

St. Stephen Church

The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 18, 2021



From Fr. George

Dear Parishioners

I hope everyone is having a good summer as the restrictions due to the pandemic continue to lessen and we get back to some resemblance of normalcy.

Earlier this month, St. Stephen welcomed two new faces to our parish and school staffs. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Terrance Golden, our new Principal, and Br. William Ciganek, CFX our newest pastoral staff member. I pray that their ministry will be fruitful here at St. Stephen. May God bless you and your loved ones in the week to come.

Rev. George J. Gannon
Pastor, St. Stephen
410-592-7071

Year of the Eucharist

The old adage about not knowing what you have until it's gone was proven over and over again when I could no longer receive the Body of Christ because of newly developed food allergies. It took me two years of longing to receive Christ at Communion before I realized I could receive the Blood of Christ. But it became very unnerving to pass the line for the Body and go to the line for the Blood. I even had a Eucharistic Minister tell me I needed to receive the Body first and it often became too difficult to try to navigate Communion at different churches. I began to give up. But I noticed that my spiritual life was stronger receiving the sustenance of the Eucharist each week, no matter the form. Then COVID hit and I was once again without the Eucharist. However now when I arrange to receive Communion, going to Mass is both an intense desire and need rather than just fulfilling an obligation.

Submitted by Ashley C., Church of the Resurrection, Ellicott City, MD

"And so we must approach this Mystery in particular with humility and reverence."

-- Pope Paul VI on the Holy Eucharist



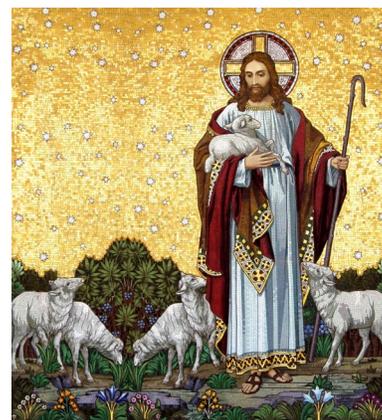
The Lord is My Shepherd

St. Mark [tells us] "When [Jesus] disembarked and saw the vast crowd, His heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things."

We can assume that Jesus desired rest from the constant pressure of the crowds. He most certainly desired it for the apostles. However, when He saw the lost look on the faces of the people who had tracked Him down, He could not resist them. He knew no one else could meet their aching need. He served them rather than Himself. He gave a powerful example of selflessness to the weary apostles, too. Ever the Good Shepherd, He lovingly fed His sheep.

We should be careful to savor these moments in the Gospels—times when we see Jesus moved to pity, in a deeply human way, for those in need. His tenderness and sympathy are real. His Sacred Heart beats with the same kind of human love that so imperfectly beats in our hearts, too. In our times of great need, when we do everything in our power to get His attention, let us not forget what we see here—we always have it.

Gayle Somers, "Scripture Speaks: Working and Resting" at catholicexchange.com



God's Gift of His Word

Readings for next Sunday, the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145

Reading II: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: John 6:1-15

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

Teens/Adults: When has the generous gift of another offered you hope?

Children: What loving gift could you give to another person this week?

July 17 & 18 Mass intentions

4:30 pm (Church) Bill Button (D)

6:00 pm (Outdoors on School Parking Lot)
Margaret Harrison

7:30 am (Church) Parish

9:15 am (Church) Dolores Sterbinsky (D)

10:45 am (Church) Richard Dunnigan (D)

July 3 and 4, 2021 Mass Attendance

Saturday 4:30 pm Church 90

Saturday 6:00 pm Outdoor 45

Sunday 7:30 am Church 122

Sunday 9:15 am Church 92

Sunday 10:30 am Church 136

Total = 485

Same weekend 2020 = 141

Same weekend 2019 = 943

Archdiocesan Mental Wellbeing Initiative

As part of the new archdiocesan initiative to promote mental wellbeing and to assist our communities in coping with the emotional aftermath of the pandemic, the Archdiocese is exploring the possibility of providing the internationally acclaimed Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training (www.mhamd.org) to parish and school staff throughout the Archdiocese.

If you are interested in joining a cohort of trainers and are a certified MHFA instructor or are interested in becoming one, please send your name, parish, location, and contact information to Mary Ellen Russell at mrussell@archbalt.org.

Adults Seeking to Grow in Faith

Are you seeking to learn about the Catholic Faith?

Are you longing to become Catholic?

Were you baptized Catholic but have never received your First Communion or been Confirmed?

You are invited to participate in the RCIA process during which your longings will be fulfilled. RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process designed to prepare adults to join the Catholic Church or assist Catholics who are not fully initiated.

For more information: Contact Sr. Angela, Pastoral Associate at redsdef@comcast.net or 443-955-1198

Looking forward to assisting you on your faith journey.



Walking with Moms in Need

Our parish is joining a nationwide effort entitled: "Walking with Moms in Need." We plan in to assess, expand, and better communicate resources to local pregnant moms and families who need them. The first meeting of interested parishioners is planned for Wednesday, July 21 at 5pm.

Come to Mrs. Kellie's office on the ground floor of the parish center. If you can't meet in person, let her know (contact info below), and we'll keep you informed.

We plan to begin identifying resources in our area and see where gaps may exist. For more information, please contact Kellie Reynolds at 410-592-7294 or kellie@ssparish.org To learn more about the nationwide initiative, visit www.walkingwithmoms.com

You're invited you to join us as we begin this effort to serve mothers in need in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be "islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference."

Our Parish Family

May God bless these newest members of the Church who recently received the Sacrament of Baptism:

Amelia Christine Robbins

Grady Vernon Goetz



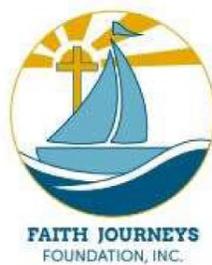
Youth Ministry

Work Camp Update! On Friday, August 13 we are offering tickets to Hershey Park for \$41 per camper! (regular tickets are \$75.80). You can opt-in later on for any of the daily activities during workcamp, however, you must RSVP for Hershey Park tickets by July 30. If campers would like a seat on the bus, that is an additional \$25 (bus seats are limited and first-come, first-served) or you may drive with your family.

Hershey Park tickets will also be open to anyone in middle and high school and their families, not just those attending workcamp. After July 30 non-campers in grades 6-12 can also reserve a seat on the bus if any remain. Parents who want to ride the bus must be VIRTUS trained.

Catholic Divorce Group for Children

Thanks to a grant awarded to her foundation, our school counselor, Mrs. Lynn Kapusinski, will be leading a Catholic-based group for children from divorced or separated families, starting in September. The group is open to school and parish families and those in the community. It will meet weekly for 10 Sundays from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm. A home component for parents will also be provided. Divorced or separated families whose child or children will be in grades 4-8 this fall are encouraged to contact Mrs. Kapusinski at lkapusinski@ssschool.org for more information. An intake interview is required prior to registration. A limited number of spaces and partial scholarships are available.



Parish and School Soccer Registration Now Open

Parish Rec Soccer: The long history of Rec soccer at Saint Stephen returns this fall! Parishioners with boys and girls entering grades K-8 that are interested in playing rec soccer this fall should email their name and grade that they will be entering to soccer@ssschool.org. Games will be on weekends in the ABSP (Formerly CYO) league against different Catholic parishes. Open to all parish youth, boys and girls.



School Team Soccer: Coach Jon Draper is returning to coach the St. Stephen school boys' middle school team again after winning 5 MIAC championships in a row. St. Stephen School boys entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grade that are interested in playing for the school team should email Mr. Rob: rbaranoski@ssschool.org with name and grade entering in the fall. (Yes, you can play on the Parish ABSP (Formerly CYO) team as well. School games are after school during the week).

Young Adult Ministry (ages 18-39)

Follow us on twitter @ststephenyya

Join our Facebook group St Stephen Bradshaw Young Adult Ministry

Check out our Pinterest Page: [ststephenmd](https://www.pinterest.com/ststephenmd)

Follow us on Instagram @mrskellie

Young Adults seeking to celebrate Confirmation: If you are interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please let us know – we would love to work with you and help you prepare! Please contact Mrs. Kellie so we can set up a time to meet this month. (kellie@ssparish.org or 410-592-7294)

Long Term Volunteer Opportunity! Do you want to help make a difference in the lives of children in foster care in Harford County? Americorps is looking for local applicants to serve with CASA of Harford County for 40 hours a week from Sept 2021 – August 2022 as a Volunteer Coordinator. The member receives extensive training through Volunteer Maryland, a modest \$15,100 stipend paid throughout the year and a \$6,345 education credit upon completion of the program that could be used to pay for school or to pay off student loan debt. Link to the application: <https://www.casaofharfordcounty.org/amicorp>

Scouts BSA Troop #877

St Stephen Troop 877 is always happy to have young boys/men join the troop. Interested scouts should email the Scoutmaster, Tim LaChapelle at twlachapelle@yahoo.com and/or the Executive Committee Chair Cindy Stevens at ourfivemonkeys@gmail.com for more information. You can also view upcoming Troop 877 activities here at this link: <https://troop877.trooptrack.com/calendar>

In addition, Troop 877 is still offering **Camp Cards/Scout Coupon Cards** which for a \$5 donation, provides over \$80 in discounts to local businesses like Jiffy Lube, Ace Hardware, Dick's Sporting Goods, Wendy's and Taco Bell to name a few. For each \$5 card, \$2.50 will go to Troop 877 and \$2.50 goes to the Baltimore Area Council's Disadvantaged Scouting program. The BAC's Disadvantaged Scouting program helps defer costs and provide equipment for our Baltimore BSA families that are economically disadvantaged. Please reach out to Trish Paine at trishapaine@msn.com on how to get your Camp Cards/Scout Coupon Cards.

Kenya Partnership Anniversary Tea Social!

The Kenya Committee will be celebrating the 22nd anniversary of our partnership on the Solemnity of Our Lady's Assumption on the 15th of August.

In honor of this special day, the Kenya Committee will hold our annual **Kenya Tea Social** on, **Sunday, August 15, 2021** after 10:45 AM Mass in the church basement. **Please save the date** and join us for refreshments and fellowship as we unite with our brothers and sisters from St. Steven Church in Mombasa.

Sisters of St. Francis Golf Tournament

The Sisters of St. Francis would like to invite you to their 26th Annual Golf Tournament on September 20 at Penn Oaks Golf Club in West Chester, PA.



Please join us for a fun day of golf, dinner, and auction to support our aging sisters.

- 1:00 PM – Golf Start (lunch served at 12 PM)
- 6:00 PM – Cocktails
- 6:30 PM – Dinner/Auction

For more information visit www.osfphila.org/events/26th-annual-golf-tournament/ or email golf@osfphila.org

The Sisters of St. Francis thank you for your support!

EWTN Enriches Your Faith

EWTN's vast array of programming includes daily Mass, devotionals, global Catholic news, powerful documentaries, music specials, teaching series, live call-in talk shows, young adult and children's programming and Church and Papal events.



EWTN On Demand brings you more than 12,000 videos of a wide variety of Catholic shows for children and adults. Just go to ewtn.com/ondemand.

EWTN television is on Comcast Channel 291, Verizon/FIOS Channel 285, Dish Network Channel 261 and DIRECTV Channel 370.

EWTN Global Catholic Radio can be heard on SiriusXM Satellite Radio Channel 130, using the EWTN app, or streaming from EWTN.com. To learn more, visit www.ewtn.com.

EWTN App for Apple and Android devices and for Kindle Fire.

Respect Life Corner

Pregnant, Need Help? Call Birthright at 410-838-0443, the Center for Pregnancy Concerns at 410-391-3911 or Women's Care Center at 667-401-0700.

Suffering Post-Abortion Stress? Call Project Rachel at 410-625-8491 or go to rvbaltimore.org.

Emotional and spiritual pain after an abortion

Longtime country music singer Kenny Rogers has a song called "Water and Bridges," which highlights a father's pain after losing a child to abortion. Rogers told CNN that the song is not about him, but is "really about choices you make when you're young that you pay for when you're old." He goes on to explain, "It starts off with a young couple who have an abortion, and the guy says, 'If a father could hold his son, I could undo what's been done, but I guess everyone is living with water and bridges.'" Counseling and healing is available for any man or woman who has lost a child to abortion. See <https://www.rachelsvineyard.org/> for details.

Birthright has resumed the Drop-In for women suffering the pain of a past abortion. The Drop-In will be held the last Monday of each month at the Birthright office, 38 East Gordon Street, Bel Air, from 6-7:00 PM. Masks are optional.

St. Stephen Girl Scouts at 4th of July Parade



St Stephen Girl Scouts participated in the Kingsville 4th of July Parade this year as part of community service.

If your daughter entering K-12 is interested in joining a troop that meets at St. Stephen, please email renemonghan@hotmail.com or phone 410-877-0698. Girl Scouts is the premier leadership organization for girls. We camp, hike, climb, travel, create and lead all while having fun and making lifetime friendships.