guardian Angel, Grace, and Our Father. Attend Church and discuss the correct way to behave and listen.



### Fun games you can play with your child –

These games are educational and fun. This is a great way to spend quality educational time with your child. Memory, Alphabet Bingo,

Boggle Jr., Candy Land, Checkers, Tic-Tac-Toe, Bingo, and Go Fish!!!!!!

~Submitted by Deanna Hollingshead

# Faith Formation

## Religious Education News



**Re-registration packets have been mailed to all returning students for the 2011-2012 Religious Education year.** If you have not received your packet in the mail please contact our office. We look forward to being your partner on your child's faith formation journey!

**Religious Education Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 4:00pm and Friday by appointment. The staff can be contacted outside office hours by calling 671-4434 and leaving a message, or e-mail: [restaff@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:restaff@ststephencatholic.org).

**Interested in sharing your time and faith with the children and youth in our parish Religious Ed programs when the new school year begins?** Contact us at the Religious Ed Office @ 671-4434 or [restaff@ststephencatholic.org](mailto:restaff@ststephencatholic.org).

*If you donated items to VBS that you would like returned, please stop by the Religious Education office to pick them up by July 10. Any items not picked up before July 10 will be donated to the appropriate charity.*

*The Glory in the Gospels Junior Bible Study held on Thursday mornings has been cancelled.*

### COMING SOON!

From September 1 thru October 6 on Thursday nights, from 7-8:30pm...



Father Bill will be leading a BIBLE STUDY entitled

### "The Mass in Scripture"

*Stay tuned for more details about this study!*



### EDGE Saturday Night Open ROC Youth Group

Our next meeting is next Saturday, July 9, 2011 immediately following the 6pm Mass until 9pm.

### Girls of Grace & Wild at Heart



This Saturday, July 2, Girls of Grace and Wild at Heart will once again combine for a Minute to Win It

showdown! Both group will meet at the ROC Center and will be competing in 60 second mini challenges that will test their skill with common household items! Do you have what it takes? Come find out! 7-9pm

### Confirmation Info for all current 7th Graders!

Are you planning on receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next year? We begin the process with a mandatory information meeting for all candidates and their parents. All make-up meetings have taken place. Please call the Religious Ed Office to make arrangements if you have not already attended one of the orientations.



### Summer Events

#### Cosmic Bowling

We meet up at The Alley at Southshore at 12:45pm and enjoy two hours of bowling with your friends! Permission slip required. Cost is \$5. Summer Dates are: July 6 & 27, and August 10.

#### San José VBS

Each year, the EDGE Middle School Ministry hosts a Vacation Bible School for the kids at the San José Mission. This is a great opportunity for service hours! Come help us share the word of God with all that we can! Please sign up at least a month in advance so you can attend our planning meetings. August 6-9.

#### EDGE VBS "Joyful Noise"

Thanks to everyone who joined us last week and to our wonderful volunteers! We had a blast!

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)

# Faith Formation

## St. Stephen Catholic Church

### Welcomes You!

Do you feel something missing in your life?

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith?

People are drawn to explore the Catholic faith for many different reasons. Perhaps they experienced a Catholic Mass at the time of a wedding or funeral and were attracted by the prayer and ritual. They may have witnessed the source of hope and comfort a Catholic relative, friend or coworker found in their faith at a time of difficulty or crisis.



**“I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”  
Matthew 25:35**

Any one of these experiences – or a thousand more like them – might have started you thinking about what it would be like to be a Catholic. How do you find out? Where do you start?



Please allow us to welcome you to our community of faith. Make that one call that will change your life forever – 671-4434, ext. 321 – Rosie Bridges, Sacrament Coordinator.



Sunday LifeNights 7-8:30 pm

July 3 and July 10—No LifeNight  
July 17—In the Belly of the Whale  
July 24—The Road of Trials  
July 31—Resurrection

### Pizza Roll;

Wednesday @ the ROC – 7-9pm



7-8pm Social Time

8-9pm Faith Discussion

Join us for:

**Food, Fellowship, Fun & Faith!**

For more information about High School Youth Ministry, LifeTeen, and iReach contact Religious Education at 813.671-4434 or [LifeTeen@StStephenCatholic.org](mailto:LifeTeen@StStephenCatholic.org)



Summer Camp at

*Wildly Captivating Cedarkirk*



Sunday, July 10 through  
Friday, July 15

Open to all incoming freshmen and all high school aged youth. Spaces are filling quickly!

For all participating in our Cedarkirk summer camp, the \$100 deposit is due with registration, with the total balance of \$400 due before the event.

# Ministry News

## Career Transition

### How to Use the Internet and Recruiters Properly in Your Job Search!

The St. Stephen Career Transition Ministry will offer its next workshop on **Monday, July 11th** at St. Stephen Catholic School on Boyette Road. We will be covering the advantages of using the internet and recruiters to help you in your job search. There will not be a workshop on Monday, July 4 due to the holiday. Many of our attendees have obtained jobs as a direct result of attending our workshops.



We encourage you to join us to find out the many tools you can use in your job search. You will meet many others who are in the same position and will offer you their prayers and support. **Come join us on Monday, July 11 at St. Stephen Catholic School from 7:00 to 9:00pm on Monday, July 11.** For more information, please call

John or Sheila Nemia at 813-672-2552 or [ctministry@ymail.com](mailto:ctministry@ymail.com).

## Ministry of the Week



**Greeters** make all who attend Mass feel welcome as they extend a smile, offer an handshake, and open a door as parishioners enter our church. Greeters may also answer questions and direct parishioners as needed. This is a great ministry for those who are very busy, because you can complete your service while you are already here to worship!

**G** Many people who may be visiting our church will make a decision within the first five minutes as to whether or not they want to come back, according to research. That is why greeters are so important!! Consider joining this friendly ministry and leave your name at the office, or email Cathy: [Greeters@StStephenCatholic.org](mailto:Greeters@StStephenCatholic.org)



[www.StStephenCatholic.org](http://www.StStephenCatholic.org)

## Cursillo

### Come Join Us for Our Exciting Cursillo Ultreya!

The St. Stephen Cursillo movement will be holding its monthly Ultreya gathering on **Thursday, July 7** in the multipurpose room at St. Stephen Catholic Church. We invite all Cursillistas to join us, whether you lived your weekend three years or thirty years ago, to come relive part of your moving experience.

We will begin at 6:30pm with a potluck supper followed by an evening of prayer, song and fellowship. Our witness speaker will be our very own Jerry Hoffman who will share his exciting journey of spirituality with us. We also welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about the Cursillo weekend experience. De Colores!

For more information or for grouping dates, please contact Keith Remson at 813-748-2433 or Liz Hauer at 813-732-0829 or [lzhfsu@yahoo.com](mailto:lzhfsu@yahoo.com).

## Challenge Girls

### Challenge Girls Group Volunteers with SVDP!

On Friday July 15, 9:30-11:00am, the St. Stephen Challenge Girls will be serving baked goods to recipients of SVDP food pantry.

Challenge Girls offers girls age 10-16 a chance to grow in faith, to discover and develop their natural talents through apostolic works of service and to have FUN!

Come discover what Challenge is all about! You just might love it! For more info contact Tammy Earl 813-532-2195

## Marriage Encounter

If you want a good harvest from your garden, you expect to water, feed and weed it. Your marriage also needs care – why not attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? It's the best proactive program to help married couples to keep from becoming a statistic. **The next weekend is July 8-10.** Call 270-7832 for information.



# Ministry News

## Touched by an Angel



Many people carry deep grief in the loss of a child, a baby not carried to term, or a miscarriage. Touched by an Angel is fashioned to comfort and celebrate the gift of life that these families have given back to God. Perhaps this is a dimension in your own life, or God is calling you to minister to such families or individuals in this way, with compassion in their loss. If you are interested in joining this new ministry to minister to families who have suffered a loss, please contact Tara Dibble at 951-6551 or at [tara\\_dibble@yahoo.com](mailto:tara_dibble@yahoo.com).

## RAD

God calls every baptized person to a holy life. What is your special calling for service? What is the deepest desire of your heart? What motivates you? Where is your road going?



**Discernment** - this is what RAD is all about. Join us Saturday, July 16 at the Rectory for dinner, prayer and some thoughts about discerning God’s will. Contact Pedro Torres for more information if you wish to join this group: (813) 732-8394. We will meet about once a month to support one another in this journey of responding to God’s call.

## Saint Vincent de Paul



The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry is looking for a couple of volunteers to do a pickup for us at Brandon Costco on Causeway Blvd. on Friday mornings at 10am and bring it to the church to be distributed to our pantry guests. This is on a rotation basis so it will only be once a month, maybe twice. If you are available and would be able to help us, please call 325-6440 and leave a message for Melissa with your phone number and she will get in touch with you.

*The mission of the Society in the Church is not about occasional almsgiving, but about the deployment of resources and personnel to assure that the needs of the poor are met. Thank you!*

## To all Home Bound Ministers and others who bring the Eucharist to those who are unable to come to church....

Please, when leaving your pix on the altar, do not put a paper with the number of hosts on the inside. The inside should be properly cleaned, purified after each use and reserved for the Body of Christ only. Lastly, there is a concern that the larger host does not fit into the smaller vessels; only the larger vessels (pix) should be used for these hosts. Thank you for your reverence for the Body of Christ, and for your understanding and cooperation.



— Deacon Dan

## Toastmasters

Looking to improve skills? Ignite your career? Win that job interview? Spirited Toastmasters is a learn-by-doing workshop in which participants hone their speaking and leadership skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Come visit us. **Spirited Toastmasters meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Angel’s Wing of St. Stephen School, 7:00-8:30pm.** Come to our next meeting. Come early to meet and greet members and guests. For more information, please email Bill Cardenas at

[billbecadaniel@verizon.net](mailto:billbecadaniel@verizon.net)  
Tom Cummings at  
[tcummings2@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:tcummings2@tampabay.rr.com).



## Words of Wisdom:

“You should above all keep in mind that your Lord loves you as I have no doubt that he does, and that you should respond to him with the same love.”

-St. Ignatius of Loyola

 **St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store**  
Hours: Mon-Fri • 9 to 5:30  
Saturday • 9 to 4

### SENIOR MONDAYS

Many popular items discounted 50%, in addition to weekly specials. Always low, reasonable prices.

### BRING THIS AD

• Save •  
**\$10 OFF**  
with purchase of \$50  
(before tax)

Expires 7/13/11

1311 3rd St. NE • Ruskin  
(Behind St. Anne Church & Next to Kennco Mfg.)



# Time, Talent, & Treasure

*Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life*

**DEO GRACIAS** Thank you to all those volunteers who donated their time, talent and resources for the Middle School camp! The kids had a great time and you helped!



We appreciate the bulletins from Florida, Virginia and Missouri which you have shared with us!

If you have left keys, sunglasses, sweaters, or an umbrella at church, feel free to stop in the office to see if they are in our "Lost & Found" collection!

**Special Collection:** This weekend we will have a second collection for our parish development fund. This money is used to pay our outstanding loans so that we will be able to move forward with the building of a new church. At present, we owe under \$1.5 million dollars (\$1,049,267 for our school and \$371,401 for the Bell Shoals property). Each month we pay \$20,000 toward our debt (principle and interest). A large part of this money is raised through this second collection; the remainder comes from our weekly offering. Thank you for your generous and prayerful support! 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.

## Annual Pastoral Appeal



**You Can Make A Difference!** We are so close to making this year's goal for the Annual Pastoral Appeal. **To date we have reached 95% of our goal - only \$17,431 to go!** To date, 912 families have participated in the Appeal. 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!

LIFETEEN retreat - July 10-15; Feast of the Assumption - August 15;  
Ministry Fair - September 24-25;

Men's XII Christ Renews His Parish retreat - October 1-2;  
Women's XII Christ Renews His Parish Retreat October 15-16

Register online for the Christ Renews His Parish weekends at [www.StStephenCatholic.org](http://www.StStephenCatholic.org). Click on "Ministries", then "Spiritual".

[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**

**June 25-26, 2011**

<b>Mass Attendance:</b>	<b>3,462</b>
<b>Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 24,862</b>
<b>No. of envelopes</b>	<b>903</b>
<b>Peter's Pence</b>	<b>\$5,822.89</b>
<b>Average donation per envelope.....</b>	<b>\$ 26.37</b>

They say that the largest Church in the U.S. is the Catholic Church. The second-largest is fallen-away Catholics. **Why not invite your friends and neighbors to rediscover their Catholic faith?**

### 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).

# This Week At St. Stephen

## Schedule of Events

### SUNDAY, JULY 3

9:30am Nursery Open RM4  
10:45am New Registrations RM2

### MONDAY, JULY 4

**Parish Office closed**  
12pm Alcoholics Anonymous RM2

### TUESDAY, JULY 5

9:30am Apologetics Class ROC  
10am Blessed Stitches RM4  
10am Crafts Group RM2  
12pm Alcoholics Anonymous RM3  
7pm Apologetics Class RM9  
7:30pm Hope is Contagious MPR

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

12pm Alcoholics Anonymous RM3  
6pm Boy Scouts Rm5-9  
6pm Bible Study RM2  
7pm Mass CH  
7pm Alcoholics Anonymous RM3  
7pm Al-Anon RM2  
8pm Venture Crew 610 ROC

### THURSDAY, JULY 7

11am Meals on Wheels KCN  
12pm Alcoholics Anonymous RM3  
6:30pm Cursillo Ultreya MPR  
7pm Blessed Trinity Mission RM2  
7pm Bible Timeline Study RM3

### FRIDAY, JULY 8

8am Food Pantry KCN-MPR

### SATURDAY, JULY 9

8:30am Legion of Mary ROC  
8:45am Cursillo small group ROC  
10am Baptism Class RM7  
2pm Divorce Support Group ROC  
6pm Children's Liturgy of the Word RM4

### SUNDAY, JULY 10

#### FL Bloodmobile after all Masses

9:30am Nursery Open RM4  
10:45am New Registrations RM2  
12:45pm Baptisms CH

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

Please join us for a welcome reception for Fr. Jose George in the Portico following our 11:30 Mass. We are so pleased to finally meet you!

### On the Lighter Side:

I think animal testing is a terrible idea.... They get all nervous and give the wrong answers!

Studies show that 100% of those who advocate abortion are people who have already been born....

## Mass Schedule and Intention

Altar Flowers donated by Elizabeth McLaughlin for Charles McLaughlin.



### SUNDAY, JULY 3

#### FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

8am Beatrice Redmond  
9:30am For the Parishioners  
11:30am †Frances Huss  
5:30pm †Mike Goldonowicz

### MONDAY, JULY 4

8am †Helen Badalaty

### TUESDAY, JULY 5

**Saint Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest**  
8am †Richard Begley

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

**St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr**  
8am Vocations  
7pm †Carol Smith

### THURSDAY, JULY 9

8am †Bob Flanders

### FRIDAY, JULY 10

8am †Ted Plossl

### SATURDAY, JULY 11

**St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest and Martyr, and his companions, martyrs**  
8am †Angel Damadeo  
4pm †Paul Lawrence  
6pm †Patricia Smith

### SUNDAY, JULY 12

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**  
8am Francis Redmond  
9:30am †Philip Marr  
11:30am For the Parishioners  
5:30pm †Mike Goldonowicz

## Scriptures of the Week:

**Monday:** Gn 28:10-22a; Mt 9:18-26  
**Tuesday:** Gn 32:23-33; Mt 9:32-38  
**Wednesday:** Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a,17-24a; Mt 10:1-7  
**Thursday:** Gn 44:18-21,23b-29; 45:1-5; Mt 10:7-15  
**Friday:** Gn 46:1-7,28-30; Mt 10:16-23  
**Saturday:** Gn 49:29-32,50:15-26a; Mt 10:24-33  
**Sunday:** Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

## We're Here to Serve You!

Fr. Bill Swengros	Pastor
Fr. Michael Juran	Parochial Vicar
Fr. Emery Longanga	Parochial Vicar
Deacon Dan Gratkowski	Ministry to Sick and Homebound
Deacon Rick Zeitler	Adult Education Coordinator
Therese Jackson	School 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.
Drew Woodke	Interim 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	Maintenance Director



Please remember the sick and homebound in prayer, especially:

Alice Brady	Robert Marden
Tina Brancato	Carol Marden
Wayne Brassey	Patrick & Ann Magu
Delia Caceres	Dorothy Miller
Deanna Dempsey	Thomas Moyer
Sabrina DeWolf	Edwin Osalaud
Michael Dragoni	Lee Santos
John Eilerman	Mary Scott
Barbara Freeman	Luke Streeer
Nancy Grow	Gail Swanson
Dennis Hickey	Kyle Swetnam
Mary Hudyma	Barbara and Jack
Joan John	Tennenbaum
Karen Kirschenmann	Linda Vaughan
Martha Lao	Roseanne Yeatts
Chuck Lowe	

Please remember the deceased in your prayers, especially **Thomas Bailey**.

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.