

ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS

Sunday, November 16, 2025

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 28

WELCOME!

If you are worshipping at St. Stephen's for the first time today, you are welcome to share in the Holy Communion. Please fill out a "Visitor" card at one of the Greeters tables and/or the guest book on the podium before you leave and get a welcome packet.

COMMUNION

If you are in need of a gluten free wafer during Communion, please let an usher know before the offertory or let one of the persons serving the host know. If you have a mobility problem, please let an usher know before the service begins and communion will be brought to you.

LOOKING FORWARD



The Pledge Drive currently is 44% of our \$425,000 goal.

Walk in Love —
Coming together as a

community of love, walking together in faith to love and service God. We give because of the love we have experienced in the story of our faith. to transform that goodness into work, service, and joy in a world that needs us.

Every gift matters. Each Pledge Card, whether electronic or paper, is welcomed. On Gratitude Sunday, November 23rd, we will bring all to the altar and bless them before God and our community.

Links can be found on the "Give" tab of the st-stephens.org website or by using this [link](#). Thank you for your generosity and your prayerful consideration of your pledge to St. Stephen's.

Gratitude Sunday Potluck

Join us for a Potluck lunch Sunday, November 23rd in Spurling Hall following the 9:00am service. Sign up [here](#).

Gratitude Sunday is the day of our pledge ingathering and a day on which we give special thanks for St. Stephen's and all of our wonderful people and ministries. We celebrate with a shared meal and joyful fellowship!



Click on picture above to got to list.

This holiday season we will be helping out six young adults with Fostering Youth Independence. This is a time to help make their holiday wishes come true! FYI envisions a future in which every youth leaving the foster care system feels safe, connected and loved. They believe that with a consistent, nurturing community, foster youth can become successful, thriving adults. For some these are the only gifts they will receive this Christmas. Questions? Please contact Tracy in the Church office at 661-259-7307.



Please join us on Sunday, December 7th when Bishop Brookhart visits St. Stephen's! We will have one service at 9:00am and then have a coffee hour to celebrate those who have just been confirmed.



Before we gather at our tables for the holiday let's gather at The Table here in our sanctuary and offer thanks for the blessing of our lives. All are invited to bring items that will be placed on their Thanksgiving tables (bread, wine, table dressings, etc.) to be blessed during the service. We look forward to seeing you there as we kick off the holiday weekend. This service will not be available via livestream



Come join us for The Welcome Table on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 7PM in the Chapel. The Welcome Table is an experience crafted by and for the LGBTQ+ community. Gather with us as we eat, pray, discuss, share communion, celebrate diversity and explore our faith in community as our true, authentic selves. Come as you are, this place is for you.

Dinner is potluck style. You can sign up for your contribution here: <https://tinyurl.com/yy7csfe5>



More info to come!



Sunday, Dec. 7th, St. Stephen's bookstore will reopen with a selection of handmade items and holiday gift ideas! Be sure to check it out! The bookstore is located at the back of Spurling Hall and is open after both worship services. Volunteers are needed to help in the store on Sunday mornings. If you're interested or have further questions, please talk with Mary Jo Higginbotham or email her at maryjohigg@gmail.com

Memorial Services: A Call to Serve

A Memorial Service is our final opportunity to say goodbye to a friend or family member. These services resemble our Sunday worship, with one key difference: the music and readings are chosen by the deceased or their loved ones. Unlike Sundays, however, the Celebrant often serves alone—without the usual support of acolytes, readers, ushers, or Chalice Bearers and depending on the size of the service, they may need help. Traditional funerals are increasingly rare, typically held during the week due to logistical constraints (for example, grave diggers in L.A. do not work weekends). Memorial Services, by contrast, are usually scheduled on Saturdays, making it easier for mourners to attend.

Rev. Christopher is seeking volunteers—male or female, young or old. No prior experience is needed, except for Chalice Bearers.

We are reviving the **Holy Mackerals**, a ministry of presence and service. Volunteers assist our priest during Memorial Services, funerals, and occasionally at interments in the Memorial Garden. This ministry not only supports our Rector but also offers comfort to grieving families. Your presence helps transform these services into communal acts of love and remembrance—prayer in action.

These services are infrequent, and with more volunteers, each person will be called upon less often. Please consider joining us in this meaningful work and keep the Holy Mackerals in your prayers as we relaunch this vital ministry. If you're interested or have questions, please contact Malcolm Blue at 661-714-3706.



Men's Group Breakfast Saturday, December 6th 8:00am

**Dink's Deli & Bagel Bakery
on McBean Parkway**



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S

If you are able to continue supporting the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's, you can pay your pledge or make a new or recurring donation online here st-stephens.org/giving. You can also text your donation by texting the word GIVE to 661.228.8909 and following the prompts. Click [here](#) for an easy [How To Use Text Giving guide](#). We are deeply grateful for your commitment and support.

FOOD & RECYCLING COLLECTION

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
9-11 AM
ST. STEPHEN'S PARKING LOT**



St. Stephen's Prayer List

Current Needs: Joanne, Vickie, Innocent Victims of global and domestic conflicts and wars, Jim and Judy, Laura, Trudy, Gayle, Lisa and Lou, Lella, Eliza, Janet, Gail, Angie, Ruby, Nora and Lonnie, Mary and Sepp, Vera, Pat, Peggy, Summer, Bill, Nicole, Rachel, Suzie, Chris, Ron, John and the Nelson family, Kim, Debbie, Patti and Lou, Sonny, Armando, and Jaing, Shirley, Daniel, Barbara, Jimmy, Wendy, Nick, George, Caroline, Elise, Kevin, Marie, Kathy, Diane, Biagio, Mike, Peggy, Carol, Theresa, Kristen, Katie, Luke, Lance, Karen, Fran, Lilly, Rebecca, Lorraine, Nevelle, Charlie and Linda, Jeff, Raph and Jess, Laura, Lindsay, Dave, Patrick, Amy, Malcolm, Dolores and family, Rev. Steve, Heather, Matt, Norma, Maria, Summer, Pat

Rest in Peace: Greg Prieto, Anthony Roman, Jimmy Mangone, Grace Nuzzi, Kim Bailey

If you would like to have prayers for yourself or someone else, please email Peggy Stabile at pstable@pegasus2.net or call the church office at 661.259.7307. Please be aware that your prayer request content will be shared with the members of the prayer chain. If you wish for Peggy to hold your prayer request in confidence, please clarify that in your submission. Prayer requests remain active for 4 weeks and must be renewed thru Peggy or the office to be on the list again.



If you wish to have your birthday or anniversary prayed for during Sunday services or if you would like a white rose to signify a death in your family or a red rose to signify a birth in your family, please email Tracy in the Church office at office@st-stephens.org no later than 5:00pm on Thursdays with all of the relevant details.

St. Stephen's Week		November 16, 2025 to November 23, 2025	
TODAY'S SERVICE		7:45 & 10:30 AM	
SUNDAY 11/16	VPOD: Hallie Browne		
7:45am	Holy Eucharist		
9:00am	Inquirers' Class / Lounge		
10:30am	Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed via Facebook live)		
10:30am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall		
12:00pm	YESS / Youth Room		
MONDAY 11/17			
6:45pm	Troop 2019 / Spurling Hall		
TUESDAY 11/18			
6:30pm	Preschool Board meeting / Spurling Hall		
WED. 11/19			
7:00am	Holy Eucharist		
7:30am	Breakfast at Lily's Café / Newhall		
9:30am	Circle of Gratitude / Zoom		
6:00pm	EfM / Room 8		
THURS. 11/20			
9:30am	Book Study / Sacristy		
6:30pm	Troop 2222 / Spurling Hall		
7:30pm	Parish Choir Rehearsal / Church		
FRIDAY 11/21			
6:30pm	Pack meeting / Spurling Hall		
SAT. 11/22			
NEXT SUNDAY 11/23		VPOD: Nick Vestuto	
9:00am	Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed via Facebook live)		
Gratitude Sunday			
9:00am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall		
10:30am	YESS / Youth Room		
10:30am	Potluck / Spurling Hall		