



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

...Where God is seen, love is felt and lives are changed!

February 12, 2021

Last Epiphany

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

It's the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, and we will have a service of Holy Eucharist, February 14, 2021, livestreamed at 9 a.m. on our YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/ststephensor

After the service, Fr. Bailey will be at the church, in the Vienna Road portico for those of you who are delivering or picking up communion. The window for communion pickup will be from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY

See page 2 for all you need to know about our Virtual Ash Wednesday worship service and self-imposition of dirt.

EYF

On Sunday, we will meet from 12:00-2:00 to prepare pancake goody bags for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Drive Thru! We will be passing out the bags to the parish on Tuesday, February 16 from 3:00pm-6:00pm. I would love to have the kiddos help pass out bags!



Please let me know if you have any questions about the drive-thru. See you Sunday!

Caroline Wood, Youth Minister
youthminister@ststephensor.org

PASTORAL CARE

JOIN US AS WE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR:

Anne Campbell
Jack and Mary Nell Campbell
Danny Cantrell and Barbara Matich
Jane Cappiello
Walter and JoAnne Carow

Please include these people in your prayers.

COMPLINE IN LENT

Join us at 8 p.m. for Compline on Thursdays evenings, from February 18 through March 19, 2021 over Zoom? Parishioners can also call in using the phone number 646-558-8656, if they do not feel comfortable using Zoom.

Meeting ID: 849 3089 6869
Password: 716671



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Saint Valentine of Rome was a widely recognized 3rd-century Roman saint, commemorated in Christianity on February 14. From the Middle Ages, his Saints' Day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love. People call on him to watch over the lives of lovers, of course, but also for interventions regarding beekeeping and epilepsy, as well as the plague, fainting and traveling. As you might expect, he's also the patron saint of engaged couples and happy marriages.



ADULT FORUM IN LENT

CIVIL CONVERSATIONS IN UNCIVIL TIMES

For four weeks in Lent, we will examine how we can engage in constructive dialogue and where God may be purposefully leading us, both individually and collectively.

Live classes will be held via Zoom after church (10:30 to 11:30) on Sunday Feb 21, 28, March 7 and March 14. Recordings will be posted to the St. Stephen's YouTube channel for subsequent viewing.

Courtney Manrod

SUNDAY SOCIAL TIME

Join our Zoom social hours with these credentials.

Morning [Coffee Hour](#) at 10 a.m.

Morning Meeting ID: 848 0379 6165
Password: 609987

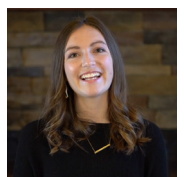
[Evening Social Hour](#) is at 5 p.m..

Evening Meeting ID: 816 4332 4827
Password: 999944



Cards & Good Wishes

Caroline Wood's last day with us at St. Stephen's will be February 28, 2021. Please send any cards and good wishes for her to the Parish Office by Friday, February 26, 2021, and we will make sure she has a sweet send-off from us!





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LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



"Light of the World" (1851-53)
British Pre-Raphaelite painter,
William Holdman Hunt (1827-1910)

Most Episcopalians are scared of the book of Revelation. Some of that is due to its strange imagery. Some of that is how the book has been used to make crazy and often frightening predictions. During these unsettling times, Revelation is a book that, when explored properly, unlocks a world that, while radically different, speaks a message of hope and comfort to us.

Join Fr. Bailey this Lenten season as he explores this eccentric and yet marvelous book of the Bible. Each day during Lent, we will put out a video that will walk through the entire book, explaining not only its meaning but also its relevance for how God calls us to live today. The study will begin on Ash Wednesday and be broadcast on our YouTube channel. Hope you can join us!

VIRTUAL ASHES - ASH WEDNESDAY DURING THE PANDEMIC

It has been a frequent conversation among my clergy colleagues – How do we do a contact-less Ash Wednesday? It seems to defeat the purpose when the priest can't smudge a big glob of ash on your forehead! These conversations have been fruitful, and from them I have developed the following rite by which we are doing Ash Wednesday (Wednesday, February 17):

- **First, the service will be totally virtual.** (I grind my teeth as I type this, as I especially long for this service to be in person. But physical separation remains appropriate at this time). The service will be broadcast at 9 AM that morning.
- In the forthcoming Evangel, I'll go into a little history on the origins of Ash Wednesday. It will explain the reason that, instead of ashes this year, we will be using DIRT. Between now and Ash Wednesday, a set of prayers and instructions (similar to the prayer card that has come with our pandemic communion distribution) will be sent out both physically and electronically for the purpose of self-imposing dirt on your forehead.
- How will this be done? At the appropriate time during the service, when I self-impose dirt, you will administer the ashes to yourself. If there are others in your household, it is certainly appropriate for you to administer to each other.
- How will you get dirt? Well, of course dirt is everywhere, which is part of the reason for substituting dirt instead of ashes. Does it have to be "magic" dirt? This question is certainly humorous on the surface, but while it hasn't been phrased exactly like that, many people who are familiar with the Ash Wednesday liturgy and its special blessing over the ashes have asked what is appropriate liturgically. So here are three options for you in this regard:
 - **Option 1: PICK-UP :** You can come by the church anytime after 9 AM on Tuesday February 16, 2021, to pick up a small plastic bag of dirt, which will be regular potting soil. These bags will be on a table outside the glass office doors under the portico.
 - **Option 2: DELIVERY:** We will have a sign-up like we do with communion where these same small bags of dirt can be delivered to you sometime on Tuesday.
 - **Option 3: DIY:** You can get your own dirt from anywhere ranging from your own yard, God's wider creation, or even potting soil from a store.
- When the dirt is blessed during the service, no matter when you watch it, consider the dirt you acquired by one of the three methods above to be blessed from afar and appropriate for administering.

As with everything else in the past year, Ash Wednesday will look very different from its usual form. But to so many of us, rituals have become even more important as buoys in the turbulent waters of our world. The simple act of being called through the smudging of dirt/ashes on our foreheads to remember our mortality powerfully reminds us especially now that true and sustaining life comes from the One who formed us from these very elements and from His Son who shared our mortal existence and rose beyond it into the perfection of God's eternal love for all people. I look forward to worshipping with you on this special day.

Bailey