



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 20 & 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, 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

Monday, December 22, 2025—Church

Advent Weekday

6:30 PM John Hemphill

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Advent Weekday

6:30 AM Latin Mass (Church) James Myers

6:30 PM (Rectory Chapel) Intentions of the Sherman Family

Wednesday, December 24, 2025—Church

Vigil of The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)

5:00 PM Children's Mass — Parishioners

10:00 PM Mass at Night — Parishioners

Thursday, December 25, 2025—Church

The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)

9:30 AM Parishioners

11:00 AM Parishioners

Friday, December 26, 2025—Church

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

10:00 AM † Carolyn Marie Sage

6:30 PM Latin — † Christine Renee Lessner

Saturday, December 27, 2025—Church

Vigil of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

5:00 PM † Catharyn Riley

Sunday, December 28, 2025—Church

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:00 AM † Joseph Meier

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

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		

THE VIGIL OF / AND THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD DECEMBER 24, 2025 — DECEMBER 25, 2025

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>10:00PM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin
Lector:	Robert Filippi	Russ Nieling	Diana Lipfird
EM:	Jean Gandee	Glenn Sneed / Russ Nieling	Dianna Hosta
	Diana Lipfird		
	Liz Filippi		
Acolyte:	Ben Kost	Glenn Sneed	

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 27, 2025 — DECEMBER 28, 2025

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Caroli	Fr. Caroli	Fr. Caroli
Lector:	Glenn Sneed	Chris Haddock	Sarah Elena
EM:	Jean Gandee		Dianna Hosta
Acolyte:	Ben Kost		

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2025

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24
Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66\
Wednesday: **Morning:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79
Thursday: **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD** (Christmas)
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Friday: **Saint Stephen, The First Martyr**
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 21, 2025

Drop down dew from above,
you heavens, and let the
clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened
and bring forth a Savior. — *cf. Isaiah*



Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 20 & 21, 2025

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

We, as the Family of St. Stephen, are truly blessed again to witness the presence of "Emmanuel, God is with us." He has come, He has conquered death. He is one of us and He is with us as He promised. Working together as a family, developing and sharing our talents, abilities and resources, we become the compassionate and empowering heart of Jesus to the needy of our community. The thousands of caring hours that our parish volunteers and our partners from other Parishes so generously donate every day, offer a "little more love," "a little more Christmas;" a message that helps us believe in the love of God.

I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to you all for loving, caring and supporting our beloved St. Stephen Family. May you all know that your generous contributions have enabled us to remain open, and now we look forward with great hope to your continued support and presence during this Christmas season and in many years to come.

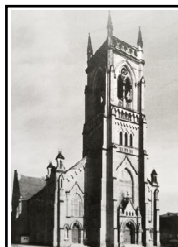
~ Fr. Caroli and Staff

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!*

DECEMBER 14, 2025 OFFERTORY COLLECTION

General Collection	\$1,141.00
Children	\$2.50
Building Fund	\$45.00
Candles	\$91.00
Christmas Flowers	\$5.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$4,336.00
Food Pantry	\$150.00
General Donation	\$1,275.00
Immaculate Conception	\$142.00
Tower Lighting	\$250.00
Utilities	\$10.00
Mission Appeal: Apostles of Jesus	\$3,234.00
Diocesan: Retirement Fund	\$232.00

Thank you all for your generosity!



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!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Ray Ardire	Dianna Hosta	Tom O'Donnell
Doris Bealis	Kiki Kelley	Christopher A. Park
Berly Blankenship	Kai Kirk	Paul
Thomas John Cables	Jim	Greg Ray and Family
Ruth Casto	Joe Kolecki	Herb Rielinger
Rosemary Diemer	Kosmerl Family	Herb Rodriguez
Martin Eland	Karen Kranstueber	Rick Salvatore
Karen Fisher	Fr. Kropac	Irene Schroeder
Kyoko Fry	Sr. Jane Lab	Maureen Sciarrino
Harry Tom Graef	Sr. Linda	Michael Sherman
Robert Gunn	Ruth Martin	Glenn Sneed
Susan Hatta	Maureen Masterson	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	

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

Pro-Life

Mass for the Gift of Human Life – January 23, 2026

Join us for the **Mass for the Gift of Human Life** on **Friday, January 23 at 10:00 AM** at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. **Bishop Edward C. Malesic** will be the celebrant as our diocesan community gathers in prayerful solidarity with those participating in the national pro-life events in Washington, D.C. **Groups are asked to register using the QR code** so that reserved seating can be arranged; individuals and families do not need to register. Contact Tony Dipre (director, Office for Human Life) with any questions: tdipre@dioceseofcleveland.org; 216.696.6525 ext. 2335.



MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2025

Sun, Dec 21	Schola Practice (CR)	8:00am
Mon, Dec 22	Decorate Church (C)	10:00am
Wed, Dec 24	Parish Office	Closed
Thurs, Dec 25	Parish Office	Closed
	RCIA/OCIA	Cancelled
Fri, Dec 26	Parish Office	Closed
	Wedding Rehearsal (C)	5:00pm
Sat, Dec 27	Wedding (C)	2:00pm

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

Parish Announcements

Apostles of Jesus Mission Appeal



We wish to extend a very special thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful generosity in support of the Apostles of Jesus during this Advent season!

Your generosity allows the apostolate to continue its ministerial works of Evangelization, Parish Ministry, Clinical Pastoral Care, Hospital Chaplaincy, Nursing Homes/Aids formation of Lay Leaders and helps educate the many vocations in the society of the Apostles of Jesus in Africa.

If you were unable to attend Mass last Sunday due to the weather, there is still time to make a donation. To donate by check, please make your check payable to St. Stephen with the designation of "Apostles of Jesus" on the Memo line. Mail it in or drop it into any collection basket at Mass. To donate online, please go to the parish website — ststephencleveland.org — click on the "Giving" tab or scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Schedule a Gift". Click on "Fund" field, choose "General Donation" and add "Apostles of Jesus" in the Memo field.

God bless you abundantly for your sacrifice and generosity!

— Fr. Caroli Shao, A.J. and Fr. Ben Koka, A. J.

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!



News from the Pews

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Nicolette Osmun, who were united in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday, December 27, 2025!



St. Vincent de Paul Ministry



Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest. The Savior of the world comes for the people in dark places. The real, lasting, and deep joy is that the Light shines

there. Through your gift to at-risk mothers and infants, "Light" shines bringing real, lasting and deep joy to the hearts of the poor. You "give back" in gratitude for the bounty shown to you. Take an ornament from the tree. Purchase the item and gift wrap it with the ornament attached to the outside! Place it under the Giving Tree before year end, December 30th.

The Cleveland Pregnancy Center will be picking up the gifts from St. Stephen during the first week of the new year. *Thank you for assisting us and for your continued generosity in this spiritual ministry at Christmas!*

Safety at our Masses

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

We have a Security Guard on our church property for all of the 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.

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!



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.

Outreach Ministry

The St. Stephen Outreach Ministry Food Pantry served **70** patrons on Thursday, December 18th from our Food Pantry.

Our Food Pantry is open from 9:30am-12:00pm on the last Thursday of every month.

Thank you to everyone who donates to this essential Ministry!



CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

The St. Stephen Outreach Ministry extends our sincerest gratitude to St. Bernadette Parish's "adopt-a-family program" for their generous contribution of \$4,290.00 in WalMart/Target gift cards.

That donation helped provide a Christmas dinner and gifts for **20** families. **Thank you** for your continued support and generous spirit of our inner city Parish!



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



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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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for more information

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10% goes to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre