

St. Stephen Church

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 15, 2020



From Fr. George

Dear Parishioners,

Sister Angela reports to me that this year's RCIA program has begun. We have several individuals beginning their journey towards the Easter Sacraments. I ask that you keep them as well as our RCIA team members in your prayers in the months to come.

If someone you know would like to explore the possibility of becoming Catholic, please have them call Sr. Angela at 443-955-1198. Also if you or someone you know that is Baptized Catholic and has not received First Communion or Confirmation, call Sister and she can explain how the Sacraments of Initiation can be completed. Thanks for all you do for our Parish.

May God bless you and your loved ones in the week to come.

Fr. George



His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'

Readings for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I: Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

Psalm 128

Reading II: 1Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The full text of these readings is available [at https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/11520.cfm](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/11520.cfm). Keep them in mind you as you ask yourself the questions of the week:

Teens/Adults: What gift haven't you developed as you had hoped? What could you still do?

Children: What gift has God given you? What do you want to do with it?

Intercessions for Sunday, November 15

For Pope Francis and all church leaders, that they may continue to teach the love and forgiveness of God, we pray to the Lord...

For the United States, that we as people turn to God for guidance and solidarity, we pray to the Lord...

For St. Stephen's Community, that we stay alert and prepared for the return of the Lord, we pray to the Lord...

For those who experience the pain of separation and divorce, may the love of God sustain them through every trial, we pray to the Lord...

For those mourning the loss of a loved one, may they find peace in the hope of the Resurrection and Christ's promise of eternal life, we pray to the Lord...

For those who have died may they be embraced in the arms of Jesus, we pray to the Lord...

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

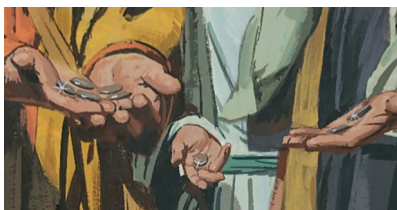
Mission Statement: We, the parish of St. Stephen, will carry out the mission of Jesus Christ as a welcoming, worshipping, Catholic community by sharing, growing and living the Gospel.



The Parable of the Talents

The Lord has entrusted lots of things to us: money, natural talents, spiritual gifts, the saving truth of the Gospel. He expects us not just to conserve these things but to grow them. In the last supper discourse (John 15) he speaks of the disciples as bearing much fruit. In the Parable of the Sower and the Seed he speaks of grain that bear 30, 60, and 100 fold. Whatever labor we are involved in—economic, family, apostolic—the goal should be to develop, increase, and grow what God has given us, for his honor and glory.

This inevitably involves taking risks. It means not letting the fear of failure and ridicule stop us from pursuing success.



One of the greatest Catholic thinkers of the 20th century was a Swiss priest named Hans Urs von Balthasar. He once pointed out that one of the most frequently used words in the book of Acts was the Greek word *parrhesia*, meaning cheerful boldness in the face of danger or opposition. Without such boldness, Christianity would have stalled in Palestine. It never would have made it to Antioch, Greece, and Rome.

Faithfulness to God means having the courage to take bold initiatives, in pastoral life, family life, and business, to be creative, even entrepreneurial, to express our gratitude to God for all that He has given us by making it grow.

Marcellino D'Ambrosio, writing at CatholicExchange.com

Wanted: Volunteers for Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

We are in need of volunteers to help create digital (powerpoint) presentations that will be sent to our Children's Ministry Flock Note group. A training session will be provided, you contribute your creativity and a little research to supplement the Sunday readings! Please contact Mrs. Kellie if you are interested at kellie@ssparish.org

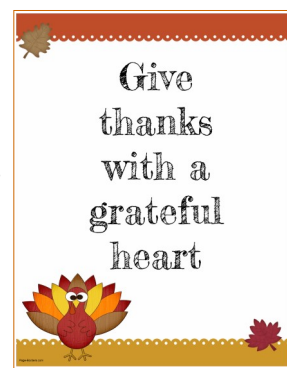
Life After Loss for Youth & Young Adults

If you are experiencing grief over a loss and would like to come together with others who are interested in a small group setting, online, please contact Kellie at kellie@ssparish.org. We will offer a series of meetings for a short period of time, between 4-6 weeks. Dates/times to be determined. Please let us know if you have any questions, or an interest in this online forum which will begin in November.

Thanksgiving Day Masses

Thursday, November 26 is Thanksgiving Day. St. Stephen parish will celebrate two Masses that day:

- 7:30 Church public Mass (regular daily Mass with Facebook live stream)
- 9:30 Hall Mass (sign up on Sign Up Genius)



Thank you, casserole makers!

God bless our parishioners!!! Even with this pandemic and our not being able to communicate at the Masses or through the bulletins about the casseroles for Our Daily Bread's hot meal program, our parishioners still continue to make their monthly casseroles. We took 45 Chicken Noodle Broccoli casseroles to Our Daily Bread for the month of October. Way to go, St Stephen's casserole makers!

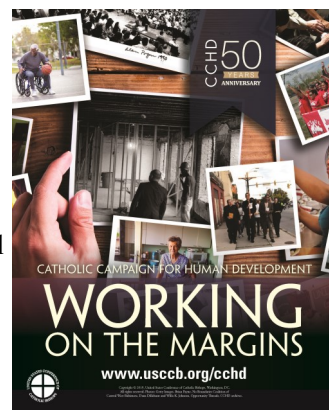
And just a reminder, the casseroles for November are due the Saturday after Thanksgiving and of course you could substitute leftover turkey for the chicken.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Every November, Catholics across the United States are given the opportunity through CCHD's annual collection to participate in the bishops' work of solidarity with all of those in our country who suffer from exploitation, lack of dignified work, injustice and marginalization.

CCHD is the official national anti-poverty program of the bishops in the United States. This work continues to change lives.

This work is powerful, healing and restorative and demonstrates Christ's ability to overcome all that stands in the way of unity and charity. Next Sunday will be the annual CCHD collection. Watch the bulletin for more information about their work and initiatives!



Advent Angel Program News

Hello fellow Parishioners,
My name is Christine Blankenbiller, and I am the Director of the Advent Angel program here at St. Stephen. This year has brought lots of changes on how we conduct everything in our daily lives. Therefore, the Angel program needed to adjust as well.

Due to Archdiocesan guidelines and the health and safety of our parish, we will not be able to run the Angel program as we have done in the past. However, our sister parish St. Benedict, in the city, needs our assistance. They have 150 pre-screened recipients in their program this year.



They say, “keep it simple” and we plan to do that. We have offered to help St. Benedict parish in two ways. Neither of these options require you to do special shopping or make any additional unnecessary stops.

First, we will be collecting gift cards until November 29th. Please keep to these cards: Visa, Mastercard, Target, Walmart, Kohl’s, Amazon. Cards can be for any denomination. We hope you will pick these up wherever you do your weekly shopping. Please drop all cards in either the weekly offertory baskets at Mass, the mailbox outside the Convent, or at the Parish Office. The cards will be used to buy gifts on St. Benedict’s wish list.

Second, we have been asked to help supply a holiday dinner for each family. Food drive items are due by December 6th. Please keep to these items: canned vegetables, jar/canned gravy, box/bag stuffing, box/bag potatoes and pie fixings. Please, no perishables. Turkeys are not needed. We will collect all food items on a drive-by-basis only at the church basement door on Sunday, November 22, November 29, and December 6 from 9-12.

The committee realizes the joy it brings to you all to buy that special item listed on an Angel, wrap it, and place it on the altar. The logistics of this process are not safe for anyone involved. We hope you understand.

I will miss seeing the Convent filled with gifts for children in need. We will continue to put a smile on a child’s face this year with your help. We appreciate you and all you do to make this program a success every year. Thank you and God Bless You!

Mass intentions for November 14 & 15

4:30 pm (Hall)	Thomas Douglass (D)
6:00 pm	Parish
8:00 am (Hall)	William “Bill” Button (D)
9:15 am	Dolores Sterbinsky
10:30 am (Hall)	Rayner J. Kline (D)



Our Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive is happening! This year we are connecting with a parish outreach program in Dundalk and will be providing 30 families with a Thanksgiving meal as well as helping keep their food pantry stocked.

In addition to (frozen) turkeys, we are collecting foil pans, cooking bags and canned goods, especially Thanksgiving favorites such as: stuffing, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes, etc. If you have participated in the turkey drop off previously, we welcome you to do so again. Please note that turkeys should NOT be cooked, but instead, frozen and the new drop off time is Wednesday, November 18th 6-7pm in the school parking lot.

If you would prefer to drop off your canned goods at another time, you can leave them on the back porch of the Parish Center at any time. Please note frozen turkeys can only be accepted on November 18th, 6-7pm in the school parking lot.

If you prefer to make a financial donation, please make checks payable to St. Stephen Church with “Thanksgiving Outreach” in the memo and send the check to the Parish Office.

We want to apologize for the late notice and any changes due to COVID and thank you so much for your help in years past and your patience as we navigate the best and safest way to collect food during the pandemic.

Please contact Aubrey Briggs (410-592-7071) (aubrey@ssparish.org) (abriggs@ssschoool.org) with any questions. Thank you in advance for any assistance you are able to provide.

November 22 - Community Sunday

Join us for an online gathering of parish family and friends each month, following the 9:15 livestream Mass on Facebook. Congrats to Ada N. who was the winner of our Dunkin’ gift card in October! To join go to www.zoom.us and click “join a meeting” then enter Meeting ID: 885 8305 4190 Passcode: 3GExfG. Need to join by phone? Dial 301-715-8592 and enter Meeting ID: 885 8305 4190 Passcode: 175283. Please set your log in name to First Name, Last Initial, and grade.