



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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 20 and 21, 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 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 Benkowski

11:00 AM Intentions of the Sherman Family

Monday, September 22, 2025—Rectory Chapel

Weekday

6:30 PM † Mildred Dougherty-Telismán

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

6:45 AM Latin Mass (Church) Rachel Dippong

6:30 PM (Rectory Chapel) Thomas J Cables and Family

Wednesday, September 24, 2025—Church

Weekday

6:30 PM Nathan Marinchick

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

Thursday, September 25, 2025—Church

Weekday

6:30 PM Daniel Smith Family

Friday, September 26, 2025—Rectory Chapel

Weekday

6:30 PM Jane Dailey and Sue Dailey

Saturday, September 27, 2025—Church

Vigil of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM † Kimberly Carroll

Sunday, September 28, 2025—Church

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Josh Baumann Family

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

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	

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 — SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin
Lector:	Diana Lipfird	Elaine Amondo	Sarah Elena
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 21, 2025

Sunday: Am 8:4-7/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Lk 9:43b-45

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 Sciarrino
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—Lt. Timothy Maffo-Judd

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 20 and 21, 2025

REFLECTION

Very often this message of Jesus we hear today from the gospel is misinterpreted. It sounds as if Jesus is advising us to be dishonest. If so, we have misunderstood it and we are missing Jesus' point. What Jesus is saying is that every one of us is an administrator and not owner of the possessions we have. It is only God who is the owner of everything we have. Why then, are we often dishonest stewards? What Jesus reminds us is that what we have is temporary and not really ours. It belongs to God, but we are playing with the property of God for our own selfish good. When we look at the people of our present society, it looks as if there's nothing other than this world for them. The world has spare parts for everything and very often we forget that the world, which has created spare parts for any machine, has not created spare parts for our lives. Our lives belong to God who can take it away from us when he wishes. To live a good Christian life, we need first to understand that we are just stewards or caretakers of the property of God.

~ Fr. Caroli Shao, A.J.

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

October is the month our Diocese asks parishes to conduct a count of the number of adults and children attending the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. This information is an important indicator of Catholic participation in our common celebration of the Holy Eucharist, "the source and summit of the Christian life." The annual Mass attendance count is intended to provide an accurate and comprehensive profile for the entire diocese, and a source of information for us in our local parish planning and ministry.

Counting will take place at the weekend Masses on October 4th and 5th, as well as October 11th and 12th.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 OFFERTORY COLLECTION

General Collection.....	\$2,233.00
Children.....	\$3.10
Assumption of Mary.....	\$10.00
Building Fund	\$120.00
Candles.....	\$122.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$1,824.12
First Friday.....	\$250.00
Food Pantry.....	\$318.00
General Donation.....	\$560.00
St. Vincent de Paul Ministry	\$21.00
Tower Lighting.....	\$250.00
Utilities	\$46.00
Diocesan: Victims of Gaza	\$429.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Sun, Sept 21	Schola Practice (CR).....	8:00am
Fri, Sept 26	Rehearsal (C)	5:00pm
Sat, Sept 27	Wedding (C).....	12:00 Noon
(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

SAINTS OF THE DAY—SEPTEMBER 23RD

Saint Linus

Following the crucifixion of Peter, Linus, who had served as an assistant to the apostle, continued the leadership of the Church, for once the Christian faith had been firmly established in Rome, Peter and Paul had commended Linus to this responsibility. However, because the one-man episcopate had not yet emerged in Rome, we have no way of knowing exactly what duties were expected of Linus. In a letter directed to the Oriental churches, Linus told how Peter's body was taken from the cross by Marcellus, bathed in milk and wine, and embalmed with precious spices.

Linus, believed to be the son of Herculanius, was an Italian from the region of Tuscany. He has been identified by the early writer, Eusebius, as the same Linus who is mentioned by St. Paul in his letter of salutation from Rome to Timothy in Ephesus. His episcopate is said to have been approximately twelve years. A brief respite from persecution for the brethren is said to have existed at this time, for legend has it that Nero, in a frightening vision, was so chastised by Peter that he abandoned the wrath which he had once so fiercely set upon the Christians.

Much is unknown of Linus, to be sure, but it is said that he, at Peter's direction, decreed that all women would now cover their heads when entering a church. In the ancient canon of the Mass, his name is cited after those of Peter and Paul.

According to legend, Linus was martyred and buried on the Vatican Hill alongside his beloved Peter.

—Excerpted from *The Popes: A Papal History*, J.V. Bartlett

Saint Pius of Pietrelcina (1887-1968)

"Padre Pio" was born Francesco Forgione in 1887 in the small Italian village of Pietrelcina. A Capuchin priest who received the stigmata (September 20, 1918), he spent fifty years at the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo, where he was much sought after as a spiritual advisor, confessor, and intercessor. Despite such notoriety, he would often say, "I only want to be a poor friar who prays." His life was devoted to the Eucharist and to prayer. He died September 23, 1968 at age eighty-one. Pope John Paul II announced the inclusion of his memorial in the General Roman Calendar in June 2002. He is considered the patron saint of civil defense volunteers and Catholic adolescents.

—Ordo of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist 2025

Parish Announcements

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Mr. and Mrs. Erik and Alexa Czekaj, who were united in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday, September 13, 2025!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Do you have a 2nd grade student or a child in need of First Reconciliation and Holy Communion? Registration is now open. Please contact Diana Lipfird at 440-532-9491 or email at dlipfird@gmail.com.



CONFIRMATION

Do you have an 8th grade student or a child in need of Confirmation? Registration is now open.

Please contact Diana Lipfird at 440-532-9491 or email at 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 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."

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

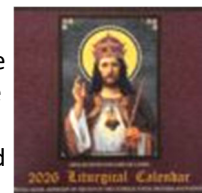
Just mention St. Stephen when you check out and we will receive **20%** of your order.

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. You may order more than one calendar. Please submit your order and payment by September 30th. 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

Holy Land Gifts

Land of Peace — Sunday, September 21, 2025

In these challenging times, we invite you to a special sale on **Sunday, September 21st** after all of the 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

Upcoming Pro-Life Events

40 DAYS FOR LIFE – A plan to end abortion by fasting and prayer from **September 24th to November 2nd**. Call 440-585-5317.

OHIO MASS/MARCH FOR LIFE will be celebrated at **9 a.m. on Oct. 3** in St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus, followed by the March for Life on the Ohio Statehouse lawn. Rally at 12 Noon. Columbus Bishop Earl Fernandes and Toledo Bishop Daniel Thomas will concelebrate the Mass. More information: <https://marchforlife.org/ohio/>



Travel by Bus: Sponsored by Brunswick Knights Columbus, Call Marty Shaw, at 216 533 7737 to register. Cost is \$25.00 for bus and box lunch. You will leave St. Ambrose parking lot at 8:30am and return around 4:00pm. Aim to be at St. Ambrose by 8:15am (929 Pearl Rd, Brunswick Ohio 44212).

LIFE CHAIN— A powerful, prayerful witness to the sacredness of life. Sunday, **October 5th** from 2 to 3pm, at 21016 Center Ridge Rd., Rocky River, Ohio. Call 216 659 3362.

ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE — Month Mass and Holy Hour —This event will be held on **October 10th**, from 7 to 9pm, at St. Mary Church, 250 Kraft St., Berea Ohio. Call 440-823-5141.

CHOOSE LIFE BANQUET— The keynote speaker is Andy Schlafly, Esq., the president of the legal Center for the Defense of life. He is the son of Phylis Schlafly, a well known pro-life activist. The event will be held at Windows on the River, 2000 Sycamore St., Cleveland, Ohio on **Friday, November 21st**. Cost: \$73/ person or \$584/table of eight. Call 216 661 6616.

Celebrating A Feast With A Feast of Music, Food and Fun!

Sunday, September 28th 2 to 5 p.m.



100th Anniversary Celebration of the Feast of St. Therese, The Little Flower

Event begins with a look at the life of St. Therese and her message of Do Small Things With Great Love, by Sister Ann Kilbane.

Then, we will be treated to a Feast of Music by the St. Joseph Academy Chorale.



And the final Feast - a delicious spaghetti dinner, including salad, beverage, Italian ice and pizzelles!

For more fun, there will be enticing **Raffle Baskets** including a 12,000 btu Air Conditioner, Honey Hut, Spa and Beauty, Scentsy collection, Lottery and many more!!

And ---- **Mystery Bags** at \$5, \$10 and \$20 where you're guaranteed to win a prize of equal value!

Tickets - \$25

Available thru the QR code, contacting the Parish Office at 216-651-0550, ext. 300 and after Masses.



Faithful Until Death: Remembering the Dedication of Venerable Cardinal Mindszenty, 50 Years On

**Sunday
Sept. 28, 2025
12:30 PM**

St. Emeric Church

1860 West 22nd Street
Cleveland, OH 44113

Márk Érszegi

Presenter

Religious Advisor to the State
Secretary for the Aid of Persecuted
Christians at the Hungarian
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and



*This event is part of an English lecture series in the Midwest on the life and legacy
of Hungarian Cardinal József Mindszenty.*

A cooperation between the St. Emeric Church, the State Secretariat for the Aid of Persecuted
Christians, the Consulate General of Hungary in Chicago.

"Fifty years have passed since the death of Hungarian Cardinal József Mindszenty, one of the most courageous voices of conscience in the 20th century. As Archbishop of Esztergom and Primate of Hungary, Mindszenty stood unwavering in the face of both fascist and communist regimes. He was imprisoned by the Nazis, imprisoned and tortured by the communists, and spent 15 years in refuge within the U.S. Embassy in Budapest — yet he never betrayed his faith or his people.

His legacy is one of profound spiritual conviction, national loyalty, and an uncompromising commitment to human dignity. Mindszenty believed that truth could never be silenced, even in the darkest of times, and that the Church must stand as a guardian of the soul when all earthly institutions fail. His cause for sainthood was rightly opened in 1993, and Pope Francis declared him Venerable in 2019."

Sunday, September 28th, 2025

SAVE THE DATE

Noon – 5 p.m.

**NDCL Campus
13000 Auburn Rd., Chardon, OH**

- **BBQ Meal**
- **Desserts**
- **Country Kitchen**
- **Boutique Shopping**
- **Photobooth**
- **Fellowship, Fun, Flavor & More!**



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
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Tom & Sally Ann Gaghan
Wellness Consultants

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Strongsville, Ohio 44149

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Cell: 440.263.9793

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216-269-4485

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Help defray our costs of printing with your "freewill offering" and see your advertisement here in future Weekly Bulletins!
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216-631-5633 to reserve this spot!

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