



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 Easter — April 25 and 26, 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, O.S.B.

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:

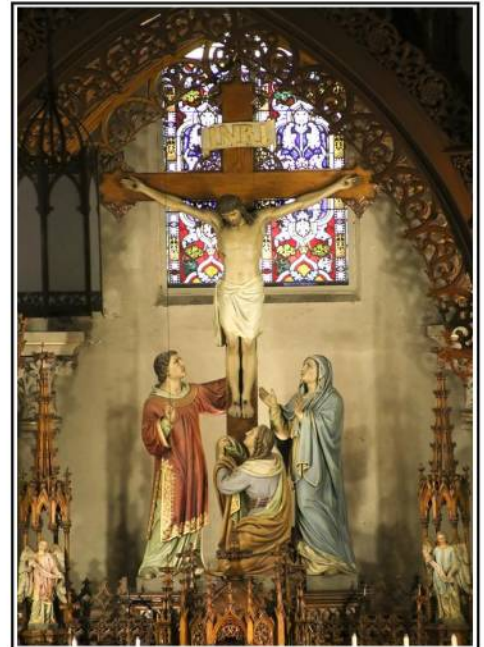
Virginija Muliolis and Teagan Webb

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.

ALL WEEKDAY MASSES ARE NOW CELEBRATED IN THE CHURCH

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Easter

5:00 PM † Russell Kamps

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM † Elizabeth O'Reilly

11:00 AM Dianna Hosta

Monday, April 27, 2026

Easter Weekday

6:30 PM Intentions of the Tran Family

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Easter Weekday

6:45 AM Latin Mass — Ronan Phillip Stack

6:30 PM † Laura McGrath

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church

6:30 PM Fr. Caroli, Fr. Ben and All Apostles of Jesus Religious

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

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Easter Weekday

6:30 PM Kathryn Decapite

Friday, May 1, 2026

Easter Weekday

6:30 PM Latin Mass (1st Friday) Thomas John Cables

Saturday, May 2, 2026

St. Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

9:30 AM Latin Mass (1st Saturday) Brian Rotsaert Family

Vigil of the Fifth Sunday of Easter

5:00 PM Tara Myers

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM Felix Stracensky

11:00 AM German — † Horst and † Herman Kinscher

†† Max and Sophie Juran

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 EASTER
APRIL 25, 2026—APRIL 26, 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	Sarah Halko
EM:	Jean Gandee		Dianna Hosta
Acolyte:	Ben Kost		Ralph Capistrano

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 2, 2026—MAY 3, 2026

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Caroli	Fr. Caroli	Fr. Caroli
Lector:	John Maier	Doris Peters	Edie Bees & Dr. Tina Waters
EM:	Glenn Sneed		Dianna Lipfird / Dianna Hosta
Acolyte:	Glenn Sneed		Ralph Capistrano

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2025

Sunday:	Acts 2:14a, 36-41/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10
Monday:	Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24—13:5a/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25/Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6 or for the optional Memorial St. Joseph the Worker — Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15,17,23-24/Mt 13:54-58
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52/Jn 14:7-14

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter — April 25 and 26, 2026

REFLECTION

The fourth Sunday is dedicated to praying for vocations to be good shepherds like Jesus. In the world there are professional thieves and robbers who do not have hearts for the sheep. Jesus challenged the Pharisees and his followers in their vocations to lead people to find green pastures. To be authentic servants, there is need to pass through Jesus to be filled with the Holy Spirit for the purification of intentions in leading the sheep of God. Vocations in the Church are not to take advantages over the sheep, neither to win public recognition, nor to seek self-satisfaction, but to point people to Jesus. The good news is that the Chief Shepherd says, "I know my own sheep by names". He is in full control and aware of our pains, discomforts, isolation, health problems, financial difficulties in this moment and the need to believe in peace and joy. The faithful sheep and servants should support one another in identifying the voice of Jesus in the midst of difficulties. In time of problems, Peter boldly called his listeners to believe and trust in Christ. In a similar note, Christians who doubt in God's love or failed in their vocations should seek forgiveness and remain faithful servants in leading others by words and good actions to the Good Shepherd.

~ Fr. Benjamin Koka, A.J.



The Tower Lights are being illuminated
during the month of April
In Honor Of
Linda Hess

Please remember her in your prayers!

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister. Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call.

God our Father, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, bless and strengthen all priests and consecrated religious with courage and perseverance. Open the hearts of many and raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons who will give themselves for your people and their needs. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

Catholic Home Missions

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its current former territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities for their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. Find more information at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Traditions and Treasures

On this Sunday, St. Gregory the Great delivered his magnificent homily on the Gospel of the Good Shepherd, near the tomb of the first universal pastor. Christ founded the papal primacy on the unshakable faith and intense love of Peter; and he, following in his Savior's steps, did not hesitate to give up his life for the flock entrusted to him.

The devotion to Jesus the Redeemer under the figure of the Good Shepherd was dear to the faithful from very early times; in the catacombs Christ is frequently represented as a shepherd. The liturgical and traditional use of the Gospel of the Good Shepherd is very old. Jesus, therefore, presents Himself to us today as the "Good Shepherd" and tells us what will henceforth be His relationship with His flock. Of those outside the fold Our Lord speaks gently; not a word of reproach but merely a statement of facts. ~ *The New Roman Missal* by Fr. F.X. Lasance

Pro-Life

"The toleration and promotion of abortion, socially and legally, has clouded individual consciences and made it difficult for many to distinguish between good and evil, even when what is at stake is the fundamental right to life. If we reject the value and dignity of human life, our culture becomes more and more based on a lie and its structures cannot long endure." (Bishop Michael W. Warfel)

"Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ... Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe"

APRIL 19, 2026

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

General Collection.....	\$1,123.00
Children	\$4.50
Easter Sunday.....	\$100.00
Building Fund.....	\$45.00
Candles	\$100.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$3,181.12
Food Pantry	\$50.00
General Donation.....	\$1,150.00
St. Vincent de Paul Ministry	\$152.00
Utilities	\$20.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2025

Sun, April 26	Schola Practice (CR).....	8:00am
Fri, May 1	Wedding Rehearsal (C).....	4:30pm
Sat, May 2	1st Saturday Mass (C).....	9:30am
	Lecture (CR)	after 9:30am
	Mass	
	Baptism (C)	12:00 Noon
	Wedding (C).....	1:30pm

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

Parish Announcements

MASS LOCATION CHANGE

All weekday Masses have been moved from the Chapel to the Church.

News from the Pews

CONDOLENCES TO...

Paula McClain, wife, and to family and friends on the passing of **Walter Robin McClain, Jr.** on April 17, 2026. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, April 27th at 11:00am at St. Stephen.

and

Steve Presley, Son, and to the family and friends of **Jeannette Presley**, who passed on April 21, 2026. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 28th at 10:00am at St. Stephen.

In your charity, please pray for their souls. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*



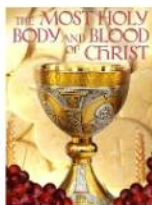
CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Mr. and Mrs. Kristopher and Samantha Foicca, who were united in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday, April 25, 2026!



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

First Holy Communicants, **Ellen Silvija Crawford, Mary Catherine Gerrity, Sean Paul Stack, and Verona Van Wert**, who will be receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the very first time on **Sunday, April 25, 2026.**



May God continue to bless them in their lives and increase in them a love for Jesus in the Eucharist!

We wish to thank **Diana Lipfird, Elaine Cara and Sarah Halko** for their dedication and commitment to our young Parishioners as they shepherded another flock of students through the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

Our PSR classes are officially closed, but will resume again this fall. Please call the Parish Office for any questions regarding our Parish School of Religion.

3rd Annual St. Stephen Flower/Plant Sale



If you missed the deadline for ordering flowers, there is still time to have a percentage of the cost of your purchase to be donated to St. Stephen. Please your order in store at **Dean's Greenhouse, 3984 Porter Rd., Westlake, Ohio 44145.** Dean's Greenhouse in-store/walk-in sale runs from **May 1st—June 25th, 2026.**

Mention St. Stephen Church when you check out and we will receive a percentage of your sale. **Thank you!**

May 3rd German Mass

Next weekend!

Sunday, May 3rd at 11:00am, the Gottscheer Heimatchor and the STV Bavaria choir will jointly sing the "Katschtaler Messe".

The Katschtaler Messe (Katsch Valley Mass) is a significant piece of sacred folk music from the Austrian state of Kärnten (Carinthia). Arranged by Hans Pleschberger, it is a "Sängermesse" deeply rooted in local regional culture. Pleschberger was born in the Katschtal in 1942 and began collecting and arranging the traditional spiritual folk songs of the region in the mid-1960s while studying music and history in Vienna. The Katschtaler Messe was published in its standardized form in 1987. Pleschberger became the leader of the Katschtaler Kirchenchor (St. Peter im Katschtal Church Choir) in 1993.



May Crowning / Mother's Day

We would like to extend a special invitation to all parishioners and guests to attend May Crowning and a celebration of all Mothers today, **Sunday, May 10th**, after the 9:30am Mass. Weather permitting, we will process from the Church to Blessed Mother's garden at the grotto and join in reciting the Litany of Loreto, the 5th Glorious Mystery of the Rosary, and the Act of Consecration to Jesus through Mary.



St. Stephen Garden Update

As May approaches, take a few minutes to enjoy the spring beauty of the Mary Garden between the church and the rectory. The Garden Committee has been pruning shrubs, pulling weeds, and generally sprucing up this gem of the parish.



The group would love to expand! Much remains to be done, in the Joseph Garden on the other side of the rectory, as well as between the church and school building.

If you would like to spend a few hours helping out, now or during the summer, please contact Herb at (216) 402-7437 (talk or text) or Herbert.Mausser@yahoo.com for more info.

2026 Save the Date!

St. Stephen Parish Picnic / Upper Edgewater Park Pavilion
Sunday, August 9, 2026: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Come join your fellow parishioners for a day of Fun, Food, Games and Celebration at Cleveland's beautiful Edgewater Park Pavilion on **Sunday, August 9, 2026.** Hope to see you there!

Around the Diocese

Lost and Found Box

If you believe you have left something behind in Church, please check the "Lost and Found" box located in the last pew (before the usher's pew) of the Church on St. Joseph's side off the main aisle. Missals that are left behind are placed in the Sacristy. Please call the parish office if you are missing your missal. Anything that is left after May 30th will either be given to the needy or tossed out.



**BIRDIES FOR BABIES:
TopGolf Edition**

Swing into action for a great cause! The 6th Annual Birdies for Babies is Thursday, April 30 at Topgolf. Enjoy two hours of golf, exciting raffle prizes, and fellowship—all while supporting Zelie's Home and the women and children it serves. Golfers \$100 | Spectators \$50. Sponsorships available. Register at www.zelieshome.org/events or scan the QR code



Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, PA will host Need a Spiritual "Lift"? Finding Joy, Celebrating Gratitude and Engaging Hope in Challenging Times with Bill Miller on May 2, 2026.

As a nation and as a world, we live in an era that seems to have more than its share of chaos, confusion and consternation. However, all is not lost! God is with us, constantly loving us completely and unconditionally. Join us as we explore some of the many ways that God's love is working within each of us to help us find joy, feel gratitude and experience the gift of a hope so profound it can only come from the Lord.

For more information, go to the VMESC website at <https://vmesc.org/>

Did you know...

THE STORY OF SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Joseph the Worker in 1955. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-joseph-the-worker/>

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic men's fraternal organization, with more than 2 million members united in faith, service, and brotherhood.

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To learn more about becoming a Knight, please contact:

Membership Director – Jerry Nowesnick
440-336-0039
nowesnick@gmail.com

Step forward. Make an impact. Join the Knights of Columbus.



In this Easter season, many of us sense a quiet invitation to something more—more space to reflect, more time to pray, or a deeper awareness of how God is at work in our lives. The Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma offers a sacred place to step away for a few days and respond to God's invitation.



Jesuit Retreat Center

An upcoming weekend retreat, Second Half of Life: Transitions (May 1–3), and 5- and 7-night directed retreats later this spring and summer offer space for prayer, reflection, and renewal. All are welcome. Learn more at

<https://www.jesuitretreatcenter.org/calendar>



Summer is right around the corner and with it comes – The FEST. Join us on Saturday, **August 15, 2026** at ForeFront Field (home of the Crushers) in

Avon for an inspiring day of faith, family and fun. It's a new location and a new date with all the wonderful things thousands from across our region have come to appreciate and enjoy on FEST day. Come for the best Contemporary Christian artists, faith-based activities, an area for the kids, meaningful displays and vendors, family-friendly food, along with opportunities for Prayer, Confession, Adoration and more. The FEST, like always, will conclude with an inspiring outdoor Mass with Bishop Malesic at 8 pm followed by an incredible American Fireworks display. Check out all the details, along with band announcements, and ticket information (\$10 per person and children 2 and under are free). There's plenty of close in parking, and the entire facility is handicap accessible. In its 26th year, The FEST again promises to be the perfect family day – a highlight of your summer. Please join us. For all the information and a complete schedule of the day, go to:

www.theFEST.us



THE FEST | AUGUST 15, 2026
AVON, OHIO
FOREFRONT FIELD
WWW.THEFEST.US

Parish Community Advertisements

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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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