



ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SPREADING THE LIGHT OF JESUS CHRIST

MAY 9, 2021 — 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass Schedule

Monday—Saturday 8:30 a.m.
Saturday Vigil 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
and 5:30 p.m.

Adoration

Wednesday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Reconciliation

Monday and Friday after
8:30 a.m. Mass.
Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.
Saturday at 2:45 p.m.

Church Office/Pastoral Care:

813-689-4900

School: 813-741-9203

Faith Formation:

813-671-4434

Maintenance: 813-734-5877

10118 Saint Stephen Circle

Riverview, Fl 33569



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Fr. Dermot Dunne — Pastor — Fr. Timothy Williford — Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mr. Ed Dodenhoff, Rev. Mr. Mike Ryba, and Rev. Mr. Mike Sweeney — Deacons

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 — Second Reading: Jn 4:7-10 — Gospel: Jn 15:9-17

The Sanctuary Lamp

May 7 to May 14, 2021

Anita Gratkowski

If you are interested in having the sanctuary lamp burn in honor
or in memory of a loved one, please call (813) 689-4900.

Monday

8:30 a.m. Pray for Joseph Metz (RIP).

Tuesday

8:30 a.m. Pray for Phyllis Jackson Akes (RIP).

Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Pray for Thomas Augustine (RIP).

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Pray for Benito Garza Cardoza (RIP).

Friday

8:30 a.m. Pray for Christopher S. (LIV).

Saturday

8:30 a.m. Pray for Lole Fernandez (RIP).

4:30 a.m. Pray for Miguel, Isabel and Alfonso Martinez (RIP).

Sunday

7:30 a.m. Pray for Sabato Gaeta (RIP).

9:30 a.m. Pray for Ken Nicholas (RIP).

11:30 a.m. Pray for Ellen Cirello (RIP).

5:30 p.m. Pray for the parishioners.

Annual Pastoral Appeal

\$291,876.36 pledged, thank you!

The next time you are in the Chick-fil-A line, or ordering your Starbucks coffee, can you give that up? If your family does this and gives the average weekly gift of \$5.95, we will achieve our goal! Encourage your family and friends to do the same.

We understand that our community has been experiencing financial setbacks from this previous year. However, any amount helps. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your hearts to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Please find an envelope on the right wall of the narthex. Help your diocese reach 11 million by helping your parish reach \$385,325!

Mass Collections

May 1 and 2, 2021

Offertory: \$18,714.00

Debt Reduction: \$7,466.00

WeShare – Online Donations

April 26 to 30, 2021

Offertory: \$12,168.32

Debt Reduction: \$471.97

Deanery Initiative Food Bank

\$47,109.11

A NOTE FROM FR. DERMOT

Happy Mother's Day



Mom, Mam, Mum or Mommy, whatever the word your child uses to get your loving attention, when you hear it, you kick into superhero mode. Do you remember the first time they said to you “Mama?” Your heart rejoiced and your eyes probably watered. The gift of being a mother is a gift that brings the living image of Christ to the forefront of your life. Your life is no longer just for you, now you have an innocent, beautiful life to love and protect.

Moms, thank you for choosing life for your children and then freely choosing to love them tenderly no matter how old they may be. On this day, we also crown Mary, our heavenly Mother. We honor all mothers who have taught us so many wonderful and unique things. Without the love that our mothers have shown us, we would not be who we are today. Take time today and offer a pray of gratitude for the gift of your mother, whether she is still alive or has passed on for her eternal reward.

May your special day be filled with the gift of your children. If they are far away, may your spirit feel their love for you. The love of a child for a mother and a mother for her child cannot be reduced by mere distance. Even the moms who are now in the heavenly kingdom, we honor and continue to love with all our hearts. Mom, you are loved. We, your children, although we may not always express it properly, love you and appreciate all the many sacrifices you have made and continue to make for us.

Two children ordered their mother to stay in bed one Mother's Day morning. As she lay there looking forward to breakfast in bed, she could smell bacon floated up from the kitchen. But after a good long wait she finally went downstairs to investigate. She found them both sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs. “As a surprise for Mother's Day,” one explained, “We decided to cook our own breakfast.” If this happened to you please come and join us for breakfast in the FLC after the 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. Masses. The bacon will be cooked for you to enjoy, and you will not have to clean up afterwards.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

FAITH FORMATION

Christ welcomes you!



Congratulations to our First Communicants who received their First Holy Communion these past two Saturdays! Thank you to all who made these celebrations so beautiful! We pray that each child will always be inspired to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with joyful anticipation and open hearts.



Crowning of Mary— This weekend of May 8th & 9th we welcome all the children to be part of May Crowning. Each child will be provided with a flower to take up to our Blessed Mother. Please arrive with your child at the front of the church 10 minutes prior to Mass to line up and process in. God Bless You!



Graduating Senior Baccalaureate Mass & BBQ will be held on May 23, 2021 at the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Please **RSVP** by May 17 via email: Eddie@ststephencatholic.org or contact Eddie or Sue at (813) 671-4434.



Youth Groups at St. Stephen! Parents please contact Eddie Gemma, Youth Minister, at our Office of Faith Formation to learn more about our summer youth group events for both Middle School and High School.

Lifeteen Parent Meeting is Monday, May 10, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the youth room at the Family Life Center.

OUR PARISH SCHOOL

In honor of Earth Day and our school theme for the 2020-2021 school year, Care for Creation, Mustang students showed off their science skills at a science showcase for parents and family last month. Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade displayed science work and projects completed throughout the year. Kindergarten students exhibited their model city including blueprints, and first-grade students shared their annual touch museum with ocean animals and habitats. Older students showed their science projects completed for the annual middle school science fair. St. Stephen Catholic School is proud to be working towards becoming a STREAM-certified school. STREAM stands for Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math. To find out about enrolling your child in St. Stephen Catholic School, contact the school office at (813) 741-9203 or email Nicki Gallagher at ngallagher@sscsfl.org. Scholarships are available for eligible students. Visit our website at sscsfl.org and like us on Facebook!



MOVING FORWARD — COVID-19 UPDATE

Holy Communion Lines Have Returned to the Weekday Masses

We ask that you walk up to receive Holy Communion at all WEEKDAY Masses. This does not apply to the weekend Masses.

Here is what to do...

You will process up on your own, row by row.

If you are unable to walk up, please stay seated and Holy Communion will be brought to you.

There will not be Hospitality Ministers to guide you.

You will keep your mask on until you get to Clergy or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Please take your mask off to receive Holy Communion.

Place your mask back on and return to your seat.

Additional Parking Reminder

Additional parking is located in the school parking lot. There is a covered walkway which leads straight to the church. Additional parking is also located on the south side of the church. You will proceed past the chapel and take the gravel path into the grass parking lot.

Future COVID-19 Recommendations

The new COVID-19 recommendations will be communicated on May 16, 2021. Please read the next bulletin and Cornerstone. These new recommendations start on Pentecost weekend, May 22 and 23, 2021.

GET INVOLVED

Meals on Wheels: Providing mid-day meals to those in the Brandon, Valrico, Riverview and Lithia community who are unable to serve themselves. Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center rooms 4 and 5. Volunteers cook, assemble, and then drive the meals to those in need. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carol Greene (813) 689-2757 or Lori Smith (813) 654-9240 or email Meals_on_Wheels@ststephencatholic.org.

Food Pantry: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers tangible assistance to those in need. Food is distributed each Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please contact SVDP@ststephencatholic.org for information.

Divine Mercy: Meets at the Family Life Center rooms 4 and 5 on Sunday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday mornings from 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Each meeting begins with the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy. The studies include a Study Book, the *Diary of St. Faustina*, the Bible, and the Catechism. For information please contact the Office of Faith Formation (813) 671-4434.

Legions of Mary: The Legion of Mary is a Lay Marian Apostolate with its main focus on praying the rosary and incorporating the spiritual works of mercy in our daily lives. Our Legion is open to any adult in our parish who seeks to grow in holiness and to grow closer to Jesus through Mary. Come join us any Saturday after the 8:30 Mass in room 10 and 11 at the FLC. For more information, please contact Linda at legionofmary@ststephencatholic.org.

Community for Women: This group welcomes and gathers all women of the parish. We meet once a month to grow together in faith, to socialize and to assist the parish with family functions. Come and see! Next gathering is May 13, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center in the youth room. Email CFW@ststephencatholic.org with questions.



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