



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 Lent — March 7 and 8, 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:

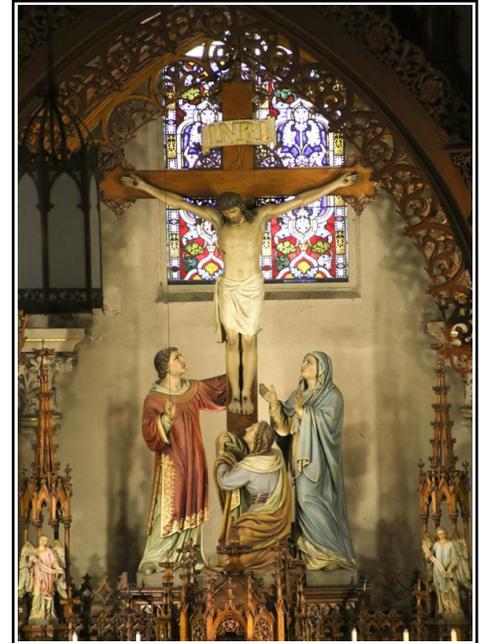
Maureen Easley

Metro Catholic Parish School

1910 West 54th Street
216-281-4044

Sisters of Notre Dame Convent

1891 West 57th Street
216-631-0754



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

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, March 7, 2026—Church

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

Monday, March 9, 2026—Rectory Chapel

Lenten Weekday

6:30 PM †† Emily and Jerry Wuensch

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM Latin Mass (Church) † Justin Weegar

6:30 PM (Rectory Chapel) †† Coletta and Robert Spuhler

Wednesday, March 11, 2026—Church

Lenten Weekday

6:30 PM † Chip Meitin

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

Thursday, March 12, 2026—Church

Lenten Weekday

6:30 PM Latin Mass — †† Wilma and Bill Ebert

Friday, March 13, 2026—Church

Lenten Weekday

5:00 PM † Francis Boysko

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 14, 2026—Church

Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Lent

5:00 PM † Anthony Chresos

Sunday, March 15, 2026—Church

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

8:00 AM All Aborted Children

11:00 AM † Mary Conway

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 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 14, 2026 — MARCH 15, 2026

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin	Fr. Benjamin
Lector:	John Maier	Chris Haddock	Matt Minarik
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 8, 2025

Sunday:	Ex 17:3-7/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

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

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 Lent — March 7 and 8, 2026

REFLECTION

The story of the Samaritan woman in the Gospel of today, teaches us that God loves us despite our broken lives. God values us enough to actively seek us, to welcome us to intimacy, and to rejoice in our worship. Because of Jesus' conversation, only a person like the Samaritan woman, an outcast from her own people, could understand what this means. To be wanted, to be cared for when no one, not even herself, could see anything of value in her—this is grace indeed. She went to a well which was deep, but limited, however, unlimited was her thirst for happiness and love. The challenge is how often we seek the infinite, the eternal, well-being but sadly continue to seek it in a well, in a reality, the earthly reality, which is incapable to contain it. How many wells, deep but empty, how many wells of stagnant and dirty water, we have met on our way! We carry within us, massive desires and easily mislead ourselves that we can meet them. On our path of conversion, what a great grace it is to find the Lord Jesus waiting patiently for us beside our meaningless wells. When, like the Samaritan woman, we are tired of the things of this world, of almost empty wells, then the Divine Master is especially close to us. He asks us to give Him something to drink, He asks us to trust Him to appease our heart and if we trust in Him, we discover the joy of finding the true well, the source of true living water.

~ Fr. Caroli Shao, 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 Third Sunday of Lent is called *Oculi* from the first word of the Introit. In the primitive Church, it was called *Scrutiny Sunday*, because it was on this day that they began to examine the Catechumens, who were to be admitted to Baptism on Easter night. All the Faithful were invited to assemble in the Church, in order that they might bear testimony to the good life and morals of the candidates. At Rome, these examinations, which were called the *Scrutinies*, were made on seven different occasions, on account of the great number of aspirants to Baptism; but the principal *Scrutiny* was that held on the Wednesday of the Fourth Week....

The Roman Sacramentary of St. Galasius gives us the form in which the Faithful were convoked to these assemblies. It is as follows. "Dearly beloved Brethren: you know that the day of Scrutiny, when our elect are to receive the holy instruction, is at hand. We invite you, therefore, to be zealous and to assemble on N., (*here, the day was mentioned*), at the hour of Sext; that so we may be able, by the divine aid, to achieve, without error, the heavenly mystery, whereby is opened the gate of the kingdom of heaven, and the devil is excluded with all his pomps." The invitation was repeated, if needed, on each of the following Sundays. The *Scrutiny* of this Sunday ended in the admission of a certain number of candidates: their names were written down and put on the *Diptychs* of the Altar, that they might be mentioned in the Canon of the Mass. The same also was done with the names of their Sponsors.

The Station was, and still is, in the Basilica of Saint Laurence *outside the walls*.* The name of this, the most celebrated of the Martyrs of Rome, would remind the Catechumens that the Faith they were about to profess would require them to be ready for many sacrifices. — <https://sensufidelium.com/the-liturgical-year-dom-prosper-gueranger/len/third-sunday-of-lent/>.

*For more information of Saint Laurence (San Lorenzo fuori le Mura), go to <https://www.pnac.org/station-churches/week-3/sunday-san-lorenzo-fuori-le-mura/>

Pro-Life

Founded in 1968, the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the federation of affiliates in each of the 50 states, is the nation's oldest and largest grassroots pro-life organization. National Right to Life works through legislation and education to protect innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, and euthanasia.

The Status of Abortion in the United States 2026 is National Right to Life's 13th annual report and is available at <https://nrlc.org/communications/new-status-of-abortion-in-the-united-states-2026-report/>

Upcoming Collection

The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Collection will be held next weekend—**March 14th-15th**. The CRS Collection supports six Catholic organizations (Catholic Relief Services; USCCB Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development; USCCB Migration and Refugee Services; Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.; USCCB Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church; and the Holy Father's Relief Fund) that advance the international social ministry of the Catholic Church. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Diocesan Social Action Office Director Shawn Witmer at 216-316- 9544.

MARCH 1, 2026

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

General Collection.....	\$1,693.00
Building Fund.....	\$45.00
Candles.....	\$125.00
Ecclesia Nostra.....	\$2,795.00
Music Ministry.....	\$50.00
Utilities.....	\$207.00
Diocesan: Black and Indian Missions.....	\$50.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF MARCH 8, 2026

Sun, Mar 8	Schola Practice (CR)..... 8:00am
	Latin Social (CR)..... after 9:30am Mass
Thurs, Mar 12	RCIA/OCIA (SFR)..... 6:30pm
Fri, Mar 13	Fish Fry (School Cafeteria)..... 4:30-7:00pm
	English Mass (C)..... 5:00pm
	Stations of the Cross (C)..... 5:30pm

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

Parish Announcements

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. If you want to purchase enough for the Lenten season, they can be frozen.

You will be able to place your order either by Order Form (found in back of 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 back 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.

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!

CONFIRMATION

SHRINE OF SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

Confirmation will be conferred in the month of June, though a date has not yet been definitively set. Preparatory catechism will begin on Sunday, March 15th, in the Upper Room. Baptized Catholics having entered the 8th grade and above are eligible. **Please note: there will be absolutely no exceptions to the minimum age.**



To register, please contact the office:

cleveland@institute-christ-king.org

Around the Diocese



THEOLOGY • ON • THE •
ROCKS • WEST
FOR ADULTS 40 & OVER

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

with Fr. Larry Ober

March 9, 2026

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

West Side Irish American Club
8559 Jennings Rd, Olmsted Township



Ignatian Spirituality is more than a style of prayer—it's a way of finding God in everyday life. Join us as Fr. Larry Ober, SJ, introduces the foundations of Ignatian Spirituality and practical tools such as the Examen, helping us grow in spiritual awareness and live more fully in God's presence. Purchase Advance Tickets at <https://www.theologyontherockswest.com/event-details>

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 Catholic Cemeteries Association offers free, safe, and compassionate monthly Grief Support meetings throughout the year. Our next gathering will be held on Sunday, **March 15** at 3:00 PM for in-person support (available at five locations throughout the Diocese) and at 5:00 PM for virtual support. This month's topics are: "Spring, Easter, and Grief: Times of Sacred Transition" and "The Loss of a Sibling." For more information or questions, call Renee at 216-930-4866.

Catholic Cemeteries Association One-Year Anniversary Masses, March 18th - 19th:

The one-year anniversary of a loved one's death can be a very difficult time. For this reason, we remember the faithful departed entrusted to our care with a Mass celebrated on or near the feast of St. Joseph (March 19th), intercessor for a peaceful passage from this life to our eternal home. This year, Mass intentions will be offered at four local parishes. For details, visit:

<https://clecem.org/Events/AnniversaryMass.aspx>

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 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!

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 an exit 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 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



The Angel Scholarship Fund (ASF) is a State of Ohio approved Scholarship Granting Organization. Turning your taxes into tuition through the Angel Scholarship Fund is a simple and easy way to make Catholic education more affordable for families throughout Northeast Ohio. Donors to ASF may be eligible for a 100% tax credit on their State of Ohio income tax return for the year the contribution is made. There is still time to act if you have yet to claim a 2025 tax credit.

<https://www.catholiccommunity.org/support/catholic-education/angel-scholarship-fund>



Parish Community Advertisements

Thinking about buying or selling?



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

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