Week At A Glance

Sat, Oct 12
- 6 pm, Bunco Night Social

Mon, Oct 14
- Columbus Day, Office Closed
- 7 pm, Lector Practice

Tues, Oct 15
- Noon, Card & Game Party

Wed, Oct 16
- 9:30 am, Scripture Study, Rm 5
- 11 am-3 pm, Office Open

Thurs, Oct 17
- 9:30 am, Enrichment, Rm 5
- 11 am-3 pm, Office Open
- 7 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Sat, Oct 19
- 9 am-1 pm, Women’s Day of Recollection

 Ministers Schedule:

October 19 - 20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Sat. 5:00 pm</th>
<th>Sun. 9:30 am</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LECTOR</td>
<td>J. Kurpinsky</td>
<td>C. Lang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.L.O.W.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINISTERS OF</td>
<td>J. Kurpinsky</td>
<td>J. Jury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE EUCHARIST</td>
<td>F. McCormick</td>
<td>Veamatahau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M. Milani</td>
<td>P. Dempsey</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>T. Holani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR SERVERS</td>
<td>F. McCormick</td>
<td>E. Schichnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACRISTAN</td>
<td>M. Milani</td>
<td>J. Jury</td>
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<tr>
<td>COUNTERS: Oct 15</td>
<td>P. Walton, C. Ellis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COUNTERS: Oct 21</td>
<td>W. Lang, J. Brady</td>
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Upcoming Mass Intentions

Sat Oct 12, 5:00 pm - Saint Stephen Parishioners
Sun Oct 13, 9:30 am - Jean Portello †
Sat Oct 19, 5:00 pm - Saint Stephen Parishioners
Sun Oct 20, 9:30 am - Terry Lewis †
Dear Friends,

As Father Paulson wrote in his letter in the last bulletin, the month of October is a special month because it is the month of the Rosary - the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary being October 7th. Like the month of May, which is devoted to Mary, we should use this time to connect with our Blessed Mother, the first, and best disciple of Jesus. This can be especially helpful endeavor now as we near the season of Advent, where we are drawn into those most intimate and sacred moments in the life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

On a personal note, the Rosary is a crucial element in my spiritual life, although that has not always been the case. As a child, I think I prayed the Rosary once with my oldest sister. Not until I was out of college did I discover how wonderful of a prayer it was. Like many young people, my life back then was not synchronized up to God’s as it ought to have been. I was drifting. But gradually, three things were introduced into my life that changed my course for the better: daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, and the Rosary.

What did these three things teach me? It is difficult to condense into a concise letter here, but I would say that they taught me that my life is not my own. They taught me that God has a plan for me, and that his plan is far better than any plan I could ever conceive for myself. These things taught me that if I gave my life to God – as Mary had – that all the uncertainties of life, all the setbacks and disappointments, would eventually work together for something good. This is also why I try to pray an hour a day in front of the Blessed Sacrament. This is why I try to pray the Rosary every day. Chances are if you see me walking down Brandon Road, up Boyd, on the Canal Trail and down Gregory, I am praying the Rosary.

I want to encourage you, like Mary, to find time to welcome God into your life more and more. Maybe it is to attend daily Mass once a week, or to pray for 10 silent minutes in the church in between errands. Or maybe it is to begin praying the Rosary. One thing my family has started doing is a FaceTime Rosary. One of my sisters in Seattle asked us all if we would like to do this. Each Sunday night at 8:00, about six of us do a video call and pray the Rosary together.

And here is one of the most amazing things about this new practice; it isn’t just the adults praying together. On a few occasions my niece (3rd grade) and nephew (6th grade) have joined us. And they have not done so begrudgingly. They have a genuine desire to be included in these sacred moments, because they have a keen sense of God’s loving care for them. Likewise, they are eager to be united to their family in this activity that is something they cannot get from the outside world or culture. And what we often see is that they end up teaching us adults more than we teach them. On the last call, the group spoke with that niece about her family’s upcoming move from Seattle to Portland. Although saddened by the reality of leaving her familiar world behind, she affirmed for us what she had been taught at Vacation Bible Camp, “When life changes, when life is sad, God is good, God is always good.”

So, what can you do? One thing in particular that our parish offers is a family holy hour. Every first Friday of the month, from 4-5pm, several families gather with their children to pray before the Blessed Sacrament before Mass at 6pm. Perhaps this can jumpstart you and your family into discovering for yourselves a prayer routine that works for you. It doesn’t have to be a lot. God can work through the simplest, humblest, seemingly most insignificant moments and actions. Just look at what he did through Mary, who said, “Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word.” Through the Rosary she teaches us how to say the same. May you have a blessed October, the month of the Rosary.

God Bless you,
Fr. Mario

PARISH STAFF CONTACTS

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faithformation@ctkph.org
CTK Parish Office
682-2486
Religious Education
686-1017
Youth Ministry
676-0979

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17
Elisha, who lived about 800 years before Christ, was the successor of the great prophet Elijah. Naaman was a pagan army officer from Syria who came to Elisha, seeking a cure for his leprosy. We pick up the story at this point.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 8-13
We continue reading from second Timothy. This letter was written about 30 years after Paul’s death to a typical Church leader as represented by Timothy. Today’s passage begins with a slogan-like summary of Paul’s teachings about Christ, and concludes with what may be part of an ancient Christian hymn.
Join us for Coffee & Donuts after the 9:30 am Mass this Sunday.

There was a volunteer opportunity flier in last week’s bulletin. If you have not yet filled out your copy, please do so and return it to the office by dropping in the collection basket or leaving it in the wall pocket next to the office door if the office is closed. If you need an additional form, there are a few extras at the tables in the back of the church. Thank you for your response; your help is needed and greatly appreciated.

New parishioner? We welcome those of you that are new to our parish. Be sure to fill out a registration form found on the tables in the back of the church. You can drop it in a collection basket or bring it to the office in Room 2.

Women’s Day of Recollection
Bible Study Retreat
Saturday, October 19
9 am - 1 pm
St. Stephen Parish Hall

Speaker: Toinette Eugene, Ph.D.  
Topic: Women of the Hebrew Scriptures Tell Their Stories

Women in scripture, too long invisible, have rich stories to share! Explore how God’s actions in their lives have relevance for us today!

Pick up a flier in church! Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Tickets are available through the parish office. Suggested donation: $20. Scholarships are available.

Carondelet High School's Open House for interested 6th, 7th and 8th-grade girls and their parents/guardians, will be held on Sunday, November 17th from 1-3 pm at 1133 Winton Drive (corner of Treat Blvd.) in Concord. There will also be shadow visits, tours, and HSPT Test-Prep courses available. To register and find out more about these events, please visit carondeleths.org/admissions.

St. Vincent de Paul, 2019 Summary of Activity:
Thank you to all St. Stephen parishioners for your support and donations you provided to the St Vincent de Paul Conference during the past year. Your generosity enabled us to respond to the needy in the following areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Visits to the needy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value of donated pantry food given to the needy</td>
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<td>Vouchers for supplemental food for the needy</td>
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<td>Contributions to parish St Vincent de Paul</td>
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<td>Donations to SVDP conferences for victims of</td>
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<td>Donation to the SVDP CC County District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilities and Furniture</td>
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Please continue to remember us in your prayers and support as the need continues throughout the entire year. Thank you.

BRIDGE & GAME PARTY - Please come and join us at St. Stephen Parish Hall on Tuesday, October 15th at noon for an afternoon of games (bridge, dominos, Rummikub, etc.). This is a chance to socialize with your fellow parishioners. All are welcome. Please bring a sandwich for your lunch. Beverages and snacks will be provided. Call Walter Lang at 939-2430 if you have any questions.

St. Stephen Facilities Committee – Any questions, comments or requests regarding St. Stephen’s facilities (Church, Hall, or Grounds) should either be sent to St. Stephen email (saintstephenwc@gmail.com - Subject line: Facilities Committee), or put in a sealed envelope marked “Facilities Committee” and dropped off at the Parish Office (wall pocket next to the door).

Our Parish Office will be closed on Monday, October 14 in observance of Columbus Day.

Parish Stewardship Oct. 5/6

<table>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donuts/ Sept. 29</td>
<td>$25.60</td>
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</table>

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