



Important Dates: February 2024

▶ **Daughters of the King Meeting - Sunday, February 11, 2024**

Held in St. Alban's Chapel at 11:15 AM

▶ **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

Held in the Parish Hall from 5:30 - 7:00 PM

6:30 PM - Burning of the Palms (front steps/front patio)

▶ **Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

6:30 AM - Holy Eucharist / Imposition of Ashes

12:00 PM - Holy Eucharist / Imposition of Ashes

7:00 PM - Holy Eucharist / Imposition of Ashes

▶ **Lenten Fair - Sunday, February 18, 2024:**

Held in the Parish Hall following the 10:00 AM Service.

▶ **Outreach Meeting - Tuesday, February 20, 2024:**

Held in the Pollard Room at 5:00 PM

▶ **Lenten Season Simple Soup Supper - Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

Held in the Parish Hall from 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Also held February 28, March 6, March 13, March 20

Envisioning Committee Focus Group Sessions Conclude this Sunday

We will be having the final Envisioning Committee Focus Group Session in the Parish Hall immediately after the 8:30 AM Service. This is open to everyone, so come to hear the survey results and to offer/discuss your ideas. We hope that you will join us for coffee and a bite to eat while we discuss these important issues. Thanks to Heather and Cleon Hartman for facilitating. To recap - the committee's primary goal is to put forth recommendations on specific improvements related to building and grounds. These sessions will enable us to share results of last month's survey, with questions related to parish priorities and collected useful information for our church leadership.

Lent Begins this Week

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

– Ephesians 3:17-19

Lent is very early this year (it's a Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday year again). The journey through Lent into Easter is a journey with Jesus. We are baptized into his life, self-giving, and death; then, we rise in hope to life transformed. This Lent, we invite you to walk with Jesus in his Way of Love and into the experience of transformed life.

St. Stephen's Website Links

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for February 9, 2024](#)
Download the bulletins for this week's services: [Home](#) | [St. Stephen's](#)

This Week in Our Faith - February 11, 2024

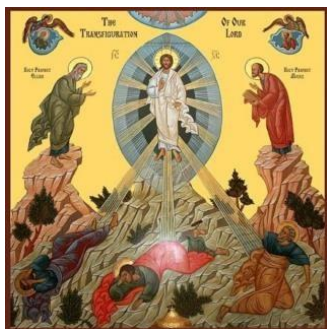
Last Sunday after the Epiphany

This Sunday, February 11, 2024:

- ▶ 7:45 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I (spoken) Location: St. Stephen's Nave
- ▶ 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist Rite II Location: St. Stephen's Nave

You can watch the 10:00 AM service on our [YouTube channel](#).

Epiphany Ends - The Transfiguration



It is the last Sunday after the Feast of Epiphany. Epiphanytide begins with the visit of the magi, continues with the baptism of Jesus, and carries on telling stories of divine manifestation. The last Sunday after the Epiphany always tells the story of the Transfiguration. The Transfiguration is a mysterious event, told in all three Synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

Jesus takes Peter, John, and James up a high mountain and is transfigured before them. Moses and Elijah show up, and a voice from above instructs the disciples that Jesus is God's son and commands the hearers to listen to him. Mark, in furthering his theme of secrecy and the disciples' misunderstanding, includes Jesus' followers questioning among themselves what Jesus meant when He spoke of rising from the dead. The story is miraculous and mysterious. God shows up in blazing glory. And God is the one who allows us to comprehend what the divine mysteries might mean. And as slow as we might be to comprehend the divine light, we can trust that it is still there, moving, transforming, and redeeming us all. Amen!

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**

We take a deep dive in the gospel passage for the week, seeking to enlighten our understanding of the Gospel and the message of the good news of Christ.

▶ **11:15 AM - The Animate Group**

Join us to dive into dynamic conversation as we gain perspectives from contemporary Christian voices. Through discussion, multimedia, and the Animate Practices Journal, we explore core practices of the Christian faith together. This week's topic: Sacraments: A Tapestry of Traditions with Phyllis Tickle

Sunday - Children's Christian Education

1st Semester of 2024 Continues!

Children's Sunday School is held after the 10:00 AM Services

Room 202: Grades 1-3 (Primary)

Room 204: Grades 4-6 (Primary)

Room 209: Grades 6-8 (Intermediate)

Tuesday - Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM

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

Tuesday - Bible Study 10:00 AM

Join the Tuesday Bible Study group on Tuesday mornings in the Pollard Library. We start at 10:00 AM, and end prior to the Tuesday Healing Service. We are following a 12-session study entitled "Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today" and using the book and DVD of the same name. This Tuesday, we will continue the study of Women in the Bible, focusing on Leah, the first wife of Jacob. Jacob - later renamed Israel - worked seven years to earn the right to marry Rachel... however, Rachel's father tricked Jacob into a marriage with Leah. How did Leah deal with this deception? Come Tuesday to find out! If you have any questions, please contact Jim Rousey at james.rousey@aol.com.

Inquirers' Class - No Class this week

There will be no Inquirers' Class this week due to Ash Wednesday. We will be back next week. Please join us at one of the services on Ash Wednesday!

This Week's Events

Daughters of the King Meeting- Sunday, February 11, 2024

The regular DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024, in St. Alban's chapel immediately following the 10 am service. We will have a short business meeting followed by presentations on Eucharistic Ministry and the Caring Meals ministry. All women of the parish are invited to attend, so if you're curious about who we are and what we do, we look forward to seeing you there!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - February 13, 2024



Shrove
Tuesday

Come and enjoy our traditional Pancake Supper! We will gather in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. We will be serving pancakes, bacon and sausage, and scrambled eggs, along with juice, tea, and coffee. Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of the youth Camino trip. At 6:30 PM, we will have the burning of the palms (outside) in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

Parish News

Ongoing Church Events

Tuesday Bible Study - Pollard Room, 10:30 AM
Wednesday WOW for ORHS Students - Parish Hall, 10:00 AM
Wednesday Men's Group - Pollard Room, 8:30 AM
Thursday Contemplative Prayer (Zoom) - 4:00 PM

Loose Plate Offering

This week's loose plate offering is designated for WOW - Walk Over Wednesday.

Let's Go Krogering!



Do You Shop at Kroger? If you do, there's a very simple way you can help St. Stephen's! Have you heard of the Community Rewards Program? All you have to do is simply link your Shopper's Card to your account - just scan the QR code on the left - it's that easy!

Through this program, Kroger helps to support local nonprofit organizations. and you can now link your account to St. Stephen's. Then every time you shop, your visit will be applied to the Rewards program, at no added cost to you! Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations. You can find out more at the [Kroger's website](#).

Upcoming Parish Events

Lenten Fair - Sunday, February 18, 2024



Join Christian Ed's kick-off of LENT
At The LENTEN FAIR
Sunday, February 18, 2024
Following the 10:00 AM Service

Come Join Us at the Lenten Fair! This is a great opportunity for families to kick-off the 40-day season of Lent, a period of preparation for the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and giving. Speaking of fasting: join us for fresh pretzels and learn why this is the perfect food when fasting! Crafting/learning activities will also be available for the children (and young at heart adults) at the Fair.

Lenten Season Simple Soup Suppers Return



Focus on the Parish

This Week's Outreach Spotlight - Blessing Box

► Please keep the Blessing Box needs on your shopping list. This week we are requesting canned pasta for kids (such as SpaghettiOs and Chef Boyardee), bar soap, and shampoo. Please keep the size of the Blessing Box in mind when you shop.

Outreach - February Spotlight - WOW

We're excited about Lent - and we're getting ready to continue walking in Jesus's path of ministry and outreach. Outreach's recipient of the loose offering in February is WOW - Walk Over Wednesday.

WOW is St. Stephen's ministry of providing a home cooked meal to the Oak Ridge High School juniors and seniors who have open campus lunch privileges. Each Wednesday during the school year, a team of 4-5 parishioners prepares and serves lunch to between 35 and 50 students. It's also a time for the students and some members of the parish to get to know each other, and a great time is had by all. A \$3.00 donation is requested, but no student is turned away if they do not have the money.

As grocery prices have increased over the past couple of years, the \$3.00 per student does not cover the meal cost. We hope you will be generous in giving so that this important and vital ministry can continue.

The first Sunday in Lent - February 18, 2024 - we will have the Mite Boxes available. The donations will again be designated for the Rio Grande Borderland ministries (same as last year). Thanks be to God!

St Stephen's Financial Status - February 08, 2024

Last Week's Offering	\$	10,462
2024 YTD offering	\$	85,249
2024 YTD budgeted expenses	\$	65,440
over/(under)	\$	19,810

Other News

MLK Community Event

Committed to strengthening community ties, St. Stephen's joins other Oak Ridge churches and organizations in supporting scholarships awarded annually on the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Our Outreach Committee donated \$300 to the scholarships.

We invite parishioners to attend the rescheduled program organized by Alpha Kappa Alpha on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Y-12 New Hope Auditorium, 602 Scarboro Road. Methodist Medical Center will provide lunch, and Church Women United will provide dessert. For more information, please visit: [Oak Ridger - MLK Events](#) (St. Stephen's is mentioned!)

Upcoming Community Event - Scarboro 85 Story

Master storyteller Sheila Arnold will return to Oak Ridge to tell her story of the Scarboro 85 in schools and in four free public performances the third week of February 2024:

- ▶ Feb. 20, 3:00 pm, Scarboro Community Center, 148 Carver Avenue;
- ▶ Feb. 21, 11:00 am, ORICL, RSCC, Goff Bldg., Room 107;
- ▶ Feb. 21, 7:00 pm, Oak Valley Baptist Church, 194 Hampton Rd.;
- ▶ Feb.22, 7:00 pm, AMSE, 115 E. Main St.

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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