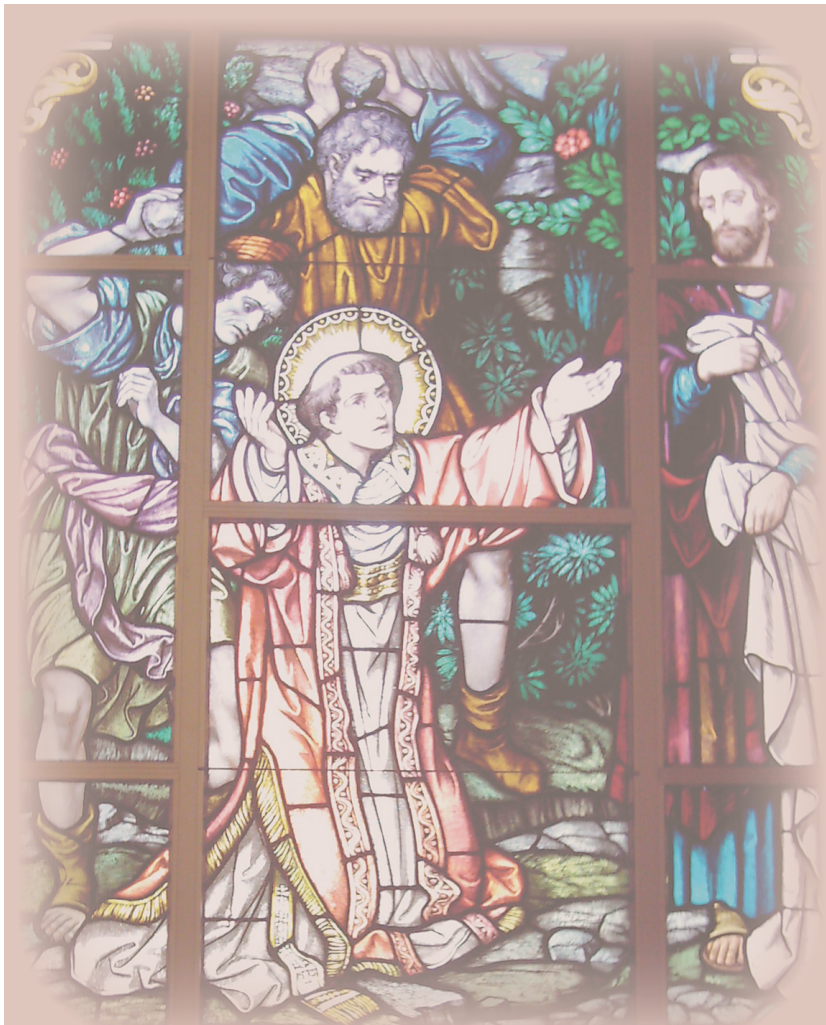


St. Stephen Church

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

Thursday, 6:00-8:00 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. Steven Agostino,
Pastor

Deacon Michael Hanshaw

MASS SCHEDULE:**Sunday Obligation:**

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. at St. Stephen
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel

Holy Days: Consult Bulletin.

Weekdays: Consult Bulletin.

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

ORGANIST:

Meg Daniluk

E-MAIL:

churchofsaintstephen@yahoo.com

WEB SITE:

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, DECEMBER 17TH –
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT9:00 a.m. JUDY FERENCE by Abraham Family
11:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18th

8:30 a.m. at Mt. Carmel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19th

8:30 a.m. BENEDICT FAMILY by Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20th

8:30 a.m. at Mt. Carmel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st

8:30 a.m. MARGUERITE KOVACH by Darlene Hart

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

4:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th –
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT9:00 a.m. MARGUERITE KOVACH
by St. Stephen Choir
11:00 a.m. at MT. CARMEL

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. at St. Stephen - PARISHIONERS
LIVING & DECEASED
4:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:00 a.m. at St. Stephen - PARISHIONERS
LIVING & DECEASED
11:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel

THEME: REJOICE ALWAYS. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.

In today's readings Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist rejoice because they have Good News. God is with them and working through them. They are anointed, blessed, and sent to do God's will. On this Gaudete Sunday, we, too, find reason to rejoice. Let us rejoice in sharing the Good News of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD: In the first reading, Isaiah is anointed by the Lord and sent to announce *a day of vindication by our God*. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to always rejoice, pray, and give thanks. In the Gospel, John the Baptist testifies to the light and says he *is the voice of one crying out in the desert, "make straight the way of the Lord."*

ETERNAL FLAME INTENTIONS
WEEK OF DECEMBER 17th

IN MEMORY OF
CHARLES WILSON
by John Wilson & Amanda Wilson

IN MEMORY OF
JAMES SYLVESTER, SR. & JR.
by Connie Hake

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTION
HEALING FOR FRIENDS
by Mary Ann Hudzik



As part of the **PARISH YEAR OF EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL**, St. Stephen will host an hour of Adoration on Thursdays following the 8:30 a.m. Mass until 10:00 a.m. Please join us to honor and glorify God for His most perfect gift to us. The Blessed Sacrament is never to be left alone during this time so if it is difficult for you to be here for 8:30 a.m. Mass, please consider coming between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. for a visit.



HELP NEEDED TO DECORATE THE CHURCH TODAY AFTER MASS. Please lend a hand if you can. We are all busy at this time of year, but many hands will make the load lighter for everyone.



NILES CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

NITE AT THE RACES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 at Ciminero's

Doors open 6:30 p.m. – Races begin 7:00 p.m.

Tickets on sale **NOW** after Mass or can be purchased from any club member, the office or online. We hope you will be able to join this evening of fun and help your parish at the same time!



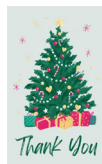
LUCK OF THE IRISH 2024 – MARCH 16th, 2024

SAVE THE DATE!



THANK YOU, NILES CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Our Niles Catholic Women's Club has presented the parish a very special gift this Christmas, a new outdoor Nativity set! At publication time, logistics were still being worked out as to whether the new set could be set up properly, but we hope to have at least some of the new display ready for Christmas. We are very grateful also to a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous for building the new stable on very short notice! Thank you to all involved for this gift that will be treasured for years to come!



TO ALL OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE NILES COMMUNITY SERVICES CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT – Thank you for your generosity. Your kind and caring hearts will brighten the lives of many children this year. Special thanks to everyone for being on time. You made our jobs so much easier! God bless you!



FATHER AGOSTINO'S INSTALLATION

Please join us on Sunday, January 7 at the 9:00 a.m. Mass as Father Agostino will be officially installed by Bishop Bonnar as Pastor of St. Stephen and Mt. Carmel. He will be installed at Mt. Carmel at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. A combined reception for both parishes will be held at Ciminero's Banquet Hall. See the flyer in today's bulletin. Please return your reservation as soon as possible. **FIRM DEADLINE** for reservations will be **December 27**. There will be **NO** walk-ins permitted that day.

ATTENTION BAKERS: The Committee has asked that as you bake your Christmas cookies you set aside a few extra dozen for the cookie table at Father's celebration. Cookies can be dropped off at Ciminero's on Saturday morning, January 6.

Parish Office
Closed

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 22nd through JANUARY 2nd. We will monitor the phone during that time. If your call is an emergency, you will be directed to a number to call.



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: **Dorothy Bianco, Don Donnelly, Alida Lendvay, Mary Beth Havasi, Janet Kandrac, Sue Kopetsky, John Wilson, Kathy DeCristofaro, Mitzi Malvasi, Lou Lukz, Jennifer Cable, Michelle Howard, Jo Medovich, Kevin Grafton, Mary Catherine Freel, Kevin Murphy (Father Murphy's brother), Kara Stanford, June Dudinec, Arlene Wilson, Mary Miller, Bob Leonard, Mike Kozak, Bob Adler, Joe Smaltz, Sandy LaMonica, Karen & Richard Slanina & Family, Carri R., Pat Hines, Bill Smith, Debbie Kovell, Lois DiFrancesco, Jeff Burke, Jack DiTunno, Tammy C., Faith Harnack, Paul Lapolla, Jim Orsine, Connie Hake, Michael Edward Thompson, Pat Spisak, Chuck Durig, Tucker Paul Clark, Jim & Jo Villeco, Sr., Jim Nitzsky, Martha Williams, Marie Perfette, Denise Burke, Sue Mollis, Chuck & Bonnie Jorza, Connie Brandt, Rachel Tarr, Steve & Dee Cvengros, Rita Mae Dodasovich, Al Conti, Rosalie McGinnis, Shirley Gustovich, Dick Bedio, Gavin Lingle, Peg McGinnis, Larry Batovsky, Sr., Steven Medovich, Mary Jane Tripodi, Phil C., Cathy Marino, Roberta Williams, Mary Jane Hileman, Todd Beedy, Angela Marzullo, John Daubner, Father Murphy and all those who suffer any illness, especially those who have no one to pray for them.**



OPLATKY. Oplatky (Christmas wafer) is available at the rectory for those who make this part of their Christmas celebration. The price remains \$2.00 per envelope of four wafers. If it is difficult for you to get to the rectory during the week, please call and we will bring it to you at Mass on Sunday morning.



OUR 2024 CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH OR RECTORY. WE THANK HOLETON YUHASZ FUNERAL HOME AND SHAKER LAW OFFICE FOR THEIR CONTINUING SPONSORSHIP. PLEASE TAKE ONE PER FAMILY.

We also have Little Blue Books available by the doors for anyone who would like a copy of this Advent devotional.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP

December 10, 2023

Attendance: 145

Envelopes: 111

SUNDAY ENVELOPES	\$ 7,508.00
MAINTENANCE	\$ 34.00
CEMETERY	\$ 128.00
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT	\$ 10.00
CHRISTMAS	\$ 105.00
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	\$ 552.00
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	\$ 349.00
SOLEMNITY OF MARY	\$ 50.00
INITIAL OFFERING	\$ 5.00



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This third week focuses our intention on joy. Joy is a very real and deep happiness that is rooted in faith and trust. In this third week of Advent, we pause and reflect on the first half of the season, as well as look ahead to the last weeks.

GIVE HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS – FOOD & FUNDS DRIVE. Food donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Dining Hall Niles Road, Warren. Monetary donations can be made by going to www.SVdPTrumbull.org or mail to SVdP Holiday Campaign, 2431 Niles Road SE, Warren, OH 44484.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 24TH & 25TH

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sacristan	JACQUIE WHETSTONE
Lector	ANNA MARIE GRANNY
Eucharistic Minister of Bread	MARY KAY NICHOLAS
Eucharistic Ministers of Cup	NORA HLAD
	JULIE ABRAHAM

Altar Server
Greeters

MARIA YUHASZ
HUGH KIELEY
SOPHIA GEARHART

Christmas Eve, 4:00 p.m.

Sacristan	JEFF BURKE
Lector	LISA ABRAHAM
Eucharistic Minister of Bread	
Eucharistic Ministers of Cup	

Altar Server
Greeters

STEVE GARCAR
JACQUIE WHETSTONE
JOHN WILSON
CAROL SYLVESTER
MARY ANN McMAHON
STEVE GARCAR
MICHAEL DIAMOND

Christmas Morning, 9:00 a.m.

Sacristan	JEFF BURKE
Lector	MIKE SYLVESTER
Eucharistic Minister of Bread	MARY KAY NICHOLAS
Eucharistic Ministers of Cup	SHERRIE SYLVESTER

Altar Server
Greeters

M.J. CULLIVAN
JOHN CULLIVAN
HUGH KIELEY
JACQUIE WHETSTONE

OTHER NEWS



NILES COMMUNITY SERVICES FOOD COLLECTION – DECEMBER – Assorted Food

COMMUNITY SUPPERS – DECEMBER – OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL, 381 ROBBINS AVENUE. Suppers are free and open to the public on Thursday from 4:45-5:30 p.m.



ST. VINCENT de PAUL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is looking for volunteers to assist in all of our various programs such as the Hunger Center, Back2Work Mentoring Program, Care Clothing Room, Special Events and more. If you have a passion for events or fundraising, we have launched a volunteer team that we invite you to join. Contact Laura Bennett at 234-223-2933, ext. 103 or lbennett@svdpneodistrict.org. Contact us today to learn more about these exciting opportunities! www.SVdPTrumbull.org

STEWARDSHIP – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“REJOICE ALWAYS. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING. GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.” – 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

This Scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

VOCATIONS – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me.” God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or contact Fr. Chad Johnson at (330) 744-8451 or cjohnson@youngstowndiocese.org.

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