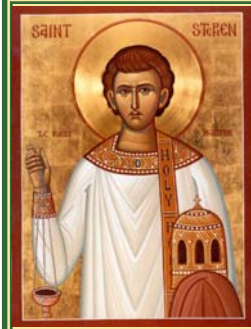


August 28, 2011

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time



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.



“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?” Matthew 16: 24-26

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH!

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 (starting 9/3) 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. **This week, visit Fr. Eugen after Mass in the Portico - We'll miss you, Father!**

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 3:00pm & 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

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

Last week over a million youth gathered with our Holy Father in Madrid. Throughout the week, the Holy Father encouraged us to be mindful of those who suffer for the faith and for the poor and oppressed. Our parish does this in so many ways. A great example is last weekend's collection of money for shoes for poor children living in our area. You donated \$5,645! Thank you!

We also generously contribute to the *Annual Pastoral Appeal*. These monies are used to fund hundreds of ministries throughout our five county diocese, serving thousands of people. As a result of your generosity, we are the largest private provider of social assistance in our area. Again, thank you.

As the Holy Father reminded us, we are also called to help those who do not live within our nation. Two weeks ago we collected about \$7,844 to help feed those who are in danger of starving in Somalia. Thank you!

This weekend, our Bishop has asked us to be mindful of our friends in India. Please join me in welcoming Fr. Mathew K. Abraham, a member of the Apostolic Life Community of Priest in the Opus Spiritus Sancti or Holy Spirit Fathers. He will be sharing the good work his community does in service to the poorest of the poor. We are so grateful for your prayers and whatever monetary assistance you can share. Thank you and may God bless you!

On another note, as we enter the active portion of hurricane season, I encourage you to make your preparations. For some, it means arranging for a safe place to evacuate. For others, it means securing food, water, money, and fuel for the weeks that follow a storm. As you make your preparations, I urge you to keep in mind the needs of others. Be a good neighbor and check in on the homebound, sick, or elderly who live in your neighborhood to see what assistance you can provide. Those whose loved ones are deployed overseas and single parents may also need a hand. Share your advice to those who recently moved into our area. Experience suggests that the aftermath of a storm can be worse than the storm itself. Now is the time to prepare.

Now for the sad note ... this weekend we must say farewell to Fr. Eugen Nkardzedze as he returns to complete his studies at Catholic University of America. During his short stay here, Fr. Eugen has been a blessing in so many ways. His passion for the Lord, his love for the Church, his desire to help others, and his gentle and joyful disposition are an inspiration to me and to so many. I will really miss him and our wonderful theological discussions. Father, know you are always welcome "home" here at St. Stephen. May our paths cross again soon and may God bless you!

Growing together in Christ!

Fr. Bill

Fr. Bill Swengros, Pastor



Did You Know...

What is the meaning of the commandment, "I am the Lord, your God" (Ex 20:2)?

Because the Almighty has revealed himself to us as our God and Lord, we must not place anything above him or consider anything more important or give any other thing or person priority over him. To know God and to serve and worship him has absolute priority in our life. [2083-2094, 2133-2134]

God expects us to give him our full *faith*; we should place all our *hope* in him and direct all the strength of our *love* toward him. The commandment to love God is the most important of all commandments and the key to all the others. That is why it stands at the beginning of the Ten Commandments.

YOUCAT is the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church.

TAKE HOME REFLECTIONS:

Jeremiah 20:7-9 Jeremiah's friends laughed at him because he trusted God even when things were going wrong. Has anyone ever laughed at you when you made a mistake? Were you able to forgive them?

Romans 12: 1-2 How can we learn to judge what is good and pleasing to God?

Matthew 16:21-27 Are you able to handle difficult times knowing what Jesus has done for you?

Pastor's Notes



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

Remember: As Catholic parents, it is extremely important to bring your children to Mass each Sunday. Only then will they come to know the fullness of God's love for them. It is NOT sufficient simply to enroll them in our school or religious education program.

If your child is attending St. Stephen Catholic School and you would like to receive a parish subsidy to lower your tuition rate, you must be an active parishioner. One indication of this is the weekly participation at Sunday Mass as verified by your offertory envelope. Even if you donate electronically, an envelope must be submitted in order to qualify. This is verified monthly. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Mind Your Manners! The third commandment is to keep holy the Sabbath day. The least we can do is remain in church until the priest leaves the altar. If you are worried about parking lot traffic, why not stay for coffee and doughnuts in the Social Hall or remain in the church and say a decade of the Rosary? As far as we know, no one has died of an overdose of prayer! In fact, quite the opposite is true! Turn off all beepers and cell phones while in church and do not chew gum. If you must be on call, switch them to "vibrate". You are encouraged to be sensitive to those who are allergic to perfumes and aftershaves and use them sparingly. Although it is summer, we do show our love for God by the way we dress and it is inappropriate to wear clothes that are too casual or revealing. **Lastly, be sure to greet your neighbors and welcome our visitors. Hospitality is everyone's responsibility!!**



Saint of the Week

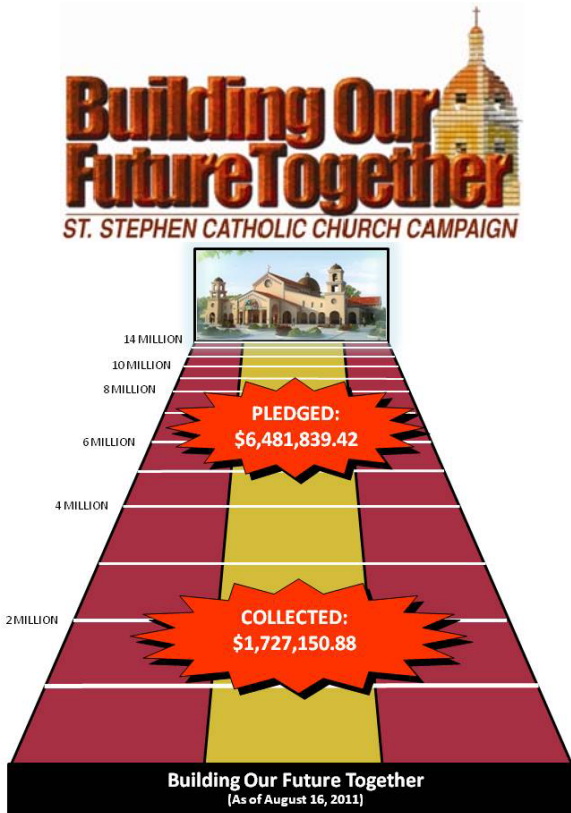
This Saturday we remember a man who is remembered as being truly great ... **Pope Gregory the Great.** He was born in Rome in 540 in a very dark time in world history. The Holy Roman Empire was collapsing and the Church was suffering from both incompetency and corruption. All of western civilization was on the brink of total destruction. Gregory was a brilliant leader, skilled diplomat, and faithful Christian. He began a series of reforms in the Church which affected every aspect of Church life. His book for Bishops entitled "Pastoral Care" is still required reading and we all have heard "Gregorian Chant." Rather than fight the invading northern tribes, he evangelized them. In the wake of the fall of the Holy Roman Empire, the Church provided care, protection, and education for the people. During his pontificate, he forever changed the course of western civilization, earning the title "great." On this day, let us pray in a special way for our Holy Father, Pope Benedict. May he follow in the footsteps of this holy man of God.

Oremus: Lord God, as we begin another school year we ask that you pour forth your blessings upon our students, teachers, and their families. May they be filled with the gift of wisdom and understanding and may they develop a lifelong passion for learning. Keep them safe and happy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Wisdom: "The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist." — St. Gregory the Great

Think About It: "He who would climb to a lofty height must go by steps, not leaps." — St. Gregory the Great

Thought for the Day: "Be not anxious about what you have, but about what you are." — St. Gregory the Great



Planning and Projecting

Are you a vendor interested in contributing to our new church and Parish Life Center?

New construction, interior systems and designing appointments: if these are areas in your business, please drop off a business card to Tom Doyle, Parish Manager, or email him at: TDoyle@ststephencatholic.org. We would love to hear from you as we continue with our planning in the next few weeks. Thank you!



Building Committee Update:

This stage of the building process is very important as we review all the design plans, secure bids from all the “subs,” and build our “war chest” of funds from our Building Our Future Together capital campaign. When we meet with the Diocesan Finance Council in October they will carefully examine our track record of pledge payments in order to determine when we can begin to build. Thank you for your faithfulness!

If you have any questions about your pledges, please do not hesitate to call! We appreciate your part in building our future together...

◆ Credit card deductions:

Marie Bornstad, 727-344-1611 or med@dosp.org

◆ Automatic withdrawals:

Kathy King, 727-344-1611 or kck@dosp.org

◆ General Information:

Rick Hughes 813-657-0343 or
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.*

**Have you ever wondered how you can
get more out of the Mass?**

**We invite you to join a new Lectio Divina
Bible Study, led by Fr. Bill, which will help you
discover a whole new understanding and love
of the Mass. Each week we will explore and
discuss how the Mass IS the Bible in action!**



“The Mass in Scripture”

**September 1 through October 6
on Thursdays from 7-8:30pm...**

*Please register early for this class with the Religious Education
Office (671-4434); Pre-order the study book for \$10*



Ask It Basket

Q: Why are the readings in the prayer book in the seat different from the words in my Bible?

A: There are many different translations in the Bible and you probably have a different version. Some Bibles now have an easier translation so that we can understand it. The meaning is the same.

Please Note: We strive to accommodate those with special needs. If you have a special need, please contact the ushers prior to the Mass so that we may assist you. A priest or Extraordinary Minister of Communion will gladly bring the Eucharist to you. Let us know how we may serve you better!

**St. Stephen
Catholic
School**

The Mustang

August 28, 2011
SCHOOL NEWS



2011-2012 ENROLLMENT

Give your child the gift of a Catholic Education!

We accept students throughout the year, as space allows.

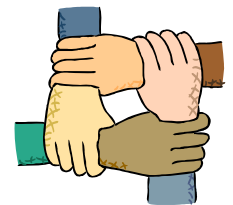
Information about our school may be found at www.ststephencatholic.org

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 family!

WELCOMING NEW FAMILIES

Our new families were invited to a get-together an evening in August to meet each other and their buddy families at the school. Then on the first day of school parents attended an orientation with school staff to go over procedures, and meet with their children's teachers. The new students had a few hours with just their teachers, other new students and some returning students to learn all about their new school. Then at 11am, the students and their parents attended mass together at the school. We are looking forward to a new and exciting school year. Teamwork will be our theme for the entire year.



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 to let us know what you have been doing since your time at St. Stephen. We love pictures!

Send us updated email and home addresses so that we may keep you informed and our alumni list current!

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

Support our school by attending SPIRIT NIGHTS



at **BEEF O'BRADY'S**,
Summerfield
on **WED., SEP. 14** and

BLOOMINGDALE PIZZA
on **THURS., SEPT. 20.**

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

**10% OF SALES GO TO
SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!**



ROMAN MISSAL

Adoration and Praise

The new translation of the Gloria emphasizes an overflowing of praise for God

by Most Rev. Terrence Prendergast

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third in a series of articles on the *Roman Missal* in anticipation of the new English-language translation, effective in the United States beginning Nov. 27.

One of the prayers that will be most affected by the new English translation of the Mass is the *Gloria*. Yet, when English-speaking Catholics around the world begin praying the revised translation of the *Gloria*, it will not seem all that different — only more exuberant.

When the current *Roman Missal* was originally translated in the early 1970s, literary theory encouraged “dynamic equivalence” — that is, translating the sense of the words rather than a word-for-word literal equivalence, which Pope John Paul II later mandated.

But English-language translators went further than just giving the sense of the text: In the *Gloria*, they reduced what was said, perhaps to avoid exaggerated repetition. For example, the Latin for “we praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory” was reduced to simply “we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.”

What was lost in the original translation was the effusiveness, the going overboard with praise of God! This is restored in the new translation.

The *Gloria*'s opening words repeat the message of the angels to the shepherds at the birth of Christ: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will” (cf. Lk 2:14). Until now, we have been adapting the Scriptural text, saying “and peace to his people on earth.”

The *Gloria* reminds us that, although we are mere mortals, we are privileged to join immortal angelic hosts in praising God, thereby participating in the heavenly liturgy. This prayer is no ordinary “thank you” to a friend or loved one. Rather, we are joining angelic choirs in adoring the Trinity.

Scholars have observed that the litany of praise (“we praise you, we bless you,” etc.) imitates the kind of exultations heaped upon Roman emperors. Adapting such phrases for the *Gloria*, Christians showed where their true allegiances lay: claiming loyalty to God's rule took precedence over loyalty to any earthly ruler.

Praise of the triune God begins with the Father and then moves to praise of the Son and the Holy Spirit. In the new trans-

lation, the title of the Lord Jesus Christ is no longer the “only Son,” but the “Only Begotten Son,” underlining what John's Gospel several times declares: Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love.

The second part of the *Gloria* begs the mediation of Jesus with the phrases, “Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.” And twice, rather than only once as in the current version, we ask Christ for mercy (“have mercy on us”).

Rooted in Scripture, the *Gloria* evokes John the Baptist's designation of Jesus as the Lamb of God (cf. Jn 1:29). The fourth Gospel speaks of Jesus taking away the *sin* of the world (singular, but viewed as encompassing all the *sins* of the world). This refer-

ence to sin (singular), mentioned by John the Baptist, may have motivated our present translation (“you take away the sin of the world”), but the Latin text of the *Gloria* reads *peccata* (*sins* in the plural), so our new translation will also be plural (“you take away the sins of the world”).

The last part of the *Gloria*, which remains unchanged, turns toward the Holy Spirit, placing him alongside the Father and the Son and indicating his equal status as God.

The rhetorical style of the *Gloria* uses an ancient technique called anaphora, a speech pattern whereby part of a phrase is repeated so as to emphasize its importance. We do not use this technique in ordinary conversation, but we are familiar with its use — as in Martin Luther King Jr.'s repetition of “I have a dream” in his famous speech. The use of anaphora in the *Gloria* reminds us that something very special is taking place in this prayer.

If we examine the previous text of the *Gloria* alongside the new version, we note that although the wording has been expanded, it does not sound very different. There are changes, but it does not seem as if we are praying something altogether new.

The *Gloria* has been an obligatory part of festive Masses since the fifth century, so with the renewed *Roman Missal* translation, we will be closer to praying this hymn as the Church has done for the past 1,600 years. ♦

MOST REV. TERRENCE PRENDERGAST, archbishop of Ottawa, Canada, serves as a member of the Vox Clara Committee, formed to oversee the new English translation of the *Roman Missal*.



Faith for 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!



August 29th: This week's topic: "My Soul Longs for You, O God — The Human Quest for God." We will begin to look at three paths through which every person can come to God. Bring a friend and come explore the central prayer of scripture.

September 5th: Labor Day - no meeting!

September 12th: Topic- Prayer: The Faith Prayed — God Calls us to Pray/Part 2. We will focus on the "Foundations of Prayer" from the Catechism. Great discussions happen here. Don't miss it!

Saturday Morning Bible Study
When: Now thru September 10th (7 weeks) from 9:00 to 10:30am
Where: Room 3, downstairs at the Church



Introduction to the Bible

Led by Dr. Bob Kalle

Our class is up and running. **Thank you to everyone who is participating. We will be holding our next class very soon after this one ends.** Come open the Bible with newcomers and experienced Bible students alike. Seat reservations are being taken now for our next class. Our next Bible Study topic to be announced soon. 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!

(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!)

Adults!

NEW: Tuesday Night Bible Study

From now through October 25
(10 weeks - not too late to join us!)
from 7-8:30pm Church Upper Room

The Acts of the Apostles - Led by Deacon Rick



This 10-week 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: \$20.00

Seat reservations are being taken and scholarships are available if needed. For reservations and more information, please call Sue in the Religious Formation Office at 671-4434 or see Deacon Rick. We look forward to seeing you and a friend there!



Tuesday Morning: Beginning Apologetics 1 Study

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

Where: the ROC Center.

How to Explain and Defend the Catholic Faith

Can you answer these questions?....How can you believe in God when there is so much suffering in the world? Why is Mary such a big deal to Catholics? Do Catholics believe in the "Rapture"? Aren't there errors and contradictions in the Bible?.... Most Catholics can't. **But you don't have to be tongue-tied the next time your non-Catholic friends ask tough questions like these.** Come and join us to learn how to **explain** your faith clearly, **defend** it charitably, and **share** it confidently with the enormously popular Beginning Apologetics Series. The Study Set fee: \$11.00 **Seat reservations will be taken thru August 29th.** 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! Isn't it time we Catholics stop scratching our heads and start courageously defending the truth?

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 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 make this study this time around... don't worry. **This week is your chance to join in - this Thursday, Sept. 1, during our open entry point in this study!** Come join us! For seat reservations to join in on September 1st 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!



Religious Education News

The Religious Education Office will be closed on Monday, September 5 in celebration of **Labor Day**. Registrations for classes are still being accepted. Some class times are already full, so please register today! Or stop by the RE Office this week to fill out the forms. Forms may also be downloaded from our web site: www.StStephenCatholic.org.

Class starting dates:

Sunday, September 11Kindergarten - Grade 5 @ 10:00am or 12:00pm at the school building
 Monday, September 12Middle School The Edge, Grades 6 – 8, 7:00 – 8:30pm at the church building
 Tuesday, September 13 OCİY for Middle School & High School youth @ 7:00pm at the church building
 Wednesday, September 14 Kindergarten - Grade 5 @ 4:15 or 6:00 p.m. at the school building
 Sunday, September 18. Preschool classes & OCIC @ 9:30am at the church building

If you would like your child to prepare for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, or Confirmation, please contact the RE Office for more information 671-4434 *or* restaff@StStephenCatholic.org. We also offer classes for adults preparing for Confirmation, as well as the OCIA program.

Safe Environment Training for Child & Youth will be offered to all new volunteers on **Saturday, September 10, 9:00am–12:00pm**, at St. Stephen Catholic School, Flex Room. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 671-4434 during regular business hours.

The Religious Education Office and St. Stephen Catholic School will offer finger printing for all new volunteers and those requiring renewals. The machine will be located at St. Stephen Catholic School **from August 29 – September 16** and will be by appointment only. Online registration begins August 25 (<http://diocese.sofn.net>). Please contact the Religious Education Office if you have any questions (671-4434).



Order of Christian Initiation...As We Reflect

This Sunday at the 9:30am Mass adults preparing to be initiated into the Catholic Church will begin the Rite of Dismissal at the end of the Liturgy of the Word. This Rite will continue each Sunday until those who are ready to embrace the Catholic Faith will join us at the Table of the Eucharist for the first time. The parish is not sending them out because they are somehow “unworthy” to stay for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Though they cannot yet come to the table of the Eucharist, Mother Church still has an obligation to feed those who have entered into a relationship with her through the Rites of Acceptance and Welcoming which was celebrated on August 21st.

His Word is their only food during this period. Instead, the participants depart from the Mass with one or more OCIA team members, to go out to discuss the Mass readings for that Sunday and to experience more fully the impact of the Scriptures in their lives. This time is informally known as “Breaking Open the Word.” Let us accompany each catechumen and candidate on their journey as we continue to keep them in our prayers.

For more information, we warmly welcome you to contact our Religious Education Office, Rosie Bridges, Sacrament Coordinator, 671-4434, ext. 321.



Youth Ministry



Come Hang with us on Sunday Nights!

6:30pm Dinner

7:00pm LifeNight

August 28 - Meet the New Guy
(aka You Don't Know Me!)

September 4 - Super Hero Costume Party!

September 11 - Ten Years Later:
Remember & Forgive

Super Hero Costume Party!!!

Get ready to kick off our new year in style! Come in costume dressed as your favorite Super Hero! Prizes for Best Costume, Most Creative, and Most Heroic!

Hey, guys,
check out my new blog at
OurBurningHearts.wordpress.com
and friend St Stephen LifeTeen
on Facebook!



For more information about High School Youth Ministry or LifeTeen contact Religious Education at 813.671-4434 or MIlwin@StStephenCatholic.org



EDGE Saturday Night Open ROC Youth Group

Our next social night is next Saturday, September 3, 2011 immediately following the 6pm Mass until 9pm. Bring your friends and hang out! Food is provided.

Girls of Grace & Wild at Heart



This Saturday, **August 27**, is our next night for our gender specific

groups. **Girls of Grace meet at the ROC Center** after the 6pm Mass until 9pm; **Wild at Heart for guys will briefly meet at the ROC Center** for a group photo with the girls and **then head to the school** until 8:30pm. Bring your friends!

Confirmation Info

We have dates! Call the Religious Ed Office at 671-4434 to schedule your interview and retreat date. **Call ASAP, one retreat is almost full already.** First come, first serve! You must attend an orientation before signing up for any dates. Please call the Religious Ed Office to schedule for your Confirmation interview if you have not already attended one.



Confirmation Date!!

Confirmation Masses will take place on Saturday, February 18 at 9:30am and 1pm. You will receive a notification of which Mass you have been assigned after the start of the School Year. Rehearsal will take place on Tuesday, February 7 at 6pm and 7:30pm, depending on your assigned Mass time.

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 in need of small group leaders, teachers, assistants, hall monitors, set up and break down help... 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!



Youth Minister—Jeff Falanga
JFalanga@StStephenCatholic.org

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

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

Ministry News



St. Vincent de Paul Tea Time

Ladies and little ladies are cordially invited to join us for the St. Vincent de Paul Annual Ladies Tea and Fashion Show on Saturday,

September 10th from 10 to Noon in the multi-purpose room of St. Stephen Church. Our fashion show will be presented by Beall's of Valrico.

You may be a hostess for a table of 8 and set it with your own dishes or have a fanciful table of paper products. Choose a theme for your table and invite all your friends to join you or come and join someone else's table. Children can choose a special menu and will be decorating their own hats and will have a parade of their own. The cost is only \$16.00 per person for an array of HOMEMADE goodies, sandwiches, scones, desserts and delicious teas. **All proceeds go to St. Vincent de Paul.**

Please call us for more information or reservations: Mary (684-6617) or Arlene (689-4547).

Christ Renews His Parish

Bring Him Your Troubles

Who do you take your troubles to? Jesus' disciples freely brought their troubles to him because they found him ready and able to deal with any difficulty, affliction, or sickness which they encountered (Mk 1:29-39.) Do you allow Jesus to be the Lord and healer in your personal life, family, and community? God's healing power restores us not only to health but to active service and care of others. There is no trouble he does not want to help us with and there is no bondage he can't set us free from.

Take your troubles to Him with expectant faith that he will help you at the next Christ Renews His Parish weekend retreat and experience for yourself the grace of God. Enroll on-line at www.ststephencatholic.org.

Next Weekends: Men's - October 1-2, 2011
Women's - October 15-16, 2011



Legion of Mary

Please join us under our own tent at the Ministry Fair September 24th and 25th after all Masses, as Legion members provide rosaries for adults and children and instruct on how to pray this most beautiful meditation on the mysteries of our Lord and Savior. There will also be many giveaways and prizes!

The Blessed Virgin Mary promised to Saint Dominic and to all who follow that "Whatever you ask in the Rosary will be granted." She left for all Christians Fifteen Promises to those who recite the Holy Rosary. In addition to last week's promises, here are three more:

7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have, during their life and at their death, the light of God and the plenitude of His graces. At the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
9. I shall deliver from Purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.

Please contact Kay Huddleston for any inquiries!
LegionofMary@StStephenCatholic.org

Men's Club

Men 21 and over we need you! Come to our next Men's Club meeting **Friday September 9, 2011 7:30pm** and check us out. Get a foursome together and sign up for the November 5th Golf Scramble at Summerfield. Questions please call Dan Gang with any questions 813-494-3722

Marriage Encounter



HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLES: Getting ready for school means lots of time spent on your children. After school begins, why not give yourselves a break and take some time together? Make a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and experience the peace, romance and joy that God calls you to! **The next available WWME weekend in this diocese is on September 23-25 at the Hampton Inn hotel in Wesley Chapel. For information call (813) 270-7832 or go on-line at www.wwme-tampabay.org.**

Catch more ministry news on our website: www.StStephenCatholic.org! Sign up for our e-newsletter there too --

Ministry News

Career Transition Ministry

Losing your job can be devastating and knowing to start over can be confusing during these economic times. Could you use some help and support to make your transition easier? The St. Stephen Career Transition Ministry can help you with your resume preparation, help with interviewing tips and much, much more. Our workshops are held every Monday evening from 7:00 to 9:00pm at St Stephen Catholic School on Boyette Road. Come join us and meet others who will offer you prayer and support during this difficult time. Most of our facilitators are from our very own parish and we thank them for their time and talents. Our next session will be on **Monday, August 29nd**. For more information or if you can help facilitate a session, please contact John Nemias at 813-672-2552 or ctministry@ymail.com.



Children's Choir

Make a Joyful Noise!

All children in first through sixth grade are invited to join the St. Stephen Children's Choir. Led by Chris Westfall, the Children's Choir is open to all children in the parish. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from 5:15 until 5:45pm at the church. Rehearsals begin September 13. Contact Chris at the Parish Office for more information (689-4900).



Saint Vincent de Paul

If God is generous to you, and you have these items to donate: washing machines (2), refrigerators - single door (2), and/or a couch, contact us at SVDP@StStephenCatholic.org! God bless you!

St. Stephen Reaches Out

Before the classes begin for our Religious Education, we like to contact families whom we are missing on our roster. Sometimes they have moved, and sometimes they have forgotten to schedule this in their busy lives. **If you can telephone for one or two hours in two weeks of September, contact Gretchen at the office: 689-4900.** Thanks!



The St. Stephen Cursillo movement welcomes all to celebrate our love for Jesus at our monthly Cursillo on **Thursday, September 1** in the multi-purpose room. We will begin with a lot luck supper at 6:30pm followed by an exciting evening of prayer, praise and fellowship. We will also have a witness speaker who will share part of their spiritual journey with us.

Cursillo (pronounce kur-see-yo) is the Spanish word meaning "short course" and the Cursillo weekend is a short course in Christianity. Have you ever thought about making a Cursillo weekend? It will be a spiritual experience that you will remember the rest of your life! We welcome all Cursillistas and 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.

Annulment Workshop



There are so many questions, misconceptions, myths regarding the annulment process. Marriage is a lifelong commitment a couple makes to each other. With the grace of God a couple can grow, enjoy, and work through the trials in life.

Unfortunately this is not always the case, and the marriage ends in divorce. **Divorce is a civil decree and does not dissolve the marriage in the eyes of the church.** For this, one needs to go through the annulment process. On **Tuesday, August 30th at 7:00pm** there will be a workshop to answer questions. If you would like to make an appointment to begin the process at this time you are welcome to do so. If you know someone who may need this information please invite them to come.

For further information please call: *Jeanne Schneider*, 689-4900 ext. 314 or email: jschneider@ststephencatholic.org

Ministry of the Week: Prayer Line

One "hidden" ministry at St. Stephen is our powerful prayer line... When requested, this team puts some real effort into intercession, both at daily Mass and for at least 15 minutes a day for seven days. Some members spend up to an hour a day supporting our community in prayer. If you feel God "ringing your bell" to join this dedicated group, call Steve Dulkowski: 571-3222, or the parish office.



Time, Talent, & Treasure

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

DEO GRATIAS!

Thank you to all who helped our youth celebrate WYD in solidarity with the Holy Father and millions of youth in Madrid, Spain! We had a truly moving experience together, dedicated ourselves to the Sacred Heart and received a plenary indulgence!

We received bulletins from California, New York, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin, south Carolina and Florida this week! Welcome back!

Dedication to the Sacred Heart, August 20



*"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

August 20-21, 2011

Mass attendance 3,614
Offertory: \$26,616
No. of envelopes 995
Average donation....\$ 21.78

Welcome home! It is good to see familiar faces as parishioners return from their summer vacations. You were greatly missed! If you recently joined our parish, be sure to register after the 9:30am Mass. We want to meet you and learn how to better serve you. May God bless our parish!



Faith in Action: "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole

world and forfeit his life?" (Mt 16:26). St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.



**FAITH
IN ACTION**

Annual Pastoral Appeal

We are so close to making this year's goal for the Annual Pastoral Appeal. **To date we have reached over 97% of our goal - only \$9,217 to go!** To date, 924 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!

Labor Day - September 5; Key to God's Heart - September 10-11;
SVDP Ladies' Tea - September 10; Ministry Fair - September 24-25;
Healing Mass with Fr. Mike Barry - September 30, 7pm;
Undie Sunday & Men's XII Christ Renews His Parish- October 1-2;
Deaconate Ordination - October 8; Craft Fair October 8-9;
Women's XII Christ Renews His Parish Retreat October 15-16;
Men's Club Golf Scramble - November 5

This Week At St. Stephen

Schedule of Events

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

9:30am	Nursery Open	RM4
9:30am	OCIA	RM7
9:30am	OCIC Children	ROC
10:45am	New Registrations	RM2
11am	Catechumenate Session	RM6-8
11am	OCIA - Inquiry Group	RM9
1pm	Heads of Ministries Mtg.	CH
7pm	Divine Mercy Cenacle	RM5
7pm	Knights - Planning Mtg.	RM2

MONDAY, AUGUST 29

12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM2
7pm	Career Transition Group	SCH
7pm	Catechist Kick-Off	MPR
7pm	Bereavement Training	RM6-7

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

10am	Apologetics Class	ROC
10am	Crafts Group	RM2
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
7pm	Columbiettes	MPR
7pm	Apologetics Class	RM9
7:15pm	Annulment Workshop	RM2

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
6pm	Boy Scouts	RM5-9
6pm	Bible Study	RM2
6pm	Knights' Business Mtg.	MPR
7pm	Mass & Holy Hour	CH
7pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
7pm	Al-Anon	RM2

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

8:30am	Evangelization Group	RM3
11am	Meals on Wheels	KCN
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
6pm	Cub Scouts	RM 5-9
6:30pm	Cursillo Ultreya	MPR
7pm	Bible Timeline Study	RM3
7pm	Open the Scriptures	CH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

11am	Food Pantry	KCN-MPR
7pm	Community for Women	MPR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

8:45am	Cursillo small group	ROC
9am	Introduction to the Bible	RM3
2pm	Divorced Support Group	RM3
5pm & 7pm	Legion of Mary	KIT
5:15pm	New Parishioner Registration	RM2
6pm	Children's Liturgy of the Word	RM4

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

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

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

Save the Date!

Fr. Michael Barry, SS.CC., will be coming to St. Stephen September 30 for a Healing Mass. Expect to receive a powerful touch of God!


Mass Schedule and Intention

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

8am	†James Jensen
9:30am	John Paul Petrenko
11:30am	†Donohue/Myers/Jebbe fam.
5:30pm	For the Parishioners

MONDAY, AUGUST 29 Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

Flowers donated in memory of Jenifer Drobinski

8am	†Jenifer Drobinski	
1:45pm	Elementary School Mass	

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

8am	†John Dachelet
9:45am	Middle School Mass

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

8am	Vocations	
7pm	†Suzanne Swengros	

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Flowers donated in memory of Jenifer Drobinski

8am	†Jenifer Drobinski
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

8am	†Irene Zacharzewski
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

8am	†Norma Schlink
4pm	†Mark Giacomelli
6pm	For the Parishioners

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

8am	†Jim and Mary Wilson
9:30am	†John and Harriet Zanazaro
11:30am	†Frank Salamone
5:30pm	†Joseph Barbella

Scriptures of the Week:

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt Mk 6:17-29

Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6,9-11; Mt Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11

Friday: Col 1:15-20; Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5

Sunday: Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10;
Mt 18:15-20

We're Here to Serve You!

Fr. Bill Swengros	Pastor
Fr. Emery Longanga	Parochial Vicar
Fr. Jose George	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. High School Youth Minister
Matt Irwin	Religious Ed Ass't. 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 PRAY for

Please remember the sick and homebound in prayer, especially:

Diane Allain	Chuck Lowe
Cheryl Booth	Robert & Carol Marden
Karen Bourget	Patrick & Ann Magu
Alice Brady	Dorothy Miller
Tina Brancato	Patricia Mitchell
Wayne Brassey	Thomas Moyer
Delia Caceres	Edwin Osalaud
Mike Childers	Josephine Pamaro
Sabrina DeWolf	Toni Parra
Michael Dragoni	Casie Rowe
John Eilerman	Helga Schliesmann
Carol Fahmy	Mary Scott
Nancy Grow	James Scully
Dennis Hickey	Elena Smith
Joann Higgins	Luke Streeter
Mary Hudyma	Shirley Sullivan
Joan John	Gail Swanson
Ellie Kavalieros	Kyle Swetnam
Karen Kirschenmann	Jack Tennenbaum
Martha Lao	

Please remember the deceased in your prayers.

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

Parish Pastoral Council

St. Stephen is seeking nominations for our Parish Pastoral Council. During the weekend of September 17 & 18, we will be holding elections to fill three openings on the Pastoral Council. The Council's mission and objectives are to serve as an advisory body to Fr. Bill, who consults with this board on every dimension of parish life. Listening objectively to the voices of our parishioners, the Council represents the Parish family, identifies the needs of the Parish members as well as the larger community, discerns the voice of the Holy Spirit and prayerfully develops goals, objectives, plans and strategies to manage the growth of the Parish. The Council also provides the accountability and assessments required to keep focus on the parish mission. In this way, all members of the parish may grow in holiness and be authentic witnesses to Christ's presence in the world.

For more information, go to our parish web site, www.StStephenCatholic.org and click on the Pastoral Council Nominations box or contact Mary Lou Danahar at 671-3703(H) or 813-767-0801 (C) or at mld1015@yahoo.com.



Prayer for Protection from Hurricanes: God our Father, Lord of heaven and earth. We praise you and thank you for your protection during the hurricane season. Keep us and all your children safe from natural and manmade disasters. Bless our families and bring peace to all nations. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.



Faith On-Line: There are lots of great sites on line to help us be better Christian fathers and mothers. One neat site for men is www.fathersforgood.org, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Another is Tony Dungy's AllProDad.com. For women, try CatholicMom.com or catholicparenting.com. While on line, be sure to check out www.ststephencatholic.org and register for our e-blasts and text messages.

Safe Environment: Our parish (both church and school) is a safe environment. Every adult who supervises children is required to complete the Safe Environment Training and requisite background checks. In addition, throughout the year we teach our children and teens about appropriate behavior and ways to avoid and report abuse. We also offer workshops throughout the year to help our parents to protect their children. If you would like more information on our programs, please contact our school or religious education offices. If you or anyone you love has suffered from abuse, please contact the police and our Victim Assistance Minister (toll free 1-866-407-4505). Safety is everyone's concern.

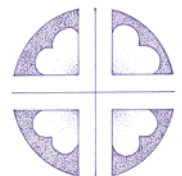


You are invited! Remember when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane and simply wanted his apostles to stay awake and pray for him? He is asking you to do the same! Come adore the Lord every Wednesday evening beginning with 7:00 Mass and ending with Compline and Benediction by 10:00. Even if you can only stop by for a short visit, you won't be sorry!



Note Well!

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



Parish Pastoral Council Elections

- ◆ The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is a consultative board to Fr. Bill. It is comprised of 9 members and is responsible for advising on parish business.
- ◆ There are 8 standing committees that work to develop goals and strategies to support our parish ministries and future development. Each member of the Council chairs one of these committees.
- ◆ The current members of the Council and their areas of responsibility are:
 - D'Ann White - Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council
 - Mary Lou Danahar - Secretary and Administration Committee
 - Garry Kreines – Christian Formation & Education Committee
 - TBD – Ministries of Mercy Committee
 - Janice Goldonowicz – Liturgy Committee
 - Tasha Thaden – Parish & Family Life Committee
 - Brian Swetnam – Stewardship & Evangelization Committee
 - Gary Opala – Strategic Planning Committee
 - Tim Donohue – Building Committee
- ◆ We are seeking to fill 3 (three) vacancies this year. The term of office is three years. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms, after which such member shall be ineligible for membership for two years. Employees of St. Stephen parish or school are ineligible for membership.

Key Qualifications:

1. Need to demonstrate active involvement in the parish (at least two consecutive years of membership) and understanding and support for the mission of the Church, as well as firm faith, good morals and prudence.
2. Only one member of a household may serve on the Pastoral Council at any given time.
3. Must have access to a computer and electronic mail

Key Roles and Responsibilities:

1. Assist the Church by providing a degree of accountability through its evaluation of all ministries.
2. Represent the parish family, identify the needs of parish members and larger community, discern the voice of the Holy Spirit, and prayerfully develop goals, objectives, plans and strategies which the parish community can pursue.
3. The Council also provides accountability and assessments required to keep the focus on the parish mission. All members are expected to attend all monthly meetings, held on the third Tuesday of each month.

Parish Pastoral Council Elections

For Those who would like to help serve Our Lord and participate in this wonderful opportunity to help shape our Parish as an advisor to Father Bill, please complete the information below & submit your form to the Church office by September 7th. Or if you prefer, go to the St. Stephen web site at www.ststephencatholic.org and click on the Pastoral Council Nominations box. Elections will be held on during the weekend of September 17-18, 2010.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this in further detail, please call Mary Lou Danahar at 671-3703 (home) or 813-767-0801 (cell) or at mld1015@yahoo.com.

Thank you and God Bless!

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Biography:

