

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.



During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him,

"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Matthew 14: 25-31

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH!

For daily Mass and ministry activities, please use our paved parking lot during the rainy, restorative season for our south and southeast parking fields. Thank you for your support of our grounds maintenance efforts.

Celebrate With Us!



Pastor's Page BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



My dear friends,

Children are gifts entrusted to us by God. They are our greatest joy and the love of our lives. As parents, I know you do everything possible to ensure that they have the best of everything. Many of you chose to live in this area because of the safe neighborhoods, community programs, access to excellent medical care, and quality schools. I know that you give so much of your valuable time and hard-earned money to ensure that they receive the best you can possibly provide. When I think of all you sacrifice each and every day for the sake of your children, it takes my breath away.

As parents, your mission is to provide all that is necessary for them to fully develop as human beings: physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. Our goal is not only for our children to be successful in life but to enjoy eternal life with the Lord. It is a huge responsibility and you are the first and primary teachers of your children, especially in matters of faith.

For those of you who are parents of elementary school children, I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider enrolling your children in St. Stephen Catholic School. Our school provides an excellent well-rounded academic formation. Our goal is to instill in them a life-long passion for education. As a result, our graduates excel in both high school and college. We also have excellent technology, arts, music, and sports programs. Above all, we are Catholic. Faith formation is far more than a religion class or weekly Mass ... it is a way of life which permeates every class with a profound love and respect for each other and the world God created for us. For more information about our school, please stop by or call 741-9203.

For those who are unable to enroll their children in our school, St. Stephen also enjoys a phenomenal religious formation and education program. Our goal is to ensure that each child not only knows about our rich Catholic faith but also has a personal relationship with the Lord. We have excellent programs for pre-school, elementary, middle school, and high school students as well as adult faith formation. **This weekend we will be offering registration after each Mass or you can stop by or call the Religious Education Office at 671-4434.**

I'm often amazed at the lengths families will go to in order to participate in area sports programs. It sometimes seems that everything takes a back seat to football, baseball, soccer, or swim practices. Many families rarely eat together. Others miss religious education classes. Still others even skip Mass in order to attend a game or meet. What does this say to our children about our priorities? I wonder if parents realize that the best things they can give to their children is quality time as a family and the gift of faith. Think about it.

As we prepare to begin a new school year, I invite you to enroll your children in our school, religious education, or youth ministry programs. I also encourage you to volunteer. We can always use more help.

And may God bless you for all you do for our children!

Fr. Bill

Fr. Bill Swengros, Pastor

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.

Did You Know...

...what prompts a person to pray?

We pray because we are full of an infinite longing and God has created us men for himself: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you" (St. Augustine). But we pray also because we need to; Mother Teresa says, "Because I cannot rely on myself, I rely in him, twenty-four hours a day." [2566-2567, 2591]

Often we forget God, run away from him and hide. Whether we avoid thinking about God or deny him--*he* is always there for us. He seeks us before we seek him; he yearns for us, he calls us. You speak with your conscience and suddenly notice that you are speaking with God. You feel lonely, have no one to talk with, and then sense that God is always available to talk. You are in danger and experience that a cry for help is answered by God. Praying is as human as breathing, eating, and loving. Praying purifies. Praying makes it possible to resist temptations. Praying strengthens us in our weakness. Praying removes fear, increases energy, and gives a second wind. Praying makes one happy.

--YOUCAT is a Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church

TAKE HOME REFLECTIONS:

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a When God spoke to Elijah in the Old Testament he heard a quiet voice. When we speak to God in prayer do we really try to hear Him?

Romans 9:1-5 As Christians we have the responsibility to pray for those who are not close to God. Are you praying each day for them?

Matthew 14:22-33 When you are alone or worried about something do you believe that God is with you to help you?

Faith in Action: "After the fire, there was a small whispering sound" (1 Kgs 19:12).

Remember that God's stewardship call to us is only a quiet whisper in our hearts. If you can't hear that quiet whisper, maybe it is time to turn down some of the worldly noise and demands so that you can spend more quiet time with God.



Think About It: "Think of the Father as a spring of life begetting the Son like a river and the Holy Ghost like a sea, for the spring and the river and sea are all one nature. Think of the Father as a root, and of the Son as a branch, and the Spirit as a fruit, for the substance in these three is one. The Father is a sun with the Son as rays and the Holy Ghost as heat."
– St. Bruno

From the Holy Father: "Prayer of Adoration"



"In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. Be assiduous in the prayer of adoration and teach it to the faithful. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering." "With the Synod Assembly, therefore, I heartily recommend to the Church's pastors and to the People of God the practice of Eucharistic Adoration, both individually and in community... Great benefit would ensue from a suitable catechesis explaining the importance of this act of worship, which enables the faithful to experience the liturgical celebration more fully and more fruitfully. Wherever possible, it would be appropriate, especially in densely populated areas, to set aside specific churches or oratories for Perpetual Adoration" (Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis*).

Catholic Church Is Booming: In an age when so much negativity is heard about the Church and her teachings, recent findings by Georgetown University's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate are insightful. In the last 40 years, the Catholic population has increased by 75 percent; it has grown by 50 percent since 1990. More important, Catholic attendance at Mass is up 15 percent since 2000. And in the last five years, contributions have increased by 14 percent. It is also important to note that there has been a 40 percent increase in Latinos in the Church over the past five years.

Shedding more light on the statistics is a study released a few months ago by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion. Its "Landscape Survey" found that of those Catholics who have left the Church, roughly half became unaffiliated while the other half became Protestant. Regarding the latter half, only 23 percent did so because of the Church's teachings on abortion and homosexuality; only 16 percent left because of the way women are treated. Importantly, two-thirds of these Catholics elected to join a Protestant evangelical church with more conservative teachings.

What does all this mean? While the Church certainly needs to increase her evangelization efforts, it is clear that the Lord has blessed us in the midst of these troubled times.

Faith On-Line: Remember there is no vacation from our vocation! The third commandment and precept of the Church to keep holy the Sabbath day applies even when we are on vacation. If it is a physical impossibility to participate in Mass, we still need to keep holy the Sabbath. To help you, I previously shared a free handy app by CatholicWeb.com called **Catholic Mass Times Church Directory**. I would be remiss if I didn't also share an inexpensive app by Frodis company called Mass Times. It is the official app of **MassTimes.org**. Both are excellent programs to help you find information about the nearest church. God bless you!



Building Our Future Together

ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH CAMPAIGN

Your Pledges are Welcome!

Although the formal fund raising portion of the campaign is completed, we still invite new parishioners and those families who were not able to participate in the campaign to prayerfully consider making a pledge over a three or five year period. As Fr. Bill has shared, our goal in this process is 100 percent participation. Your generosity will help us reduce our debt and realize our goal of building our new church and parish center. Thank you!

Any Issues with Pledges?

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

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

Open Forum - Save the Date!

Our next Open Forum Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, August 21** at 7pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. At this meeting we will discuss pew configuration, color schemes, flooring, Mary's Garden and the Chapel of Our Lady. Your participation and input will help our planning efforts. We want your feedback; now is the time to be heard! Everyone is welcome.



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 contact TDoyle@ststephencatholic.org. We would love to hear from you as we continue with our planning in the next few weeks. Thank you!

Thought for the Day: "Totally love Him, Who gave Himself totally for your love. — St. Clare of Assisi"

www.StStephenCatholic.org



Ask It Basket

Q: Why do Catholics believe their Holy Communion is the actual Flesh and Blood of Jesus Christ? Why don't they believe as [most] Protestants do that Christ is only present symbolically, or spiritually, in the consecrated bread and wine?

A: Catholics believe that their Holy Communion, the Blessed Eucharist, is the actual Flesh and Blood of Jesus Christ, because that is what Christ said It was: "This is my body... This is my blood" (*Matt. 26:26-28*; see also *Luke 22:19-20* and *Mark 14:22-24*); because that is what Christ said they must receive in order to have eternal life" . . .

**St. Stephen
Catholic
School**

The Mustang

August 7, 2011
SCHOOL NEWS



2011-2012

ENROLLMENT

Give your child the gift of a Catholic Education!

Information about our school may be found at

www.ststephencatholicschool.org

We have space in most classes.

Hurry! School begins on August 22nd. 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!

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!**

Quick Tip: Shared Fun

To the self-esteem of a child, shared fun with a parent is extremely important. Yet it is frequently overlooked because fun itself is so simple and people are so busy. Remember having fun together on a regular basis is the glue of any good relationship. Play hard with your kids!

~ Taken from
the *1-2-3 Magic*
June 2011
Parenting
Newsletter



PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

Our summer camp preschool adventures have come to an end. It was truly an adventure that delighted the imaginations and the taste buds. Each day we read books related to the theme, created our own books, and then followed recipes to make tasty snacks.

We began by exploring farms. We planted plants and learned about the different farm animals. Some of the snacks we prepared this week included Bread Boas, Scrumptious Strawberry Jam and homemade ice cream.



The following week we were off to the woods where we pretended to camp and went on Nature Walks around the school. On the menu for this week were Butterfly Bites and Rabbit Food Salad.

The next week, we journeyed to the Pond where Froggy and Frogina joined our class, and we visited our own Pond at school. We painted pond pictures and made frogs with Fruit Roll-Up tongues.



On our final week, we explored Space in search of Carissa, a lost helper. Each day we received notes with clues about where she was. We built a space shuttle and then went to the Inner Planets, the Outer Planets, the International Space Station, viewed comets, and finally the dwarf planet Pluto. We did this with the help of Power Point. During this week we prepared Planet Pancakes, Alien Cookies and made R2D2 out of bananas and Kit Kat candy bars.

During these weeks we even squeezed in some math with Even Eagles and Odd Owls and added and subtracted all the animals and planets we were learning about.

Maria Hoffmann, the camp leader said, “It has been a few years since I have taught preschool. I was amazed at how much the students learned in four weeks. They soaked up the information quickly.” The parents and students were equally as delighted and many are interested in attending the program again next year.

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BINGO!

Do you?

St. Stephen hosts BINGO every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, doors open at 5:30pm and BINGO starts at 6:30pm. 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.

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 any way please contact Mrs. Julianne Gonzalez at 813-741-9203 or jgonzalez@ststephencatholic.org.

We would also love for you to bring a friend and enjoy an evening of BINGO!

Save the Date -



“Give Me a Break!”

**ADAPTING FINANCES
FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING
A CHANGE IN FINANCIAL STATUS**

**Tuesday, August 9th at 7:00pm
upstairs in church rooms 6, 7, and 8**

Many families are experiencing financial changes in their family budget due to layoffs, job cuts, changing in marital status and extended households.

If you have questions: Can we make it? How can I pay my bills? What will my children think? This workshop is for you. We will talk about needs and wants, how to manage your mortgage, accessing retirement funds, creditor protection, budgeting and other subjects of concern. There will be time for questions, so if you do not see a subject of interest please come anyway.

Sally Carril, Senior Vice President of Raymond James & Associates Inc., and Paul Sponseller, CFP will be our guest speakers and will work together to coordinate your planning needs. They will share planning and changing needs. Please don't miss this very important workshop, bring a friend! You will be glad you did! For more information please contact Jeanne Schneider, Pastoral Assistant, at the Church Office, 689-4900, ext. 314.

*St. Stephen
Adult Choir presents*
Man of La Mancha
*Written by: Dale Wasserman
Music by: Mitch Leigh
Lites by: Joe Sellen*

**AUG. 19, 20, 26 AT 7:30PM
AUG. 27 AT 2:00PM**
NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH YOUTH CENTER
705 E. BRANDON BLVD, BRANDON, FL 33511

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
TAMMY MODICA, DIRECTOR
tammy.modica@gmail.com

**Grandparents
have you become
a guardian or
caregiver of a
grandchild?**



Did you know that there are over 6 million children, approximately 1 in 12, either living with grandparents (4.5 million) or other relatives (1.5 million)?

As a grandparent we sometimes lack information about various support services and resources and benefits that may assist you in fulfilling a caregiver role. Let us help! Each month we will have a presentation in an area that will be helpful to grandparents. You may also find your experiences are similar to other grandparents.

Our Guest Speaker: Dr. Karen Unger, PhD
Family and Child/Adolescent Psychotherapist
Karen is also a member of St. Stephen

When: Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at 7:00pm
Theme: Wow, Things are Really Different
Where : Room 6-8 (Upper Rooms)

You are invited to join the **St. Stephen Adult Choir** on a Choir Tour of Italy from **November 22 to December 1, 2011**. See Assisi, Florence, a solemn high Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, a papal audience and a concert in Church of St. Ignatius in Rome.
For more information, contact Mary Lou Danahar at mld1015@yahoo.com or 671-3703. Open to all parishioners!

Newsflash! See Fr. Bill's Panama Mission pictures on his Facebook page!



Community Board

St Petersburg Council of Catholic Women is holding a Comprehensive Workshop for all Catholic women (18 and older) in the Diocese. It will be held at Espiritu Santo Parish, Safety Harbor. Continental breakfast, lunch and materials are free for all non-affiliated council members.

**August 20, 2011 - 8:45am Breakfast,
9:15 am Opening Session, until 3:30 pm**

Come join us and see what we are all about!
For more information contact:
Lynn Erickson, 813- 831-3462 (home), or email: lynns_account@verizon.net. Our web address: www://spdcw.catholicweb.com

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!



August 8th This week we will look at: **Prayer: The Faith Prayed – God Calls Us to Pray.** We will focus on “The Foundations of Prayer” from the Catechism. **Great discussions happen here.** Don't miss it. Bring a friend.

August 15th This week we will look at: **Prayer: The Faith Prayed – Jesus Taught us to Pray.** We will focus on “The Lord's Prayer: Our Father” from the Catechism. Bring a friend and come explore the central prayer of Scripture.



Saturday Morning Bible Study
When: Now thru September 10th
(7 weeks) from 9:00 to 10:30am
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
Starting August 16, through October 18 (10 weeks)
from 7-8:30pm Church Upper Room
Next study coming up: The Acts of the Apostles
Led by Deacon Rick



Our current class of “The Passion and Resurrection Narratives of Jesus” will finish this Tuesday. **On August 16th (next week) we will start our next Bible Study: The Acts of the Apostles.** The study class will go for 10 weeks. This study will look at the excitement of Pentecost and how it enlivened the early believers in their struggles to establish communities of faith – struggles surprisingly like those today. Study Set fee: \$20.00 **Seat reservations will be taken thru August 15th.** 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 at our next class!

NEW! Tuesday Morning: Beginning Apologetics 1 Study
When: Starting August 30th thru October 25th (9 weeks)
from 10:00--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)
(Joe Emnet is back)

We have a **NEW** format for our Bible Study. 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. **There will be another chance to join it during an entry point on September 1st!** 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!

Faith Formation



Religious Education News

Open Registration for new and returning students takes place this weekend after all Masses. Please stop by Room 3 to register for Pre-K through 8th Grade classes. If you are in need of any Sacraments, please stop by to talk to our Religious Education Staff.

Forms may also be downloaded from our web site, and then turned in to the church office when you come to Mass this weekend (www.ststephencatholic.org, then click on Religious Education, then Registration). Please contact our office if you have any questions (671-4434 or restaff@ststephencatholic.org). We look forward to being your partner on your child's faith formation journey!

Volunteers needed! Please consider sharing your faith with the children and youth in our parish. Contact our office if you'd like to help teach, assist or sub (we provide all materials and help with lesson), or with one of the other volunteer positions: receptionists and child care providers during class time, help with traffic at dismissal, or other ways to help. We can't do it without you!

The New Roman Missal will be implemented into our parish on November 27, 2011. There is much to do to prepare for these upcoming changes. To assure a smooth transition and proper education for our parishioners, we are forming an Implementation of the New Roman Missal Committee. The committee will meet regularly from mid July through December. If you would like to be a part of this special committee, please contact Kelly Goudreau, DRE in the Religious Education Office for more information (671-4434).



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"

Please register early for this class with the Religious Education Office (671-4434), so you will have the study book!



Thank you!



Our Order of Christian Initiation team would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful photographers who are always present at each OCIA liturgical celebration and event. Our photographers create lasting memories of those who go through the initiation process. Our gratitude goes beyond words. Their dedication to this ministry truly reflects the hands and feet of Jesus alive in our world today. God Bless You!

*As a photographer I am placed in a very unique position to witness the miraculous power of our Lord. While photographing, I usually try to be very discrete in where I should position myself during the ceremonies I am capturing. I try not to obstruct anyone's view, especially of those family members who have waited for their loved ones to come to this time and place in their spiritual journey. I think whatever way you receive the Lord, either through His cleansing waters of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion, it is a privilege to witness the joy washing over these candidates' faces. I am able to capture these special moments. It is so powerful! The OCIA/RCIA team has allowed me the honor to be a part of the growth and development of each candidate and their families. The team members do a superb job of educating and mentoring the candidates who have asked to be part of the Catholic Church and our St. Stephen Catholic community. **Photography captures the moment, but the experience lasts a lifetime. Amen.***

Norman Meeks, Parishioner and OCIA Photographer

Youth Ministry



Sunday LifeNights 7-8:30pm

August 7: Freedom to Live
August 14: Assume This
August 21: Fall Semester Kick Off!!

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



Pizza Rolls

Wednesday @ the ROC – 7-9pm

7-8pm Social Time

8-9pm Faith Discussion

Join us for:
Food, Fellowship, Fun



WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE CORE TEAM!

All Are Welcome to the Movie on the Lawn All families are welcome to attend the showing of "The 13th Day - A movie about the miracle of Fatima" at the school, Friday, August 19 at 8pm. Please bring your own lawn chairs, blankets, bug spray and snacks! Sponsored by the St. Stephen Catholic School PTCO.



EDGE Saturday Night Open ROC Youth Group

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

Girls of Grace & Wild at Heart



Next Saturday, August 13, 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 meet at the school after Mass until 8:30pm. Bring your friends!

Confirmation Info

We have dates! This weekend, August 6-7 the RE Staff will be in Room 3 after all Masses. Bring your calendar to Mass and stop by to schedule your interview and retreat date. First come, first serve! Please call the Religious Ed. Office to schedule a Confirmation Orientation meeting if you have not already attended one.



Monday Night EDGE

Re-registration forms have been mailed home. Please register ASAP so we can make sure we can accommodate everyone. Volunteers are desperately needed for Monday nights. Call or email Jeff if you would like more info about joining our Core Team of volunteers!

EDGE Basic Training

Join us from 7-8:30pm at the ROC this Thursday for Rosary Making! A great opportunity for service hours!

Summer Events

Cosmic Bowling



We meet up at The Alley at Southshore and enjoy two hours of bowling with your friends! Permission slip required. Email Jeff to sign up to ensure we reserve enough lanes! Cost is \$6. Our last date of the summer is August 10.



San José VBS

Many thanks to all who volunteered and donated lunches and supplies to the San José VBS! Our week was a great success!

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

Christ Renews His Parish

Courage and Faith

How can we fight fear with faith? The Lord is ever present to us. And in our time of testing he asks the same question: *Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?* Do you recognize the Lord's presence with you, especially when you meet the storms of adversity, sorrow, and temptation? Whenever we encounter trouble, the Lord is there with the same reassuring message: *"It is I, do not be afraid."* If we want to live, grow, and persevere in faith, then it must be nourished with the word of God (Mk 4:35-41.) Courage working with faith enables us to embrace God's word of truth and love with confidence and to act on it with firm hope in God's promises.

Feel His comfort and presence during the next Christ Renews His Parish weekend retreat. Enroll on-line at www.ststephencatholic.org.

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



Ministry of the Week: St. Stephen Men's Club

Men of St. Stephen—come join the St. Stephen Men's Club on Friday, August 12th 7:30 to 10pm in the ROC. We are hosting parishioner Frank Wuco. Frank is one of the nation's recognized experts in the field of Islam and the rise of Islamic militarism.



His gripping lectures have been given to thousands of people in government, private industry, and church and civic groups alike. Listen to Frank's weekly radio program on AM 970 WFLA Sundays, 12-2pm.

Put November 5th, 2011 on your calendar, we have the St. Stephen Men's Club Golf Scramble at Summerfield — all proceeds going to Building Our Future Campaign.

Knights of Columbus - Installation of Officers for the 2011-2012 Year



The 2011-2012 Officers of The Knights of Columbus St. Stephen Council # 14084 were installed during a ceremony held on June 17. Rick Hughes, District Deputy presided over the ceremony and Father Emery was present as pastoral representation. The ceremony was followed by a catered dinner and family social.

The New Officers are:

Grand Knight: John Montaldo,
 Trustee-3 year: John Cirello,
 Deputy Grand Knight: Patrick Roach,
 Trustee-2 year: Rick Hughes,
 Chancellor: Steve Haines,
 Trustee-1 year: Nick Turco,
 Warden: Ed Sleyzak,
 Inside Guard: Roger Spinelli,
 Recorder: John Berrie,
 Outside Guard 1: Bruce Czaja,
 Treasurer: Mike Belekevich,
 Outside Guard 2: Shawn Ryan,
 Advocate: Mike Grogan.



With such a strong team in place, what a great time to get involved with this incredible group; these men called Knights.

Holy Family Adoption Ministry

**"BACK TO SCHOOL" GATHERING
 FOR ST. STEPHEN ADOPTIVE FAMILIES**
When: Saturday, August 20, 2011 at 2:00pm
Where: Chuck and Pearl Chiarenza's home
 1009 Centerbrook Dr., Brandon, FL 33511
Contact Information: Janis Ososkie 449-0800 or
Pearl Chiarenza 449-3308
BRING A DISH TO SHARE
DRINKS AND PAPER PRODUCTS PROVIDED

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

Ministry News

Career Transition

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE UNDER-EMPLOYED

The St. Stephen Career Transition Ministry offers "free" workshops on such topics as resumé writing and interview preparation to name just a few. Our sessions are held at St. Stephen Catholic School on Boyette Road every Monday evening from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Several of our parishioners have obtained jobs as a direct result of these workshops. We encourage you to come share your stories with others who know how you feel. We offer prayer, support and hope that this difficult time will be over soon and that your life will change for the better. Most of our facilitators are professionals from our parish who are willing to share their time and talents. Come join us Monday evening August 8th for our next session. For more information, please call John or Sheila Nemias at 813-672-2552. or ctministry@ymail.com



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 the weeks of August 21 thru September 2, contact Gretchen at the office: 689-4900. Thanks!



'Till August 12!

Thank You!

Saint Vincent De Paul

Kay's Ministry

Experience the Homeless with Kay's Ministry

Share 2 hours on a Sunday afternoon with Kay's Ministry. We bring the word of God (food for their souls) to the homeless in Tampa as well as clothing and food for their belly. Come out for a Sunday and get an exhilarating feeling of being able to help those who are so less fortunate than you.

At the end of Mass the priest says, "Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord." This is a great way to serve the Lord. Don't have the time to come out? Can you help with some sandwiches? Our monthly e-mail has a two month calendar, you can choose a Sunday and donate the sandwiches and or drinks. We feed eighty people each Sunday, are you available any Sunday to supply the sandwiches?? We can pick them up—sandwiches and a drink for eighty costs about \$60. Some people supply enough for 25-30 people, others make a monetary donation for the food; anything is greatly appreciated, and 100% of all donations go for the needs of the homeless.

Proverbs 19:17: "He who has compassion on the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his good deeds ..." Drop us a note for the e-mail or more info at - Kaysministry@ststephencatholic.org
Reuben Persaud 813-382-0300 or
Charlie McGowan 813-767-2025

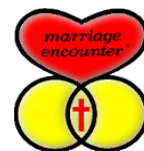
Retrouvaille

You Can Help Your Marriage – Roughly 25% of surveyed couples say they are 'Happily Married'. For everyone else, there is Retrouvaille.

Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples rebuild their marriages. For information or to register for the Retrouvaille of Tampa Bay program beginning with a weekend on **August 12-14**, call Barry and Faith Peterson at 727-842-7971, or 800-470-2230. You may also visit our web site at <http://www.retrouvaille.org>.

Marriage Encounter

HAPPILY MARRIED COUPLES:



"Marriage Encounter, yes! You are doing such important work in our church, especially in this world we live in. I will pray for you and for your movement."
(Pope Benedict XVI)

Why is the Pope so excited about what Marriage Encounter does for married couples? Plan to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and come back with a marriage that is romantic, refreshed and full of energy! **The next available WWME weekend in this diocese are August 19-21 at the Franciscan Center, Tampa and 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.**



Time, Talent, & Treasure

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

DEO GRATIAS! The San José Vacation Bible School (VBS) that our EDGE group hosted was a great success, and the love of Christ was shared by all. Thank you, all volunteers and parents who helped make this possible!

Thank you for sharing bulletins from churches you have visited on vacation! This week: Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, Colorado, New Hampshire, Virginia, Louisiana, Nebraska, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Maryland, Tennessee and other places in Florida. Welcome back!...

Faithful Stewards: Challenge Girls recently served refreshments to our families gathered for the Food Pantry and St. Vincent de Paul assistance. They were truly the hands of Christ!



What is Challenge? Challenge is a club for girls to grow in virtue, friendship, and their Catholic faith. It is a place for girls to learn about themselves by doing apostolic work and creates a positive impact on family, friends, and the world. **Challenge is for girls ages 10-16,** meeting twice monthly during school year starting in September. They plan and do service projects both in our parish and also in our community. Girls have the opportunity to attend **formational and relational retreats** to learn more about being Catholic, to grow closer to Christ and to one another.

Contact: Tammy Earl at 532-2195.



*"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**

July 30-31, 2011

Mass Attendance	3,304
Offertory:	\$27,005
No. of envelopes	908

**Average donation
per envelope..... \$ 23.44**

Thank you so much for choosing St. Stephen as your spiritual home. If we can do anything to serve you better, please let us know. Let us grow together in Christ!

Special Collection: This weekend we will have a second collection to help retire our debt which is under \$1.5 million dollars (\$1,031,564 for our school and \$371,401 for the Bell Shoals property). Each month we pay \$20,000 towards our debt (principle and interest). With your help, we would like to retire this debt as much as possible so that it will not be a burden to us as we build a new church and parish center on the Boyette property. Thank you for your generosity. If you have any questions or concerns about parish finances please contact Tom Doyle at 689-4900 or email: tdoyle@ststephencatholic.org, or any member of the Finance Council.



Annual Pastoral Appeal

We are so close to making this year's goal for the Annual Pastoral Appeal. **To date we have reached over 96% of our goal - only \$13,964 to go!** To date, 917 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!

Healing Mass - August 10; Feast of the Assumption - August 15;
SVDLP Ladies' Tea - September 10; Ministry Fair - September 24-25;
Men's XII Christ Renews His Parish retreat - October 1-2;
Deaconate Ordination - October 8; Craft Fair October 8-9;
Women's XII Christ Renews His Parish Retreat October 15-16

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

This Week At St. Stephen

Schedule of Events

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

Religious Education Registrations

9:30am	Nursery Open	RM4
9:30am	OCIA	RM7
10:45am	New Registrations	RM2
11am	Catechumenate Session	RM6-8
11am	OCIA - Inquiry Group	RM9
12:45pm	Baptisms	CH

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

10am	Art & Environment	RM2
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM2
7pm	Career Transition Group	SCH

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

10am	Apologetics Class	ROC
10am	Crafts Group	RM2
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
6pm	Cultural Diversity Group	RM4
7pm	Apologetics Class	RM9

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

11am	Meals on Wheels	KCN
12pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	RM3
6pm	BINGO	MPR
7pm	Bible Timeline Study	RM3
7pm	Open the Scriptures	CH

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

8am	Food Pantry	KCN-MPR
7pm	Men's Club	ROC

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

8:30am	Legion of Mary	ROC
8:45am	Cursillo small group	ROC
9am	Introduction to the Bible	RM3
6pm	Children's Liturgy of the Word	RM4

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

9:30am	Nursery Open	RM4
9:30am	OCIA	RM7
10:45am	New Registrations	RM2
11am	Catechumenate Session	RM6-8
11am	OCIA - Inquiry Group	RM9
1pm	Baptism Class	RM7
7pm	Divine Mercy Cenacle	RM5

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

On the Lighter Side!

What did the doughnut say to the loaf of bread?

Answer: I wish I had as much dough as you!

Mass Schedule and Intention

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

NINETEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

8am	For the Parishioners
9:30am	†Kelly Gallenstein
11:30am	†Rebecca & Richard Bejarano
5:30pm	†Eva Marie Barics

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

Saint Dominic, Priest
 8am Caroline Framin

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr

8am †Jennifer Drobinski

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

8am Vocations
 7pm Emily & Thaddeus Tluczek

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

St. Clare, Virgin

8am †Mary Stanton

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

8am †Joanne Riley

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

St. Pontian, Pope and Martyr
St. Hippolytus, Priest and Martyr

8am Pedro Monteiro
 4pm †Mark Giacomelli
 6pm †James Retersdorf

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

8am †Jim & Mary Wilson
 9:30am For the Parishioners
 11:30am †Toby Lester
 5:30pm †Addison Grace Cook

Scriptures of the Week:

Monday: Dt 10:12-22; Mt 17:22-27
Tuesday: Dt 31:1-8; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
Wednesday: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26
Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17;
 Mt 18:21-19:1
Friday: Jos 24:1-13; Mt 19:3-12
Saturday: Jos 24:14-29; Mt 19:13-15
Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

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.
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 PRAY for

Please remember the sick and homebound in prayer, especially:

Diane Alain	Martha Lao
Kelly Barnes	Brian Laxton
Cheryl Booth	Chuck Lowe
Karen Bourget	Robert & Carol Marden
Alice Brady	Patrick & Ann Magu
Tina Brancato	John McDermott
Wayne Brassey	Peter McDonald
Delia Caceres	Dorothy Miller
Mike Childers	Thomas Moyer
Maureen Culver	Edwin Osalaud
Sabrina DeWolf	Toni Parra
Michael Dragoni	Marcos Rodriguez
Patricia Eaton	Casie Rowe
John Eilerman	Mary Scott
Carol Fahmy	Elena Smith
Barbara Freeman	Luke Streeter
Nancy Grow	Shirley Sullivan
Dennis Hickey	Gail Swanson
Mary Hudyma	Kyle Swetnam
Joan John	Jack Tennenbaum
Ram Kapoor	Linda Vaughan
Ellie Kavalieros	Betty Wood
Karen Kirschenmann	

Please remember the deceased in your prayers, especially **Bob Steiner** and **John & Gilda Piernikowski**.

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.



