

ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS

Today: Sunday, March 12, 2023

The Third Sunday in Lent

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.

THE ORDER OF ST. LUKE

OSL is an ecumenical Order of lay people who are trained and committed to a ministry of praying for healing for others. They will do anointing with Holy Oil and laying on of hands and prayer in the Chapel immediately following Holy Communion today.

LOOKING FORWARD



Come join us for The Welcome Table on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7PM in Spurling Hall. 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

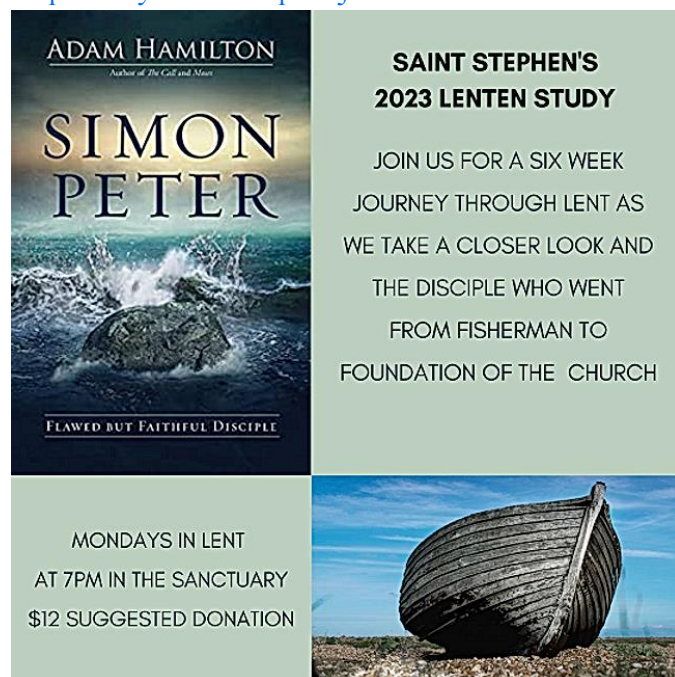
faith in community as our true, authentic selves. Come as you are, this place is for you. Our theme this month is "Clarity" and we will hear music from Johnny Nash, John Lennon & Kacey Musgraves.

Dinner is potluck style. You can sign up for your contribution here: <https://tinyurl.com/yhvxf4mt>

"He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. And that's the point of Simon Peter, by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today."

Join Rev. Christopher on Mondays in Lent beginning Monday, February 27 at 7PM in the sanctuary for a 6-week Lenten series that asks us to take a closer look at the disciple who went from Fisherman to Foundation of the Church.

This class is free to all participants. We do respectfully suggest a \$12 donation to help offset the cost of materials. Please sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p98ej2e>





The goal of the **St. Stephen's Angel Network** is to make sure that everyone receives the care and support they need within a smaller network of caring friends known as a "halo".

What is the function of a halo? Excellent Question! A halo creates an unending circle of connection that hovers over a small group of people.

Each halo is overseen by a "Guardian Angel" who links back to the Ministry Coordinator. These small groups make up the Angel Network. Within the overall Angel Network the small group under each halo is made up of 8-10 members. The members or more aptly, the ministers in each halo care for each other by keeping in touch in an intentional way—either by phone, text, email, or just a special "Hi, how are you?" on Sunday morning. The important thing is that everyone receives the attention and care and love they need. It is really quite simple.

Parishioner Paula Olivares has graciously signed on as the Ministry Coordinator for this new ministry. If you would like to be a part of the St. Stephen's Angel Network simply click below to sign up and be sure to let us know if you are interested in being a Guardian Angel for a halo. Registration will run Through Sunday March 12th at with time all those who have registered will be grouped with their halos. Sign up in the parish hall or online: <https://tinyurl.com/55848n2p>



SAGES Luncheon
Thursday, March 9, 2023
1:00pm
Red Robin
 27063 McBean Parkway
 Valencia, 91355
 RSVP to Sharon Stephens



**Engaging Our Faith
 Opening Our Hearts
 Doing God's Work**

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness..."
 (Mathew 4:1)



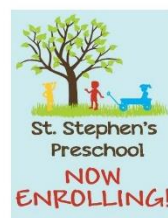
Before beginning His ministry, Christ spent 40 days preparing for it by fasting in the wilderness. Lent is our 40-day spiritual journey where we

prepare ourselves for the coming of Easter.

Throughout the years, Christians have chosen to re-live Christ's journey in various ways. Some have tried fasting or giving up certain luxuries. While others have chosen such things as prayer, repentance, daily devotions, and the giving of time, money, and their various talents. Whatever the choice, it was always that which the person believed would best prepare them for the coming of Easter.

For your personal journey, what would best prepare you?

Michael Branda and the Stewardship Committee



Priority Registration is Now Open!!

Members of St. Stephen's Church may register now for the 2023/2024 school year. Please contact Melanie in the preschool office at (661) 259-8527 for more information



Anti-Racism Coalition
Ms Joan Browning, 1960s Freedom Rider, joins us via zoom on Sunday, March 26 after the 10:00am service.

Joan participated in the sit-in movement, picketed segregated stores and facilities, and was on the Albany Freedom Ride on December 10, 1961.



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.

Contact Us

Rev. Christopher Montella, Rector:

christopher@st-stephens.org

Church Office: office@st-stephens.org

Melanie Long, Director of Children's Education & Formation: director@st-stephens.org

Vestry: vestry@st-stephens.org

Lucas Francke's Eagle Scout Project Prayer Garden

To donate please go to st-stephens.org/giving and select "Give Now" and then select "Meditation Garden 2023" in the Fund dropdown menu

Donations will close on April 17th

With a donation of \$50 or more, your name, or a name you select will be placed on the plaque

This plaque is an example of what the real plaque will look like. The plaque will be weather proof photo printed and mounted on aluminum 11in by 17in

This is my project, which is to right of the doors into Spurling Hall

Before

Goal

Please continue to pray for those who have been affected by the earthquake. Donations to the [Turkey-Syria Earthquake Response Fund](#) will help the organization to continue to respond to communities impacted by this disaster.



SUPPORT THE TÜRKIYE (TURKEY)-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

St. Stephen's Prayer List

On-Going Needs: Joanne, Mary Lou

Current Needs: Susan, Byron, Wilson, Bree, Silvio, Liam and parents, Jake, Sister Miriam, Uriel, Cis, Megan, Linda, Judy and Jim, Bob, Rob, Mary Lou, Joy, Paul, Ty, Chris, Diane, Jonathan, Leslie, Leslie, Judy, Suzanne, Grace, Chantelle, Guila, Malcolm, John and Cinda Noonan's granddaughter Emma, Billie, Herman, Sharon, Flo, Dan, Cam, Laura and family, Sharon, Sara, and Sara Katey, Sandy, Diane, Kodi, Michael, Barbara, Ed, Elizabeth, J.T., Ines, Reeve, Natalie's mother and family, Jeff

Rest in Peace: Marjorie King, Katie, Victor During, Jr., Barbara Moore, Constance Yelle, **Roma Gupta**, Lynette Dupree

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.

St. Stephen's Week	March 12, 2023 to March 19, 2023
TODAY'S SERVICES 7:45 & 10:00am	
SUNDAY 3/12	
7:45am	Holy Eucharist
9:00am	Inquirers' Class / Lounge
10:00am	Holy Eucharist (also streamed via Facebook Live) — VPOD Bob Gregor
10:00am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall
11:45am	YESS & Pathfinders / Youth Room
MONDAY 3/13	
7:00pm	Lenten Study / Church
6:45pm	Troop 2019 / Spurling Hall
TUESDAY 3/14	
5:30pm	Den meeting / Spurling Hall
6:30pm	Preschool Board meeting via Zoom
WED. 3/15	
7:00am	Holy Eucharist
9:30am	Circle of Gratitude via Zoom
6:00pm	EfM / Room 8
7:00pm	The Welcome Table / Spurling Hall
THURS. 3/16	
9:30am	Book Study / Sacristy & Zoom
5:15pm	Den meeting / Spurling Hall
6:30pm	Troop 2222 / Spurling Hall & Courtyard & Lounge
7:30pm	Parish Choir rehearsal
FRIDAY 3/17	
SAT. 3/18	
NEXT SUNDAY 3/19	
7:45am	Holy Eucharist
10:00am	Holy Eucharist (also streamed via Facebook Live) — VPOD Jen Aston
10:00am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall
11:45am	YESS & Pathfinders / Youth Room

