

Dear friends,

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose coming into the world we celebrate in a very special way during this season, be upon you and upon your homes! As we celebrate today the birthday of our Lord and Savior-Jesus Christ; we recall that unique moment in time, when the Son of God took on human flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem. That event is what the Church calls the mystery of the Incarnation. Today, as we gather to celebrate this great feast in the sacred liturgy, we pray that the Lord Jesus will come to us each time we listen to the proclamation of the Word of God and receive the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Eucharist. In appreciation, let us be filled with the awesome sense of gratitude for such great gift to us.

This Holy Season of Christmas proclaims for all to know the unfailing love of God and to hear God's desire to dwell among us. This is a great mystery as beautifully described by St. Paul; we become "a dwelling place of God." How cool is that? We are invited to emulate Mary in her faith, courage and openness; as she offers us a pattern for all Christian life and discipleship by welcoming God's gift and living out its meaning through acts of generous service. Let us pray that the Spirit of God may come upon each and every one of us, as it came upon Mary and may that same Spirit bring forth Christ to birth in our time through our witness of faith. And may we, in all we do and say, become true sacraments and a transparent sign of God's saving presence in our family, country and in the world.

As we light-up in beauty our houses, streets and community with Christmas decorations to celebrate in this Holy Season, let us thank God for the gift of St Stephen's family; for who we are, and for what we have; for His gifts to us, especially the gift of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ and his presence among us, for He truly lives among us. And may we pray for all who may be struggling with different situations in life, that the birth of Jesus may bring hope to them.

CHRISTMAS APPRECIATION:

I wish to use this opportunity to thank you all-amazing parishioners of St. Stephen, for your love and generosity expressed in your beautiful Christmas gifts and for your kind words during this season and always. I deeply appreciate you all and I will remember all of you in my Christmas Masses and I pray that you and your family will have the opportunity to celebrate this Christmas in the spirit of joy and peace.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Fr. Jude Uche, MSP

El Nacimiento del Señor (Navidad)

Hoy celebramos la Encarnación de Jesús, Nuestro Señor y Salvador! ¿Cómo celebrará su familia el nacimiento de Cristo?

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Today we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior! How will your family celebrate the birth of Christ?

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day
9 am English Mass
11 am Spanish Mass

MONDAY DECEMBER 26

Office Close

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27

8 am Men's Group- *OLOG Room*
6 pm TNMC (No Host)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28

No Faith Formation

THURSDAY DECEMBER 29

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30

7 pm Grupo de Oracion

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
5:30 pm

SUNDAY January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
9 am English Mass
11 am Spanish Mass

Monetary Stewardship

Collection Last Week:

Regular: \$5,118.00
Online: \$ 887.90
Total \$ 6,005.90

... remembering the words of the Lord who said, It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

Building for Our Lord Campaign
Construyendo Para Nuestro Señor

Total Pledge To Date:
\$1,421,876.00

Amount Collected To Date:
\$810,000.00

Pledges to be Redeemed:
\$526,020.00

Paid Diocese Months of December
\$30,000.00

Loan Balance to Date:
\$561,294.44

Original Loan Total
\$800,000.00

Mass Intentions

Sat.	Dec 24	5:30 pm	St. Stephen Parishioners
Sun.	Dec 25	9:00 am 11:00 am	Nicholas Pritchett St. Stephen Parishioners.
Mon.	Dec 26	6:00 am	
Tues.	Dec 27	6:00 pm	Stewart Smith +
Wed.	Dec 28	8:30 am	St. Stephen Parishioners
Thurs	Dec 29	8:30 am	Janice Piatek +
Fri	Dec 30	12:00 pm	St. Stephen's Parishioners
Sat	Dec 31	5:30 pm	St. Stephen's Parishioners
Sun	Jan 1	9:00 am 11:00 am	St. Stephen's Parishioners Jorge y Bertha Rocha (Anniversary)

Ministry Schedule for Dec 31 & Jan 1 2017K Konarik

Mass	Lector	Altar Servers	Ushers / Greeters	Ministers of Eucharist
5:30 PM	R Schatte T Schatte	M Markham E Markham	W Matus J LaCanne C Kowaleski	Jennifer Mc P Watson T Schatte R Schatte B Yanez-Smith
9:00 AM	M J Roberts A Rodriguez	K Konarik K Konarik	P Broecker T Buckley J Wilson	L Simonette A Mazoch E Mazoch D Roberts J Rodriguez
11:00 AM	R Urquiza E Olalde	S Arias M Sanchez	R Arias J Villarreal R Martinez	M Perez Carmen E Olalde R Urquiza

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation
Classes will
Resume next Wednesday
January 4

Mass Intention

If you would like to have a special mass intention simply grab a mass intention envelope fill the information in and drop it in the collection basket or call the office to schedule one.

Faith Formation

No Classes December 28
Christmas Holiday

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Saturday, December 31

5:30 pm
Sunday January 1
9:00 am English
11:00 am Spanish



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The men's group meets every Tuesday morning at 8 am in the OLOG Room. If you have any questions please contact Robert Michalewicz.

Office Close

The office will be close
January 2 for
New Year

EIM Workshop

Wednesday, January 4 (6:30-8:30 PM)

The Diocese of Austin launched a new education program for our EIM workshop, which replaced the Basic/Refresher workshop format. The new program is a significant update of our current training program, and we believe it is important for all persons that are required to be EIM compliant to participate in this new program receive this updated information.

Consequently, all clergy, religious, seminarians and employees, and all volunteers serving in ministry to minors or the vulnerable, will attend this new EIM Workshop whenever they are due for a workshop. To find the schedule and Sign Up for a Workshop (bottom right of your account page), login to you EIM account at <https://www.eappsdb.com/Login.asp?>

BAPTISM CLASSES

Baptism classes are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7 pm. **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. **necesita Hablen a la oficina para registrarse para asistir a la clase 254-947-8037**

RESPECT FOR LIFE



Stop by the Respect for Life table each mass. As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, let us remember the Serene Attention to God's Creation.