

Dear friends,

Welcome to the month of October. It is a very special month for us as Catholics in two ways: first, since the 16th century, Catholic piety has assigned the months of October to special devotions. Pope Leo XIII personally started the practice of devoting October to the Rosary devotion. In a letter of September 1, 1883, mindful of the Rosary's power to strengthen faith and foster a life of virtue, he outlined the triumphs of the Rosary in past times and admonished the faithful to dedicate the month of October to the Blessed Virgin through the daily recitation of her Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Secondly, the month of October every year is known as "Respect Life Month". The theme for this year is "Move by Mercy." As we continue in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invites us to open our hearts and be merciful to others because God has shown us mercy first. We are called to offer prayers for the weak in our society. The weakest are the unborn children who are killed and aborted in the womb as if they do not matter. You can join the Pro-Life Activities in our parish to promote the dignity of every human life from conception until natural death.

In our Gospel reading for this weekend, the apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith. The meaning of Jesus' response is that the efficacy of faith does not depend on its quantity, its size, its volume, but rather on its quality and worth. Consequently, the apostles did not need to have the volume of their faith increased. What they needed was for their faith to be as solid, compact, unbroken as a mustard seed. That was a very small seed indeed; but even, faith that was no bigger than that could uproot a tree, move mountains, and do much more.

Faith is something you do with your heart. It is an emotion of the heart. When you trust someone or something, you have faith in that person or thing. Something in you tells you that, you can depend on that person or thing; that they will not let you down or fail you. However, we know that we cannot trust any human being 100%. Experience will have taught us that, even our most trusted relatives or friends can fail us. The reason is very simple: they are only human. Because they are human, they are limited. There is a limit to what they can be or do for us. As a result, even with the best of intentions, they can fail us when we least expected them to do so.

On the contrary, God is no human, he is infinite and unlimited. There is no limit to what he can be or do for us. He is the only one we can trust 100%. He will never and cannot let us down. It is not in his character to disown his own. St. Paul rightly testifies that "We may be unfaithful, but God is always faithful." That is why we can have absolute trust in him, and our faith in him can be as solid and unbroken as a mustard seed. With that kind of faith in God, we shall be able to move mountains.

Have a Blessed weekend.

Fr. Jude

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel opens with the disciples requesting that Jesus increase their faith. For Jesus, faith is a gift that leads to service and that service is always in support of life! This Sunday we all pray for the flame of faith and zeal that will give us the courage to stand with and all whose lives are threatened by violence: the unborn; the death row prisoner; civilians caught in wars and conflict. Does our faith help us to see every life as precious in the eyes of God? In what areas should we ask God to increase our faith?

27to Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

El Evangelio de hoy comienza con los discípulos pidiendo a Jesús que incremente su fe. Para Jesús, la fe es un don que lleva al servicio y ese servicio es siempre en apoyo a la vida. Este domingo oramos por la flama de la fe y el celo que nos dará el valor para ponemos de pie con, y por todos aquellos cuyas vidas son amenazadas con la violencia: los no natos, los prisioneros en fila para ser ejecutados, los civiles atrapados en guerras y conflictos. ¿Nos ayuda nuestra fe a ver cada vida como preciosa en los ojos de Dios? ¿En qué áreas debemos pedirle a Dios que incremente nuestra fe?

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2

MONDAY OCTOBER 3

10 am SSWS Board Meeting—*OLG Rm*
6 pm Blessing of the Animals
7 pm Grupo de Oración

TUESDAY OCTOBER 4

8 am Men's Bible Study - *OLG Rm*
6 pm TNMC - *Parish Hall*

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5

9 am Women's Bible Study
5:30-8 pm Faith Formation Classes
7 pm Adoration—*Church*
6:45 pm Spanish Women's Group

THURSDAY OCTOBER 6

5 pm Tamale Preparation—*Marian Rm*
6 pm RCIA Class—*St. Stephen Rm*
6:30 pm Youth Meeting
7 pm Baptism Classes—*OLG Rm*

FRIDAY OCTOBER 7

5-10 pm Grupo de Oración - *Parish Hall*

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8

5 pm Tamale Preparation—*Marian Rm*

BAPTISM CLASSES

Baptism classes are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7 pm. The next class will be on **Thursday, October 6**. Parents must be registered, active members of the parish for six months. **Please call the office to register for the class—254-947-8037.**

CLASES DE BAUTISMO

Clases de Bautismo, son el primer Jueves de cada mes a las 7 pm. La siguiente clase es **el 6 de Octubre**. La familia necesita estar registrada. **Hablen a la oficina para registrarse para asistir a la clase 254-947-8037**

Monetary Stewardship

Collection Last Week:

Regular: \$ 3996.00
Online: \$1023.67
Total \$ 5019.67

Building Fund—October 1-2

... remembering the words of the Lord who said, It is more blessed to give than to receive

Fr. Jude will be out of the office October 3-6 for the annual Fall Diocesan Priest Retreat.

While he is out there will be a communion service on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and on Friday we will have Mass.



Blessing of the Animals

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3 @ 6 PM

On this eve of the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, saint of all animals, Deacon Ernie will have a special blessing of all pets. We will bless each pet with a short prayer and a sprinkling of holy water. If you have any pets, big or small, bring them for this special blessing. If you have any pet treats to share with the other pets, bring them along.

FALL FEST TAMALES

The Hispanic Committee will be making their tamales for the Fall Festival on

Saturday, Oct 1 & 8 at 5 pm
Thursday Oct 6 & 13 at 5 pm

If you would like to help or donate any items speak to Bella Martinez.

Mass Intentions

Sat.	Oct	1	5:30 pm	Rogelio Inocencio +
Sun.	Oct	2	9:00 am	Fr. Dick Hudson + Blaise & Addy Dworaczky (15 anniversary)
			11:00 am	In Thanksgiving—Apo Miller
Mon.	Oct	3		NO MASS
Tues.	Oct	4	6:00 pm	Leonard Lazarte +
Wed.	Oct	5	8:30 am	Jacob Foster +
Thurs	Oct	6	8:30 am	Brent Romero +
Fri	Oct	7	12:00 pm	Virgil Lucas
Sat	Oct	8	5:30 pm	Clarence Emtrop +
Sun	Oct	9	9:00 am	Janice Piatek +
			11:00 am	Stewart Smith +

Ministry Schedule for October 8-9, 2016

Mass	Lector	Altar Servers	Ushers / Greeters	Ministers of Eucharist
5:30 PM	B Wald J McGregor	J Young J McGregor C Carlson	J Morin J Morin J LaCanne	Deacon Ernie P Watson T Alcozar
9:00 AM	C Hudgens E McBryde	C Brown S Green I Collazo D Arias	D Lumpkin E Alvarez S Stearns	Deacon Ernie D Alvarez A Krause A Mazoch E Mazoch
11:00 AM	K Lara P Garcia	S Arias I Ramirez A Ortiz L Peralta M Baltazar N Baltazar	D Cortez C Uriquiza E Loma	J Villarreal L Loma M Esteves E DeLaHoya B Jaramillo



"Download Our New Parish App!"

Our new St Stephen Catholic Church app is now available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages via Facebook or Twitter. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more. Help foster a stronger parish life at St Stephen Catholic Church and better engage the New Evangelization.

Download our app today at myparishapp.com or search your phone's app store for "my parish."

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



Ever wonder about some of the teachings about the church? Would you like to know more about your faith? Do you still need some of the Sacraments? Are you interested in become a Catholic, or know someone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic? If so we will be starting classes in October for RCIA. Come and see what we have to offer you in the way of answers. It is an opportunity to grow in your faith and to help you to better understand the love that Jesus has for each of us.

Our classes will start **Thursday October 6, @ 6 pm** in the Saint Stephen room of the old church building. If you are interested, call the office to sign up and then we will see you on the 6th.

Robert Michalewicz: michalewicz@hotmail.com



St. Stephen Catholic Church

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday October 16, 2016

MUCH HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS HUGE EVENT AN EVEN BIGGER SUCCESS!

- Volunteer to help on that day—sign up today!
- Buy and sell raffle tickets
- Donate 2 L soda bottles for the ring toss game
- Donate bags of candy
- Donate cans of soda & bottled water
- Donate small game prizes
- Become a Sponsor
- Donate live & silent auction items
- Bring a cake for the cake walk