



Important Dates: January - February 2024

- ▶ **Feast of the Kings Celebration, Sunday, January 7, 2024:**
Held in the Parish Hall following the 10:00 AM Service.
- ▶ **Envisioning Survey Due, Friday, January 12, 2024:**
Please respond to the survey concerning the mission of St. Stephen's
- ▶ **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Monday, January 15, 2024:**
Oak Ridge Event at Y-12 New Hope Auditorium, 9:45 AM (Outreach)
- ▶ **ORMCA Coffee Concert at St. Stephens, Sunday, January 28, 2024:**
Held in the Nave at 3:00 PM - Doors open at 2:30 PM
- ▶ **Camino do Santiago Deposit Deadline - Wednesday, January 31, 2024**
Please contact Father Ashton for more details
- ▶ **Inquirers' Class Begins - Wednesday, January 31, 2024**
More information to come.
- ▶ **Mardi Gras Family Fete, Saturday, February 3, 2024:**
Held in the Parish Hall from 5:30 - 8:30 PM
- ▶ **Lenten Fair, Sunday, February 18, 2024:**
Held in the Parish Hall following the 10:00 AM Service

St. Stephen's Website Links

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for January 5, 2024](#)
Download the bulletins for this week's services: [Home](#) | [St. Stephen's](#)

This Week in Our Faith - January 7, 2024

First Sunday after the Epiphany

This Sunday, January 7, 2024:

- ▶ 7:45am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (spoken) *Location: St. Stephen's Nave*
 - ▶ 10:00am Choral Eucharist/Holy Baptism, Rite II *Location: St. Stephen's Nave*
- Come and join us as we celebrate the Baptism of Elizabeth McCue!
You can watch the 10:00 AM service on our [YouTube channel](#).

Season of the Epiphany



The Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth. The coming of the Magi (the Three Kings) is celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, 2023 (BCP). The Baptism of our Lord is celebrated on the First Sunday after the Epiphany.

To learn more about this wonderful season, please visit these links:

- ▶ [St. Stephen's Weekly Bulletin - First Sunday after the Epiphany](#)
- ▶ [Carrying the Light of Christ into the Darkness - Rev. Canon Heather L. Melton](#)

Sunday - Adult Education

All classes are held in the Pollard Room. We invite you to join us after a service, to learn more about the Christian faith and the Episcopal way of life.

- ▶ 9:00 AM - Lectionary Study - Resumes this Sunday, January 7, 2024. Each week we take a deep dive in the gospel passage for the week, as we seek to enlighten our understanding of the Gospel and the message of the good news of Christ.
- ▶ The Animate Group, held after the 10:00 Service, will resume next week on Sunday, January 14, 2024. Our first class will be Prayer: Oriented toward God with Brian McLaren. Through discussion, multimedia, and the Animate Practices Journal, we will explore core practices of the Christian faith together.

Sunday - Christian Education

Christian Education for our younger parishioners will return next week.

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 - Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

Join us in the St. Alban's Chapel for Holy Eucharist - Rite I / Healing Service.

Loose Plate Offering

This week's loose plate offering is designated for the Clergy Discretionary Fund.

This Week in the Parish

This Sunday - Feast of the Kings



This Sunday after the 10:00 service, we will celebrate the Feast of the Kings with the three types of cakes! Please join us as we begin the season of Epiphany. The Feast of the Kings, also known as Twelfth Night or Epiphany, is celebrated on January 6th. It commemorates the arrival of the three kings, who came to pay their respects to the Baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

In 14th Century France, the tradition of baking a special cake—a Galette des Rois—stuffed with a bean or token came into being. Whoever found the token was crowned the King/Queen for the day. (It is interesting to note that the Galette that is baked for the Presidential Palace has **no** token, to avoid the possibility of the President being crowned King!)

The French settlers brought this tradition with them to New Orleans, but the shape of the Kings' Cake evolved to a ring, symbolizing a crown. Over time, this tradition journeyed from France to Spain and eventually found a cherished place in Mexican culture as well, in the form of a Rosca de Reyes.

This Week's Outreach Spotlight

- ▶ Please keep the Blessing Box needs on your shopping list. This week we are requesting donations of canned fruit, fruit cups, and mac and cheese. Please be aware of size limitations inside the Box - thank you!
- ▶ Reminder - please join the Outreach community in supporting the Martin Luther King, Jr., program organized by Alpha Kappa Alpha at 9:45 a.m. on Monday, January 15, 2024, at the Y-12 New Hope Auditorium, 602 Scarborough Road. The program will include youth performances and a keynote address by Rev. Erica Haigler, Pastor of Spurgeon Chapel, A.M.E. Zion Church. Afterwards, Methodist Medical Center will provide lunch, and Church Women United will provide dessert. Adults and school-age students are invited.

Parish Events Coming Soon

Tuesday Bible Study Returns - January 16, 2024, 10:00 AM

Join the Tuesday Bible Study group on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Pollard Library. Beginning on January 16th, 2024, we will begin a 12-session study entitled "Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today". We will be using the book and DVD of the same name. The first study looks at the story of Eve and how today's women face some of the same issues that confronted Eve. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Rousey at james.rousey@aol.com

ORMCA Coffee Concert - Sunday, January 28, 2024 - 3:00 PM



ORMCA Coffee Concert: Musical Language, Meaning, and Expression: Chamber Music with Philosophy of Music
Sunday, January 28, 2024 - 3:00 PM
Admission: Free

Doors open 2:30p.m

Margaret Moore, violin, flute, Ruth Bacon, violin, Noelle Harb, voice, Marcelo Urias, piano; Works by Telemann, Schoenberg, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff and Vaughn William

We are thrilled to invite you to the latest Coffee Concert sponsored by the Oak Ridge Civic Music Association (ORMCA) - being held here at St. Stephen's Church. This community organization, founded in 1943, presents these concerts with featured local players - and it's free!

Please plan to arrive between 2:30 - 2:45 pm. That gives time for the musicians to complete their setup, and for everyone to be seated on time. Over the next few weeks, look for more information - and mark your calendars now!

Thanks, Simon Ballintoy, St. Stephen's Director of Music

Inquirers' Class Begins - Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Got questions?



Looking for answers?

If you are new to St. Stephen's or simply interested in a refresher of a good overview of our church, please mark Wednesday, January 31, 2024, on your calendar!

This will be the first inquirers class of many leading up to the visitation of Bishop Brian Cole on Sunday, May 1, 2024.

The Inquirer's Class is for newcomers, visitors, or anyone who is looking to "inquire" about the Episcopal Church. Instruction typically includes information concerning the beliefs, history, worship, and practices of the Episcopal Church. The Church notes that inquirers' classes belong to the "Pre-catechumenal Period," or first stage of the catechumenate, by providing "sufficient preparation to enable persons to determine that they wish to become Christians."

Mardi Gras Family Fete - Sunday, February 3, 2024



Focus on the Parish

St Stephen's Financial Status - January 2024

Last Week's Offering: \$19,179
(includes \$17K adjustment for 2023 "pre-paid pledge")
2023 YTD Offering: \$ 528,294
2023 YTD Budget: \$ 526,680
Over/Under: \$ 1,614 (100.31%)

Survey from Envisioning Committee

Now that the busy holiday season is over, please find a few minutes to complete the Envisioning Survey. The deadline is Friday, January 12, 2024. You can complete the survey here - [Envisioning Committee Survey](#) Or you can come by the church office and fill out a hard copy of the survey. If you have any difficulty with the survey, please contact Heather Hartman at 865-803-1817 or drhhartman@gmail.com. Thank you!

Lay Pastoral Care Program Companions Postponed

The Pastoral Care Committee and Clergy had planned to begin training for a new Lay Pastoral Care program, entitled "Companioning," in January. Due to lack of a sufficient number of parishioners who have indicated interest in taking the training, we have decided to postpone offering it at this time. If you think you might want to participate at a later date, or just want more information about the training, please contact one of the clergy, Jamey Kennedy, or Steve Herbes.

Ministry Updates

Ongoing Church Events

Wednesday WOW - lunchtime for ORHS juniors and seniors

Our Walk Over Wednesday (WOW) will resume this week.

Wednesday Men's Group - Pollard Room, 8:30 AM

Thursday Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) - 4:00 PM

If you'd like to join us, feel free to call/text us:

(Steve Herbes: 865.250.9123; Liz Herbes: 865.228.2537)

Helpful Links

[Those Who Serve](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[News and Events from the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee](#)

The church's office hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Offices are closed on Fridays and weekends.

Glossary definitions provided courtesy of Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY, (All Rights reserved) from "An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church. A User Friendly Reference for Episcopalians," Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors



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