



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 Lent — March 14 and 15, 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:

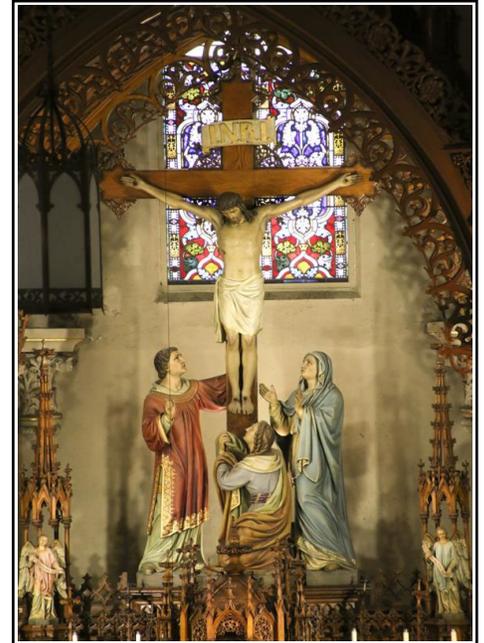
Maureen Easley

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 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

Monday, March 16, 2026—Rectory Chapel

Lenten Weekday

6:30 PM John and Isabel Tobey

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Lenten Weekday / Saint Patrick

6:45 AM Latin Mass (Church) †† John and Patricia Price

6:30 PM (Rectory Chapel) Mason Timothy Bruner

Wednesday, March 18, 2026—Church

Lenten Weekday

6:30 PM † Vilma Negron

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

Thursday, March 19, 2026—Church

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 PM Latin Mass — Scot Prescott

Friday, March 20, 2026—Church

Lenten Weekday

5:00 PM Nick Capone

5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 21, 2026—Church

Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Lent

5:00 PM † Tari Ramsey

Sunday, March 22, 2026—Church

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM † Louis Bonoan

11:00 AM †† Angelo and Irene Salvatore

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 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 21, 2026—MARCH 22, 2026

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Caroli	Fr. Caroli	Fr. Caroli
Lector:	Fred Courtright	Doris Peters	Sarah Elena
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 15, 2025

Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday:	Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/ Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

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

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent — March 14 and 15, 2026

REFLECTION

It was a big surprise for Samuel when God chose a young and unpopular shepherd, David, to be the anointed King of Israel. The explanation given to him was, “Do not judge from his appearance...., the Lord looks into the heart.” Jesus similarly told the Pharisees not to judge people as sinners because of their physical blindness. True blindness is from the heart caused by the sin of pride, lack of faith, judging others, uncharitable attitude to our neighbor, etc. He said it clearly that he has come to give light to those who live in the world of spiritual darkness. In the presence of the crowd, He enlightened a blind man who immediately recognized Jesus not only as man or Prophet, but the true Son of God. With God, transformation is possible if only our hearts are clean like that of David and opened to receive Jesus like the blind man. We should not be like the Pharisees who judge others or themselves from external appearance.

~ 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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

This Sunday, called, from the first word of the Introit, *Lætare* Sunday, is one of the most solemn of the year. The Church interrupts her Lenten mournfulness; the chants of the Mass speak of nothing but joy and consolation; the Organ, which has been silent during the preceding three Sundays, now gives forth its melodious voice; the Deacon resumes his Dalmatic, and the Subdeacon his Tunic; and instead of purple, Rose-colored Vestments are allowed to be used. These same rites were practiced in Advent, on the third Sunday, called *Gaudete*. The Church's motive for introducing this expression of joy in today's Liturgy is to encourage her Children to persevere fervently to the end of this holy Season. The real Mid-Lent was last Thursday, as we have already observed; but the Church, fearing lest the joy might lead to some infringement on the spirit of penance, has deferred her own notice of it to this Sunday, when she not only permits, but even bids, her children to rejoice!

The Station at Rome is in the Basilica of Holy Cross in Jerusalem, one of the seven principal Churches of the Holy City. It was built in the fourth century, by the Emperor Constantine, in one of his villas, called *Sessorius*, on which account it goes also under the name of the *Sessorian Basilica*. The Emperor's mother, St. Helen, enriched it with most precious relics, and wished to make it the Jerusalem of Rome. It was with this intention that she ordered a great quantity of earth, taken from Mount Calvary, to be put on the site. Among the other Relics of the Instruments of the Passion which she gave to this Church, was the Inscription which was fastened to the Cross; it is still kept there, and it called the *Title of the Cross*. The name of Jerusalem—which has been given to this Basilica, and which recalls to our minds the heavenly Jerusalem, towards which we are tending — suggested the choosing it as today's Station. Up to the fourteenth century (when Avignon became, for a time, the City of the Popes), the ceremony of the Golden Rose took place in this Church; at present, it is blessed in the Palace where the Sovereign Pontiff happens to be residing at this Season.

The blessing of the Golden Rose is one of the ceremonies peculiar to the Fourth Sunday of Lent, which is called, on this account, *Rose Sunday*. The thoughts suggested by this flower harmonize with the sentiments wherewith the Church would now inspire her Children... Hence, we cannot be surprised that the institution of this ceremony is of a very ancient date. We find it observed under the Pontificate of St. Leo IX (eleventh century); and we have a Sermon on the Golden Rose, preached by the glorious Pope Innocent III, on this Sunday, and in the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem.

To read more, go to <http://www.liturgialatina.org/lityear/>

Catholic Relief Services

Today we take up The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Collection. This 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 Director Shawn Witmer at 216-316- 9544.

MARCH 8, 2026

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

General Collection	\$1,753.00
Children	\$7.00
Ash Wednesday	\$10.00
Building Fund.....	\$45.00
Candles	\$149.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$1,950.12
Fish Fry (February 20, 2027).....	\$1,474.00
Fish Fry (February 27, 2026).....	\$1,808.00
Fish Fry (March 6, 2026).....	\$2,170.00
Food Pantry	\$50.00
General Donation	\$415.00
Music Ministry.....	\$20.00
Utilities	\$221.00
Diocesan: Black and Indian Missions.....	\$10.00
Diocesan: Catholic Relief Services	\$100.00
Diocesan: Central/Eastern Europe	\$194.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF MARCH 15, 2026

Sun, Mar 15	Schola Practice (CR)	8:00am
Thurs, Mar 19	RCIA/OCIA (SFR)	6:30pm
Fri, Mar 20	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

FINAL 2026 PIEROGI FUNDRAISER PICK-UP

If you've placed an order for pierogis, the final pick-up date is scheduled for **Friday, March 20th**. Your Pierogi order can be picked up from **4:30pm to 7:00pm** at the **St. Stephen Fish Fry located in the Michael Building Cafeteria**. **Payment is due at pick up. \$15.00/baker's dozen** – Accepting Cash or Check (make checks payable to St. Stephen Church). Thank you for your support of our annual Pierogi Fundraiser!



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 for the last two Fridays of this Fish Fry Season 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. This would be a perfect opportunity to be involved in the Diocesan Week of Service!



Around the Diocese

Join the Crusade!

Help us rent billboards throughout the Cleveland area during the month of June to proclaim the message that:

June is devoted to the
**SACRED HEART
of JESUS**

BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN

Donations can be made at:



GoFundMe



GiveSendGo

Questions or comments?
Contact Luci at (216) 598-9733

anf.org/fatima

Diocesan Week of Service

"Jesus' teaching on the primacy of love for God is clearly complemented by his insistence that one cannot love God without extending one's love to the poor. Love for our neighbor is tangible proof of the authenticity of our love for God, as the Apostle John attests: 'No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us...God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them' (1 Jn 4:12,16). The two loves are distinct yet inseparable (Dilexi Te 26)."

The Week of Service is an opportunity for parishes, schools, Catholic Charities programs, and community members to come together (March 22-28, 2026) to serve others across Northeast Ohio. Our goal is to create meaningful volunteer opportunities that reflect Catholic social teaching and strengthen our communities.

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. - John 13:34

Diocesan Week of Service March 22-28, 2026

Let's go forth in love! Service opportunities are available at Catholic Charities locations across all eight counties of the Diocese, with a range of dates and times to fit your schedule. Whether you have an hour or a full day, you can make a difference.

All people of goodwill are invited to take part in the Week of Service. Join an organized project, serve on your own, gather family and friends, or serve alongside others in your parish community.

There are many ways to get involved:

- ✓ Register for a scheduled project
- ✓ Share your personal service project
- ✓ Find participating parishes and organizations
- ✓ Download the Participant Reflection Guide and Project Planning Guide

Visit our website to learn more and **register today!**

dioceseofcleveland.org/weekofservice



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of Cleveland



Catholic
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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

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 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 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 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 — *No Confessions*
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**
Cancelled 8:00 AM Mass
No Confessions
9:30 AM Latin Mass
11:00 AM English Mass



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



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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We sell Latin Mass
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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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Call Parishioner **Matt Minarik 440-724-6363**

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10% goes to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre

