



Important Dates: February 2024

► **Mardi Gras Family Fete, Saturday, February 3, 2024**

Held in the Parish Hall from 5:30 - 8:30 PM

► **Tuesday Bible Study - Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

Held in the Pollard Room at 10:00 AM

► **Inquirers' Class - Wednesday, February 7, 2024**

Held in the Parish Hall starting at 5:30 PM

Also held February 21 and February 28

► **Daughters of the King Informational - Wednesday, February 7, 2024**

Held in the Pollard Room starting at 5:30 PM

► **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 (outside)

► **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

St. Stephen's Calls Fr. Bailey Norman as its 9th Rector!

We sent out a notice earlier this week... and some news is worth repeating! We are pleased and excited to announce that Fr. Bailey has accepted the parish call and will be the 9th Rector of St. Stephen's! The Vestry unanimously supported this call, and Bishop Cole strongly concurred to the decision! For the past 8 years, we, as a faith community, have faced many challenges. We have persevered, we have kept the faith, we have finished this race. Now we will REJOICE!

A Celebration of New Ministry will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 11:00 AM, followed by a luncheon in the Parish Hall. More details will follow, but please make plans to join us! -Courtney and Leah, Wardens

2nd Annual Mardi Gras Family Fete
Tomorrow, Saturday, February 3, 2024
Laissez les bons temps rouler!

It's time to celebrate with Gumbo and Kings' Cake!



Parish Life is delighted to bring Mardi Gras to St. Stephen's again this year! Join us and our families and friends in the Parish Hall this Saturday, February 3, 2024, from 5:30-8:30 PM. We promise you a full Creole menu, including Gumbo with rice, Jambalaya, Étouffée, Garlic Shrimp, Red Beans and Rice, Maque Choux, Creole Cornbread, and King's Cake. If you'd like, feel free to bring a favorite Creole/Cajun dish - or just come on down and join us. We can't wait to see you...***Laissez les bons temps rouler!***

Envisioning Committee Focus Group Sessions
Repeat this Sunday

There will be Envisioning Committee Focus Group Sessions in the Parish Hall immediately after both services. These are 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 Deborah and Tom Clary 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.

St. Stephen's Website Links

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for February 2, 2024](#)
Download the bulletins for this week's services: [Home | St. Stephen's](#)

This Week in Our Faith - February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

This Sunday, February 4, 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 and Mardi Gras



Did you know that Mardi Gras is related to the Christmas season, specifically to Epiphany? Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the three kings at the manger. The Mardi Gras colors stand for the gifts of the Three Kings – purple for myrrh, green for frankincense, and gold, well, for gold.

Icing of purple, green and gold covers the cake like a royal mantle. That's why there is a tradition of serving a Kings' Cake at Mardi Gras. By custom, the cake cannot be a loaf; it must be a circle or an oval, to symbolize the eternity and perfection of God. A small figure of a Baby Jesus is placed inside the cake. The person who gets the slice with the Baby gets to host the next year's party. We invite you to focus beyond Jesus' birth (Christmas) and Resurrection (Easter), and to focus on daily living. Each of us are called to emulate the inclusive love of Jesus as we strive to love our neighbors as God loves us.

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: *Worship: Seeking God's Presence with Mike Slaughter*

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 focus on Rebekah, wife of Isaac and mother to Esau and Jacob (later renamed Israel). Rebekah played a pivotal part in God's plan for the nation of Israel. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Rousey at james.rousey@aol.com.

Inquirers' Class - Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Got questions?



Looking for answers?

We will meet in the Parish Hall for dinner, served from 5:30 to 6:00. Classes begin **promptly at 6:00 PM in the St. Alban's Chapel**. Childcare will be available - parents, if you request childcare and are unable to attend a class, please let us know ahead of time so that we can plan appropriately.

Our dinner this week will be deli sandwiches, green salad, chips, and potato salad with desserts. So that we can plan appropriately, if you want to attend the dinner, please sign up **here** by 10:00 AM on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. You can also sign up by contacting the church office.

Week 2 (February 7, 2024)

SALVATION - WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Altar Guild and Worship – Roni Boyd and Bailey Norman (perhaps others)

Daughters of the King Informational - Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - 5:30 PM

Attention ladies of the Parish!

Have you felt that little nudge, heard a whisper, or are looking for something more at church? Maybe Daughters of the King is the right fit for you! Come find out more information on Wednesday, February 7, 2024. at 5:30 pm in the Pollard Room (library on the second floor.)

The meeting will be brief so you can continue to the dinner and Inquirer's class if you'd like, but we will be happy to stay and answer any questions you might have! We would LOVE to see you there!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Jenny Meredith (865)414-7899.

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 the Clergy's Discretionary fund.

Let's Go Krogering!

Do You Shop at Kroger's? If you do, there's a very simple way you can help St. Stephen's!

Through the Community Rewards Program, Kroger's helps to support local nonprofit organizations. All you have to do is simply link your Shopper's Card to your account and update the Rewards selection toward St. Stephen's. Then every time you shop, your visit will be applied to the 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](#). Soon we'll be sharing more information, including a QR code so you can quickly sign up!

Upcoming Events

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

The regular DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11th 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



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.

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

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 peanut butter and instant oatmeal.

Outreach - February Spotlight

We're excited about Lent - and we're getting ready to continue walking in Jesus's path of ministry and outreach. For February, our charity of the month is WOW. Every Wednesday when Oak Ridge Schools are in session, we sponsor a Walk Over Wednesday (WOW) lunch. ORHS students are invited to walk over to the church for a meal, prepared and served by our incredible volunteers. A suggested donation of \$3 is accepted.

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 - 02/01/2024

Last Week's Offering: \$ 20,532

2024 YTD Offering: \$ 74,787

2024 YTD Budget: \$ 52,352

Over/Under: \$ 22,435

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.

[Those Who Serve](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

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

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