



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

Second Sunday of Advent — December 6 & 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, December 6, 2025—Church

Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM † Mario Pekar

Sunday, December 7, 2025—Church

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Those Suffering from Depression or Addiction

11:00 AM German— The Strifler Family, † Thomas Hayne,
† Walter Spaeth

Monday, December 8, 2025—Church

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00 AM Metro Catholic Teachers and Students

6:30 PM † Anna Fecko

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Latin Mass (Church) St. John Berchmans Altar Servers
Ministry

6:30 PM (Rectory Chapel) Bryce Albertson

Wednesday, December 10, 2025—Church

Advent Weekday

6:30 PM † Timothy M. and Lisa A. Mann

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

Thursday, December 11, 2025—Church

Advent Weekday

6:30 PM Intentions of the Sherman Family

Friday, December 12, 2025—Church

Our Lady of Guadalupe

6:30 PM †† Robert and Coletta Spuhler

Saturday, December 13, 2025—Church

Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

5:00 PM † Fr. Merko Hladin

Sunday, December 14, 2025—Church

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

8:00 AM Unity Among Christians

11:00 AM Alumni — Living and Deceased Members of the
St. 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 6, 2025 – DECEMBER 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	Robert Filippi / Tina Waters
EM:	Jean Gandee		Elizabeth Filippi
Acolyte:	Ben Kost		

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2025 – DECEMBER 14, 2025

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Caroli	Fr. Caroli	Fr. Caroli
Lector:	John Maier	Lou Ockunzzi	Jerry Nowesnick
EM:			Elizabeth Filippi
Acolyte:	Ben Kost		

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 2025

Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Marie Adamo	Dianna Hosta	Jessie Noelker
Doris Bealis	† Russell Kamps	Tom O'Donnell
Berly Blankenship	Kiki Kelley	Christopher A. Park
Thomas John Cables	Kai Kirk	Paul
Ruth Casto	Joe Kolecki	Greg Ray and Family
Rosemary Diemer	Kosmerl Family	Herb Rielinger
Martin Eland	Karen Kranstueber	Herb Rodriguez
Karen Fisher	Fr. Kropac	Rick Salvatore
Kyoko Fry	Sr. Jane Lab	Irene Schroeder
Harry Tom Graef	Sr. Linda	Maureen Sciarrino
Robert Gunn	Ruth Martin	Michael Sherman
Susan Hatta	Maureen Masterson	Glenn Sneed
Tadaaki Hatta	Katie McClain	Sharon Sneed
Raymond Hawley	Rob McClain	Wayne Sneed
Katharina Hayne	Abbie McCoy	Evelyn Trucks
Barb Helon	Rita McDonald	Fr. Albert Veigas
Debi Hess	Steve McElroy	E. K. Wade
Agnes Hogan	Victoria Miller	Noel Walters
Horie Family	Kazuyuki Nagashima	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

Second Sunday of Advent — December 6 & 7, 2025

REFLECTION

Every human heart desperately needs peace. All of us long and search for peace. There are many reasons why we have no peace. Sometimes we lack peace because we have forgotten that we belong to one another, or we are constantly anxious and stressed about many things in life – food, job, power, security, relationship, illness, status, and so on, or because of conflicts in our homes and communities, or living in a life of animosity, resentment and hatred toward others. Each one of us in one way or another is a victim of injustice, unfaithfulness and unrighteousness. In today's readings we are all reminded that we are all sinners who ought to prepare the way for the Lord. We need to repent for all these sins so that we may find peace. Otherwise, "there is no peace for the wicked", says Isaiah (57:21). If we need enduring and everlasting peace then we should come to Christ, the prince of peace. He will restore our hopes and aspirations. He will be faithful to us even when we are unfaithful to him. The prince of Peace will give us the peace we long for because He is more than a descendant of David. He is the Son of Man and Son of God. He is Emmanuel – God is with us. — Fr. Caroli Shao, A.J.

Pope Leo XIV released his prayer intention for December, 2025. This Month's Intention is for Christians in areas of conflict. He invites us to pray *"that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope."*

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 OFFERTORY and NOVEMBER TOTAL ONLINE COLLECTIONS

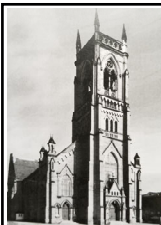
General Collection	\$1,197.00
Candles	\$68.00
Building Fund.....	\$100.00
Christmas.....	\$60.00
Christmas Flowers	\$40.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$1,622.00
Food Pantry	\$100.00
General Donation	\$60.00
Maintenance	\$56.44
Music Ministry.....	\$4,000.00
Offertory.....	\$170.00
St. Vincent de Paul Ministry	\$5.00
Thanksgiving.....	\$60.00
Utilities	\$1,520.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Sun, Dec 7	Schola Practice (CR)	8:00am
	German Social	Cancelled
Mon, Dec 8	Mass (Immaculate Conception) (C)	9:00am
	Second Mass of the Day (C)	6:30pm
Tues, Dec 9	Mass (Advent Candlelight)	7:00am
Thurs, Dec 11	RCIA/OCIA Class (SFR)	6:30pm

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



The Tower Lights are being illuminated during the month of December

In Memory Of

† William P. Quigley

December 1, 1941 – June 20, 2023

Please remember him in your prayers!

Advent Confession — A Time of Preparation —

Advent is a great opportunity to experience God's mercy and prepare our hearts for Christmas!

As you know, the Church teaches that our sins are forgiven as soon as we are sorry for them and we receive an assurance of pardon at the beginning of every Mass. Nevertheless, it is certainly a good idea to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation to give thanks to God for his bountiful forgiveness and unconditional love, especially during Advent. The grace of this Sacrament is a great help to us as we strive to keep our resolutions "to sin no more." — Fr. Caroli Shao

Confession times are available on Wednesday evenings after the 6:30pm Mass in the Church; Saturdays from 4:15-4:45pm; before each weekday Latin Mass; and before the 9:30am Traditional Latin Mass on Sundays starting at 9:00am.

"Sanctify Advent, then Consider how pitiable would be our condition if Jesus Christ had not become man and redeemed us; thank Him for the great sacrifice which He made for our Redemption. Make use of the pious exercises which the Church prescribes and recommends. Receive the holy Sacraments of Penance and of the Blessed Eucharist; mortify yourselves interiorly and exteriorly, to atone for your sins, to prevent a relapse, and to make progress in virtue. Pray fervently, and perform as many works of mercy as you can. If you sanctify Advent in such a manner, it will become to you a time of grace and salvation. Amen." — The Pulpit Orator by Rev. John Evangelist Zollner

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday, December 8th, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, the solemn dogma defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854. As Our Lady Immaculately Conceived is the patroness of the United States of America, this is a holy day of obligation in the United States.

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

—Catechism of the Catholic Church

Parish Announcements

News from the Pews

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew and Ashley Duplin, who were united in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage and on the baptism of their daughter, **Isla Rose**, welcomed into the One Holy Catholic Church in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Saturday, December 6, 2025!



RCIA / OCIA

Registration is closed for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) / **OCIA** (The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) for adults seeking Baptism, Eucharist and/or Confirmation or adults seeking to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church who have already been validly baptized. Dates for registration for the Fall class of 2026 will be published in September 2026.

Parish School of Religion

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Registration is closed for classes for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Please contact Diana Lipfird at 440-532-9491 or by email if you would like to enroll your child next fall at dlipfird@gmail.com.

Dean's Greenhouse Fundraiser

Looking for Poinsettias other seasonal items or gardening supplies? You can support St. Stephen from **November 15th through December 24th** 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!



St. Vincent de Paul Ministry

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. Help at-risk mothers and infants in gratitude for the bounty shown to you.

Please pick an ornament and then purchase the requested item. Affix the wooden ornament to the gift and place it beneath the tree. The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will deliver the gifts to the Cleveland Pregnancy Center.

We wish you a very special *Thank You* for assisting us in this spiritual mission during Advent! — St. Vincent de Paul Ministry



DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on **Monday, December 22nd, at 10:00am**. Volunteers are needed and your assistance would be greatly appreciated!



Mission Appeal



APOSTLES OF JESUS MISSION APPEAL

Bishop Edward Malesic has given permission to the Apostles of Jesus to conduct a mission appeal once a year at St. Stephen Church. For those who do not know, our Priests, Fr. Caroli Shao and Fr. Ben Koka, are members of the Apostles of Jesus.

The Apostles of Jesus is a Missionary Order founded in Uganda-Africa in the year 1968 by two Italian Comboni Missionaries for the evangelization of Africa and the World. Working with various Catholic Dioceses in the world, the Apostles of Jesus are engaged in various fields of apostolate, namely: Primary Evangelization, Parish Ministry, Clinical Pastoral Care and Hospital Chaplaincy, Nursing Homes/Aids ministry, and Formation of the Lay Leaders.

All funds raised from this mission appeal will help to educate the many vocations in the society of the Apostles of Jesus in Africa. This mission appeal will take place here at St. Stephen Parish next weekend, **December 13 and 14, 2025**. Please prayerfully consider contributing generously to this annual appeal.

Advent Candlelight Latin Mass

FEAST OF SAINT JUAN DIEGO Tuesday, December 9, 2025 7:00am

The 17th Annual St. John Berchmans Advent Candlelight Latin Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Bede Kotlinski at St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1930 W. 54th St. in Cleveland.

Mass will be served by the St. John Berchmans Altar Servers Ministry (SJB), comprised of students from St. Ignatius, Benedictine, and other local Catholic high schools and Home Schools. Music will be directed by Annette Spallone Murphy. Prelude will begin at **6:45 AM**.

Latin-English Missals will be available for use during Mass. Rosaries will be distributed and refreshments will be served following the Mass.

The Candlelight Latin Mass is a beautiful way to celebrate the Advent season. Join us as we honor the Feast of Saint Juan Diego, humble messenger of Our Lady of Guadalupe. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this special Mass. Please invite your family and friends.

See a life-sized replica of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Tilma on display at the Mass.

The SJB is inviting Catholic men ages 14-18 interested in learning how to serve the Latin Mass to become new members. Please see Fr. Bede or call the St. Stephen Parish Office at 216.631.5633.



Parish Announcements



CHRISTMAS MASS AT NIGHT

VIGIL— Wednesday, December 24th

Children's Mass 5:00 pm

English Mass 10:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25th

No Confessions

Latin Mass 9:30 am

English Mass 11:00 am

ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

Friday, December 26th

English Mass 10:00am

Latin Mass 6:30 pm

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

VIGIL— New Year's Eve — Wednesday, December 31st

English Mass 4:00 pm

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Day — Thursday, January 1st

No Confessions

Latin Mass 9:30 am

English Mass 11:00 am

Heiligenblut Nativity Mass—January 4 2026

Heiligenbluter Krippenmesse (Heiligenblut Nativity Mass)

The Gottscheer Heimatchor will sing the "Heiligenbluter Krippenmesse" (Heiligenblut Nativity Mass) at the **11:00am German Mass on Sunday, January 4.**

This Mass setting takes its name from the village of Heiligenblut am Großglockner in the Austrian state of Carinthia. Nestled at the base of the tallest mountain in Austria, it is the site of an annual tradition going back to the 16th century. On the evening and night of January 5, carollers ("Sternsinger", literally translated as "star singers") go from house to house bringing blessings to the inhabitants. Each carolling group ("Rotte") consists of one star-bearer ("Sternträger"), five instrumentalists, and nine singers.* Our January 4 German Mass at St. Stephen Church will honor this sublime tradition. No knowledge of German is needed to appreciate the beauty of the "Heiligenbluter Krippenmesse". What better way to close this Christmas season?

A German-language Mass is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month at 11:00am (except Easter Sunday). If you have any questions or are interested in additional information regarding the monthly German Mass at St. Stephen, please contact the Parish Office at: 216-631-5633.

*<https://www.unesco.at/en/culture/intangible-cultural-heritage/national-inventory/news-1/article/christmas-caroling-in-heiligenblut>



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
Creating Healthier Lives

Tom & Sally Ann Gaghan
Wellness Consultants

Nutritional Products
Sports Nutrition
Green Biodegradable Cleaners
Anti-Aging Skin Care & Makeup
Weight Management Program
Earning Opportunity

20852 Sterling Way
Strongsville, Ohio 44149

Cell: 440.263.9793

TGaghan470@aol.com
us.shaklee.com/site/healthylifestyles4u/storefront

Specializing in vintage religious items for your home!

Hallowed Home
Maureen Easley
etsy.com/shop/Hallowedhome
Maureen.easley@yahoo.com
Use coupon code:
Return15 for 15% discount
for repeat customers

Milliewinks
Maureen Easley
www.etsy.com/shop/milliewinks

We deal in vintage clothing & household items!

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

caring, focused, healing touch



Tilma
Our Lady's Store in Berea
146 Front Street, Berea, OH
(440) 243-1060
Open 10 am - 4 pm
Closed Wednesday & Sunday

We sell Latin Mass
Missals & Mantillas!

PRAYER REQUEST LINES

Carmelite Sisters (Cleveland Hts.) 216-321-6568
Poor Clare Colettines (Rocky River Dr.) 216-941-2820
Poor Clare Nuns (Euclid Ave.) 216-361-0783
Sisters of Notre Dame (Chardon) 440-279-1163
Sisters of Saint Joseph (Rocky River Dr.) 216-252-0548
Sisters of Notre Dame (Chardon) 440-279-1163
Ursuline Sisters (Pepper Pike/Mayfield) 440-449-1200, ext. 103

amy@5starspace.com
216.202.0736

FiveStar Space
Organized by Amy A. Mushinski

Professional Organizing Services
Certified KonMari Consultant

NICK SERIO
PLAQUE SALES,
MARKETING & DESIGN

C: 330.734.8395
O: 440.946.9646

4839 E 345TH ST
WILLOUGHBY, OH 44094

NICK@ACWELLMAN.COM
ACWELLMAN.COM

MCS
METRO CATHOLIC SCHOOL
a Partnership School

✿ Enrolling Now! ✿
Metro Catholic School
A Faith-Filled Education
for PreK-8

Call us at 216-281-4044
Visit metrocatholic.org

Help defray our costs of
printing with your "freewill
offering" and see your adver-
tisement here in future
Weekly Bulletins!
GOD BLESS and THANK YOU !
Please Call the Parish Office
for more information

Catholic Roofing Company
Quality, Care, Craftsmanship
Roofing, Repairs, Siding, Gutters, Solar
Supports TLM and Serving all St. Stephen Parishioners

Call Parishioner **Matt Minarik 440-724-6363**

Free Inspections and Site Survey Report
Residential & Commercial
10% goes to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre