



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

Third Sunday of Advent — December 13 & 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, 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

Monday, December 15, 2025—Church

Advent Weekday

6:30 PM Dominic Bevelacqua

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Advent Weekday

6:30 AM Latin Mass (Church) Cerulean Hemphill

6:30 PM (Rectory Chapel) Brankica Demczyk

Wednesday, December 17, 2025—Church

Advent Weekday

6:30 PM Intentions of the Sherman Family

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

Thursday, December 18, 2025—Church

Advent Weekday

6:30 PM Dan Weisler

Friday, December 19, 2025—Church

Advent Weekday

6:30 PM Judith Boysko

Saturday, December 20, 2025—Church

Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM † William Riley

Sunday, December 21, 2025—Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM †† Emily and Jerry Wuensch

11:00 AM † William Voekler

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



CELEBRANT & LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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		

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 20, 2025 — DECEMBER 21, 2025

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin
Lector:	Russ Nieling	Elaine Ann Cara	Matt Minarik
EM:	Jean Gandee		Diana Lipfird
Acolyte:	Ben Kost		

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2025

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

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

Third Sunday of Advent — December 13 & 14, 2025

REFLECTION

John the Baptist made it clear to the people that they should not consider him to be the Messiah. He was a voice crying in the desert calling people to make straight the way of the Lord. He preached repentance inviting people to stop their evil practices and embrace new life in the Baptism of Christ. John categorically refused to attract people to glorify him in his mission. He proclaimed the truth in his life and died for the truth. The mission of every Christian is like that of John the Baptist, chiefly to help people experience Christ in their own lives. This is possible if, for example, our support for the poor, care for the sick, the homeless, strangers, etc., are done not for self-interest but purely in love of God and the neighbor. To do a good job for Christ, we should allow the Spirit of the Lord to control our minds, words and actions. This will enable us to extend the Joy of Christ to many people regardless of creed, language, nationality, relations etc., like John the Baptist who was for all people.

— Fr. Benjamin Koka, A.J.

Pro-Life

As we enter the second half of Advent, the liturgy focuses more specifically on the Incarnation and birth of Jesus at the first Christmas. We think about Mary's initial fear and uncertainty in the face of her unexpected pregnancy. Then, in every Church in the world, believers spiritually rush to her side to eagerly await with her the birth of the Savior.

The best way for a parish to celebrate Christmas is to rush physically to the side of those in the community who, like Mary, are uncertain and afraid about their pregnancy. We are to accompany them through their pregnancy with support and encouragement, and help them experience the fact that every birth reflects the joy of the birth of Christ.

Nationwide, pregnancy centers providing alternatives to abortion can be reached through the "Option Line," 1-800-712-HELP, or at www.pregnancycenters.org.

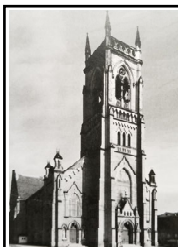
DECEMBER 7, 2025 OFFERTORY COLLECTION

General Collection	\$1,570.00
Children	\$3.50
Building Fund	\$45.00
Candles	\$188.00
Christmas	\$200.00
Christmas Flowers	\$320.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$1,710.00
General Donation	\$20.00
Immaculate Conception	\$12.00
St. Vincent de Paul Ministry	\$110.00
Utilities	\$20.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2025

Sun, Dec 14	Schola Practice (CR)	8:00am
	Latin Social (CR)	after 9:30am Mass
Thurs, Dec 18	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." St. Stephen Confession times available are:

Wednesday evenings after the 6:30pm Mass in the Church; Saturdays from 4:15-4:45pm; before each weekday Latin Novus Ordo 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

Treasures and Traditions

TODAY, AGAIN, the Church is full of joy, and the joy is greater than it was. It is true that her Lord has not come; but she feels that He is nearer than before, and therefore she thinks it just to lessen somewhat the austerity of this penitential season by the innocent cheerfulness of her sacred rites. And first, this Sunday has had the name of *Gaudete* given to it, from the first word of the Introit; it also is honored with those impressive exceptions which belong to the fourth Sunday of Lent, called *Lætare*. The organ is played at the Mass; the vestments are rose-color; the deacon resumes the dalmatic, and the subdeacon the tunic; and in cathedral churches the bishop assists with the precious mitre. How touching are all these usages, and how admirable this condescension of the Church, wherewith she so beautifully blends together the unalterable strictness of the dogmas of faith and the graceful poetry of the formulæ of her liturgy! Let us enter into her spirit, and be glad on this third Sunday of her Advent, because our Lord is now so near unto us. Tomorrow we will resume our attitude of servants mourning for the absence of their Lord and waiting for Him; for every delay, however short, is painful and makes love sad. Commentary from The Liturgical Year by Dom Prosper Guéranger (1805-1875).

Parish Announcements

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 this weekend, **December 13 and 14, 2025**. Please prayerfully consider contributing generously to this annual appeal.

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

THE GIVING TREE is an opportunity to "give back" in gratitude for our own bounty. Take an ornament from the tree, purchase the new item listed on the ornament, gift wrap it with the ornament attached to the outside, and place it under the Giving Tree in Church. Help our Saint Vincent de Paul Ministry and the Cleveland Pregnancy Center reach out to at-risk mothers and infants. Feel free to take more than one ornament if you picked one of the smaller items. Please note that only size Newborn and size 1 diapers will be accepted. If you wish to donate other sizes, please consider donating to other Cleveland-based prolife organizations.

Thank you for your continued generosity for assisting us in this spiritual ministry at Christmas!



Safety at our Masses

With the vandalism and robberies in the church parking lot last Sunday, we want to assure you that there is an active investigation ongoing by the Second District Police.

We will have a Security Guard on our church property for Sunday Masses and Christmas Masses. And, we are in the process of evaluating proper surveillance for the parking lot for the deterrence of criminal activity.

We are sorry for the upset and trauma caused to so many of our parishioners and visitors. You are being remembered in our prayers. Thank you to everyone who assisted those with broken car windows and cleaning of the glass in cars and the parking lot.

Please share this information with family and friends.

News from the Pews

CONDOLENCES TO...

the Klein and Gallagher family and friends on the death of Parishioner, **Lynn Ann Gallagher**, who died on December 4, 2025. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Stephen on December 9, 2025.



In your charity, please pray for her soul.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

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!



On **Friday, December 26th**, the **Feast of St. Stephen**, our Patron Saint, Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am in English and at 6:30pm in Latin.

The Parish Office will be closed in observance of Christmas on:

Wednesday, December 24th
Thursday, December 25th
Friday, December 26th

The Parish Office will be closed in observance of the New Year and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God on:

Wednesday, December 31st
Thursday, January 1st
Friday, January 2nd

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

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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

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