

ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS

Today Sunday, November 27, 2022

The First Sunday of Advent

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

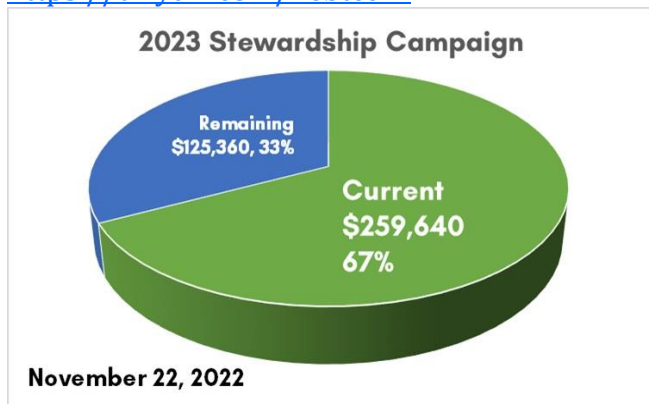
Thank you to all everyone who has submitted their pledge.

As of November 22nd, we have pledges totally \$259,640, 67%, of our goal to meet our 2023 anticipated budget of \$385,000.

Please prayerfully consider completing your pledge ASAP. The Vestry will soon be working on the final budget for 2023 to present at our Annual Meeting in January.

You can use the link below or drop your pledge card in the plate or return your pledge card by mail. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex, in Spurling Hall or online in the Giving tab. We also have a QRC posted in the Narthex.

<https://tinyurl.com/4cbtcc2r>



Thank you! Read more on the website under the Giving tab. st-stephens.org/giving

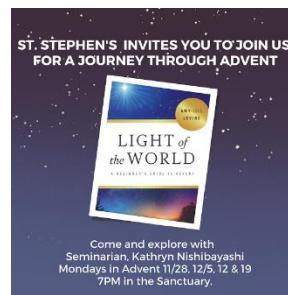


St. Stephen's Advent Festival
Sunday, November 27th
at 11:30am
Celebrate the start of the new church year and

prepare for the season.

Advent Wreaths

Purchase a floral foam or metal base for your home celebration. Candles available in sets of blue or purple. Advent wreath base - \$10 - Set of candles - \$4



Join us as Seminarian, Kathryn Nishibayashi leads an Advent study on the four Mondays of Advent (November 28, December 5, 12, and 19) at 7pm in the sanctuary. We will be using *Light of*

the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent by renowned New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine to explore the biblical stories of Jesus's birth using a combination of videos, discussion and other activities. You can register here <https://tinyurl.com/58x26fy2>. There is a \$10 suggested donation to help offset the cost of materials. Books will be provided. Come explore with us!



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.

Please help us by clicking on the link below and choosing a youth from the site. Here you will find

different options to choose from, once you are ready to drop the gift off, please return to Stephanie Rodriguez in the Preschool office or Tracy Stapp in the Church office. Thank you all so much!

For more information, please contact Stephanie at 661-259-8527.

<https://tinyurl.com/b2v7tucu>



All Angel Tree gifts are due back to the church no later than December 4th. Thank you!



LAST CALL for Nativity Displays! If you'd like to display your nativity in St. Stephen's annual presentation on

Sunday, Dec. 4th, please make sure you contact Mary Jo Higginbotham as soon as possible.

A brief description of each nativity should be sent via email by Tuesday, Nov. 29th to:

maryjohigg@gmail.com. If you've displayed a nativity in the past, the same written description can be used from prior years.

Please bring your nativity directly to the parish hall on Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 1pm or to the church office any weekday. Be sure your items are well labeled so they can be properly returned.

Everyone is invited to participate! The Daughters of the King (DOK) has sponsored the annual presentation each year.

Nativities of all sizes, shapes and styles are welcome. You're encouraged to come by the parish hall on Sat., Dec. 3rd at 1pm to help set up.



Food Collection

LAST ONE before CHRISTMAS!

Sat., Dec. 3rd, 9 – 11:00am

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Parking Lot

URGENT Food Items for Christmas:

- **Stuffing – Bags or boxes**
- **Biscuit /Cornbread Mix**
- **Canned Yams or Sweet Potatoes**

- **Canned Cranberry Sauce**
- **Canned Pumpkin**
- **Canned Cream Soups & Gravy**
- **Boxes Mac & Cheese, Mashed Potatoes**
- **Canned Green Beans & Corn (pull-top)**

Please consider donating a grocery gift card. SCV Food Pantry buys frozen turkeys & hams.

*** DIAPERS are desperately needed in**

conjunction with Angel Tree Gifts –

SIZES: Girls 2 – 6 & Boys Goodnites S/M

Also “UnderPads” (small mattress protectors)

CRITICAL NEEDS:

- **Warm Socks – All sizes; men & Women**
- **Underwear – All sizes; men & women**
- **Women's Fem Pads (any size)**
- **Laundry Detergent (liquid & pods)**
- **Boys & Girls' underwear (all sizes)**

NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Individual Fruit Cups (low or no sugar)
- Snacks- Single Protein Bars, Granola Bars, etc.
- Cereal; Pasta, Rice, & Beans
- Canned Tomatoes & Pasta Sauce
- Canned Meat & Tuna (pull top)

NEEDED OTHER ITEMS:

- Men's & Women's deodorant
- **Women's Shave Cream & razors**
- Men's T-Shirts & Underwear - Lg, 2X & 3X
- **Bar Soap, Shampoo & Conditioner**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

Please bring RECYCLABLE “CRV” glass, plastic, aluminum cans, & bottles.

Also bring Coke bottle caps & pull tabs from aluminum soda, water, & food cans.

Placerita PRIDE Center

The “Parent Resource Center to Inspire & Demonstrate Encouragement” is a family resource center run out of Placerita Junior High School. Their vision is to advocate for families that need assistance overcoming barriers that directly affect educational goals. The PRIDE Center is in need of grocery store gift cards to give to families so that they can purchase food over the Christmas break. St. Stephen's hopes to support this effort by providing 50 \$50 gift cards by December 15th.

You can contribute to this effort by going to st-stephens.org/giving. Click GIVE NOW and then select Placerita PRIDE Center in the Fund drop-down menu. You can also bring pre-purchased \$50 gift cards to either Vallarta or Ralphs to the parish office or to church on Sunday December 4th and 11th and put them in the collection plates during the offertory.

visit the registration page to sign up and to find out more details.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f44aba922aafd0-living1>

Our thanks go out to the people of SCUMC for inviting us into this wonderful tradition.



RUN, RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN!
to St. Stephen's
GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING EVENT

Friday December 9th in Spurling Hall
6:00- 8:00
\$5/person or \$20/family
RSVP at
director@st-stephens.org

greetings ISLANDS



A Festival of Lessons & Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 AT 4:30PM
ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Presented by the Scenic Hills Singers and members of the St. Stephen's Parish Choir. Come sit in the quiet beauty of candlelight at Christmas time. Experience the Festival as it tells the Christmas Story in words and songs.



LIVING NATIVITY

Saturday, December 17th
&
Sunday, December 18th
6pm - 8pm

Our friends at Santa Clarita United Methodist Church have invited us to join them in the production of their annual living nativity. All are welcome to participate, including youth and children. There are a couple of scenes that include sitting if someone does not feel comfortable with standing for 30 mins. Please



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH 7:00PM

Blue Christmas Service

Join us for a reflective service of hope and remembrance as we hold the bittersweet and complex emotions this season can bring to us.

**ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

Christmas

DECEMBER 24TH

4:00PM
Children's Pageant & Holy Eucharist

6:30PM
Community Dinner in Spurling Hall

9:00PM
Festival Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 25th

9:00AM
Acoustic Holy Eucharist
& Community Breakfast

Both Christmas Eve Services will be streamed live
on Facebook @StStephensSCV

Sunday Child Care

Every Sunday starting
at 9:45am in the
Nursery

Infant to Preschool age



Child Care provided by
Maggie D'Isa

**Volunteers
Needed**

We are currently looking
for persons who are
committed, hard working
and excited for the
Christmas season.



DOING THE MOST GOOD
WITH THE LEAST MONEY

DOING THE MOST GOOD

**THE SALVATION
ARMY**

DOING THE MOST GOOD

SAVING LIVES

**SANTA CLARITA
CORPS**

This Holiday Season
(November and December)
We need your Help:

- Bell Ringers & Musicians (2hs Shifts)
- Drivers for Food Pickups
- Sorting Food Donation

If you have time available and would like to help us
continue to support our community and its needs
please contact us at our office.

(661) 210-1037 or rafael.viana@usw.salvationarmy.org

Our local Santa Clarita Valley Salvation Army Corps is looking for volunteers who will take a 2-hour shift on a Saturday to ring the bell during the Red Kettle Campaign this coming holiday season. Having

volunteers ring the bell for the Salvation Army means the more dollars raised for providing the local services here in the SCV, because **fewer bell ringers will need to be hired**. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the interest form at the link below:

<https://forms.gle/xFAFiqXcovEKp7u7>

ALL OF THE MONEY RAISED IN THE SCV.... STAYS IN THE SCV helping the homeless and low-income families here in our community.

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

Youth Coordinator:
stephanie@st-stephens.org

St. Stephen's Prayer List

On-Going Needs: Joanne, Mary Lou

Current Needs: Susan, Byron, Wilson, Bree, Silvio, Liam and parents, Jake, April, Lucia, Sister Miriam, Joy, Chrissy, Anthony, Pat, Uriel, Lucia, Ruth, Bill C, Ann Marie, Chuck, Don, Bill H., Jim and Judy, George Jon Carlos, Isabella, Bill D., Karen, Judy, John and Julia, Grace, Daniel, Victoria, Cinda, Cheryl, Julie, Kathy, David, Mary Jo, Flo, Jeff, Gail, Malcolm, Mary Beth, David, Steve, Rusty, Joanie, Cathy, Megan, the 25 law enforcement recruits who were recently injured, **Carrie, Caleb, Tobu, Brian and Timothy, Gaspar, Mary, Cis, and those injured in the recent shootings at the University of Virginia, in Colorado Springs, and in Chesapeake, Virginia.**

Rest in Peace: Christina Manuel, Michael Peters, Troy Collins, Charles Patrick Cox, Maria Redruello, Georgiana Tuck, Jax, Patrick Criss-Harvey, **the students killed in the University of Virginia shooting: Lavel Davis, Devin Chandler and D'Sean Perry; those killed in the Colorado Springs club shooting: Derrick Rump, Daniel Aston, Kelly Loving, Raymond Green Vance, and Ashley Paugh; those killed in the Chesapeake, Virginia Walmart shooting.**

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	November 27, 2022 to December 4, 2022
TODAY'S SERVICES 7:45am & 10:00am	
SUNDAY 11/27	
7:45am	Holy Eucharist
10:00am	Holy Eucharist (also streamed via Facebook Live) - VPOD Sheri Flay
10:00am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall
11:30am	Advent Wreath Making / Spurling Hall
11:45am	YESS / Youth Room
MONDAY 11/28	
4:30-6:30pm	Den Mtg. 57 / Spurling Hall & CY
6:45-9:30pm	Troop 2019 / Spurling Hall & CY
7:00pm	Light of the World Advent Study / Church
TUESDAY 11/29	
5:15-8:00pm	Den Mtg. 57 / Spurling Hall & CY
WED. 11/30	
7:00am	Holy Eucharist
9:30am	Circle of Gratitude via Zoom
6:00pm	EfM / Room 8
7:00pm	PFLAG / Spurling Hall
THURS. 12/1	
FRIDAY 12/2	
SAT. 12/3	
9:00am-11:00am	Recycling and Food Collection Event / Parking Lot
NEXT SUNDAY 12/4	
7:45am	Holy Eucharist
10:00am	Holy Eucharist (also streamed via Facebook Live) - VPOD Steve Plote
10:00am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall
11:45am	YESS / Youth Room

