



St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church

A National Historic Landmark ~ Founded April 1869

Celebrating over 150 Years of Tradition

1930 West 54th Street • Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Parish Office: 216-631-5633 Fax: 216-631-5634

Website: ststephencleveland.org Email: ststephendh@gmail.com

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 6 and 7, 2025

Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Friday 9am-5pm
Closed Saturday/Sunday/Holidays

Pastoral Staff

Pastor:

Rev. Caroli B. Shao, A.J.

Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Benjamin Koka, A.J.

Latin Mass Celebrant:

Rev. Bede Kotlinski, OSB

German Mass Celebrant:

Rev. S. Michael Franz (Ret.)

Parish Staff

Church Secretary:

Debbie Hemphill

Church Accountant:

Russ Nieling

Maintenance:

Athanase Bizige

Organist:

Joe Kolecki

Cantors:

Virginija Muliolis and Teagan Webb

Latin Schola Director:

Nathan Marinchick and Matthew Eccher

St. Vincent de Paul:

Maureen Easley



Mission Statement

Saint Stephen Parish, as guided by the Holy Spirit and empowered by the Sacraments, is sent forth to know, love and serve God. For the salvation of souls, we endeavor to evangelize the Gospel message through Christ-centered ministries and truthful witness. Our parish pledges fidelity to the Magisterium, the teaching authority of the Holy Catholic Church. We offer traditional, orthodox and reverent practice of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the edification of the faithful and for the making of saints. The Saint Stephen parish family seeks to actively build a culture of life and recognizes the dignity of all persons as children of God.

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:15-4:45pm

Sunday: 9-9:30am (or by appointment)

Baptism

The baptism of infants and children under the age of seven is celebrated monthly.

Call the Parish Office to Register.

Marriage

Weddings should be arranged with the Pastor at least 6 months in advance.

Anointing of the Sick / Funerals

Contact the Parish Office to arrange.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Those wishing to become Catholic are encouraged to contact the Parish Office at 216-631-5633.

New Parishioners — Please contact the Parish Office to register.

English Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 11:00am

German Weekend Mass

1st Sunday of every month: 11:00am

Weekday, Holy Days & Holidays

See full schedule inside Bulletin

Adoration and Devotions

Holy Hour, Confession and Benediction — Wednesdays: 7:00pm

Rosary — Sundays: 9:00am

1st Friday Mass & Benediction: 6:30pm

1st Saturday Mass & Lecture: 9:30am

Metro Catholic Parish School

1910 West 54th Street

216-281-4044

Sisters of Notre Dame Convent

1891 West 57th Street

216-631-0754

This Week's Church Services



MASS SCHEDULE

We welcome all Parishioners and Visitors to Mass at St. Stephen.

The Confession schedule is as follows—

➔ *Saturday: 4:15—4:45pm —Church—Confessional box*

➔ *Sunday: before 9:30am Mass—Church—Confessional box*

Please call the Parish Office to schedule a private Confession.

Saturday, September 6, 2025—Church

Vigil of the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM † Katherine Duffy Rock

Sunday, September 7, 2025—Church

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM † Mary Wetzel

11:00 AM German — † Thomas Hayne

Monday, September 8, 2025—Rectory Chapel

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 PM Matilda Jankowski

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Saint Peter Claver, Priest

6:45 AM Latin Mass (Church) Courtney Capone

6:30 PM (Rectory Chapel) † Alice Sa

Wednesday, September 10, 2025—Church

Weekday

6:30 PM Jennifer Robinson

7:00-8:00 PM Confession, Holy Hour, Benediction

Thursday, September 11, 2025—Church

Weekday

6:30 PM Brian Rotsaert Family

Friday, September 12, 2025—Rectory Chapel

Weekday

6:30 PM Intentions of the Sherman Family

Saturday, September 13, 2025—Church

Vigil of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

5:00 PM † James Walter Wrynn

Sunday, September 14, 2025—Church

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 AM † Andres and Carmen DeJesus

11:00 AM Alumni — Living and Deceased Members of the
Saint Stephen Alumni Association

Contact the Parish Office at 216-631-5633 to schedule a Mass intention. The customary stipend (offering) is \$10.00.



CELEBRANT & LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 — SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin
Lector:	Fred Courtright	Doris Peters	Ursula Keck / Kevin Young Diana Lipfird
EM:	Jean Gandee		
Acolyte:	Ben Kost	Kevin Kroesen	

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 — SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Caesar	Fr. Januarius	Fr. Benjamin
Lector:	Russ Nieling	Chris Haddock	Jerry Nowesnick
EM:	Jean Gandee		Dianna Hosta
Acolyte:	Ben Kost	Kevin Kroesen	

All Sundays at 9:30am & Holy Days: Rev. Bede Kotlinski

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Sunday:	Wis 9:13-18b/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33
Monday:	Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Tuesday:	Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday:	Col 3:1-11/Lk 6:20-26
Thursday:	Col 3:12-17/Lk 6:27-38
Friday:	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Lk 6:39-42
Saturday:	1 Tm 1:15-17/Lk 6:43-49

Daily readings at <https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Marie Adamo	Kai Kirk	Kenneth Pachasa
Berly Blankenship	Joe Kolecki	Mary Lou Pannel
Thomas John Cables	Kosmerl Family	Christopher A. Park
Ruth Casto	Karen Kranstueber	Paul
Rosemary Diemer	Fr. Kropac	Greg Ray and Family
Martin Eland	Sr. Jane Lab	Herb Rielinger
Karen Fisher	Justin Latchney	Herb Rodriguez
Kyoko Fry	Sr. Linda	Rick Salvatore
Harry Tom Graef	Jim Lisi	Irene Schroeder
Robert Gunn	Ruth Martin	Maureen Sciarino
Susan Hatta	Maureen Masterson	Michael Sherman
Tadaaki Hatta	Katie McClain	Glenn Sneed
Raymond Hawley	Rob McClain	Sharon Sneed
Katharina Hayne	Abbie McCoy	Wayne Sneed
Debi Hess	Steve McElroy	Evelyn Trucks
Agnes Hogan	Victoria Miller	Fr. Albert Veigas
Horie Family	Kazuyuki Nagashima	Noel Walters
Dianna Hosta	Jessie Noelker	Devon Zink
Kiki Kelley	Tom O'Donnell	

Brother Kevin Cush—Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life
Sean Homcy—Vocation to Priesthood
Abbé Nicholas Johanni—Vocation to Priesthood
Sister Rose-Marie (Rose Johanni) of the Passion of the Royal Heart,
Burning Furnace of Mercy
First Responder—Lt. Timothy Maffo-Judd

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 6 and 7, 2025

REFLECTION

A wise man says “for a person to complete a project of high value, he or she should first know the costs of the investment.” In a similar way, Jesus made known the demands of His mission. He told the crowds, “If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.” [Luke 14:26] By making such a strong statement, Jesus wanted His followers to put the love of God as top priority in their lives over friends, relatives, business, office duties including the security of their own life. For us, the message of Jesus is meant to help us to see whether the love of God remains top priority or it is replaced by other worldly things. In any case, if one discovers that the love of God is replaced by other things, it is time to allow the will of God once again to control and direct his or her life.

~ Fr. Benjamin Koka, A.J.

Upcoming Collection

Next weekend, September 13 and 14, there will be a special collection for Victims in Gaza

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, President of the USCCB, has written to all the bishops of the USA asking them to take up a special collection to assist the Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children and live with dignity in dire conditions.

The Holy Father continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that “Gaza is starving”.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) both are providing vital emergency humanitarian relief and medical and psychological care for the sick, malnourished and wounded. The situation in Gaza and across the Middle East cries out for the assistance of the Catholic community of the United States.

AUGUST 24TH & AUGUST 31ST, 2025

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

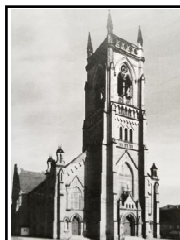
General Collection.....	\$3,608.00
Children.....	\$8.70
Assumption of Mary.....	\$26.00
Building Fund	\$140.00
Candles.....	\$192.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$3,914.24
Food Pantry.....	\$25.00
General Donation.....	\$160.00
Mission Appeal: Kabale Diocese	\$2,616.00
Utilities	\$40.00
Diocesan: Faith & Values Collection	\$1.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Sun, Sept 7	Schola Practice (CR)	8:00am
	German Social	Cancelled
Fri, Sept 12	Rehearsal (C)	5:00pm
Sat, Sept 13	Wedding (C)	2:00pm

(C) Church • (CR) Club Room • (SFR) St Francis Room • (R) Rectory



The Tower Lights are being illuminated during the month of September
In Memory Of

† **Maryanne Sutherland**

September 24, 1930—September 18, 2024

Please remember her in your prayers!

Treasures from our Tradition

THE NATIVITY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY — September 8

The *Roman Martyrology* states Mary was “of the lineage of Abraham, born of the tribe of Judah and of the progeny of King David, from whom the Son of God was born, made man by the work of the Holy Spirit, to free humanity from the ancient bondage of sin.”

The earliest document commemorating this feast comes from the sixth century. St. Romanus, the great ecclesiastical lyrist of the Greek Church, composed for it a hymn (Card. Pitra, “Hymnogr. Graeca”, Paris, 1876, 199) which is a poetical sketch of the apocryphal Gospel of St. James. St. Romanus was a native of Emesa in Syria, deacon of Berytus and later on at the Blachernae church in Constantinople, and composed his hymns between 536-556 (P. Maas in “Byzant. Zeitschrift”, 1906). The feast may have originated somewhere in Syria or Palestine in the beginning of the sixth century, when after the Council of Ephesus, under the influence of the “Apocrypha”, the cult of the Mother of God was greatly intensified, especially in Syria. St. Andrew of Crete in the beginning of the eighth century preached several sermons on this feast (Lucius-Anrich, “Anfänge des Heiligenkultus”, Tübingen, 1906, 468).

... The Church of Rome adopted it in the seventh century from the East; it is found in the Gelasian (seventh cent.) and the Gregorian (eighth to ninth cent.) Sacramentaries. Sergius I (687-701) prescribed a litany and procession for this feast (P.L. cxxviii, 897 sqq.).... The feast is found in the calendar of Sonnatius, Bishop of Reims, 614-31 (Kellner, *Heortology*, 21). Still it cannot be said to have been generally celebrated in the eighth and ninth centuries. St. Fulbert, Bishop of Chartres (d. 1028), speaks of it as of recent institution (P.L., cxli, 320, sqq.); the three sermons he wrote are the oldest genuine Latin sermons for this festival (Kellner, “*Heortology*”, London, 1908, 230). The octave was instituted by Innocent IV (a. 1243) in accordance with a vow made by the cardinals in the conclave of the autumn of 1241, when they were kept prisoners by Frederick II for three months. In the Greek Church the apodosis (solution) of the feast takes place 12 Sept., on account of the feast and the solemnity of the Exaltation of the Cross, 13 and 14 Sept. The Copts in Egypt and the Abyssinians celebrate Mary's Nativity on 1 May, and continue the feast under the name of “Seed of Jacob” 33 days (Anal. Juris Pont., xxi, 403); they also commemorate it on the first of every month (priv. letter from P. Baeteman, C.M., Alikiena). The Catholic Copts have adopted the Greek feast, but keep it 10 Sept. (Nilles, “Kal. Man.”, II, 696, 706). — <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2025-09-08> / <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/10712b.htm>

Parish Announcements

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

As the New School Year begins, St. Stephen will begin getting our children ready to receive their most important initiation Sacraments:

First Holy Communion & Confirmation

If you have a child in 2nd or 8th grade, please contact:

Diana Lipfird 440-532-9491

dlipfird@gmail.com

CLASSES WILL BEGIN SOON!!!

Parish Ministries

Our Parish Ministries are in need of your financial support... The St. Stephen Outreach and St. Vincent DePaul Ministries are supported only by the direct donations of our generous donors. No Offertory, EN, Christmas Appeal or other special campaign donation monies are used to support these critical ministries. Non-parish benefactors such as St. Bernadette's Church and their Knights of Columbus chapter, as well as Mr. Mark Stepowoy who provides monies for Thanksgiving turkeys each year, have kept these ministries afloat. However, the cost of groceries for our monthly Food Pantry has gone up substantially this year, as has the number of those within our community who are in need. In addition to operating the Food Pantry, our Outreach Ministry provides quarterly meals to the House of Champions (a local after-school program that supports inner-city youth living in poverty), conducts our Adopt-a-Family program at Christmas in association with St. Bernadette's parish, and supplements (where possible) the work of our St. Vincent DePaul Ministry in their support of those in desperate need of assistance with rent, utilities, clothing, vehicle repairs, etc.

There are only 5 Food Pantry and 5 SVDP Ministry appeal envelopes issued in a year, but we can accept donations to these ministries at any time during the year. Just indicate on your check or any church envelope that you wish this donation to be applied to our Outreach or SVDP ministries only. Thank you for supporting these critical ministries and the much needed services they provide for our St. Stephen Parish community! 1 John 3:18: "My little children, let us not love in word, or in tongue, but in deed, and in truth."

Bell Tower Lighting



Each month our St. Stephen Bell Tower is illuminated throughout the night, and can be clearly seen throughout the neighborhood and when driving down I-90 Westbound. To maintain the Bell Tower Lights, our cost is approximately \$17 daily. To help defray the monthly cost to the parish. We

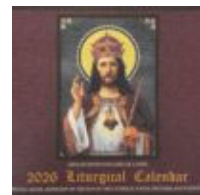
would like to request a minimum financial donation of \$250 for a month's Tower Lighting. If you wish to reserve a month of bell tower illumination, please contact the Parish Office. In 2026, all of the months are open, with the exception of May. Thank you for your generosity and financial support.

2026 Liturgical Calendar

The parish will be ordering 2026 Liturgical Calendars in September. In harmony with the 1962 Typical Edition of the Roman Missal, the 2026 Liturgical Calendar accurately lists the feast days and other liturgical days celebrated each season. Servants of the Holy Family (servi.org) has included a special guide, along with a mini-catechism of the essential teachings of the Catholic Faith, a list of Patron Saints and a section of Prayers.

To place an order (to be included in the parish order), please submit the number requested and the payment for each to the parish office. Calendar costs are: \$14.95ea (for an order placed for 1-19 calendars); \$10.45ea (for an order placed for 20-99 calendars). You may order more than one calendar. If the discount for 20-99 calendars is achieved, reimbursement will be given once the calendars are received. Please submit your order and payment by September 15th. If you have any questions, please call the parish office. To view the calendar online, please go to <https://servi.org/product-category/publications/>.

*Photo credit: Servants of the Holy Family



Pro-Life



From September 24th through November 2nd you are invited to join with other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Additionally, you are invited to stand and peacefully pray anytime between 7am to 7pm during the 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Pre-term - 12000 Shaker Blvd, Cleveland, 44120 or Planned Parenthood - 25350 Rockside Rd, Bedford Hts., 44146, or Signature Health – 54 South State St, Painesville, 44077. Join us at the Kickoff Rally at St. John Vianney on Monday, September 22, at 7pm, 7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor, 44060. Please contact John Noall at clevelandpraysforlife@gmail.com or 216-245-9744 for more information.

Around the Diocese

Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities September 9, 2025

St. Peter Claver was a Jesuit missionary from Spain who, in the 1600s, served and ministered to captured and enslaved Africans as they were taken off the slave ships landing in South America. St. Peter Claver desired to offer his life as "a slave of the slaves."

The U.S. Catholic bishops suggest that parishes "could use the National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities, which falls on the feast of St. Peter Claver (September 9), to organize activities that foster community, dialogue, and reconciliation. These encounters will help open our minds and hearts more fully and continue the healing needed in our communities and our nation."

The following resources are available:

- [Prayer Service for the Feast Day of St. Peter Claver](#)
- [Prayer for Peace in Our Communities](#)
- [Prayer of the Faithful for the Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities](#)

Around the Diocese

THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS WEST

Monday, September 8
7:00PM

Field Trip:
Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Church
Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
418 W 15th Street
Lorain, Ohio



6:30pm Doors Open
7:00pm Program Begins

THEOLOGY ON THE ROCKS WEST

For Adults 40 & Over

Join us Monday, Sept. 8 • 7 – 8:30pm

Our Annual Field Trip Event to:

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary/Lorain

418 W. 15th St., Lorain, Ohio

Join us as we become Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year. We will be treated to a tour of one of the designated Sacred Sites at which a plenary indulgence may be obtained. Rich in history, its Polish-American Heritage and over 70 relics on display; it's an evening you don't want to miss.

Cost is \$15.00 per person. Light appetizers & refreshments included. Advance tickets recommended. Register in advance: www.theologyontherockswest.com. Doors open at 6:30pm.



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION
DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND
Faith, Hope, and Remembrance

The Catholic Cemeteries Association offers free, safe, and compassionate monthly Grief Support meetings and memorial events throughout the year. Upcoming support/ gatherings:

- Sept. 13th – National Day of Remembrance for the Unborn (Akron, Valley City)
- Sept 21st – Sunday Grief Support meetings (3pm In-person; 5pm Virtual)
- Oct. 5th – Walk to Remember and online Memorial Wall (Register in September)

For details, visit: <https://www.cleccem.org/Events/Events.aspx>

For more information or questions, call Renee at 216-930-4866

Saturday, Sept. 13th at 5:30 PM

(after the 4:30 Vigil Mass)

St. Barbara Church Basement

Meditating on the Holy Face of Jesus



Learn about the miraculous images of Jesus Christ. From the illumination of Veronica's Veil, to the Man in the Shroud, to a little-known veil in a tiny church in Italy, as well as the Divine Mercy image. Learn about the uniqueness of each and the unexplained likenesses. Blessed medals and prayer cards will be provided, as well as coffee, juice, and pastries.

Presented by Our Mother's Hands



**You're Invited to Zelie's Home's
6th Annual Embrace Gala!**

Join us for an evening dedicated to empowering
moms and babies to build brighter futures.

Date: Friday, September 19, 2025

Time: 6:00 - 10:00 PM

Location: Shoreby Club, Bratenahl, Ohio

When you attend or sponsor the Embrace Gala, you help provide safe shelter, community, and life-changing support for moms and their babies at Zelie's Home. Your generosity fuels a mission of love, dignity, and hope—one family at a time.

Please scan the QR code or use the URL to find tickets and sponsorships!

zelieshome.org/embrace2025



Parish Community Advertisements

Thinking about buying or selling?

RUSSELL
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Contact us for all your real estate needs

Dianna Hosta
440-785-6800
dianna@diannasellshomes.com

Rick Salvatore
216-319-6553
brookparksalvatore@gmail.com



Shaklee
Independent Distributor

Tom & Sally Ann Gaghan
Wellness Consultants

20852 Sterling Way
Strongsville, Ohio 44149

440.238.4606
Cell: 440.263.9793

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Maureen Easley
www.etsy.com/shop/milliewinks

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Joan Donnelly, LMT
Licensed Massage Therapist
JoanM737@proton.me
216-269-4485

caring, focused, healing touch



Help defray our costs of printing with your "freewill offering" and see your advertisement here in future Weekly Bulletins!
GOD BLESS and THANK YOU !
Please Call the Parish Office at 216-631-5633 to reserve this spot!

amy@5starspace.com
216.202.0736

FiveStar Space
Organized by Amy A. Mushinski

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Certified KonMari Consultant

Tilma
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