



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 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph — December 27 & 28, 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 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 † Joy Seth Hurd, III

Monday, December 29, 2025—Church

Fifth Day Within The Octave of Christmas

6:30 PM Bryce Albertson

Tuesday, December 30, 2025

Sixth Day Within The Octave of Christmas

6:45 AM English Mass (Church) † Robert Bolan

6:30 PM (Rectory Chapel) Michelle Boysko

Wednesday, December 31, 2025—Church

Vigil of The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

4:00 PM Glenn Boysko

Thursday, January 1, 2025—Church

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

9:30 AM English Mass — Paul and Wendy Sliman

11:00 AM † Maryanne Sutherland

Friday, January 2, 2025—Church

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church

10:00 AM English Mass (1st Friday) Fr. S. Michael Franz

Saturday, January 3, 2025—Church

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

9:30 AM English Mass (1st Saturday) Thomas J. Cables

Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 PM Jennifer Boysko

Sunday, January 4, 2025—Church

The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM Eric Boysko

11:00 AM German — Edwin Moore

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 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		

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 3, 2026 — JANUARY 4, 2026**

	<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	Ursula Keck / Kevin Young
EM:	Jean Gandee		Diana Lipfird
Acolyte:	Ben Kost		

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28, 2025

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
Thursday: **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**
Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Saturday: [The Most Holy Name of Jesus]
1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Jn 1:29-34

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

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

Continued on page 3

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph — December 27 & 28, 2025

2026 New Year Message

Heavenly Father, it's with sincere faith that we dare to come together as a family before you on this special day (first day) of the year. We have all sufficient reasons to thank you Father, for all the graces and blessings you bestowed on each one of us last year and other past years; and now beseech you gracious God to continue ushering more blessings upon each one of us as we begin this New Year 2026.

Dear Parishioners and friends of St. Stephen family, let us continue working together in promoting the spirit of New Evangelization through the Intercession of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. I call upon each one of us to come out and exercise God's given talents for the growth of our Parish and for the realization of His Kingdom. Permit me to use the words of the Scripture "Father may they be one as I and you are one....." John 17:21. In this New Year let us get together in the spirit of love, faith, unity, peace, hope and forgiveness. In this way be sure of God's abundant blessings upon our church, family, community, nation and our places of work.

Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Pray for us.

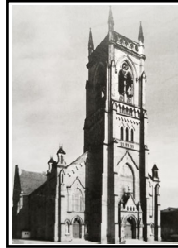
Fr. Caroli B. Shao A.J. and Staff

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

DECEMBER 21, 2025 OFFERTORY COLLECTION

General Collection	\$1,239.00
Building Fund.....	\$545.00
Candles	\$95.00
Christmas.....	\$100.00
Christmas Flowers	\$100.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$2,722.12
Food Pantry	\$1,000.00
General Donation	\$150.00
Immaculate Conception	\$100.00
Tower Lighting.....	\$5.00
Utilities	\$20.00
Mission Appeal: Apostles of Jesus.....	\$1,450.00
Diocesan: Retirement Fund	\$1,490.00

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:

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 28, 2025

Sun, Dec 28	Schola Practice (CR)	8:00am
Wed, Dec 31	Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary (C)	4:00pm
	Parish Office	Closed
Thurs, Jan 1	The Solemnity of Mary (C).....	9:30am & 11:00am
	Parish Office	Closed
	RCIA/OCIA	Cancelled
Fri, Jan 2	1st Friday Mass (C)	10:00am
	Parish Office	Closed
Sat, Jan 3	1st Saturday Mass (C).....	9:30am
	Lecture	Cancelled

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

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 31st. *Thank you your continued generosity in this spiritual ministry at Christmas!*



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.

Outreach Ministry

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank the volunteers and all the generous donors from the St Stephen family of parishioners and friends to our Outreach Ministry Program. Through your contributions of time, monetary and food donations, we were able to serve **700** families this past year! To better understand our Outreach Ministry, here is a synopsis of our programs:

Food Pantry — The Food Pantry distribution is the last Thursday of each month from 930am - 12 Noon. The families receive 3 bags of groceries and either one pound of ground meat or chicken breast every month, a 10.00 gift card to the Dollar Store every other month and donated personal items if available.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday distribution — Thanks to a very generous donor, Gift cards, in the amount of \$25.00 are donated to the families at the holiday pantry distribution days.

Adopt-a-Family Christmas Gift Card Program — Our Sister Parish, St Bernadette of Westlake, has supported the Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program with very generous gift cards for 20 families -- 10 families from Metro Catholic School and 10 families from the parish and neighborhood. Along with the Outreach funds, cards are distributed according to the number of children and adults in the family. This would not be possible without the support of St. Bernadette and the Knights of Columbus from that parish.

House of Champions — The House of Champions is a non profit after-school program, founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame, Ursuline Sisters and the Sisters of the Holy Trinity. The House of Champions provides a nurturing and safe family-like environment where children in grades two through four can thrive with additional opportunities to learn life skills and gain confidence to succeed. The House of Champions is located on West 47th Street. St. Stephen Outreach provides volunteer dinner meals four times a year for 10-12 children in the after school program. We also donate \$500.00 to their annual fund raiser. It is a wonderful program.

The Outreach programs are funded SOLEY by contributions. Our budget each year to provide the services above is approximately \$24,000.00. Through the grace of God and our faithful supporters, we have been able to maintain our mission to assist our clients in giving them support when needed.

Merry Christmas! Thank you all and may God bless you and your families with a Happy and Healthy New Year!!

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 New Year 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.

Parish Council

Your St. Stephen Parish Council has had another busy year, supporting and advising Fr. Caroli on building a sustainable community within our beloved St. Stephen Church. In keeping with this focus, your Council actively engaged with the Diocese to advocate for our parishioners' desire to keep the Traditional Latin Mass at St. Stephen. Working together with Fr. Caroli as a parish community, we achieved our two-year extension.

The Council's community concentration is visibly demonstrated by annual events like the Lenten Fish Fry and the Parish Picnic, as well as ongoing efforts like the maintenance and improvement of the parish gardens. But did you know that Council members also provide leadership for our RCIA/OCLA and Confirmation classes? Commitment to all of these important endeavors, and more, helps knit the fabric of our vibrant parish community.

Interested in contributing to these efforts? We welcome new volunteers to enhance the good work of the dedicated individuals currently serving on Parish Council. Consider investing just a couple of hours each month to strengthening our parish! Contact the parish office at (216) 631-5633 for more information.

Your St. Stephen Parish Council wishes you a blessed Christmas and very happy New Year!

Parish Announcements

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

VIGIL—New Year's Eve
Wednesday, December 31st
English Mass 4:00 pm

New Year's Day
Thursday, January 1st
No Confessions
English Mass 9:30 am
English Mass 11:00 am

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Our Church is beautifully decorated for the Christmas Season! We wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to the volunteers who worked several hours to decorate our Church for the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas). They put in their time and talents to make our church very beautiful and to enhance our liturgies. **THANK YOU!**



Pictured from left to right:

Front Row: Fr. Caroli Shao and IMO † Maryanne Sutherland

Middle Row: Pat Torter, Tina Vehar, Deanna Taborosi,
Paula McClain, Rachel Popa

Back Row: Glenn Rollins, Ben Kost, Gail Schmidt, Athanase Bizige
Herb Mausser



Thank you to Julio Castro and Glenn Rollins who have set up the Nativity Scene for many, many years and for their dedication and love of St. Stephen!

THANK YOU to all those who sacrificed their time this past year, and for those whose joyful efforts made our Christmas Season so beautiful and heartwarming — All of our Sacristan Volunteers, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers/Acolytes, the Church Easter and Christmas Decorating Crews, the St. Stephen Organist, Cantors, and Repair Craftsmen, the Latin Mass Schola Directors and Schola Members, the German Mass Volunteers and Choir Members, the Outreach Committee and Donors, St. Stephen and St. Bernadette Food Pantry Volunteers, the St. Vincent de Paul Ministers, Parishioners who purchased Christmas gifts for the Cleveland Pregnancy Center, Members of the Parish Council, Finance and Fundraising Committees, the St. Stephen PSR Teacher, the Offertory Count Team, our Live Stream Technician, the Bread Ministry Volunteers, the Latin Mass Social Coordinator and Volunteers, the Gardening Crew Volunteers, the Maintenance Staff, the Church Cleaning volunteers, the St. Stephen Alumni Association, the Fish Fry Crew, the Society of Saint Stephen and Gesu Parish, the St. Bernadette Knights of Columbus, and St. Bernadette Parishioners, Monica's Flowers, Litescapes Outdoor Lighting, Stepowoy Family, Joe Londrico Family, Buehner Office Supply, D3 Electric, and all the other St. Stephen Parishioners, Donors and Volunteers who selflessly and anonymously offered their time, talent and treasure in service to our Lord and to our Church. Most of all, **THANK YOU** for the love we share with each other, our neighborhood and our Parish Community. May God's gift of the peace and joy of Christmas be yours in abundance!



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

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Contact us for all your real estate needs

Dianna Hosta
440-785-6800
dianna@diannasellshomes.com

Rick Salvatore
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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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