

St. Stephen Catholic Church

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NOVEMBER 18, 2018

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament,
 and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

~ Daniel 12:3



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Week At A Glance	Schedule of Masses			
Sunday, 11/18 • 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Lector's Potluck, 6 pm	Mon - Fri: 7:30 am Saturday: 5 pm <i>Chapel, Room 1</i> Sunday: 9:30 am Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 pm			
Monday, 11/19	Upcoming Mass Intentions			
• Parish Office Open, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm	Sun 11/18 9:30 am - Siuta Moala †			
• Lector's Practice, Chapel 7 pm	Fri 11/23 7:30 am- Charles † & JoAnn Brady, Anniversary Remembrance			
Tuesday, 11/20	Sat 11/24 5 pm - Angelo Rusca †			
• Parish Office Open, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Sun 11/25 9:30 am - Dorothy Neill †			
• Card & Game Party, Hall 12 pm	Ministers Schedule Nov. 22-25			
• Pastoral Council, CTK 7 pm	Mass	11/22 9:30	Sat. 5 pm	Sun. 9:30
Wednesday, 11/21	LECTOR	M. Ah Yee	C. Pluta	C. Lang
• Scripture Study, Room 5 9:30 am	C.L.O.W.			
• Parish Office Open, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	M. Mammola E. Hites L. Morin	P. Walton* S. Karges J. Holmes	J. Jury* D. Minister Veamatahau
Thursday, 11/22	ALTAR SERVERS	E. Schichnes	F. McCormick	L. Morin
• Happy Thanksgiving!	SACRISTAN	M. Ah Yee		J. Jury
• Mass 9:30 am	COUNTERS: 11/19		C. Ellis	M. Peare
• Parish Office Closed	COUNTERS: 11/26		M. Lenahan	R. Gigoux
Friday, 11/23				
Saturday, 11/24				
Sunday, 11/25				
• Feast of Christ the King				

Dear Friends,

One of the most fulfilling aspects of my priestly ministry is accompanying people on their journey back to God. I once got a call to visit a young person in a hospice who had terminal cancer. She hadn't seen a priest in many years. We had a beautiful conversation. She unburdened herself, made a good confession and I gave her the anointing of the sick. I have mostly been called to the bedside of someone who no longer is conscious or able to express himself or herself.



In their attempt to revitalize all seven sacraments, the bishops of Vatican II not only looked at the way each sacrament was celebrated, but the theology behind each celebration. In the case of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, they renewed the theology, gave it a new name, and revised the ritual. For many years the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was named Extreme Unction and referred to as the last rites. This happened for many reasons such as a high mortality rate and an emphasis being placed on cleansing the soul.

Sickness, while intimately connected with the human condition, is not punishment for personal, individual sins. Our illness is an opportunity for us to embrace the Paschal Mystery (life, death and resurrection of Jesus) and join our suffering to the cross of Christ thereby becoming active participants in his ongoing redemption of the world. There is no greater meaning in life. In the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, through the ministry of the priest, it is Jesus who touches the sick to heal them from sin – and sometimes even from physical ailment. His cures were signs of the arrival of the Kingdom of God.

One of the principles of theology is that grace builds on nature. This means, in the case of the sacraments, that ordinary gestures and symbols are taken up into the liturgy and given supernatural meanings. In the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest lays his hands over the person and then anoints the person. In the case of the laying on of hands, the ordinary gesture of reaching out to greet, embrace or console someone becomes a gesture in which Christ greets, embraces and consoles the one who is sick. In human cultures, oils and lotions are used to heal, soothe and protect. So in the sacrament, the anointing with holy oil signifies the healing, soothing, protecting power of the Spirit.

Pastoral care, which includes visiting the sick person and offering Holy Communion, is one of the important ministries at St. Stephen. When an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is called forth, delegated and commissioned by her/his parish to share communion with those who are sick and homebound, that minister becomes an extension of the community gathered at Sunday or daily Mass. Pastoral care is offered to someone who is in hospice or who due to illness or recovery is unable to participate in the liturgies of the Church. I am grateful to our ministers who religiously visit the sick and offer them prayers and communion. If you feel someone should visit your ailing loved one, please contact St. Stephen staff.

So, when should a priest be called? My advice is to make that call when a loved one is “beginning to be in danger,” but don’t wait until the person can no longer speak, think clearly or swallow. It’s best to receive the graces of the sacrament including confession, anointing and Holy Communion, before death. If that’s not possible, such as when death seems to be coming very quickly, don’t hesitate to call a priest immediately and he will do what he can.

Fr. Paulson

**Thirty-third Sunday in
Ordinary Time
November 18, 2018**

**First Reading:
Daniel 12:1-3**

The book of Daniel was written 150 years before Christ, when the Jews were experiencing fierce persecution. The author wanted to encourage the people by telling heroic stories about a person named Daniel who lived many centuries earlier. For most of their history, Old Testament people believed only in, at best, a shadowy existence after death. Today's passage contains one of the earliest references to a growing belief in a more developed form of life after death.

**Second Reading:
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18**

Scholars feel that the community for which the Letter to the Hebrews was written included Christians of Jewish origin. Since the letter was written after the Jewish temple was destroyed, they were pining for the old days when the high priest offered daily sacrifices in the temple. The author says they shouldn't feel sad. They no longer need a temple, sacrifices or priests because Jesus is all of these and more.

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LECTOR NEWS!

Reminder! St. Stephen will host a **Lector's Potluck Dinner** this Sunday evening, November 18 at 6:00 pm. It will begin with a meeting and commissioning followed by dinner. Spouses are welcome to attend. **Anyone interested in becoming a lector is welcome to attend** and find out more about this important ministry. Weekday morning lectors are invited to share this evening with our weekend lectors. Contact Annette Roux if you plan to attend.

Monday evening, November 19, we will **resume mandatory Lector practice at 7:00 pm** in the Chapel (room 1). **All Lectors are required to attend a Monday evening practice** in order to lector at Masses the following weekend. Mike Milani will be facilitating.



Bridge & Game Party!

Please join us at St. Stephen Parish Hall on Tuesday, November 20 at noon for an afternoon of games (bridge, dominoes, 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.

The community of St. Stephen would like to express our gratitude to all those who donated to our Fundraising Campaign to buy a much needed new dishwasher for our parish hall. We collected over \$1,350.00 and, along with a generous gift from Christ the King, we will be able to purchase the dishwasher. A special "Thank You" to our Stewardship Committee. They gave unselfishly of their time and talents to make our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser a great success. - Annette

Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:30 am: All are invited to join and celebrate the great feast of Thanksgiving! There will be a special blessing over bread and wine...so bring the bread and wine that you will share at your table on that day. **Donations of non-perishable foods** will also be collected to fill our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

Holiday Food Bags -

The season of giving has begun! Please bring your filled bags to Room 6 no later than Sunday, November 18th. The bags will be delivered on the 19th to those in need along with a \$25 voucher for fresh food.



Schedule your **Mass Intentions for 2019 now** - and a few spots are still available for 2018. Call the office at 274-1341 or stop by to schedule your Intention.

Retreat: Spirituality and conscious Aging. This retreat will explore the benefits and joys as well as the challenges and concerns around retirement and aging. How do we live this stage of our life well and see aging as a blessing? San Damiano Retreat Center, Friday evening, December 7 to Saturday, December 8. Presented by Jim Briggs. Call 887-9141 for more information or to register.

This weekend, our **second collection** will be for the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**. Over 43 million people in the US live in poverty. This collection supports programs to empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to bring permanent and positive change to their communities. Thank you for your support.

We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless, and we grow weary from the work of our own hands." - 1



Corinthians 4:10-12

The apostle Paul spent years traveling around the Mediterranean world sharing the Good News of what God had done in Jesus Christ. His adventures weren't always pretty. He was shipwrecked, beaten and imprisoned. Still he carried on. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul uses irony to defend his apostleship. He tells them that God chooses what is weak to shame the strong. God chooses what is foolish to shame the wise. Even Paul's central message, that in the cross of Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, is a complete reversal of the world's understanding of power, authority and success. Through the eyes of the world Paul was clearly a failure, a loser. He was a poorly dressed, sometimes hungry, often homeless, indigent with a crazy tale that he had been touched by the living God, and had been called to tell the world all about it. It should give us pause as we trace the gradual evolution of being a Christ-follower from Paul's day to ours, when in ours "Christian" has come to mean respectable and successful. But Paul wasn't prosperous or successful. Can we reclaim the measure for true success that Paul used? Can we stop admiring the obscenely wealthy, and instead admire those who love God and their neighbor, who are kind and compassionate, who care for the poor, and whose hearts burn for justice for all?

Prayer: O God, save us from ourselves, and keep us from worshipping the false god of success. Amen

Annette Roux, Pastoral Associate (Ret.)