

Pope Francis’s prayer to Mary during Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross to the joy of the resurrection. AMEN.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Memorandum on Flu and other infectious diseases from the committee on Divine worship with the United states conference of Catholic Bishops on fundamental guidelines and precautionary measures.

Fundamentals that always apply:

- Priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should practice good hygiene, washing their hands before Mass begins or even using an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution before and after distributing Holy Communion. Discern how to do this to best maintain the reverence of the Mass.
- Ensure all vessels used at Mass, once purified, are thoroughly washed with soap and hot water after each use.
- Assure the faithful that if they are sick or are experiencing symptom of sickness they are not obliged to attend Mass, and even that out of charity they ought not to attend.
- The General Instruction of the Roman Missal does not mandate a particular gesture to use in the Rite of Peace. The customary gesture is to extend a hand to those near. However, if one is ill with the cold or the flu, or if one feels the need, another gesture is perfectly acceptable. For example, a nod of the head and a smile could accompany the verbal sharing of Christ’s peace.
- In regard to Holy Communion from the Chalice, communicants should always act responsibly. If one is ill, he or she should refrain from taking Holy Communion from the Chalice.

Precautionary measures that could be applied:

- suspending the exchange of the sign of peace
- suspending the distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful via the chalice.

On a more positive note, among the Masses for Various Needs in the Roman Missal, the three Mass formularies provided under the heading 48. For Any Need are particularly appropriate in the face of a health threat to the general public. GIRM 374

Thank you for your kind attention to this memorandum.

St. Edward and St. Stephen

300 NW 5th St. Fairfield IL 62837, phone 618-847-7931
Email: stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com
Website: stedwardfairfield.com

812 N. Main St., Flora IL 62839, phone 618-662-6261
Email: ststephen_flora@yahoo.com
Website: ststephenflora.com

Rev. Father Charles Anyaoku, Pastoral Administrator
Rectory Phone: 618-662-6261 Cell phone: 618-641-8978

MISSION STATEMENT

We, of St. Edward Catholic Church, Fairfield, united as a family of God’s people strive to live out the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through a community spirit of love and service to one another. We endeavor to touch the lives of all with God’s living presence and love. We hope to achieve these through: Participating in the sacraments and providing for the spiritual needs of all; the young and the elderly, those with special needs and those who are no longer very active in the parish.

Providing a welcoming environment to all including new members who might like to join our parish and those who visit to worship with us.

Using our gifts and talents for the life and growth of our parish and for the greater glory of God.

Providing a comprehensive system of support services that will assist the poor and the needy as far as our scope can reach.

MISSION STATEMENT

*St Stephen Church aspires:
To be united in the love of God and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
To proclaim the word of God by a life of witness in our community and beyond.
To give the glory through assisting the weak and the less privileged.
Putting things back together, binding, healing, affirming, serving, restoring and educating the people of God.
To serve together in reconciling with one another and with God. Sharing our gifts and ourselves for the sake of the Gospel.*

St. Edward Weekend and Daily Mass Schedule

Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Friday, 8:00 a.m.
1st and 3rd Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) Friday, 8:30 a.m.
1st and 3rd Saturday, 4:20 – 4:40 p.m.

Parish Office: Peggy Garrison, Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon. Rectory and Office 847-7931, Fax 847-7393, Parish Hall 847-7512

New Parishioner Register at Parish Office
PSR Coordinator Diana Zurliene, RCIA Coordinator Ginny Barrett, Music Director Denise Zurliene
Pastoral Council – 3rd Thursday, Men’s Club – As announced Youth Ministry 3rd Sunday—5:30pm,
Food Pantry Distribution 2nd Saturday, 8 a.m.

Baptism, Marriage, Vocations, Sacrament of Anointing & Care of the Sick, contact Fr. Charles Anyaoku or call St. Edward or St. Stephen

St. Stephen Weekend and Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, 8:00 a.m.
2nd and 4th Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) Wednesday after mass, 2nd & 4th Sat. 4:20– 4:40 pm.,
Sun 8– 8:20 am. or by appointment

Parish Office: Trudi Herdes, Secretary, Office Hours Monday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. to noon,
Office, Fax & Social Room 662-8121, Rectory 662-6261
New Parishioner Register contact Fr. Charles, Trudi Herdes or Dorothy Uebinger 662-3711

Music Director Diane Briscoe, PSR Coordinator Paul Duquaine, RCIA Coordinator Cheryl McCarty,
Sacristan Sam Pierce

Knights of Columbus – 1st Wednesday, 7 pm
Finance Committee – 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Altar Society - As announced

Pastoral Council - 4th Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Food Pantry Collection - First Weekend

Fifth Sunday of Lent

ST. STEPHEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

NO MASSES OR EXTACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Weekly Contribution March 15

Envelopes.....\$ 1810.00 (39)

Loose.....\$ 194.00

Total.....\$ 2004.00

We Need - \$1,731.00

Black & Indian Mission - \$30

Sale of Land - \$1,447.88

Attendance: Saturday 62 Sunday 53

Weekend Ministers

Please submit bulletin information to Beth Fancher, call 618-676-4292 or email bafancher@wabash.net by noon on Wednesdays.

St. Stephen Upcoming Activities

NO Activities

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Linda Griffy, Bill Marks, Nicole Wheaton, Velma Oliver, Clara Wilson, Ray Vaughn, LaVonne Kemmerer, Patience McKnight, Mildred Garrison, Pat Venable, Clarice Schweighart, Irene Winka, Steve Dudzik, Ruth Wilson, Roger Wells, Rhonda Ryker, Don & Mary Bunnell, Marilyn Wheaton, JR Means, Lois Houlihan, Cory Britton, Ed Perk, Georgia Klingler, Celeste Replogle, Georgianna Weber, Luke Miller, Helen Powless, Marie Elwat, Cindy Bloemer, Kennah Hiestand, Jean Quinn, Betty Greenwood, Claire Karasch, Judie Powless, Claire Fopay, Harrison Hilliard, Larry Hagen, Becky Dulaney, Maria Pemberton, Joyce Heuerman, Fritz (Frank) Zimmerman, Mary Patridge, Clara Keys

The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. An act of Spiritual Communion increases our desire to receive sacramental Communion worthily.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive You in my body, my soul and my whole being.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart

I embrace You as if you were already there

And unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

Come to church office or see Father Charles for special prayers.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

ST. EDWARD MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

NO MASSES OR EXTACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

The Scripture readings are below for your reading.

Weekly Contribution 03/15

Envelopes(20) \$1,043.00

Loose 74.00

Total \$1,117.00

We need \$1,887.00

Building Fund \$102.00

Donations 40.00

CSMA 680.00

Attendance: Sat-0 Sun- 58

PRAYER INTENTIONS: Garland Keck, Kim Buchanan, Lanora Neavill, Leon Chamness, Tom Colvin, Jack Ciesielczyk, Jalain Thompson, Nanette Williams, Julie Griffith, Gina Williams, Emilee Stanley, Maddox Oppenheimer, Sara Kerchner, Charles Drechsel, Eva Decker, Matthew Rorban, Andrew Mayo, Robyn Meagher, Andrew Luna, Elaine Jeffers, Homer and Shirley Clark, Alice Zurliene, Tim Dittmer, Terri Venturelli, Linda States, James Rawls, Glory Almon, Cathy Newville, Luke Dewees, Adam Reyling, Ruth & Ralph Langhauser, Teresa Williams, Randy White, Raymond Garrison, Noah Gollner, Mary Jean Ochs, Rusti Grogan, Ed Nelson, Wallace Hart, Mark Fleming, Mary Murphy, Ginny Barrett, Ernie Sork, Donna Sullivan, David Ochs & all priests who are sick.

Weekend Ministers

Please submit bulletin information to Peggy Garrison at the Parish Office by noon on Wednesdays.

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. An act of Spiritual Communion increases our desire to receive sacramental Communion worthily.

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St. Edward and St. Stephen News

RECONCILIATION SERVICES AT: Cancelled

The season of Lent continues to the Mass of the Lord's Supper, April 9, Inclusive.

Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent. Everyone 18 years of age and under 5 years of age is also bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. The other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but altogether they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. Then health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the obligation of the law is modified. Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limit include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common senses should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting. Because Lent is a special season for all Christians, we should not lightly excuse ourselves from these penitential practices.

There will be a special collection for Support of Catholic Relief Services Collection. If you don't have an envelope put contribution in plain envelope marked for Support of Catholic Relief Services.

OCP Grants Available – They are once again offering grants to support parishes seeking to enhance their worship experience. The grant program is open to all Roman Catholic parishes in the US. See bulletin board.

Guadalupe Project: Anyone wishing to make a monetary contribution to the Guadalupe Project may place their donation in an envelope labeled "Guadalupe" and put it in the collection basket.

TO ALL PARISHIONERS: Someone is sending emails with my name on it. In case you receive any strange mails bearing my name, first verify its authenticity by calling me at this number 618-641-8978 before responding. Thank you - Fr. Charles

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation If you want to know about our faith, or would like to join us, contact Father Charles at 618-662-6261, Cheryl McCarty at 815-343-1502, Ginny Barrett at 618-335-6926, or Mary Murphy at 618-599-5018

*One thing I ask of the Lord, and this I long, to dwell in the house
of the Lord all the days of my life.
That should be our daily prayer.
That should be our daily desire.
That should be our daily wish.*

St. Stephen News

St. Stephen's Annual Rummage Sale will be April 24 and 25. We will accept good clean items in good working condition. Drop off times will be posted closer to sale dates. We will not accept clothing and older TV's. **START DIGGING!!**



The Bible Study of the Passion and Resurrection Narratives of Jesus CANCELLED, Sunday, April 19, Sunday, April 26, Sunday, May 3. We will meet at 6 p.m. in the Social Room at St. Stephen's. Please come and join us as we review our Faiths good news of Christianity – the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. All are welcome. Father Charles is moderator and Joann Stanford will be facilitating.

There are several chalk boards that will be removed from the walls in the Social Room before repainting the room. If interested in purchasing the boards or donating towards the purchase of the paint, contact Jacquie Lueking or Deb Duquaine. Bids will be accepted.

FOR SALE!

Please let Beth Fancher or Trudi Herdes know what dates you are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or any special events (i.e. births, graduations, marriage, etc.). We would like to put these dates in the bulletin.

If you would like to contribute to the cemetery fence fund, please place your donation in an envelope marked 'cemetery fence.' and drop it in the collection basket. Thank you.

The next three Altar Society rotating chairmen are: Donna Myers, Beth Fancher, Jill Fehrenbacher.

MASS INTENTIONS If you would like to have a mass intention said for a loved one who has passed, special intention or blessings received, please place name of intention and \$10 in an envelope and drop in the collection basket. If you would like specific date, try to get the information to Trudi as soon as possible.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the Catholic Church, or is interested in joining or returning to the Church, contact Father Charles at 662-6261 or Cheryl McCarty at 815-343-1502.

Prayer Chain: When a parishioner has an intention & requests prayers, Erin Pierce will initiate the prayer chain. She will contact Fr. Charles, who will determine the prayers. An email will be sent to all members, who will pray for the intentions. Each member should endeavor to assure the obligation is met. Call Erin 662-2266 erinmp1968@aol.com

Goodsearch: If you would like to help earn money for St. Ann's general fund visit Goodsearch.com and register making St. Ann's your charity. Please type in "St Ann's Altar Society" (no punctuation). Make it your homepage or just use it to search or make online purchases.

SCRIP: Please consider purchasing SCRIP cards after weekend Masses. There are several retailers & restaurants participating in the program. St. Ann's buys the cards at a discounted rate and sells them at full face value. When you buy a card you receive a card worth the purchase price, Contact Erin or shopwithscrip.com.

St. Edward News

PSR SCHEDULE CANCELLED

APRIL 2020

5TH—NO PSR

12TH—NO PSR

19TH—PSR

26TH—PSR (LAST CLASS)

YOUTH MINISTRY

No Youth Ministry until further notice.

BIBLE STUDY BIBLE STUDY IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

TO ALL ST. EDWARD PARISHIONERS:

IN ORDER TO OBEY THE SOCIAL DISTANCING CONCEPT, THE BISHOP HAS DECIDED AND DIRECTED THE PASTORS TO CANCEL ALL LITURGICAL SERVICES AND MASSES. PLEASE BEAR WITH US AT THIS MOMENT. LET US UNITE IN PRAYERS THAT GOD WILL COME TO OUR NEED. BE ASSURED OF MY PRAYERS.

PLEASE CONTACT ME AT 618-641-8978 OR PEG GARRISON AT 618-599-2098 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

FR. CHARLES, PASTOR ADMINISTRATOR, ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

CANCELLATIONS

Weekday & weekend liturgies

Stations of the Cross

PSR CLASSES

Bible Study

Youth Ministry

St. Patrick's Dinner

Men's Sausage Dinner

WILL TRY TO KEEP EVERYBODY UPDATE, PLEASE STAY SAFE

St. Stephen News

TO ALL ST. STEPHEN PARISHIONERS: IN ORDER TO OBEY THE SOCIAL DISTANCING CONCEPT, THE BISHOP HAS DECIDED AND DIRECTED THE PASTORS TO CANCEL ALL LITURGICAL SERVICES AND MASSES. PLEASE BEAR WITH US AT THIS MOMENT. LET US UNITE IN PRAYERS THAT GOD WILL COME TO OUR NEED. BE ASSURED OF MY PRAYERS. **PLEASE CONTACT ME AT 618-641-8978 OR Trudi Herdes WITH ANY QUESTIONS.**

FR. CHARLES, PASTOR ADMINISTRATOR, ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

CANCELLATIONS:

Weekday & weekend liturgies

Stations of the Cross, PSR CLASSES, Bible Study, Parish Meetings

NEW MINISTERS We thank those who are preparing to serve as Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. Mary Beth Lancaster, will begin serving as a Lector starting in March and Andrew Vahling will be serving as a Eucharistic Minister. Justin Fleener and Andrew Koester will be serving as a lector starting in April.

Thank you to the **15 households** that have already pledged to support the mission of the Church to teach, preach, minister and serve in the name of Jesus through their financial support of The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. So far \$3,002.92, has been pledged. If you have not yet responded, please make every effort to do so.

The envelopes for donating towards the purchase of Easter flowers are at both entrances on the bookshelves. Flowers can be donated in memory of a loved one. Place donation in the envelopes and put them in the offertory baskets during mass.



Do you like to sew? Would you enjoy spending a little time sewing with an old-fashioned sewing circle? Clay County Health Department's hospice program is in need of lap quilts for the hospice patients. They provide the fabric. All you need is a sewing machine and sewing notions. We would gather in the Social Room to visit and sew. You've never made a quilt but would like to come? No problem. We will teach you. Call Cheryl McCarty, 815-343-1502 for more information.



HOME BLESSINGS - Contact Ted Whitehead to set up a time for Father Charles to come and bless your home. For more information see Ted or Father Charles.

We are in dire need of altar servers. Altar servers can be children who have received their first communion as well as any adult. All are welcome.

CRY ROOM St. Stephen's Cry Room is in the Library, which is equipped with a TV set up with a live feed of

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I write to assure you of my constant remembrance of you in prayer during these days of Lent.

I pray often for you, your family members with the hope that you are able to maintain good health by faithfully following the shelter -in -place,” social distancing, and personal hygiene.

The fact that this pandemic is occurring during our Lenten journey offers each of us important reminders about the role of faith, hope and charity in our daily lives and in whom we place our trust. I believe we are being called by Jesus Christ to a renewed sense of solidarity. John13:35-- - “ this is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”

May God grant you peace during this difficult time and may He manifest His love and presence to you in abundant ways. If you have any concerns, please contact me: 618-641-8978.

Thank you for your continued support of St Stephen Flora and St Edward Fairfield.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Charles Anyaoku

Note: Bishop Braxton’s letter on suspension of public celebration of the Eucharist and parish Guidelines are posted on the Diocese of Belleville site.

Note: Priests can – and are encouraged – to continue celebrating mass privately and to livestream their masses for their parishioners, if possible).

Template Facebook posts (I am working to create parish Facebook account for us to join in prayer. *Praying together

Livestream masses (this week) or it can be recorded for us to watch at our convenience or You-tube

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

No one in history ever described oneself with the power of life and resurrection as Jesus did through His words and actions.

Continued from Father Charles:

▪In a time like this period of pain, we may often wonder whether Jesus meant what He was saying that whoever believes in Him will never die, and that even if they die they will live (John 11:25). Especially now that we are not worshipping as one family of God because of the present pandemic ravaging the world, many questions will be going on in our hearts like the following:

~ Does He have the power to heal? If He has, why did He allow so many people who believe in Him to die? Why should He not stop this plague so that we will come back and worship as one family? If He can grant life, why are the number of deaths recorded so far alarmingly ascending? These and so many other questions are going on in many hearts at this time. We are all in this together!

▪Let us look at the events around Mary and Martha:

~ they asked the Lord to come and heal their sick brother, but He did not come immediately unlike Him that was so close to the family. Reason? His sickness was not unto death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it. (C.f. John 11:4)

~ Last Sunday, when asked by His disciples whether the blind man sinned or his parents. He responded, *"Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but it was so that the works of God would be made manifest in him." (C.f. John 9:3). * Sometimes God seems to be far away, especially in a time of distress like ours. We may express our disappointments like Martha and Mary at the death of their brother, *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (C.f. John 11:21, 32)*

~ in our present global crisis, many have lost their faith. Some are using this time to taunt faith and people of faith, saying, "If your God is there, these things will not be happening." Some will stop believing in God; some will come back to God. Some will be grateful after this period, some will not. These and many others will be the end result of COVID-19. But the question is: In this distressed time of ours, is God still with us?

~The Lord gave Martha an answer which we need to examine. I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE." I AM means that He is ever present. Our present situation is the same event that happened on the Cross where He cried on our behalf, "My God, My God, why

Continued from Father Charles:

why have you forsaken me?" (C.f. Matthew 27:46) To this cry, there was a great silence!

~ Our tears at this point in time of our global distress are meeting this silence, but God is still speaking gently. He wiped the tears of Mary and Martha by granting life back to their brother. But this Lazarus is no longer alive in flesh today. He is now living the life of eternity.

~ What this implies is that believing in Him means eternal life and resurrection. Even if we all see the end of this pandemic today, we will still one day journey into eternity. This is why our care at the present should be more of living in Him so that we will share in His resurrection. God knows what is happening; He is still the source of life.

▪The first reading tells us about the movement from death to life. A movement from sadness into joy. The Israelites were in captivity as we are now, when the word of God was addressed through the Prophet Ezekiel to console and assure them of liberation from captivity.

~ The same words are being addressed to us today in this time of distress. Whenever we hear the word of God being addressed to us, it is ever present and new. Let us once again hear today that God is about to bring us into the time of joy. Before this time comes, this present sorrowful situation will complete its cycle according to the plan of God.

▪Dear friend, all we need to do at this point in time is to move from the flesh to the Spirit. Those who live in the flesh cannot please God. It is only when we have the Spirit of God within us that we live to praise Him. It is only then that we are worthy of resurrection, since it is the Spirit of Christ in us that will give us resurrection.

~ It is this through this Spirit that the Word became flesh, becoming life in the womb of the Blessed Mother Mary; with her let us pray that God will grant us life in this period of global fear and death. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

May God bless and protect you and your family from harm
have a great Sunday.

