Please pray for these students as they continue their preparation for Confirmation. Allie Parker, Ellie Fleener, Nolan Duquaine, Maria Whitehead, Rachel Holkenbrink, Ellie Pierce, Andrea Moody, Jackson Mills. Ailyn Zurliene. and Andrew Milligan.

Start your Day with Faith Filled Stories, *Subscribe to* **The Messenger!** To subscribe online for our Paper call 618-233-8670.

St. Vincent de Paul Needs Blankets and Coats! Cold winter weather has arrived earlier than usual and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council needs blankets and coats to distribute to those need Gently-used or new coats of all types for all ages – toddlers, children, teens and adults (men and women) and blankets of all types/sizes – are being requested. Items can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul office #13 Vieux Carre Drive, Suite 2, East St. Louis or call Joe Hubbard or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126

Want to give your spouse a gift that says you truly love them and want to make the most of your marriage? Give your spouse a gift certificate for a Marriage Encounter weekend as a Christmas present! You will BOTH appreciate this special gift to one another. If that sounds good to you, just pick up the phone to find out more about a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend on Jan. 19-20, 2019 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Lawrenceville, IL (no hotel provided); or Feb 8-10 at the Courtyard Marriott in St. Peters, MO. If you would like to apply or get more information, go to https://stl- wwme.org/schedule.php or call 314.694.7317

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

2018-2019 St. Edward and St. Stephen Masses and Special Services

Monday, December 17 Reconciliation Service	St. Stephen – 6:30 p.m.	
Thursday, December 20 Reconciliation Service	St. Edward – 6:30 p.m.	
Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve	St. Edward – 8 p.m. mass	St.Stephen – 11 p.m. mass
Tuesday, December 25 Christmas	St. Stephen – 9 a.m. mass	St. Edward – 11 a.m. mass
Monday, December 31	St. Stephen – 6:30 p.m. mass	Solemnity of Mary
Tuesday, January 1, 2019 Solemnity of Mary	St. Stephen – 8:30 a.m. mass	St. Edward – 10:30 a.m. mass

December 16, 2018

St. Edward and St. Stephen Catholic Churches

300 NW 5th Street, Fairfield IL 62837
Email stedwardcatholicchurch01@frontier.com
Website: stedwardfairfield.com

812 N. Main Street, Flora IL 62839
Email: ststephen_flora@yahoo.com
Website: ststephenflora.com

Rev. Father Charles Anyaoku, Pastoral Administrator
Email: fronyekaanyaoku@yahoo.com, office phone: 618-662-6261

St. Edward Mass Schedule:
1st and 3rd Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Confession, Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Friday – 8:30 a.m.

Parish Office: Peggy Garrison, Secretary
Office hours Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon Rectory/Office 847-7931
Fax – 847-7393 Parish Hall 847-7512

Bulletin Info: Peggy Garrison, Parish Office. Please submit by noon on Thursday

New Parishioners Register at the Parish Office

PSR Coordinator: Peggy Garrison
RCIA Coordinator: Ginny Barrett
Music Director: Denise Zurliene

Pastoral Council – 3rd Thursday
Altar Sodality – 3rd Monday
Men's Club - As announced
CYO Meeting - As announced
Food Pantry Distribution 2nd Saturday 8am

St. Stephen Mass Schedule:
2nd and 4th Saturday 5 p.m.,
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Confession, Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Wednesday after mass, Sunday 8 – 8:20 a.m. or call appt

Parish Office: Trudi Herdes, Secretary, Office Hours Monday & Wednesday, 8 a.m. to noon, Office, Fax & Social Room 662-8121, Rectory 662-6261

Bulletin information Beth Fancher, 665-3163 submit by Thursday, email: bafancher@wabash.net

New Parishioner Register contact Father Charles, Trudi Herdes or Dorothy Uebinger 662-3711 email dot@wabash.net

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

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

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. (Ps. 27, 4)
That should be our daily prayer. That should be our daily desire. That should be our daily wish.

ST. STEPHEN MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 15, NO MASS

Sunday, December 16, 8:30 a.m. mass – St. Ann's Altar Society

Monday, December 17, 6:30 p.m. Reconciliation Service

Tues, December 18, 6:30 p.m. mass – John & Bertha Rudolphi+

Wednesday, Dec, 19, 6:30 p.m. mass – Donnie & Mary Talmant+

Thursday, December 20, 8 a.m. mass – Catholic Extension Donors

Saturday, December 22, 5 p.m. – Jim Stanford+

Sunday, December 23, 8:30 a.m. – Al Winka+

Monday, December 24, 11 p.m. – Al Uebinger+

Tuesday December 25, 9 a.m. – For the living & deceased of the parish

Weekly Contributions – December 9

Envelopes……. $1,259.00 (43)
Loose…… 188.00
Total ……. …..$1,477.00

We Need - $1,731.00

Immaculate Conception - $277.00
Retirement Fund Religious - $190.00
Attendance: Saturday- 71
Sunday-80

Weekend Ministers

Saturday, December 22 Lector - Jim Fehrenbacher
Euch Min - Paul Birk, Dorothy & Jim Croy
Servers - Pierce Family
Ushers – Don Talmant, Mike Winka

Sunday, December 23 **Lecto**r- Deb Zimmerman
Commentator- Ted Zimmerman
Euch Min Ted Whitehead, Dennis Holkenbrink, Randy Wells
Servers – Max, Sam and Nolan Duquaine
Ushers – Jacob Whitehead, Justin Fleener

St. Stephen Activities for the Week

Saturday, Dec. 15 NO MASS
Sunday, December 16, 8:30 a.m. mass
Monday, Dec. 17, Reconciliation Service 6:30 pm
Tuesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. mass Bible study after mass
Wed. December 19, 6:30 p.m. mass, Finance Co. after mass Adoration 7 p.m. – 12 midnight
Thursday, December 20, 8 a.m. mass
F**riday, December 21,** Divine Mercy Chaplet 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Servite Rosary 12 noon, Chaplet to Divine Mercy 3 p.m
Sa**turday, December 22, 5 p.m. mass**

P**RAYER INTENTIONS**: Linda Griffy, Bill Marks, Nicole Wheaton, Velma Oliver, LaVonne Kemmerer, Patience McKnight, Clara Wilson, Mildred Garrison, Ray Vaughn, Joe Falica, Pat Venable, Clarice Schweighart, Ray & Irene Winka, Chris Boyd, Steve Dudzik, Ruth Wilson, Roger Wells, Becky Payne, Bob Bluhm, Rhonda Ryker, Kelly Coan, Dr. Don Bunnell, Paul Weidner, Marilyn Wheaton, Diana Fleener, J.R. Means, Lois Houlihan, Cory Britton, Lucille Anderson, Debbie Jones, Gary Nelson, Duck Greenwood, Ed Perk, Kathryn Fleener, Georgia Klingler, Gene Leonard, Celeste Replogle, Georgianna Weber, Steve Spitzner, Helen Powless, Nick Compton, Cindy Bloemer, Kennah Hiespand, Jim McCarty, Ronnie Lewis

Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

ST. EDWARD MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 15, 5:00pm—John Robison III+

Sunday, December 16, 10:30am—For living & deceased of St. Edward

Thursday, December 20, 6:30pm—Penance Service

Friday, December 21, 8:00am—Blessings Received

Saturday, December 22—NO MASS

Sunday, December 23, 10:30am—Don & Loretta Schoenborn+

Monday, December 24, 8:00pm—Jim Turner+

Tuesday, December 25, 11:00am—For living & deceased of St. Edward

Envelopes(24)	$1,413.00
Loose	78.00
Total	$1,491.00
We need	$1,887.00
Building Fund	$ 45.00
Donation	20.00
Imm. Conception	110.00
Ret. Rel. Fund	95.00
Christmas Off.	150.00

Attendance: Sat. 22 Sun. 59

PRAYER ININTENTIONS: Garland Keck, Kim Buchanan, Lanora Neavill, Leon Chamness, Jack Ciesielczyk, Jalain Thompson, Kurt Wiseman, Nanette Williams, Julie Griffith, Gina Williams, Emilee Stanley, Noreen Reeves, Paula Zdan, Maddox Oppenheimer, Sara Kerchner, Charles Drechsel, Eva Decker, Matthew Rorban, Kathy Bramlet, Tom Colvin, Andrew Mayo, Robyn Meagher, Sheila Zurliene, Sandra Henson, Andrew Luna, Elaine Jeffers, Homer and Shirley Clark, Alice Zurliene, Tim Dittmer, Megan Young, Cody Burroughs, Terri Venturelli, Linda States, all priests who are sick

Sat., December 22-NO MASS
Lector:
E. Mins:
Ushers:
Gifts:
Servers:

Sun., December 23
Lector: Tom Konopasek
E. Mins:Ken & Theresa Nordmann
Ushers: Ray & Sally Conley
Gifts: Kent Ochs Family
Servers: Jedd Wellen, Jackson Mills

Our Daily Scripture Readings:

Mon: *Advent Weekday*
Gn 49:2,8-10 *Mt 1:1-17*
Tues: *Advent Weekday*
Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25
Wed: *Advent Weekday*
Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Lk 1:5-25
Thur: *Advent Weekday*
Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38
Fri: *Saint Peter Cansisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church*
Sg 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45
Sat: *Advent Weekday*
1 sm 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56
Sun: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*
Mi 5:1-4a Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

ST. EDWARD NEWS

REMINDER: NEXT SATURDAY, December 22—There will not be mass at St. Edward.

PSR NEWS

Dec.16th—PSR CLASS 9:00am (PSR will perform a Christmas Pageant during Mass)
Dec. 23rd—NO PSR OR CONFIRMATION
Dec. 30th—NO PSR OR CONFIRMATION
Jan. 6th—PSR CLASS 9:00am Confirmation—5:00pm

LOOKING AHEAD:

December 17th—Penance Service (St. Stephen—6:30pm)
December 20th--Penance Service (St. Edward—6:30pm)
St. Edward Penance Service has been moved to Thursday instead of Friday for more convenience to our parishioners.
December 24th—Christmas Eve: St. Edward 8:00pm/St. Stephen 11:00pm
December 25th—Christmas Day: St. Stephen 9:00am/St. Edward 11:00am

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MASS STIPENDS: Just a friendly reminder that if you would like a Mass to be said in memory of a loved one that has passed or just for help getting through a difficult situation, please drop an envelope earmarked in the collection basket with name or what you would like the mass for. The cost is $10 per intention. Thanks.

ALTAR SODALITY

To "Prepare the way of the Lord" for your journey with the Jesse Tree, this last week, (Dec. 16-21) parishioners are asked to read the Christmas Story from the Bible, (Mt 1:18-25 or Lk 2:1-14) as a quiet meditation or read aloud with your family. Next weekend, (Dec.22-23, Fourth Sunday of Advent) tie a ribbon on our Jesse Tree.

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Food Pantry last weekend. We served 52 families which resulted in helping out 111 people. Tis the season to give. Our Assistance Fund is solely supported by donations. If you were wanting to make a year end donation to a worthy cause (for tax purposes) our Assistance Fund would make a great choice.

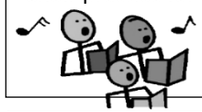
ADVENT BLESSINGS

The staffs of ministries funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal wish you an Advent showered with His love and Blessings! We are truly grateful for your continued generosity and support for it is only through working together that we can bring new promises, new dreams and new hopes to those in need at Advent and throughout the year.

If anyone would like to send Bridget Arakkal a Christmas Card here is her address:
Bridget Arakkal, Legacy Care 4755 E. Evergreen Ct., Apt. 11 Decatur, IL 62521

ST. STEPHEN NEWS

Choir practice for December will be on Tuesday, Dec. 18, due to the Reconciliation Service



The 2018 Cookie Walk was a great success, thanks to all the awesome bakers we had!!! Also, a big thank you to all the people who purchased cookies and donated to the Cookie Walk. We made $2,108.75 this year. This is up over $500 from last year!!

Special Events!

Tree of Joy
Presents must be returned to the Tree of Joy this weekend. Thank you to all who have participated in this special program. Contact Cheryl McCarty or Deb Duquaine with questions.

BULLETINS ARE NOW ON THE BOOKSHELVES BY THE TABLES AT THE FRONT OF CHURCH. Pick one up, LOT OF INFORMATION!

Please pick up the Little Blue Book in the back of church at both entrances. It is a six minute reflection on the Sunday Gospels of Year C for Advent and Christmas Season. Also please pick up the Family Digest booklet.

If you would like to donate, in honor of a deceased family member, to purchasing Poinsettas for Christmas, there are envelopes on the bookshelves by both church doors. Place them in offertory basket during mass.

If you are celebrating an occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, new birth, wedding, new church member, etc., please contact Trudi Herdes at church or Beth Fancher bafancher@wabash.net or 618-676-4292. We would like to pray for you, put it in the bulletin and compile a list.

December Birthdays

Dorothy Croy – Dec. 4
Bernie Brown – Dec. 6
Ray Winka – 89th - Dec. 17
Allison Cartright – Dec. 29
Jeanne Greuel — Dec. 30

From Fr. Charles's desk

Theme: What shall we do in order to welcome Christ in our hearts?

The Liturgy of today's mass, the third Sunday in Advent, urges us to rejoice. St Paul gives us the reasons why we should rejoice. His basic reason for our profound happiness is that our Lord is near. 'Near' means that he is with us here and now, present in our midst, and closer to us than the person sitting next to us. He is close by grace. That grace comes in many ways: through liturgy, sacraments, through Christian community, through the special presence of his spirit. So, we rejoice!

In eight days' time, we shall be re-living the experience of the greatest wonder ever of our God becoming man like us in everything but sin.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called 'Gaudete Sunday' from the Latin for 'Sunday to rejoice.'' It marks the midpoint of Advent when the vestments become a little lighter and the rose candle or pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit.

In today's gospel reading, John the Baptist shows us the way to the profound joy that is at the spiritual heart of this season. In the reading, at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, John was proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah. This led to the crowds asking, as we all must ask in facing Jesus ''What should we do ''. John tells the crowd to share what they have with others, the opposite of selfishness and greed. Tax collectors come to him and he tells them not to extort money from people. Soldiers come and he tells them not to abuse their power. In other words, we clear the messiah a path not with bulldozers, singing, decorating but by repentance.

More so, we can make John's message our own. How do we prepare for the coming of the Messiah? With repentance, however, Jesus Christ becomes and remains an important part of our life. There are many ways of clearing a way for the Lord. For us Catholics, one way is very specific and concrete. That way is the sacrament of Penance with its honest self -examination, confession, and intention to change our life, absolution and God-grace. Repentance is the door to a magnificent Christmas. St. Francis de Sale once wrote that real repentance is strong, settled constant and tranquil not turbulent and occasional.

Happy Sunday

Let us pray

As we continue in our Advent observance and reflection, let us take heart from John's assurance that God is always ready to forgive us. Let us pray for the humility to acknowledge our sinfulness, the courage to repent and the resolve to do better. Amen.

St. Stephen News

St. Stephen PSR 2018-2019 Calendar

Sunday Class Time 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 9 Class – Christmas Program/Dinner	**Jan. 6 Class**	**Feb. 3 Class**
Dec. 16 Class – No Class	**Jan. 13 Class**	**Feb. 10 Class**
Dec. 23 – No Class	**Jan. 20 Class**	**Feb. 17 Class**
Dec. 30 No Class	**Jan. 27 Class**	**Feb. 24 Class**

WEEKEND MASS The Saturday evening mass rotates between St. Stephen and St. Edward Churches. The first and third Saturdays will be at St. Edwards and the second and fourth Saturdays will be at St. Stephen. The mass on Saturdays will be at 5 p.m. The Sunday morning mass times will remain the same.
St. Stephen 8:30 a.m. St. Edward – 10:30 a.m.

WELCOME VISITORS ATTENDING MASS Welcome to our church. Come visit us again.

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.

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.

Altar Society: The next three rotating chairmen are Mary Beth Lancaster & Susan Schroeder; Etchison, Whitehead & Winka's; Bernie Brown.

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