Christmas Week
December 22 & 25, 2019

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:30, 11:00 & 5:30 PM
Reconciliation: Fridays 9:00-10:00 AM
Saturdays 3:00-4:00 PM
Eucharistic Adoration See Calendar pg 2

Parish Office (253) 631-1940
Faith Formation (253) 631-6175
13055 SE 192nd Street Renton, WA 98058
www.ststephenslife.com

See a listing of Parish Staff on the back inside page
Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

We hear about Joseph, all silent, in the background, like the crèche where Mary and Jesus become more prominent. And they are more prominent. Joseph is “less” important, but important all the same. There can be various levels of importance without denying a real importance to all who participate in the action of God.

God is at work, opus Dei. Our work is to cooperate with the many graces calling us to participate in His action here on earth. As angels break through to point us to worship, we can be dull in responding, caught in our chaos. But God wants to lift us up this Christmas Season. He wants to become more prominent in our lives. In fact, He wants to be MOST prominent. That’s why we call Him the Most High God.

When Jesus calls us to “seek first the Kingdom”, we have to examine ourselves and see if I’m doing that sufficiently in this present moment, and the next, and the next, unto my own bodily death or Jesus’ Second Coming. Advent has been pointing to this. “Think of your end” the Scriptures shout! Have we? Do we? Will we? Today is the day to consider this invitation/warning of Jesus.

As you approach Christmas Mass, is there someone in your life who also needs an invitation to come to the stable, to see the Child, to come and adore Him? It’s the longing and fulfillment of every human heart. You don’t need to impose that, it’s already written there. A prompting from someone who loves you is perhaps all that’s needed to accept. Come, let us adore Him this Christmas Season.

Welcome to Our Stable
We’re not perfect. In fact, we’re quite imperfect. The Church is for those who recognize their need. Jesus came for sinners, not the healthy. If you’re tired of trying to fix yourself, tired of being tired, come to Him who promises rest. He says to St. Paul, “Your weakness is my strength.” You are welcome to our stable, as imperfect as we are. Jesus promises a way of perfection that can transform us into His glory. Please join us on this way to God together.

From myself, our staff and volunteers,
We wish you and all your family the best Christmas ever

He scrubbed the trough and filled it with fresh hay.
The midnight sky was bright and hard and raw;
The constellations danced above cold clay.

That night the heavens put on a display
That froze wise man and shepherd mute with awe.
He scrubbed the trough and filled it with fresh hay

And wondered how long they would have to stay
In Bethlehem fulfilling Caesar’s law.
That night the heavens put on a display

While Herod hoped the Magi would betray
The child sleeping snugly in the straw.

He scrubbed the trough and filled it with fresh hay,
Too cold and busy to kneel down to pray;
His fingers, stiff and wet, would need to thaw. That night the heavens put on a display

While Joseph worked and watched as Mary lay
And nursed the baby. Sheep and oxen saw
He scrubbed the trough and filled it with fresh hay;
The constellations danced above cold clay.

- Mary-Patrice Woehling
From First Things, December 2019 issue

Weekly Readings

December 22  Fourth Sunday of Advent
Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

December 23  Monday of the Fourth Week of Advent
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

December 24  Tuesday in the Fourth Week of Advent - Mass in the Morning
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:57-66

December 25  The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Vigil Mass
Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 Mass During the Night Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Mass at Dawn Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

December 26  Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

December 27  Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

December 28  Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

December 29  The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Mass During the Day Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Mass During the Night Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Mass at Dawn Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Dec 23
8:30a – 9:00a Morning Prayer & Rosary
9:00a – 10:30a Darling Dusters
11a – midnight Eucharistic Adoration
6:00p – 8:00p Library
6:30p – 7:00p MASS
6:30p – 8:00p Fil Am Choir Practice

Dec 24
8:30a – 9:00a Morning Prayer & Rosary
1:00p – 3:00p Library
3:00p – 3:30p Divine Mercy Chaplet
3:30p – 4:00p Nativity Play
4:00p – 5:00p MASS
7:00p – 8:00p MASS

Dec 25
Wednesday - Christmas Day
12:00a – 1:00a Midnight MASS
8:30a – 9:30a MASS
11:00 – 12:00p MASS

Dec 26
Thursday (Church Offices Closed)
3:00a – 12:00a Eucharistic Adoration
8:30a – 9:00a Morning Prayer & Rosary
10:00a – 11:00a MASS for Feast of St. Stephen the Martyr with Archbishop Etienne Presiding
3:00p – 3:30p Divine Mercy Chaplet
6:30p – 7:00p MASS
7:15p – 7:45p Most Precious Blood of Jesus Devotion

Dec 27
Friday (Church Offices Closed)
8:30a – 9:00a MASS
9:00a – 10:00a Reconciliation
3:00a – Midnight Eucharistic Adoration
3:00p – 3:30p Divine Mercy Chaplet

Dec 28
Saturday
12:00a – 1:00a Eucharistic Adoration
6:00a – 8:00a Eucharistic Adoration
8:30a – 9:00a MASS
9:00a – 4:30p Eucharistic Adoration
1:00p – 3:00p Library
3:00p – 4:00p Reconciliation
5:00p – 6:00p Vigil MASS

Dec 29
Sunday
6:00a – 8:00a Eucharistic Adoration
8:30a – 9:30a MASS
9:45a – 11:00a Library 11:00 – 12:00p MASS
12:00p – 1:00p Eucharistic Adoration
5:00p – 5:30p Library
5:00p – 5:30p MASS

Christmas Mass Times:
Christmas Eve 4:00* PM, 7:00 PM and Midnight
Christmas Day 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM
*Features Children’s Nativity Play at 3:30 PM

Could it be... You Haven't Completed ALL Your Sacraments?

Are you a Baptized Catholic Who Has Never Received Confirmation?
Wouldn’t it be a blessing in your life to receive the GIFTS of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation?

Adult Confirmation Sessions Begin January 23rd, 7-9 PM! To learn more about our Adult Confirmation program (adults over the age of 19) call or e-mail, Anne Merklin 253-631-1940, ext. 126, or sstmassociate@gmail.com.

Welcome Home

Are You or Someone You Know Thinking of Returning to the Catholic Church?
While people become separated from active Catholic life for all kinds of reasons, but Christ extends His invitation of love for all to return home. Our parish community welcomes anyone looking to rediscover their Catholic Faith! It is our hope and prayer that you’ll feel welcome to join us for a time of rediscovery. To learn about our group meetings beginning soon contact Bill Swedberg at billswedberg@gmail.com or 253-631-1940 ext 121!

Feast of St. Stephen with Archbishop Paul Etienne, December 26th
We are pleased to welcome Archbishop Paul Etienne on December 26th as we celebrate St. Stephen’s Feast Day at our 10:00 am Mass. It will be our 50th anniversary of the first Feast Day for our Parish Family in our church building. We will have a Potluck reception following Mass in our restored Social Hall. Please join us in this celebration hosted by Parish Life. Please prayerfully consider helping with setup and cleanup. Email Kim Anderson at sstm.facilities@gmail.com.
Faith Formation Programs

Join us at 3:30 PM for the Nativity Play on Christmas Eve! Each year, our children present a short Nativity Play on Christmas Eve. They tell the Christmas Story at 3:30 pm and then join Father Ed for the Blessing of the Crèche. This is a beautiful way to prepare for our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. Come praise God with us!

EDGE Program, Theology of the Body, and Parent Session for youth in grades 6-7-8 Begins: Monday, January 6, 2020, 6:00–7:45 pm! All EDGE youth must attend this first class to begin preparing for the Pre-Confirmation program. If you haven’t enrolled submit your registration form by January 1, 2020. Parent Volunteers are also needed for the EDGE program as we transition Confirmation to middle school age. For questions, contact Debbie Blomquist at sstm.youth@gmail.com or our office at (253) 631-6175.

Are you a 6th to 12th Grader who needs Baptism or First Eucharist? If you’re enrolled, that’s great! You need to regularly attend your main program; Edge or Confirmation. This is a 2-Year process. In late January we’ll begin your preparation for Baptism and Eucharist. Whether you’re in your first or second year, we will contact you by mid-January with the preparation plan. Contact Debbie Blomquist at sstm.youth@gmail.com or the Faith Formation office at (253) 631-6175 for questions.

Little Saints Preschool! Are you looking ahead to September, 2020! Come visit us at our annual Open House after all Masses the weekend of January 18-19, 2020. In the meantime, make an appointment to come visit one of our sessions: M W F 9:00-11:30 am 3-4 year olds, T Th 9:00-11:30 am 3 year olds, M-Th 12:15-2:45 pm 4-5 year olds. Contact Abbie Nelson at: sstm.littlesaints@gmail.com or at 253-631-6175, ext. 123.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY WINTER/SPRING 2020: St. Stephen’s Bible Study Winter/Spring Program begins January 14, 2020. Our study is called Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come and is from Ascension Press. We have two sessions meeting Tuesday morning at 9:20 am or Tuesday evening at 6:15 pm. Free Babysitting during the AM Session! Please RSVP due to limited space. Each session last approximately two hours. We’d love to see you at either one!

Register early by Dec. 20th, by form or online, cost $30.00. Late registrations due by Jan. 3rd, online only, cost $35.00. Forms available at St Stephen’s or online at: https://ststephenslife.com/bible-study. For questions contact: Karen Buchert at kasbuchert@comcast.net or the Faith Formation office at 253-631-6175.

Are you a Baptized Catholic Who has Never Received Confirmation? Wouldn’t it be a blessing in your life to receive the GIFTS of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation? Adult Confirmation Sessions Begin January 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00 PM! To learn more about our Adult Confirmation program (adults over the age of 18 years) contact, Anne Merklin, Pastoral Associate, at 253-631-6175 ext 126, or at: sstmassociate@gmail.com.

Our Next Infant Baptismal Class is Saturday, January 11, 2019. From 9:00 am to 12:30 pm in classrooms 128-129. Please take class 3 months prior to desired month of baptism. A $10.00 donation per family is appreciated. For questions contact Teresa Wright via email at: sstm.baptism@gmail.com.
Human Life and Justice

If you are a pregnant mother in distress or know someone facing a crisis pregnancy, our Gabriel Angels are trained volunteer mentors who walk beside Mom with spiritual, emotional, & practical support. Call 1-888-926-ANGEL to connect with an Angel. Questions? Contact Roberta Jorgensen: robertajorgensen@comcast.net


March for Life - Save the Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020, March (to your legislators to ADVOCATE) for Life in Olympia. See https://ststephenslife.com/march-for-life for scheduled events of the day, options for bus transportation from St. Stephen’s and other area parishes, downloadable flyers, and more. Please check the site often for additional posts and for possible updates to bus information.

Thank You for Your Continuing Spiritual Adoption Prayers Progress is being made on the picture frame for the development posters. Stay tuned. Committee members needed to assist chair Dee Gabriel (Contact gabriel5678@msn.com or 425-271-5678) Tasks include changing posters monthly, Submitting monthly bulletin announcements and/or inserts, Planning Birthday Party in June. St Stephen is using these guidelines from Baltimore Archdiocese https://www.archbalt.org/respect-life-2/resources-for-spiritual-adoption/ and from St. Charles Borromeo of Tacoma http://spiritualadoption.stcharlesb.org/

Gabriel Angels invite all new volunteers to join us at monthly meeting on Third Wednesday, December 18 and January 15. Training is being planned for Saturday, February 1st or 8th depending on your input. For more information and location, Contact Roberta at 206-226-0874 or robertajorgensen@comcast.net or Kathleen at 253-653-6074 or psj1350@comcast.net.

In today’s Gospel, we hear that Jesus will be named Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” The mystery of the birth of Jesus is supremely a mystery of love. May each Christmas find us more and more like him: more humble, more holy, more happy and more full of God. Your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helped those who are poor and suffering to find Emmanuel and to know that “God is with us.” If ever you have household items or gently used furniture to donate, please give us a call first. We have a neighbors currently in need of a couch and a bed. Call Shirley Walsh at 253.350.9638.

St. Stephen Housing Association - Great news! A new date for St. Stephen Housing Association’s Hope for Housing fundraiser has been set! Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 1, 2020 for this fun event! There will be great food, wine, music and a fantastic silent auction! So save the date now!

The Holy Trinity Catholic Charismatic Community (HTCCC) invites everyone to experience the Holy Spirit, who opens us to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, and the love of the Father. HTCCC meets at STTM every Friday evening from 7:00 PM-8:30 PM, in rooms 128 & 129. We praise God with enthusiasm through spontaneous Praise and Worship, Sharin the word of God, Prayerful Intercession, and Personal Testimonies from those who have experienced God working in their lives. Please email us at holytrinityccc3@gmail.com for any inquiries. Please come and experience the love and joy! All are welcome. For more details, please visit https://tinyurl.com/sstmholytrinity

Friday Mornings for Men Men’s Prayer and Reflection All men are invited to join our weekly time of prayer and reflection from 6:00 – 7:15 AM in the Church hall. Donuts are served at 6:00 with morning prayer at 6:15. The upcoming Sunday Gospel reading is then read and discussed in the style of lection divina. No registration is required. For questions please contact Bill Swedberg at 253-631-1940 ext 121 or billswedberg@gmail.com.

Serving in the Military


Deaths September-December

Amorsolo Panlasigui, Charlie Buennagel, Chau Anna Ngo, Angela Pitarid, Dick Dobrowski, Helen Foglia, Lisa Kingsbury, Ollie Burton, Lillian May Hansen

To add names to the box. please e-mail ourbulletin@gmail.com, or contact Betty Mencke, 253-631-1940. To contact the Prayer Chain please see Teresa Wright, at 425-225-0301 or teresa2pray@gmail.com.

Praying For Sick

Marie Peacock Albers, Nela Padabe, Irene Bauman, JoAnna Bailey, Jim Dougherty, Brian W. French, Lydia Franada, Chad Horky, Mary Byersdorf, Leila Abada, Kelley Chazes, April Sedall, Nicole Paulsen, Shelby Talley, Christina Raf ferty, Antonio San, Nicolas Nenita, San Nicolas, Rolf Ju, Emelita Joyosa, Leonora Bernabe, Roselyn Corpuz, James Vaccaro, Marlene Hill, Teresa Wright, Precilla Del Rosario, Yvonne (Dawn) Kunkle, Jesse Boyovich, Jan Sykes, Phyllis Beaver, Joel Rivera, Julie Fernandez, Sakshithan Hak, Lan Buck, Joshua Hecox, Christo Rubis Galindo, Rose Her-lya, Manny Gutierrez, JJ Conavad, Jim Steckler, Cam-Tu Fulong, Nguan Nguyen, Adam Bynum, Xavier Mascaren, Ester Hansen, Jesusa Cadalin, Henry de Guzman, Dolores Dela Cruz, Nicomedes Rodriguez, Molly Dinsmore, Baby Nyhia Wallace, Angelina Rivera, Alexander Diachenko, Adrian Abada, Art Condes, Leticia Cruz Reyes
Food Bank Hours: Monday & Friday 10 am to 11:45 am, Wednesday 4 to 5:45 pm

The St. Stephen's Food Bank's mission is to gather, manage and distribute resources to families or individuals in a crisis situation. Donation of food and monetary support from parishioners through the Blue Envelopes marked “Christian Social Action” otherwise known as “Outreach” are used to support this ministry. Volunteers staff the Food Bank.

Thanks to all who contribute to St. Stephen’s Outreach. Money received from this fund is used to buy food and essential items for those in need. The St. Stephens Food Bank volunteers assist over 3000 families each year. Many thanks to the food bank volunteers who give of their time and to all who donate food, gift cards and money to assist those in need. If you have ever donated a single can of food, made a financial donation of any kind, volunteered your time, attended an event of ours … we thank you. It may seem like a small act to you, but to someone else it can be the difference between food on their table or skipping another meal.

Save the Date: The St. Anthony School Open House for prospective families and their students for the 2020/2021 school year will take place on Sunday, January 26th.

St. Anthony School Roadrunner Coffee - St. Anthony School has partnered with Poverty Bay Coffee Company to make available “Roadrunner Coffee.” Poverty Bay is a small-batch micro-roaster in Seattle. They roast the raw, green Arabica beans the day they are ordered. Their coffees are shade-grown, 100% sustainable and purchased from the farmers at a price that exceeds Fair Trade Coffee standards. 1lb bags of whole bean or ground coffee are just $9.50. With every purchase, $2.50 is donated to the Father Lane Endowment Fund for Tuition Assistance. For ordering information or questions, contact Catherine Batchelor at batchelor@sasr.org.

A Christmas Prayer - Dear Lord Jesus, let me never forget in my own downcast moments that you too felt vulnerability in Bethlehem as well as loneliness in your earthly ministry! Help me to show others Your real love, especially now, as well as all year round, and help me to share that love with others, even if it’s just in little acts of kindness. When I feel lonely or confused, let me remember that Your love for me is so great that You would have experienced Your Incarnation and Passion for me even if I were the only person in the world. Amen.

Winter Day of Reflection: Lifting Up - Saturday, January 4, 2020, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, St. Joseph Parish Center, Seattle, Mary Hartrich, Presenter When the hectic holiday season dies down, we invite you to join us at the turn of the calendar year for a day of reflection. This quiet personal mini-retreat includes presentations leading you through four movements of an Examen, reflection questions, and abundant silent time for prayer and journaling—all designed to help you reflect back on the previous year and look ahead to the new year with hope. To learn more visit https://www.ignatiancenter.org/winter-day-of-reflection

Advent and Christmas Gospel Reflections Daily Meditations from Bishop Robert Barron

JOIN OVER 300,000 CATHOLICS Spend your time with Christ in the Gospel this Advent alongside Bishop Barron and the Word on Fire community. To receive these free daily Gospel reflections in your inbox every morning visit https://adventreflections.com/

Have You Signed up for FORMED Yet? - It’s Free! FORMED provides amazing content 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. Enjoy a free subscription to formed.org - an incredible online gateway to the best Catholic content, all in one place! Described as a Catholic Netflix, FORMED features a huge library of video programs, books, recorded books and audio programs, all designed to challenge, inspire and inform Catholics in their faith. It’s FREE and EASIER THAN EVER TO Register! Simply visit ststephenslife.formed.org and create your account!
Parish Information

New to St. Stephen’s? Welcome! Learn more about our vibrant community by visiting our web site at www.ststephenslife.com or emailing us at WelcomeStStephens@gmail.com. Registration forms are online or may be obtained from the ushers and put in the collection basket or mailed in.

Parish Office Hours: Most weeks, Monday - Friday, 9 AM - Noon and 1-5 PM. Bulletin Notices: The article deadline is 12:00 PM on the Friday a week before the weekend you wish it to appear (8 days in advance). Notices about parish events or items of interest to the parish are welcome, however posting cannot be guaranteed. Email notices to: ourbulletin@gmail.com.

Main Office Phone: TEL 253-631-1940 / FAX 425-255-2943

Marriage: Couples seeking Marriage must contact the church 9 months before their wedding date. Some preparation and Parish Registration are required before a date can be set. Contact Teresa Wright for details concerning marriage at (253) 631-6175, Ext. 120.

Annulments: (for those who are divorced): For compassionate and confidential answers to your questions and for help through the annulment process, please contact our parish Tribunal Advocate, Veronica Smith-Casem, at vsmithcasem@gmail.com or 425-301-0356.

Baptism: Preparation and Parish Registration are required for both Parents and Godparents/Sponsors. Baptisms are held monthly. Contact the Faith Formation Office for details (253-631-6175).

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) For adults to become Catholic & be baptized. Contact Anne Merklin 253-631-1940 ext 126.

Called to Serve as Christ Campaign - Why a Campaign?
As good stewards of the resources provided annually, our Archdiocese is able to fund its ongoing missions and obligations. However, since that revenue is already earmarked to missions and administration, an extraordinary effort is needed to raise the funds to meet the goals set forth in the Called to Serve as Christ case statement. You can be confident that all funds the Archdiocese of Seattle receives, whether through parish billings, Annual Catholic Appeal, Called to Serve as Christ campaign or other avenues, will be used prudently and effectively in furthering the mission of the Church. The archdiocesan chancery, Priest Pension Plan and Priest Health Plans are all independently audited annually. Visit: www.calledtoserveaschrist.org

Parish Stewardship Giving

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<tr>
<th>To Our Parish:</th>
<th>December 7 &amp; 8, 2019</th>
<th>Our Other Giving:</th>
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<td><strong>To Our Parish:</strong>*</td>
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Rachel’s Corner: Hope and Healing After Abortion
Before the retreat my life was full of anger, my cross was heavy, and I was angry with myself; on retreat I went through detox because that is what it is like to be filled with pain, anger, and frustration. Now I am feeling my healing and my resurrection to this new life God has given me. He has fed me with His word, His Mass and His communion.

-Testimonial. Your healing after abortion can most certainly be a resurrection to a new life that you thought would never be yours again. Ask Him to give you the courage to take that step towards Him. He will do everything else. Rest in Him on a Rachel’s Vineyard™ Retreat and come alive again. Call Aleah at 206-920-6413. Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services. www.ccsww.org/projectrachel You are loved with an everlasting Love!