

ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS

Sunday, December 1, 2024

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 27th, we have pledges totaling \$289,505 - 68%, of our goal to meet our 2025 anticipated budget of \$418,000.

Please prayerfully consider completing your pledge ASAP. The Vestry will soon be working on the final budget for 2025 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.

<https://tinyurl.com/yvttm6am>



Join us for a four-week Advent study focusing on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. Through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace we'll share the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.

Thursdays, December 5th, 12th, 19th at 6:00-7:30pm in the Chapel and Sunday, December 22nd at 9:00am in the Lounge. There is a suggested donation of \$15.00 to offset costs.

Anyone who would like to share a sack dinner with Rev. Christopher on Thursdays, please join him in the chapel at 5:30pm before the study begins.



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. **WE HAVE 2 GIFTS THAT STILL NEED TO BE PURCHASED.** If interested, please use the link below to claim. Some of the items are more costly so we encourage you to ask a friend or multiple friends to help share the cost. Thank you all so much! All gifts should be returned no later than Thursday, Dec. 5th.

<https://tinyurl.com/2s8km9a8>



Annual Nativity Display

Everyone is invited to display their favorite nativities in St. Stephen's

Annual Nativity Display on Sunday, Dec. 8,

sponsored by Daughters of the King. Please start thinking about your contribution today! The elegant display will remain up for both services.

Each nativity should be accompanied by a brief description (3-4 *sentences*) that might include why it's important to you, where it came from, what's unique about it, how old it is, or something special about it. **Nativity descriptions are due by Tuesday, Dec. 3, to allow them to be included in the program and should be sent by email to: maryjohigg@gmail.com**

Nativities of all sizes, shapes, and styles are welcome (*except lawn displays*) and all parishioners are encouraged to participate. **Be sure your items are well labeled** so we can return them properly.

Bring your nativity to the church office by Friday, Dec.6, or bring it to the church on Saturday, Dec. 7, between 2 — 3pm when we'll be setting up the display. Feel free to come and help us set up the full display. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jo Higginbotham at maryjohigg@gmail.com

Christmas Greens Available for Purchase

We have 7 door swags (\$27 each)

2 - 28" wreaths (\$38 each)

Please contact the church office at 661-259-7307 or office@st-stephens.org if you are interested.



Sat., Dec. 7th, 9-11:00am
St. Stephen's
UPPER Parking
Lot - LAST
Collection
BEFORE

CHRISTMAS!

Please give generously.

Reusable grocery bags also needed!

Non-perishable donations may be left in the box in the church narthex.

CRITICAL NEEDS:

- Peanut Butter & Jelly (Sm-Med)
- Cereal (all sizes) & Nutrition Bars
- Cans of Soup, Pasta meals, Veggies, & Fruits
- Canned Tuna, Chicken & Vienna sausage
- Laundry & Dish Detergent; Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
- Bar Soap, Shampoo & Toothpaste (no real large)

NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Jars of Pasta Sauce (Sm /Med), Rice & Pasta (dry)
- Packs of individual Fruit Cups
- Ketchup, mustard & mayo (Sm-Med)

OTHER NEEDED ITEMS:

- Women's Fem Pads & Baby Diapers
- Boxes of Dryer Sheets & Kleenex
- Deodorant, Shave Cream & Razors
- Socks & Underwear (men & women)

Sat., Dec. 7 is also Recycle Day!



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

Please - No milk containers!

Recyclables may be left in the box in the church narthex.

Bring pull tabs from cans of soda & food.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!



FRIDAY, DEC. 6TH

5:30-7:30PM

\$5/PERSON OR \$20/FAMILY

IN SPURLING HALL

It's **GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING TIME!**

To RSVP contact Vivien at 661-259-7307 or at vivien@st-stephens.org

Vestry Nominations

It's that time of year again! We are looking for 4 new Vestry members to be elected at the January 2025 annual meeting.


The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector when necessary, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances. It serves as the primary leadership role in the congregation in collaboration with the Rector.

To be eligible for election to the vestry, candidates must be over the age of 16. They should be baptized Christian or those seeking baptism, a registered member of the church who attends services and is invested in the life of the congregation and has made a commitment of time, talent or treasure, or even all three!

If you or someone you know would make a great candidate for the St. Stephen's Vestry, names can be submitted to the members of this year's nominating committee by emailing Tracy in the parish office at office@st-stephens.org. Per our bylaws, the nominating committee is made up of Sr. Warden Steve Plote, Jr. Warden James Mackey, Vestry Member William Hendley and Parishioner-at-large Colleen Gibbons

We look forward to welcoming future leaders to our vestry in January!

SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



MARY'S STORY
A CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Judith M. Baity, Composer

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024 AT 7:00PM



Men's Group Breakfast
Saturday, December 7th
8:00am
Dink's Deli & Bagel Bakery
on McBean Parkway



laundry love.

Wednesday, December 4 from 5:30-7:30pm
Coin & Drop Off Laundry
24725 Railroad Ave. in Newhall ✨



restored lives.

Share the hope of Christmas with a child in your community as you deliver a gift and a personal message of love on behalf of their parent in prison. It starts with a gift, and leads to

Today after the service you can pick up an angel in Spurling Hall.

Preschool Fundraiser:



**See's
CANDIES**
FUNDRAISER

November 1st - December 6th

Easy Online Ordering 

The advertisement features a central image of several boxes of See's Candies, including a large white box with a red ribbon, a smaller green box, and a white box with a red ribbon. The boxes are decorated with Christmas-themed illustrations of reindeer and snow. A QR code is positioned below the image, and a small shopping bag icon is located to the right of the QR code.

Click on flier to purchase.



GIVING TO ST. STEPHENS

If you are able to continue supporting the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's, you can pay your pledge or make a new or recurring donation online here st-stephens.org/giving. You can also text your donation by texting the word GIVE to 661.228.8909 and following the prompts. Click here for an easy [How To Use Text Giving guide](#). We are deeply grateful for your commitment and support.



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.



JOIN US FOR A
CHRISTMAS
Concert
Scenic Hills Singers
Roger Lamb, Conductor
Jennie Lamb, Accompanist
December 8 | 4:00 P.M.
Celebrate the season with a heartwarming holiday performance featuring timeless traditional Christmas songs and carols.
Admission is free.
ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
24901 ORCHARD VILLAGE RD. SANTA CLARITA, CA

The poster features a festive background with pine branches, red berries, and snowflakes. The text is centered and uses a mix of serif and cursive fonts. The word "CHRISTMAS" is in a large, bold, red serif font, while "Concert" is in a smaller, elegant cursive font. The names of the performers and the date are in a clean, black serif font. The bottom of the poster includes the church's name and address in a smaller, red serif font.

St. Stephen's Prayer List

On-Going Needs: Joanne, Mary Lou,

Current Needs: Vickie, Michelle, Innocent victims of Middle East war, Andrea, Jim and Judy, Laura, Trudy, Gayle, Kay, Stewart, Mary, Keith, Margo, Sepp, Lella, Eliza, Mia Behrens' great-granddaughter, Ron, Bradley, Chris, Selina, Loretha, Bill, Chantelle, the Krejci—Hooper-Rosebrook family, Brinnley, Rev. Cindy, Rev. Susan, Roberto, Mia, Corrine, Paul, Pat, Jenni, Carla, Mark and Bruce P., Lisa and Lou, Katherine S., Will, Amy, Dylan, Blake, Jeff, Johnnie, Wyatt, Wendy, Diego, Charles, Beverly, Theresa, Nancy, Salvador, Kristen, John, Lucia, Steve, Jamie, Mike, Jim, Pat

Rest in Peace: Tom, Sister Miriam, Linda Canaday, Michael Siwula, Bill Poll

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	December 1, 2024 to December 8, 2024
TODAY'S SERVICE 7:45 & 10:30 AM	
SUNDAY 12/1	
7:45am	Holy Eucharist
10:30am	Holy Eucharist (also streamed via Facebook Live)
10:30am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall
MONDAY 12/2	
5:00pm	Den meeting / Spurling Hall
6:45pm	Troop 2019 / Spurling Hall
TUESDAY 12/3	
5:00pm	Den meeting / Spurling Hall
6:00pm	Crew meeting / Spurling Hall
6:00pm	Preschool Board meeting via Zoom
WED. 12/4	
7:00am	Holy Eucharist
7:45am	Breakfast at Lily's Café / Newhall
9:30am	Circle of Gratitude via Zoom
5:30pm	Laundry Love
THURS. 12/5	
9:30am	Book Study / Sacristy
6:00pm	Advent Study / Chapel
7:30pm	Parish Choir rehearsal / Church
FRIDAY 12/6	
5:30pm	Gingerbread House decorating / Spurling Hall
SAT. 12/7	
8:00am	Men's Group Breakfast / Dink's
9:00-11:00am	Food Collection & Recycling Event / UPPER Parking Lot
11:00am	Funeral for Michael Siwula / Church
2:00pm	DOK Nativity Display Setup / Spurling Hall
NEXT SUNDAY 12/8	
7:45am	Holy Eucharist
10:30am	Holy Eucharist (also streamed via Facebook Live)
10:30am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall
12:00pm	YESS + Pathfinders / Youth Room