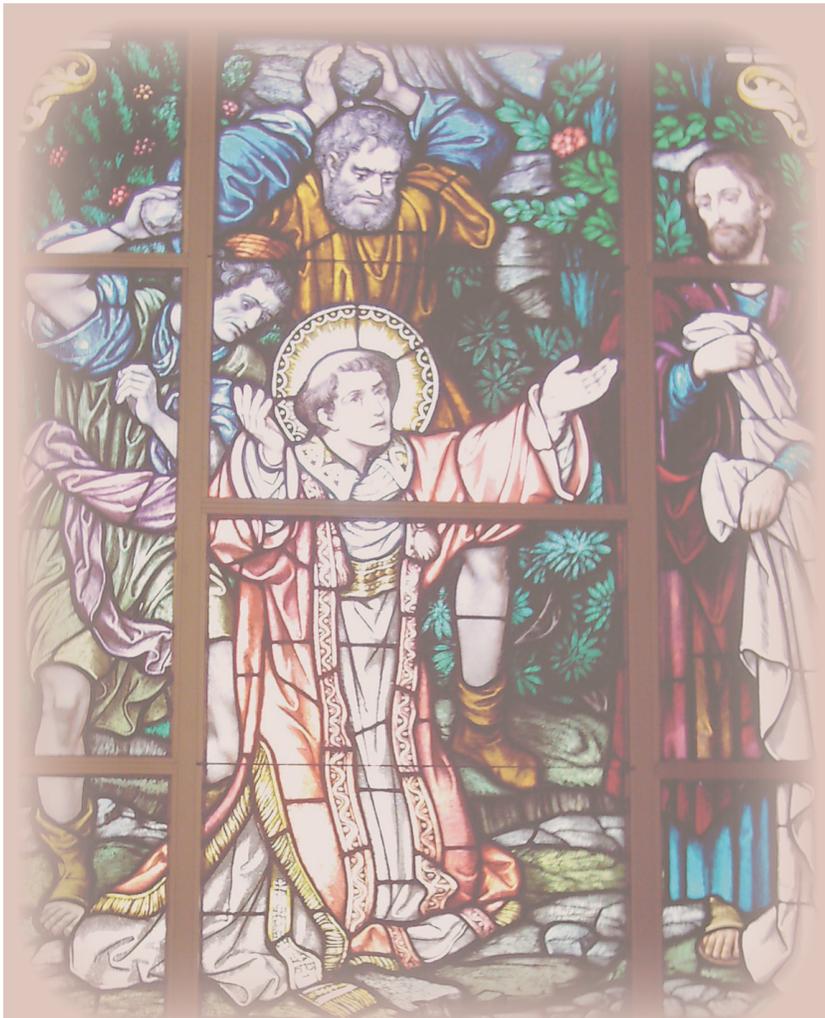


# St. Stephen Church



**CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE (CCD):**

Thursday, 6:00-7:45 p.m. at Niles Intermediate School  
CCD Coordinator: Mary Ann McMahon – 330-544-4766

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Welcome! Please register at once.

**MOVING:** Notify the Rectory.

**QUESTIONS? BULLETIN NEWS:** Bulletin deadline –  
Tuesday before 4:00 p.m. Call the Rectory.

**CHURCH SUPPORT:** The weekly use of your envelopes with a donation justly related to your means, fulfills the obligation of church support. It also is one indication of your regular attendance at Mass, and an expression of your appreciation to God for what has been given to you.

129 West Park Avenue  
Niles, Ohio  
44446

Rev. Richard Murphy,  
Administrator

Deacon Frank Marino

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Sunday Obligation:**

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

**Holy Days:** Consult Bulletin.

**Weekdays:** Consult Bulletin.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:**

Arrangements must be made at the Rectory and the instruction class must be attended by the parents.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:**

To be arranged at the Rectory six months in advance of the wedding.

**HOSPITAL CALLS:**

When a member of your family is taken to the hospital, notify the Rectory.

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

Rectory: 330-652-4396

**ORGANIST:**

Meg Daniluk – 330-545-5466

**E-MAIL:**

[churchofsaintstephen@yahoo.com](mailto:churchofsaintstephen@yahoo.com)

**WEB SITE:**

[www.ststephenchurchniles.com](http://www.ststephenchurchniles.com)

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

We are St. Stephen Church in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown. Since 1853, we have served the community of Niles. Through our Baptism, we are called to build our lives in the image of Christ through worship and prayer, in Word and Eucharist. Together we draw others close to God through our service, charity and evangelization. In a spirit of stewardship, we share our time, talent and treasure with the faith community and for future generations.

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, July 19th –

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

9:00 a.m. **MARY & MIKE NICHOLAS**  
by Pat & Carol Sylvester & Family



TUESDAY, July 21st

8:30 a.m. **KAREN WIERY** by NCWC Committee #3

THURSDAY, July 23rd

8:30 a.m. **AMY SPISAK** by Mom & Dad

FRIDAY, July 24th

8:30 a.m. **CHARLES RING, SR., 40th ANNIVERSARY**  
by Joe & Mary Ann Ring



SUNDAY, July 26th –

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

9:00 a.m. **MARY HELEN WILSON** by Dave & Aggie Moore

**THEME: THE WORD OF GOD IS FRUITFUL, POWERFUL, AND MEANT TO BRING US TO FULL UNION WITH GOD IN HEAVEN.**

The first reading and Gospel show the potency of the word of God. In fertile hearts, the Word can multiply exponentially, and it can bring about God's will in our lives. The Word comes from God to us, in order that we might be brought to God. Can there be any greater gift?

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

Isaiah describes the word of God as fruitful, not returning to the Lord until His will is accomplished. Paul writes to the Romans, addressing human suffering and looking beyond it to the promise of heaven. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and explains its meaning.



**ETERNAL FLAME INTENTIONS – WEEK OF JULY 19th**  
**IN MEMORY OF CECILIA MARLEY** by Peggy McCaughy  
**IN MEMORY OF PAT MAUGHAN** by Connell Family

### SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTION

**IN MEMORY OF NORMAN STANCHER** by Mary & Daughters



### REST IN PEACE

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the family and friends of **Rose Diamond**. May she rest in peace and let perpetual light shine upon her.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

Parents plant values in their children anticipating the tiny seeds of honesty, respect, commitment and fidelity will grow with their child and one day become "a safe haven" to many.

**PLEASE KNOW THE DISPENSATION IS STILL IN EFFECT FOR ANYONE WHO IS NOT COMFORTABLE RETURNING TO MASS AT THIS TIME.**

Not everyone can, nor should return to Mass. Those of us who are present in reduced numbers will pray for the whole community and the necessarily absent.

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNOR'S ORDER.**

## PARISH NEWS

[www.ststephenchurchniles.com](http://www.ststephenchurchniles.com)



### PRAYER LIST

We would like to offer everyone the opportunity to pray for our fellow parishioners and friends who are ill or in need of prayer for any reason. If you would like to add someone to the list, please call the rectory and leave a message and we will add the requested person. Please remember the following in your prayers: **Nancy Jayne, Chuck Jorza, Marguerite Kovach, Alida Lendvay, Frank Burke, Marilyn (Tock) Schneider, Patrick Parry, Patricia McMahon, Barbara Dohar, Will Scheidegger, David Holmes, Jack Segada, Anne Misel, Angela Marzullo, Adelbert Durig, Mary Beth Havasi, John Granny, Janice Hudzik, doctors, nurses, first responders and all who have been affected in any way by the Coronavirus, especially those who have no one to pray for them.**

### WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

Attendance 91

PARISH GOAL: \$4,700.00 per Sunday



STEWARDSHIP: 7/12/2020

SUNDAY

\$ 5,215.00

Envelopes 85

CHURCH MAINTENANCE

\$ 205.00

CEMETERY

\$ 345.00

The above figures include \$3,375.00 that we received through mail-in donations.  
**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF YOUR PARISH!**

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE SERVING MASS – July 26th

**Eucharistic Minister of Bread**  
**Lector**  
**Altar Server**  
**Sacristan**  
**Greeters**



**Frank Dillon**  
**Anna Marie Granny**  
**John Cullivan**  
**Jeff Burke**  
**Rosella McCloskey & Sophia Gearhart**

### PARISH COUNCIL CARE PACKAGES

Members of Parish Council will have a little care package for each family attending Mass this weekend, just a little something for our parishioners during this difficult time. We thank Jim Fentules of Valley Graphics for generously donating the St. Stephen notepads to our project, and Jean Corliss of Regal Productions for the St. Stephen pens.

### Grateful Stewardship – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom."***

– MATTHEW 13:24, 37-38. As children of God, we are all "good seeds." We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others and share our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our **Stewardship** of gratitude and generosity we sow "good seeds" on earth and ultimately help each other get to Heaven!



### LUCK OF THE IRISH 2020 WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE!

Visit <http://bidpal.net/luckoftheirish> using your computer, tablet, or cell phone to view all the prize baskets and raffle items. Bidding has begun and will end at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 26. Visit the site as often as you wish to see how the bidding is progressing. The reverse raffle will be reported on the website as well. We believe you will find this site easy to use, and as simple as shopping online. **IMPORTANT REMINDER: If you will be picking up your meal at Ciminero's on Friday, July 24, the time is between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. at the door on the south side of the building (nearest to Home Federal Savings and Loan.)**

### 2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

As of July 8th, 133 of our families have pledged \$17,100.00 toward the 2020 Bishop's Appeal. Thank you to all who have contributed! During this unprecedented time with unemployment reaching an all-time high in the Mahoning Valley, additional families are turning to Catholic Charities for assistance in paying their rent or mortgage payments, food assistance, utility payments and mental health needs. If you can assist financially, please consider helping the regional Catholic Charities meet our Valley's needs. Our normal appeal process was interrupted by the pandemic. If you wish to contribute, Bishop's Annual Appeal envelopes are available in our vestibule.



### NFP AWARENESS WEEK – JULY 19-25

“Live the truth and beauty of God’s plan for married love!” is the theme of this year’s Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, July 19-25, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to celebrate God’s design for married love and the gift of life and to raise awareness of Natural Family Planning (NFP)

methods. “NFP” is supportive of Catholic beliefs about married love because it “respects the God-given power to love a new human life into being” (Married Love and the Gift of Life, USCCB).

NFP involves ethical, natural, safe and effective methods for both achieving and avoiding pregnancy in marriage. NFP methods teach couples how to observe and interpret the wife’s signs of fertility and infertility.

NFP Awareness Week annually highlights the anniversary of Pope St. Paul VI’s encyclical letter *Humanae Vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, marriage and responsible parenthood.

The Diocese of Youngstown is blessed with instructors certified to train couples in methods of NFP, plus there are online and distance learning programs available. For more information, contact the Diocese of Youngstown’s Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Life at 330-744-8451, ext. 272 or [dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org), or go to [www.doy.org](http://www.doy.org).

### SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST

While we have been away from church, our dear friend **Frank Burke**, who turned 98 in March, has had to slow down due to some health issues. For many years, Frank quietly opened the church EVERY day, set up for daily and Sunday Masses, replaced candles when needed, kept track of hosts, wine and candles and would let the office know when to reorder, shoveled snow for many more years than he should have, and served Mass and funerals.

All of that was in addition to his volunteer work with St. Vincent de Paul Society, Knights of Columbus, YSU Alumni, Niles Historical Society, walking and weightlifting at the Wellness Center. He ran circles around all of us! We said many times he was the inspiration for the Energizer Bunny! Imagine how hard it has to be for him to stay home now.

We want him to know how much we appreciate all he has done for us through the years. Most of all, we want to make sure he doesn’t feel forgotten. Since our current situation doesn’t allow visiting, we are asking you to make some time every so often to send him a note or “thinking of you” card to make him feel as special as he truly is. His address is **165 Oak Knoll, Niles, OH 44446**. This simple act would mean so much to him. Thank you for caring for someone who cared for all of us in so many ways for so many years! God will bless you for your efforts.

### THE CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**“Often it is the people closest to us who need our help. We should not go out in search of some unknown business to accomplish. It is better to begin with the simplest, which the Lord tells us is the most urgent.” – Pope Francis**

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise; they “are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs” (U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults).

• **FEED THE HUNGRY** • Check in with your parish community to see if there are parishioners who cannot (or should not) go grocery shopping themselves. • Check in with your parish to see if the food pantry is adequately stocked. • Organize a network of volunteers in each parish/community to grocery shop for parishioners in need, especially the more vulnerable populations in our community.

- **GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY** • Do not purchase or hoard more water than you need. • While handwashing is vitally important, make an effort not to waste water – in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity.
- **SHELTER THE HOMELESS** • Consider donating toiletries and sanitary items to a local shelter since those who suffer homelessness – and the facilities that minister to them – are especially vulnerable at this time. • Financially support organizations that are working to support the homeless population in your community.
- **VISIT THE SICK** • While in-person visits are not advisable during this time, please invest time in reaching out via phone/video call or by sending a letter or card to those who may feel particularly isolated during this time. • Offer to assist caregivers of chronically sick family members by grocery shopping or cooking for them so they do not have to risk exposure. • Reach out to health care workers in your community who may be overworked, burdened, or in need of specific support at this time.
- **VISIT THE PRISONERS** • Explore whether your parish or diocese has a prison ministry and, if so, check whether they are in need of supplies or support. • Given that people in prison can be especially isolated and vulnerable during this pandemic, consider how to support those who are ministering to them and bringing them the Word of God.
- **BURY THE DEAD** • Now that funerals may be limited or restricted, reach out with cards or phone calls to those who have recently lost a loved one. • If possible, visit the cemetery to pray for those you have lost – and to ask their intercession on behalf of all those facing death today.
- **INSTRUCTING THE IGNORANT** • With public celebration of Masses unavailable, learn and/or teach someone else how to make a Spiritual Communion. • Take this time to recommit to your own study and formation and, for those home with children, take advantage of this time to reflect on the faith as a family.
- **ADMONISHING THE SINNER** • Being confined in close quarters for long periods of time with families or housemates can test us in more ways than one, so be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. • Recognize the reality of spiritual warfare in daily interactions and strive to cultivate the corresponding virtues needed to resist your personal temptations.
- **COMFORTING THE SORROWFUL** • Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering and let them know you are thinking of them. • Remember that a few moments of your day may make a lifetime of difference to someone who is going through a difficult time. • Consider sharing links to spiritual resources with those who may be isolated, such as livestreamed Masses, so that they can participate in community worship from home.
- **BEARING WRONGS PATIENTLY** • Practice developing and strengthening the virtues of temperance, prudence, fortitude, and justice. • When frustrated with someone, step away from the situation, take a few deep breaths, and pray the *Our Father*, asking God for patience. • Commit to praying the Stations of the Cross once a week.
- **PRAYING FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD** • Pray the Rosary with family members, via video conference or conference call if needed, for all those who are suffering from the effects of this pandemic. • Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who you are keeping in your prayers, and let people know that you are praying for them. • Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about.
- **GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR** • Reach out to those who may have been especially burdened during this pandemic, especially those whose occupations make them more vulnerable to economic instability. • Remember that the lack of public celebration of Masses may result in parishes struggling financially in the next few months; be sure to continue your support and if possible, increase offerings for those who cannot donate due to recent financial hardship or inability to work. • Remember that Catholic Relief Services continues to serve the most vulnerable and consider making a donation or praying for them as you are able.

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