

St. Stephen Church

The 28th Sunday in Ordinary time

October 11, 2020



Protection of Human Life

Bringing a respect for human dignity to practical politics can be a daunting task. There is such a wide spectrum of issues involving the protection of human life and the promotion of human dignity. Good people frequently disagree on which problems to address, which policies to adopt and how best to apply them.

But for citizens and elected officials alike, the basic principle is simple: We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem. In other words, the choice of certain ways of acting is always and radically incompatible with the love of God and the dignity of the human person created in His image.



Direct abortion is never a morally tolerable option. It is always a grave act of violence against a woman and her unborn child. This is so even when a woman does not see the truth because of the pressures she may be subjected to, often by the child's father, her parents or friends.

Similarly, euthanasia and assisted suicide are never acceptable acts of mercy. They always gravely exploit the suffering and desperate, extinguishing life in the name of the "quality of life" itself. This same teaching against direct killing of the innocent condemns all direct attacks on innocent civilians in time of war. *(more in subsequent weeks)*

(US Bishops, *Living the Gospel of Life*, n. 20).

Rosary for America: Recently, bishops from all over the U. S. prayed the Rosary for America, along with lay people and children. Watch and pray with them on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YdHQqGbvzk>) any time that works for you. The people and images add a special dimension to our prayers.

Please note: our **Outdoor Mass** is now at 6:00 pm on Saturday (weather permitting)

Readings for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I: Isaiah 25:6-10

Psalm 23

Reading II: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22:1-14

These readings might help you as you ask yourself the questions of the week:

Teens/Adults: Everyone is called; will you be one of those who comes to the feast?

Children: What three things can you do this week to show that you are a follower of Jesus?

Intercessions for Sunday, October 11

For Pope Francis and all religious clergy, that they will persevere in leading the faithful, despite doubts and obstacles, we pray to the Lord...

For our national, local and community leaders, that they will look towards Jesus as they make important decisions, we pray to the Lord...

For all of us here, may the Lord continue to help us speak the truth in charity to one another, we pray to the Lord...

For women and men suffering after abortion; may the Church's abortion healing ministry, Project Rachel, help them find peace and healing through Christ's endless mercy, we pray to the Lord...

For those who have died, especially Edward Sacco, may they rest peacefully in the arms of a loving Jesus for all eternity, we pray to the Lord...

410-592-7071 | Parish website: ssparish.org | 8030 Bradshaw Road, Kingsville, MD 21087

Mission Statement: We, the parish of St. Stephen, will carry out the mission of Jesus Christ as a welcoming, worshipping, Catholic community by sharing, growing and living the Gospel.



Accepting His Invitation

Many are invited, but few are chosen. (Matthew 22:14)

Does this sentence give you a chill? Maybe it makes you wonder, "I hope I get chosen for heaven." Or maybe you question the justice in it. "If God has already invited people, why would he not choose them?" Today's parable offers some answers.

First, we hear about a king who decided to look elsewhere when the first set of invitees refused to come to his son's wedding and abused his messengers. "Those who were invited were not worthy to come," he said (Matthew 22:8). Then, we see him telling his servants to go invite *everyone* they could find.

Look at the "worthiness" of the king's initial invitees. They turned out to be murderers, so the king probably knew they weren't "worthy" to begin with. But that didn't matter. Even if they had a sinful past, that did not have to disqualify them. By accepting the invitation and making their way toward the banquet hall, they would have placed themselves on the path of repentance and new life.

The same is true of the second group, which was made up of the "bad and good alike" (Matthew 22:10). They were not bound by whatever they had done or failed to do earlier.

The same is true for you. Your worthiness is not based on whether you have done everything right. You become worthy as you accept His invitation. Every step you take that brings you closer to the heavenly banquet hall makes you more worthy. It weaves another thread of the garment of holiness that all the saints in heaven wear.

God invites everyone to his banquet. His light shines "on the bad and the good" and "on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). Ever and always, He is calling out, urging, even begging us to come to Him. Everyone is called; may we all accept the invitation so that we can be counted among the "chosen" (Matthew 22:14).

Thank you, Jesus, for inviting me to your banquet! Help me to choose to live for you this day and every day.

Adapted from *the Word among us*, October, 2020.

Mass intentions for October 10/11

4:30 pm (Hall)	Francesco Santini (D)
8:00 am (Hall)	Joan B. Otto
9:15 am	Genevieve & Charles Loskarn
10:30 am (Hall)	Parish

Bible study : "Kingdom of Happiness— Living the Beatitudes in Everyday Life" - Evening sessions begin October 21

"This the best Bible study! Try it—you will love it. It's a beautiful presentation of how to live out the Beatitudes in our lives, and experience peace and joy as a result."

In a world that offers false promises and fleeting pleasures in place of true happiness, it's time more than ever to turn to the Beatitudes.

You're invited to join an evening Bible study, "Kingdom of Happiness -- Living the Beatitudes in Everyday Life."



For each weekly lesson, participants read short suggested readings, watch an on-line video, and answer a few questions to prepare. Then, they take part in a Zoom discussion to deepen understanding and faith. Zoom sessions will be on 8 Wednesday evenings beginning October 21 at 7pm.

"Kingdom of Happiness" is from Saint Benedict Press. In recent years, their excellent Bible studies have provided St. Stephen parishioners with enjoyment, fellowship, and spiritual growth. If you are interested in participating, please call Sister Angela at 443-955-1198 or email her at redsdef@comcast.net.

Life after Loss

"You have been fundamentally changed by your loss. It takes time to discover who you've become."

Join a small group journey "From Grief to Healing" for people coping with loss of a loved one.

The group will meet VIRTUALLY for

6 Wednesdays 1:00 - 2:15 pm, Nov. 4 through Dec. 9

OR

6 Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:15 pm, Nov. 4 through Dec. 9

Contact Sr. Angela at redsdef@comcast.net or 443-955-1198. Feel free to call with any questions or to just chat.

I look forward to journeying with you. —Sr. Angela



Our Parish Family

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
Edward Sacco III

Respect Life Month Campaign to Support Local Pregnancy Centers

Throughout the month of October, the St. Stephen Respect Life Committee is asking you to make a gift to help the Center for Pregnancy Concerns and the Women's Care Center in Fullerton. The need for the help that pregnancy centers provide is greater than ever.

We know that finances are difficult for some parishioners, but for those who are able, please consider making a donation in one of the following ways:

- Bring a check to Mass and place it in one of the decorated baby baskets next to the offering baskets by the hall doors.

- Mail a check to the parish center, 8030 Bradshaw Road, Kingsville, MD 21087

Checks should be payable to *St. Stephen Parish*, with "baby donation" in the memo line.

- Make a donation electronically [on the parish website](#). Under "How would you like to allocate your donation?" select "Baby Bottle Donation" from the drop down menu.

We will divide the donations evenly between the two centers. Thank you for your generosity!

If you are unable to offer financial support at this time, please pray for these ministries. Prayer works wonders.

Pregnancy Centers provide pregnancy testing and counseling, ultrasounds, prenatal and parenting classes, self-sufficiency training, and referrals to sympathetic medical providers. Baby clothing, cribs, diapers, baby supplies, and other necessities are also available.

Scout Congratulations to the following young men of Scout BSA Troop #877 for the achievement of Eagle: Bradley Baxter, Jeffrey Brown, Ryan Frist, and Grant Tridone. And, congratulations to Cub Scout Pack #877 member Rhett Jones for completing the religious emblem Parvuli Dei.



Leah's frisky blessing

"I don't think I could live without this little frisky child of mine!" says Leah today. "It makes me emotional to think about.

"I was genuinely shocked with the positive pregnancy test. And I sobbed. I was absolutely terrified. But I remember you gave me a lot of peace.

"We had no idea how to be parents," she says. "Having someone here with such clarity of how to help me was so big when I was so scared."

from the Women's Care Center September 2020 newsletter



Becoming Catholic

"Faith...takes the form of a journey, a path to be followed, which begins with an encounter with the living God."

-- Pope Francis, *Lumen Fidei* (46)

Is God inviting you into deeper relationship?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a journey toward full communion in the Roman Catholic Church. It is designed for adults who are either...

- unbaptized or baptized in a non-Catholic Christian tradition who are interested in becoming Catholic.
- baptized Catholic, but have not received the remainder of their Sacraments of Initiation (Holy Communion and Confirmation).

RCIA is not only about learning what the Catholic Church believes and teaches, but also how Catholics live and celebrate faith in daily life. In short, RCIA is about *sharing the faith* with people who are seeking God.

Do you think the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults might be for you or someone you know? If so, please contact Sr. Angela at redsdef@comcast.net or 443-955-1198. We hope to begin **Monday, October 19 at 7pm** VIRTUALLY through ZOOM.

Looking forward to journeying with you. —Sr. Angela

Youth Ministry

October 11 - High School Youth Ministry: #HSYM will meet via Zoom on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 10am. Join us Sunday, Oct 11 for our first session this school year. To access the zoom on Oct 11, please go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89848247221?pwd=dHFRSWREvFuaGFCNERodkxaazFWZz09MeetingID:89848247221,Passcode:4FhW5M>. If you need to join by phone, dial 301 715 8592 and enter Meeting ID: 898 4824 7221 & Passcode: 576993.

Peer Ministry: Youth in grade 6-12 are encouraged to serve as Peer Ministers this school year! For more information:

- ♦ if in grades 6-8 please contact aubrey@ssparish.org for information
- ♦ if in grades 9-12 please contact kellie@ssparish.org

October 11 - RSVP for Fall Virtual Service Projects for middle and high schoolers: During November we will be completing a different service project each week and a zoom session to share your progress. You must register in advance for this project so we can order necessary supplies. Please RSVP to Mrs. Kellie by October 11th. Cost of the projects is estimated to be around \$35, including the cost of groceries.

