



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

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross — September 13 and 14, 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 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

Monday, September 15, 2025—Rectory Chapel

Our Lady of Sorrows

6:30 PM † Michael Christopher Jankowski

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Saints Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

6:45 AM Latin Mass (Church) Michael Lichter Family

6:30 PM (Rectory Chapel) John and Isabel Tobey

Wednesday, September 17, 2025—Church

Weekday

6:30 PM Intentions of the Sherman Family

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

Thursday, September 18, 2025—Church

Weekday

6:30 PM Justin Dailey Family

Friday, September 19, 2025—Rectory Chapel

Weekday

6:30 PM Michael Gerhart

Saturday, September 20, 2025—Church

Vigil of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM The Strifler Family

Sunday, September 21, 2025—Church

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Barb Bentkowski

11:00 AM Intentions of the Sherman Family

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



CELEBRANT & LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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		

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 — SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Benjamin	TBD	TBD
Lector:	Glenn Sneed	Doris Peters	Matt Minarik
EM:	Jean Gandee		Dianna Hosta
Acolyte:		Kevin Kroesen	

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8 (443)/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Lk 7:36-50
Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Lk 8:1-3
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 Pannell
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	E. K. Wade
Dianna Hosta	Jessie Noelker	Noel Walters
Kiki Kelley	Tom O'Donnell	Devon Zink

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—Cmdr. Timothy Maffo-Judd

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross — September 13 and 14, 2025

REFLECTION

The transforming power of the Cross is a point of our reflection this Sunday. The Israelites were healed from the saraph serpents' bites when they looked at the bronze serpent mounted on the cross. A serpent, in reality, signifies the bitter and deadly sin which "bites" the human soul. God in His Love sent Jesus in the likeness of sinful flesh to destroy the power of sin by His Holy Death on the Cross. Jesus told Nicodemus and to us all, "...so must the Son of Man be lifted up: so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish; but may have life everlasting." The Cross stores and restores the riches of our Salvation. The Celebration of the Cross is a good reminder to us to humble ourselves like Jesus to accept sacrifices for the benefit of our brothers and sisters. Know that the Father who exalted Jesus on the Cross will abundantly reward you, especially, when you are on the cross with Jesus.

~ Fr. Benjamin Koka, A.J.

Collection for Victims of Gaza

This weekend, September 13th and 14th, there will be a second 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.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

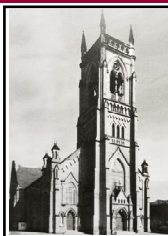
OFFERTORY COLLECTION

General Collection.....	\$2,003.00
Children.....	\$3.36
Candles.....	\$63.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$2,004.12
First Friday.....	\$145.00
Food Pantry	\$100.00
General Donation.....	\$150.00
St. Vincent de Paul Ministry	\$100.00
Utilities	\$227.00
Diocesan: Catholic Communications.....	\$10.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Sun, Sept 14 Schola Practice (CR).....8:00am
Latin Social (CR).....after 9:30am Mass
(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

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

This day is also called the Triumph of the Cross, Elevation of the Cross, Holy Cross Day, Holy Rood Day, or Roodmas. The liturgy of the Cross is a triumphant liturgy. When Moses lifted up the bronze serpent over the people, it was a foreshadowing of the salvation through Jesus when He was lifted up on the Cross. ... — <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2025-09-14>

The feast celebrates a double anniversary. In Jerusalem, Constantine erected a round church, Anastasias, above the empty grave of Jesus, and a basilica, the Martyrium; in the square between the two churches, a shrine, Calvarium, marking the place of the crucifixion. Dedicated in 335, they were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The two churches were rebuilt by Patriarch Modestus of Jerusalem c. 626 but were later destroyed by the Muslims in 1009. The present church of the Holy Sepulcher, rebuilt by the Crusaders, was dedicated in 1149. Today also commemorates the discovery of the Lord's cross by the empress, St. Helena in 320.

Formerly, the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday following the feast of the Holy Cross were observed as Ember Days, a time to give thanks to God for the first fruits of the harvest.

— Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist, 2025

Pro-Life

Pope Leo XIV has issued a clarion call to Catholic politicians worldwide, urging them to align their actions with the Church's teachings on the sanctity of life. This new message follows on the heels of a recent pro-life message where the Pope emphasized the need to reject "voices of death" and embrace a culture of life.

Pope Leo firmly rejected the false notion of Catholic politicians saying they are "personally pro-life" but voting for abortion: "There is no division within the personality of a public figure: there is not on one side the politician, and on the other the Christian." "Rather, there is the politician who, under the gaze of God and of his conscience, lives out his commitments and his responsibilities in a Christian manner," he said.

...Addressing a global audience, Pope Leo XIV called on Catholic politicians to reflect the Church's teachings in their legislative decisions, particularly on issues like abortion, euthanasia, and the treatment of the vulnerable. This message indirectly challenges Catholic politicians to uphold the sacredness of life in their public roles, aligning their policies with the Church's moral framework. — <https://www.lifenews.com/2025/08/28/pope-leo-tells-catholic-politicians-you-cant-be-catholic-and-pro-abortion/>

Parish Announcements

Religious Education News

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Do you have a 2nd grade student or a child in need of First Reconciliation and Holy Communion? We will have a registration day on Saturday, **September 20th at 10:00am** in the St. Francis room.



Diana Lipfird 440-532-9491
dlipfird@gmail.com

CONFIRMATION

Do you have an 8th grade student or a child in need of Confirmation? We will have a registration day on Saturday, **September 20th at 11:00am** in the St. Francis room.



Diana Lipfird 440-532-9491
dlipfird@gmail.com

CLASSES WILL BEGIN SOON!!!

Fall Fundraiser

If you are looking for mums, corn stalks, pumpkins, straw bales or other fall gardening supplies, you can support St. Stephen Church now through **October 15th** by shopping at:

Dean's Greenhouse
3984 Porter Rd.
Westlake, Ohio

Just mention St. Stephen when you check out and we will receive **20%** of your order.

Thank you for your 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*

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 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."

Holy Land Gifts

Land of Peace — September 20-21, 2025

In these challenging times, we invite you to a special sale next weekend. Following all Masses, Noel Alshomali from Land of Peace, a not-for-profit organization, will be with us to offer hand-carved gifts for sale in support of the struggles faced by Christians in the Holy Land.



The Christian population in the Holy Land is now less than 2% due to political and economic hardships. Land of Peace's mission is to provide life-changing support that empowers Christian families to remain rooted in the land of Christ where our faith began. This mission aims to bring hope and support to Christian families and churches in the Middle East, who are enduring continuous violence and a decline in tourism. Your participation can help make a profound difference.

Available for purchase will be religious articles made from Olive Wood, a material native to the Holy Land and Bethlehem. These items, including crucifixes and rosaries, offer a tangible connection to a land that holds deep spiritual significance. We encourage you to join us and support this meaningful cause. For more information, please visit www.landofpeace.org.

Around the Diocese

Our Lady of Sorrows — September 15

This feast dates back to the 12th century.... In 1482, the feast was added to the Missal under the title of "Our Lady of Compassion."

Pope Benedict XIII added it to the Roman Calendar in 1727 on the Friday before Palm Sunday. In 1913, Pope Pius X fixed the date on September 15. The title "Our Lady of Sorrows" focuses on Mary's intense suffering during the passion and death of Christ. "The Seven Dolors," the title by which it was celebrated in the 17th century, referred to the seven swords that



pierced the Heart of Mary. The feast is like an octave for the birthday of Our Lady on September 8th. —Excerpted from Our Lady of Sorrows by Fr. Paul Haffner (Inside the Vatican, September 2004)

This feast is dedicated to the spiritual martyrdom of Mary, Mother of God, and her compassion with the sufferings of her Divine Son, Jesus. In her suffering as co-redeemer, she reminds us of the tremendous evil of sin and shows us the way of true repentance. May the numerous tears of the Mother of God be conducive to our salvation; with which tears Thou, O God, art able to wash away the sins of the whole world.

As Mary stood at the foot of the Cross on which Jesus hung, the sword of sorrow Simeon had foretold pierced her soul. Below are the seven sorrows of Mary:

1. The prophecy of Simeon, (Luke 2:25-35)
2. The flight into Egypt, (Matthew 2:13-15)
3. Loss of the Child Jesus for three days, (Luke 2:41-50)
4. Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary, (Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17)
5. Crucifixion and Death of Jesus, (John 19:25-30)
6. The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (deposition from the Cross), (Psalm 130; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37)
7. The burial of Jesus, (Isaiah 53:8; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47)

PROMISES OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

These are the promises Our Lady made, through St. Bridget of Sweden, to those who are devoted to meditating on her Seven Sorrows:

1. "I will grant peace to their families."
2. "They will be enlightened about the Divine Mysteries."
3. "I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work."
4. "I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my Divine Son or the sanctification of their souls."
5. "I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives."
6. "I will visibly help them at the moment of their death. They will see the face of their Mother."
7. "I have obtained this grace from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolors, will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son and I will be their eternal consolation and joy."



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 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.clecem.org/Events/Events.aspx>

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



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

Morning Prayer for Women. Monday, September 22, 9:30 - 11:00am. Women from all walks of life are invited to pray together and learn more about the beauty of prayer. Led by Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, S.C., this prayer group will refresh your spirit & help you find strength in regular prayer habits. Free will offering (registration not required).

PROMISES OF OUR LORD

Additionally, as relayed by St. Alphonsus de Liguori in his classic work The Glories of Mary, Our Lord promised four graces to those devoted to the Sorrows of His Blessed Mother:

1. That those who before death invoke the divine Mother in the name of Her Sorrows will obtain true repentance of all their sins;
2. That He will protect all who have this devotion in their tribulations, and will protect them especially at the hour of death;
3. That He will impress on their minds the remembrance of His Passion;
4. That He will place such devout servants in Mother Mary's hands to do with them as She wishes and to obtain for them all the graces She desires. —<https://www.catholiccompany.com/blogs/magazine/our-lady-seven-sorrows-promises-5887>

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



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