



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 Lent — February 28 and March 1, 2026

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, February 28, 2026—Church

Vigil of the Second Sunday of Lent

5:00 PM † Fran Corbin

Sunday, March 1, 2026—Church

Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Bryce Albertson

11:00 AM German — † Thomas Hayne

Monday, March 2, 2026—Rectory Chapel

Lenten Weekday

6:30 PM † James Polewchak

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM Latin Mass (Church) † Vincent DeMio

6:30 PM (Rectory Chapel) Charles Myers

Wednesday, March 4, 2026—Church

Lenten Weekday

5:00-8:00 PM Evening of Confession

6:30 PM † Donna Marie Rego

Thursday, March 5, 2026—Church

Lenten Weekday

6:30 PM Latin Mass — Joshua Schmidt

Friday, March 6, 2026—Church

Lenten Weekday

6:30 PM (1st Friday) Holy Souls in Purgatory

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 7, 2026—Church

Lenten Weekday

9:30 AM Latin Mass (1st Saturday) David "Dutch" Myers

Vigil of the Third Sunday of Lent

5:00 PM † Mario Pekar

Sunday, March 8, 2026—Church

Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM †† Elizabeth and James Conway

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 LENT FEBRUARY 28, 2026 — MARCH 1, 2026

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin
Lector:	Glenn Sneed	Elaine Ann Cara	Tony & Katie Ganzer
EM:	Jean Gandee		Diana Lipfird
Acolyte:	Ben Kost		Ralph Capistrano

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 7, 2026 — MARCH 8, 2026

	<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	Lou Ockunzzi	Jerry Nowesnick
EM:	Jean Gandee		Dianna Hosta
Acolyte:	Ben Kost		Ralph Capistrano

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 1, 2025

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Ray Ardire	Jim	Kazuyuki Nagashima
Doris Bealis	Kiki Kelley	Jessie Noelker
Berly Blankenship	Kai Kirk	Tom O'Donnell
Janina Bruozis	Joe Kolecki	Maria Papp
Thomas John Cables	Katharina Kosmalski	Christopher A. Park
Ruth Casto	Kosmerl Family	Paul
Julio Castro	Karen Kranstueber	Greg Ray and Family
Rosemary Diemer	Fr. Kropac	Herb Rielinger
Martin Eland	Sr. Jane Lab	Herb Rodriguez
Karen Fisher	Sr. Linda	Rick Salvatore
Kyoko Fry	Ruth Martin	Irene Schroeder
Harry Tom Graef	Maureen Masterson	Maureen Sciarriano
Susan Hatta	Chuck Matias	Michael Sherman
Tadaaki Hatta	Katie McClain	Glenn Sneed
Raymond Hawley	Rob McClain	Sharon 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	Mother and Daughter	Devon Zink
Dianna Hosta	in Crisis	

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

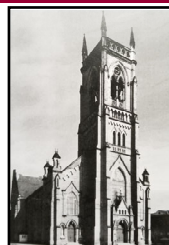
First Responder—Lt. Timothy Maffo-Judd

Second Sunday of Lent — February 28 and March 1, 2026

REFLECTION

The Gospel of the Second Sunday of Lent presents the Divinity of Jesus in His Glorious Transfiguration. In the presence of the three Apostles and the prophets, a voice from the cloud said, "This is My Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." In the first reading, Abram also heard a voice which said, "Go from the land of your kinsfolk and from the Father's house to a new land that I will show you." Abram obeyed the voice of the Lord and his obedience and faith became a model for us. To share in the glorious life of Jesus, we are called to listen to Him. The way of Jesus among other things includes sacrifice for others, rejection, persecution, forgiveness, care for the marginalized, death, and Resurrection. The Transfiguration of the Lord is a source of encouragement for us that the road to Salvation involves challenges and hardships. The Season of Lent is an opportune moment for us to listen to the voice of Christ in the cries of the hungry, the sick, the lonely, strangers, homeless, etc. The same voice of Christ in this season is directed to us to return to the Merciful Father through His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

~ Fr. Benjamin Koka, A.J.



The Tower Lights are being illuminated during the month of March
In Memory Of
† **Herbert Mausser**
1927 – 2016

Please remember him in your prayers!

Treasures and Traditions

The Second Sunday of Lent every year recalls the Transfiguration of the Lord. Since the fourth century, Mount Tabor has been the focus of devotion to this event. As mountains go, it is not particularly lofty, rising about fifteen hundred feet, within view of the Sea of Galilee and very close to Nazareth. Scripture doesn't identify the mountain, but in the year 348 Saint Cyril of Jerusalem said he preferred Mount Tabor to Mount Hermon as the site of the Transfiguration, and his opinion won. It has long been a strategic military site, and ancient fortresses are visible on the heights. Over the centuries, churches and fortified monasteries rose on the mountaintop, only to be destroyed by various invaders. Six hundred years ago, local Christians started to decorate the ruins with flags and banners on the Feast of the Transfiguration. In 1631, the Sultan granted permission to the Franciscans to live on Mount Tabor, and they have been there ever since, discovering the ruins of an old Crusader church and constructing the present church on the site in 1924.

The top of the mountain is divided into Greek Orthodox and Latin zones. At one time, tourists arrived on the summit by bus, but this is no longer permitted. Some ride bicycles up a challenging and winding path, while others take the four thousand three hundred steps constructed for Christian pilgrims in the fourth century. It's hard to imagine the fishermen following Jesus up this craggy mountain without complaint. Visitors will sympathize with Peter's plan to construct booths and stay put with Jesus, Moses, and Elijah for a while, enjoying the view, and planning the trip back down.—Rev. James Field

Pro-Life



The Catholic Conference of Ohio testified in support of House Bill 347 (R-Odioso | R-Williams) to enact the Share the Health and Empower With Informed Notices (SHE WINS) Act regarding abortion informed consent. The Catholic Church accompanies pregnant women in need through authentic friendship and ongoing support. "Community-based efforts such as Walking with Moms in Need connect women with resources and assistance, helping them to simultaneously welcome their children and achieve their goals," testified CCO. The testimony continued, "HB 347 ensures women are informed of alternatives, the availability of medical assistance benefits that may be available for prenatal, birth, and postpartum care, and ensures that she is fully informed about the nature of the procedure, any associated risks, and receives information on the status of any risks associated with her pregnancy. To read more, go to: <https://www.ohiocathconf.org/>

The Second Sunday of Lent March 1, 2026

From the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."
— Matthew 17:5



FEBRUARY 22, 2026 OFFERTORY COLLECTION

General Collection.....	\$808.00
Children	\$8.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$606.00
Candles.....	\$105.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$14,297.16
General Donation.....	\$50.00
Utilities	\$20.00
Diocesan: Black and Indian Missions.....	\$687.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF MARCH 1, 2026

Sun, Mar 1	Schola Practice (CR).....	8:00am
	German Social (R).....	after 11:00am Mass
Thurs, Mar 5	RCIA/OCIA (SFR)	6:30pm
Fri, Mar 6	Fish Fry (School Cafeteria).....	4:30-7:00pm
	1st Friday English Mass (C)	6:30pm
	Stations of the Cross (C)	7:00pm
Sat, Mar 7	1st Saturday Latin Mass (C)	9:30am
	Latin Lecture (CR)	after 9:30am Mass

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

Parish Announcements

News from the Pews

CONDOLENCES TO...

Ewald Trucks, David Duncan, Christina and Gus Rivera, Steve Rivera, family and friends on the passing of parishioner, **Evelyn Germaine Trucks**, on February 26, 2026.



The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday, March 5th at 11:00am**. Family will receive friends on **Wednesday, March 4th from 4:00pm-8:00pm** at Craciun Berry Funeral Home, 7200 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland 44102.

Evelyn volunteered and faithfully served our parish for many years. She was a supportive Alumni member (Grade School 1951 —High School 1955); a Member of the Renew Bible Study Group (1987); Vice President of the Altar & Rosary Society; Member of the Legion of Mary; and President of the Pro-Life Group. She served as Sacristan and Lector at Mass. She was a conversant greeter at weekend Masses welcoming everyone at the front entrance of the Church. She assisted at funerals and weddings regularly. She selflessly volunteered time on Parish Committees —Fish Fry, Fundraising, Church Cleaning, and Church Decorating for seasonal celebrations. Evelyn was an active member of the Servite Order for many years. For those of us whose lives she touched, we will miss her very much.

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.

SIXTH ANNUAL PIEROGI FUNDRAISER

We are once again offering the same wonderful Sue's Pierogis you've enjoyed at past fish fries. These homemade pierogis will be fully cooked. Take them home and heat them up, add some sautéed onions and sour cream and you can have a little taste of our annual Lenten Fish Fry. You may place your order either by Order Form (at exits of the Church) or via Email. There is **one** last opportunity to place your order.

PIEROGI SELECTIONS (sold by the dozen)

Savory Pierogi: Potato / Potato with Cheese /
Potato with Onion / Sauerkraut

Sweet Pierogi: Cottage Cheese / Lekvar-Prune filled

Cost: \$15.00/baker's dozen — Accepting Cash or Check (make checks payable to St. Stephen Church)

Second Order Form deadline: Sunday, March 8th

Second Email order deadline: Wednesday, March 11th

Second Order pick up: Friday, March 20th

Paper Order Forms are located at the exits of the church.

Completed forms **with payment** can be placed in the collection basket. **Email Orders** can be sent to: ststephendh@gmail.com.

Provide your name, phone number, type of pierogi you want, and the quantity. (i.e. Potato with Cheese / 1 dozen). **Payment due at pick up. Order Pick Up:** from 4:30pm to 7:00pm at the St. Stephen Fish Fry....located in the Michael Building Cafeteria.

Food Pantry

The St. Stephen Outreach Ministry served **52** families on Thursday, February 26th from our Food Pantry. Our Food Pantry is open from 9:30am—12:00 Noon on the last Thursday of every month.



Thank you to all who donate to this much needed Ministry. And, thank you to those who have generously volunteered their time to assist those most in need!

Fish Fry Volunteers Needed!

Our Annual Fish Fry has been a tradition here at St. Stephen Parish during the Lenten Season for over 30 years. Initially started as a way to bring our own parishioners together during the Holy Season of Lent, it has grown to include visitors from all over the Cleveland Diocese who not only partake in the Fish Fry, but who come to tour our historic church and to pray the Stations of the Cross with us.

Help is needed EVERY FRIDAY during Lent for set-up, serving line, tray delivery, and clean-up. Please call or text Herb at (216) 402-7437 to VOLUNTEER and assist us with this Lenten tradition here at St. Stephen Parish!

Around the Diocese

Bringing America Back to Life Convention



Scott Klusendorf
Friday, March 13th



Lara Logan
Saturday, March 14th

Registration is Now Open!
bringingamericabacktolife.org

The Bringing America Back to Life Convention is the premier Diocesan-wide pro-life event: 2 jam-packed days filled with the nation's top speakers, workshops, and exhibitors. To discover more about this must-see event, view the impressive line-up of speakers, and register for "In-Person" or "Live-Stream" options, visit <https://bringingamericabacktolife.org/> or call (216) 246-9127. Join us **March 13-14** as we Bring America Back to Life!

The Behold Retreat is a mother-daughter retreat (any mother-daughter-like relationship) designed specifically for adult and teen women in the spirit of Mary's fiat. The retreat will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine on Saturday, **March 21** from 10am to 4pm.

The theme for 2026 is "Behold Friendship" with keynote speaker, Maggie Craig, author of Friendship Reset. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Damian Ference.

Registration is now open. Only 150 tickets will be sold. More information can be found at tobcle.org/behold



2026 Lenten Season

2026 ST. STEPHEN LENTEN FISH FRY EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT EXCEPT GOOD FRIDAY



The Fish Fry will be in full swing from 4:30pm — 7:00pm with all of your favorites from the past. The Fish Fry will continue to be served on these Fridays during Lent: **March 6, 13, 20 & 27**. The menu is located on the back table in the Church and is listed at ststephencleveland.org. Enjoy a good meal with good company!

Meals will be served in the school cafeteria in the building just south of the Convent Building, 1891 W. 57th St. Access the cafeteria from the church parking lot off of W. 57th St. Signs will be posted. If you can't stay to eat in, all dinners and side orders are available for take-out.

Want to get involved?

- Volunteer a few hours of your time to help make the Fish Fry a big success! On-site helpers are welcome any time between 2:30 and 7:30pm each Friday. Call or text Herb at (216) 402-7437 for more information.
- Pastry donations (home-baked or store-bought) are always welcome. Drop them off at the church during business hours on Thursday or Friday, or call the rectory at (216) 631-5633 Wednesday to arrange a pick-up, or bring your donation when you come to the Fish Fry!

2026 DIOCESAN-WIDE EVENING OF CONFESSION

The 2026 diocesan-wide Evening of Confession will take place on Wednesday, **March 4, 2026** from 5-8 p.m.

GUIDE ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Abstinence:

Begins on one's 14th birthday.
Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.
Abstain from meat.

Days of Fast:

Applies to everyone aged 18 to 59, inclusive.
Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
One full meal permitted and two other meals may be taken which, when combined, are less than a full meal.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and celebrate more readily His Resurrection.

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) RICE BOWL

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition. CRS Rice Bowl is one way Catholics can enhance their Lenten fasting practice by giving up meals and donating the cost of those meals to Catholic Relief Services in order to help those who do not have enough to eat.



Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl today from the table in the back of the church, and begin engaging your family in the daily pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Visit crsricebowl.org for more information

LENT AND EASTER SCHEDULE

March 4	5:00 PM—8:00 PM Evening of Confession
March 6	6:30 PM English Mass (1st Friday) 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
March 13	5:00 PM English Mass 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross
March 20	5:00 PM English Mass 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross
March 27	5:00 PM English Mass 5:30 PM Stations of the Cross
March 29	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 8:00 AM English Mass 9:15 AM Procession — <i>No Confessions</i> 11:00 AM English Mass
April 1	Wednesday in Holy Week 6:30 PM Latin Mass Tenebrae to follow
April 2	Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper 7:00 PM English Mass (Adoration until Midnight)
April 3	Good Friday 2:00 PM Stations of the Cross 3:00 PM Passion of our Lord
April 4	Holy Saturday 8:30 PM English Mass
April 5	Easter Sunday <i>Cancelled</i> 8:00 AM Mass <i>No Confessions</i> 9:30 AM Latin Mass 11:00 AM English Mass



LENTEN SEASON SPIRITUAL GUIDES

Copies of the **Magnificat Lenten Companion** are available to help enhance your spiritual journey during this Lenten Season. Pick up your copy today as you exit Church after Mass.

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
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brookparksalvatore@gmail.com



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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
Ursuline Sisters (Pepper Pike/Mayfield) 440-449-1200, ext. 103

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for more information

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