



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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 26 & 27, 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:

Parish Staff

Church Secretary:

Debbie Hemphill

Church Accountant:

Russ Nieling

Maintenance:

Athanase Bizige

Organist:

Joe Kolecki

Cantors:

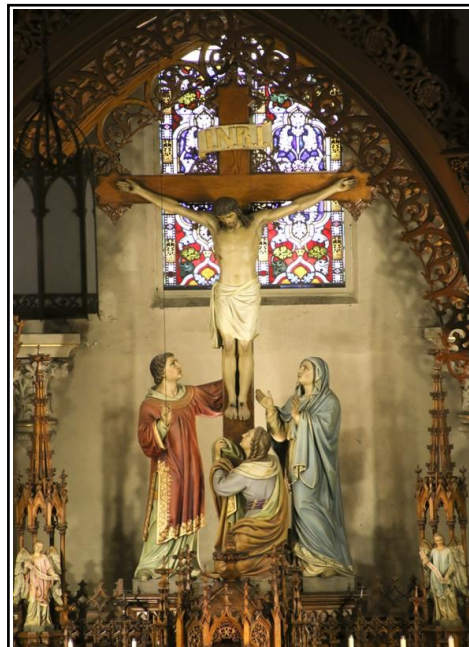
Virginija Muliolis and Teagan Webb

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.

Order 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, September 26, 2026

Vigil of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM Jackie and Andrew Turner

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM † Hedy Hammon

11:00 AM Dianna Hosta

Monday, September 28, 2026

Weekday

6:30 PM Rose Regula

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

6:45 AM † Nick Bolan

6:30 PM † Harry Minor, Jr.

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Saint Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church

6:30 PM Josh Baumann Family

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

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church

6:30 PM Bill Kness

Friday, October 2, 2026

The Holy Guardian Angels

6:30 PM † Robert Rider and Family

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Weekday

9:30 AM Latin (1st Saturday) † Phillip Smith

Vigil of the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 PM Henry Myers

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM William Kness

11:00 AM † Helene Mausser

Contact the Parish Office at 216-631-5633 to schedule a Mass intention. The customary stipend (offering) is \$10.00.



CELEBRANT & LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 — SEPTEMBER 27, 2026**

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Benjamin Russ Nieling	Fr. Januarius Elaine Ann Vergara-Martel	Fr. Caesar Sarah Halko
Lector:			
EM:	Jean Gandee		Diana Lipfird
Acolyte:	Ben Kost		Ralph Capistrano

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 3, 2026 — OCTOBER 4, 2026**

	<u>5:00PM MASS</u>	<u>8:00AM MASS</u>	<u>11:00AM MASS</u>
Celebrant:	Fr. Caesar Glenn Sneed	Fr. Januarius Doris Peters	Fr. Benjamin Ursula Keck / Kevin Young
Lector:			
EM:	Jean Gandee		
Acolyte:	Ben Kost		Ralph Capistrano

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32
 Monday: Jb 1:6-22/Lk 9:46-50
 Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/Jn 1:47-51
 Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Lk 9:57-62
 Thursday: Jb 19:21-27/Lk 10:1-12
 Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 (459)/Mt 18:1-5, 10
 Saturday: Eccl 11:9—12:8/Lk 9:43b-45

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Ray Ardire	Joe Kolecki	Gloria Parrott
James Bayne	Ann Konieczny	Gino Pascazi
Doris Bealis	Stephan Kosmalski	Herb Rielinger
Berly Blankenship	Kosmerl Family	Herb Rodriguez
Janina Bruozis	Karen Kranstueber	Rick Salvatore
Thomas John Cables	Sr. Linda	Jerry Schneider
Rosemary Diemer	Robin Manocchio	Joyce schneider
Martin Eland	Ruth Martin	Irene Schroeder
Kyoko Fry	Chelsea Mason	Maureen Sciarriano
Harry Tom Graef	Maureen Masterson	Jan Sheats
Susan Hatta	Chuck Matias	Michael Sherman
Tadaaki Hatta	Rita McDonald	Glenn Sneed
Katharina Hayne	Steve McElroy	Sharon Sneed
Barb Helon	Victoria Miller	Spencer Stadnik
Tim Hennessey	Mother and Daughter in Crisis	Les Taborosi
Debi Hess	Kazuyuki Nagashima	Fr. Albert Veigas
Agnes Hogan	Jessie Noelker	E. K. Wade
Horie Family	Tom O'Donnell	Noel Walters
Dianna Hosta	Maria Papp	Andrew Wilkolok
Kiki Kelley	Christopher A. Park	Jim Wilkolok
Kai Kirk		Devon Zink

Brother Kevin Cush—Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life

Deacon Sean Homcy—Vocation to Priesthood

Canon 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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time — September 26 & 27, 2026

REFLECTION

In the parable that makes up this Sunday's gospel passage, the father asks his two sons to take part in his business, participate in his life. One refused to go, but then recanted and went to work; the second accepted to go, but never turned up! God the Father invites us all to take part in His life, it is our decision to accept and work in the Father's vineyard. Our commitment to live the life of God needs to be continuous. As the prophet warns in the first reading, the one who starts participating but then stops, cannot expect to receive any reward; the one who repents and participates, is rewarded. Experience has taught us that there are people who answer "yes" without having understood! Yet, there are also sincere people who say "no" because they are not convinced and want to understand better. Their "no" is just a polite way to ask for explanation and to say that they want to see things more clearly. Whoever immediately answers "yes" to God perhaps does not realize who He is, what He thinks and proposes. Saying "yes" to God means giving up one's own thoughts and accepting His. He does not reward the righteous for their own merits, but makes Himself companion of the weak and introduces the tax collectors and prostitutes first in the kingdom. Only those who recognize themselves as last sinners and in need of His mercy will experience the joy of being in His kingdom. ~ Fr. Caroli Shao, A.J.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process of instruction to introduce persons seeking initiation into the Roman Catholic Church or adults seeking to be received into full communion of the Catholic Church who have already been validly baptized. We invite adults who are interested to register by calling the parish office at 216-631-5633.

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Every year, on the first two weekends of October, the ushers count the number of people who attended each Mass. The number counted is sent to the Diocesan Office for parish statistics and vitality of each parish. Please be sure to come and be counted at the Masses on **October 3-4** and **October 10-11**.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 OFFERTORY COLLECTION

General Offertory Collection	\$1,104.00
Children	\$1.50
Building Fund	\$65.00
Candles	\$64.00
Ecclesia Nostra	\$3,042.12
Food Pantry	\$72.00
St. Vincent de Paul Ministry	\$232.00
Utilities	\$10.00

Thank you all for your generosity!

MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Sun, Sept 27	Schola Practice (CR)	8:00am
	Latin Social (CR)	after 9:30am Mass
(C) Church • (CR) Club Room • (SFR) St Francis Room • (R) Rectory		

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION

We have Eucharistic Devotion on Wednesday Evenings after the 6:30PM Mass.



"Wait 1 Hour With Me"

Words spoken by our Lord in the garden of Gethsemane. (Mt 26:40-41)

Eucharistic Adoration is a time to just "BE" in the presence of the Lord. It extends the union with Christ which we have received in Communion. The most important thing to realize is that you don't have to do anything except spend time in the presence of the Lord. It is in this silence that the Lord speaks to us. We invite you to come pray with us each Wednesday evening, Mass, Confession and Eucharistic Adoration! What a wonderful way to Thank our Lord for all that He does for us.

CONFIRMATION/FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES



Classes for October will be: October 10th and October 24th at 10:30am. Classes are being held in the Metro School Building, Room 107 and 109. If you want your child to receive the Sacraments, all students including home school students are required to register. Any questions? Please call Diana Lipfird at 440-532-9491 DRE or email at dlipfird@gmail.com.

News from the Pews

CONDOLENCES TO...

Andres and Clarice DeJesus, family and friends of **Carmen Julia DeJesus**, who died September 18, 2026. The Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Stephen on Friday, September 25th at 10:30am. Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery.

and

Kerry Fioritto, family and friends of **Phillip Smith**, who died unexpectedly last Sunday night. Phillip was a long-time parishioner involved in the Bread Ministry, an Usher at the 8:00am Mass, and a volunteer when needed. He will be greatly missed. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Stephen on Friday, October 2nd at 10:00am.

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. Nicholas and Marcella Regalbuto, who were united in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday, September 26, 2026!



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Alexander and Huong Kabdebo, on the baptism of their daughter, **Vienna Tran**, who was welcomed into the One Holy Catholic Church, through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, September 27, 2026!



VIVA Bavaria hosts Gedächtnismesse 2026

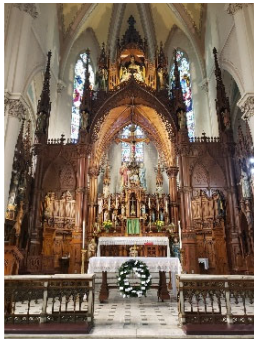
VIVA Bavaria hosts Gedächtnismesse 2026



VIVA Bavaria welcomes everyone to a Gedächtnismesse (Remembrance Mass) on Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 11:00 am at St. Stephen Church, 1930 West 54th Street in Cleveland. Following Mass, all are invited to the Donauschwaben German-American Cultural Center (7370 Columbia Rd, Olmsted Township) for their annual Kirchweih.

St. Stephen is one of the most beautiful churches in Cleveland. Established in 1869, it was built by and was home to the largest number of German Catholics in Cleveland and, more than 100 years later, continues to honor its heritage by celebrating a German-language Mass on the first Sunday of each month.

The Gedächtnismesse is a Mass in the German language in thanksgiving and recognition of your dearly departed family and friends. All are invited to attend and / or offer an intention. To commemorate a family member or friend, please follow the instructions below.



Intentions Wreath
at the altar

All names will be included in the Worship Program Booklet, placed on the Intentions Wreath, and read during Mass.

For the inclusion of your loved one(s) in the Worship Program Booklet, names must be received by **Friday, October 23, 2026.**

Your loved one(s) do not need to be Catholic or German to be commemorated and all are welcome to attend, regardless of religion or heritage.

We encourage you to wear traditional Tracht to attend Mass and the reception that follows.

Net proceeds benefit the St. Stephen Church Maintenance Fund.

For more information, contact Regina Rock-Ott (216-598-5049) or email at rockott2014@gmail.com

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Please submit payment (\$15 per name suggested) via check, VENMO or St. Stephen's website.

Be certain to provide the name(s) of your loved one(s) being memorialized.

Payment via Check:	Payment via VENMO:	Payment via ststephencleveland.org
Mail this form with a check to: VIVA Bavaria 7218 Lilac Court North Olmsted, OH 44070	@vivabavaria • Use the "What's this for?" box to enter your loved one(s) name(s) • Click "Pay"	• Scroll down to "Proceed to Online Giving Site" • Enter donation amount • Select "German Mass of Remembrance" • Enter your loved one(s) name(s) in the Memo • Click "continue" and enter your Payment Method information

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Please clearly print the name(s) of your loved one(s) being commemorated:

FOR YOUR RECORDS: The Internal Revenue Service requires VIVA Bavaria, a 501 (c) (3) organization, to inform you that the organization has not provided any goods or services in exchange for your donation. This donation is fully tax deductible under the law.

Parish Announcements

Today we take up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Your support helps the CCC connect Catholics with Christ in the United States and around the world using the internet, television, radio and print media. Half of the funds remain here in the Cleveland Diocese to support local efforts. Be a part of this campaign to spread the gospel message. Support the collection today! To learn more, go to usccb.org/ccs.



The St. Stephen Outreach Ministry served 36 families on Thursday, September 24th from our Food Pantry. Our Food Pantry is open from 9:30am -12:00pm on the last Thursday of every month. *Thank you to all who donate to this essential Ministry!*

Latin Social • September 27th

How to Raise Your Children with a Strong Catholic Spirituality

— A Parent Formation Talk —

Culture forms your child every day—often more than you realize.

Wise parents confront their blind spots *before* their children pay the price.

You'll Learn:

- Interior Formation – Your spiritual life becomes your child's moral center
- Habits of Holiness – Daily practices that shape the soul
- Culture & Imagination – How modern influences mold worldview
- Building a Home of Virtue – Practical steps to create a spiritually healthy household



Do You Need This Talk?

Scan to take the Family Health Assessment

Scan the code to begin.

ST. STEPHEN • SEPTEMBER 27TH • 10:30 AM

Herbstfest / German Day • October 4th

Celebrate German heritage, music and tradition at Herbstfest celebrating German Day, presented by VIVA Bavaria. This family-friendly fall festival brings Northeast Ohio's German and Austrian communities together for an afternoon of live entertainment, traditional performances, games, hayrides and plenty of "gemütlichkeit".

Herbstfest is more than a fall festival. It is an opportunity to gather with family and friends, celebrate the traditions passed down through generations and experience the music, dancing and community that make German culture so special.

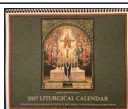
Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026, 12 noon to 6 p.m.

German Central Organization

7863 York Rd., Parma, OH 44130

Indoor performances, outdoor entertainment and games are included in the \$5 admission at the gate. Horse-drawn hayrides require an additional ticket.

Last call... The parish will be ordering 2027 Liturgical Calendars at the end of September. The calendar cost is \$24.95ea, *plus* shipping, handling and tax—an additional \$8.00. *To save yourself tax, handling and shipping*, submit the number of calendars you would like to order, along with payment for each calendar to the parish office. *Photo credit: Servants of the Holy Family



Blanket Sunday

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Annual Blanket Sunday

Beginning the weekend of **Oct. 3-4**, SVDP is asking for your help. This year is the 40th year of their annual appeal to help neighbors in need. Please consider a monetary donation which will help purchase blankets, beds, and other winter essentials for those in need. All money raised stays in NE Ohio. Please visit BlanketSunday.org for more information. Thank you!

Upcoming Pro-Life Events

40 DAYS FOR LIFE – A plan to end abortion by fasting and prayer from **September 23rd to November 1st**. Call 440-585-5317. Knowing that "with God, all things are possible," people of faith and conscience unite in 40 days of prayer and fasting. Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help.

Save the Date! Ohio March for Life

Friday, October 2, 2026 • Columbus, Ohio

The Ohio March for Life is a public event that is open to all pro-life Ohioans. Registration is not required for the Rally or March, but is highly encouraged to stay updated on the details! Go to <https://marchforlife.quorum.us/campaign/OHMF26/> to RVSP.

Schedule of Events:

10:00 am Pre-Rally Concert, 1 Capitol Sq, Columbus, OH 43215

11:00 am Rally

12:00 pm Ohio March for Life

Save the Date! Rocky River Ohio Life Chain

Sunday, October 4, 2026 • 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

21016 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, OH 44116

Join us on the public sidewalk and pray in front of Planned Parenthood, 21016 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River 44116. Park on the side streets. Do NOT park at Walgreens. Signs provided.

Local contact: Doris Peters 216-659-3362 or email at: DorisRPeters@yahoo.com

Latin Social • October 25th



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
216-319-6553
brookparksalvatore@gmail.com



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146 Front Street, Berea, OH
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We sell Latin Mass
Missals & Mantillas!

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Help defray our costs of printing with your "freewill offering" and see your advertisement here in future Weekly Bulletins!

GOD BLESS and THANK YOU !

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Quality, Care, Craftsmanship
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Call Parishioner **Matt Minarik 440-724-6363**

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Residential & Commercial

10% goes to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre