



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

WHERE GOD IS SEEN, LOVE IS FELT, LIVES ARE CHANGED.

January 21, 2022

SUNDAY WORSHIP

This weekend is the third Sunday after the Epiphany. Our readings will be:

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
- Luke 4:14-21

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Steve Damos as our preacher this Sunday!

As a reminder, we will only have ONE livestream worship service this week at 10 a.m. on our YouTube Channel.

COVID CLOSURE

Due to a spike in COVID cases in our parish, the Parish Office will be closed to everyone except essential personnel the week of January 24, 2022. All in-person activities are currently cancelled.

We hope to resume in-person worship on Sunday, January 30, 2022, and will keep the parish updated in case of any further closures. Thanks for your continued faithful dedication and flexibility to keep our community safe as we strive to keep it together during these continued strange days.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

Due to COVID concerns, we are cancelling this week's Sunday Bible Class. In the meantime, study ahead with a look at the Gospel of John. Take a look at home at a brief [Bible Project video](#), and you'll be ready for our discussion in class when it resumes! ~*Jack Campbell*

WEEKLY PRAYERS

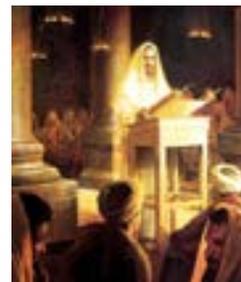
WE PRAY FOR PARISH MEMBERS

Mike and Bonnie Bautz
Tom Beehan and Kay Brookshire
Matt and Samantha Berven, Jacob,
Anna, Asher and Brennon Rosario

Please include these people in your prayers.

SERMON SUMMARY: GOOD NEWS FOR A BAD NEWS WORLD

This Sunday, we have the first part of a two part story of Jesus' visit to the synagogue of his youth and childhood. The leader of the synagogue invites him to read and comment on scripture. He chooses a prophecy of Isaiah. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed (christed) me, to bring good news, (gospel), to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release, (freedom), to captives and recovery of sight to the blind and let the oppressed go free, (literally to send in forgiveness), to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Jesus returned the scroll to the elder, sat down and gave a sermon so short that you can put it on a bumper sticker. "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing". (Don't expect my sermon to be as short.) The proclamation sent a shock wave throughout the congregation. His words resonated in the hearts and souls of congregants whose history had been scarred by oppression, injustice and exile. They know first hand what it means to be a community that is marginalized by race, religion and creed. Jesus claims for himself the ancient prophetic words as his own mission statement, and challenges his congregants and us to do likewise. + *Pastor Damos*



DR. ANANY, CHILDREN'S NUTRITION PROGRAM IN HAITI

On **Sunday, January 23, 2022**, we welcome Dr. Anany G. Propser to tell us about the vital work being done for the children in Haiti. Dr. Anany will give a presentation over Zoom after the 10 A.M. worship service, in lieu of our regular Sunday School program.

ABOUT THE CHILDREN'S NUTRITION PROGRAM IN HAITI

CNP/Kore Timoun envisions a Haiti where children grow up healthy in empowered communities that raise them to attain their full human potential and bring lasting progress and prosperity to Haiti.



Dr. Anany G. Propser



Our goal is not charity, but empowerment. We are guided by principles that recognize health as an outcome of social and economic determinants and draw on best practices in global health and on the lived experiences of the communities in Léogâne. We work alongside our communities and in collaboration with the local health system and our partnering non-profits, to prevent and treat malnutrition by focusing on its root causes. We are a team of Haitian and International staff, consisting of community nutrition workers (Monitrices), nurses, public

health professionals and support staff, steered by a board of directors comprised of doctors, public health professionals and financial experts. 90% of the Children's Nutrition Program is Haitian.

Source: <https://www.cnphaiti.org/>



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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Every month, we include birthdays and anniversaries in our celebrations section of the Evangel. If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please do us the favor of sending in your important dates - including the year - to the Parish Secretary. The default year in our database is 1900...so unless you're looking to celebrate your 122nd birthday, please include your birth or anniversary year! That information will be kept confidential - we only publish the month and day for birthdays and anniversaries. Thank you!



2022 PARISH DIRECTORY

At the beginning of the year, we customarily update our Parish Directory. If you have any changes to your home address, phone numbers, or email address, please contact the Parish Secretary with your updated information.

Our Directory is NOT published online, to protect your contact information.

COMMUNION DELIVERY CREW

We are looking for a few good volunteers who would be willing to deliver communion to folks on Sundays. Please contact Fr.

Bailey or Fr. Ashton if you would like to take communion to those who

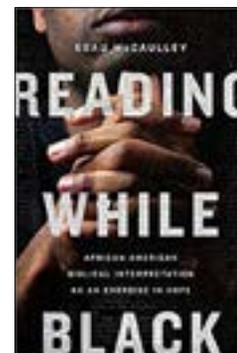
aren't able to attend Sunday worship services. It is much appreciated!



EPIPHANY BOOK STUDY: READING WHILE BLACK

UPDATE: Due to a COVID spike in our parish, in-person worship and Sunday school after the 10 A.M. service are cancelled for January 23, 2022. The book study will resume on Sunday, January 30, 2022 over Zoom at 11:45 A.M.

Fr. Bailey will cover with Chapter 2-3 of "Reading While Black: African American Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope" by The Rev. Dr. Esau McCaulley. Dr. McCaulley who teaches New Testament at Wheaton College. His book is part of the major strand of his work - helping white Christians and academics understand that there are other ways to hear and interpret the stories of Scripture. Specifically, how do other cultures - in this case, African-Americans - read the stories from their own experiences? How can we better listen to these experiences and take these interpretations and grow to greater unity as Christians while more deeply appreciating our God-given diversity? This class will give us the chance to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures, challenge some of our preconceptions, and allow us to hear the richness of diversity within our own parish but also appreciating the perspective of others' stories.



Books and E-books are available online, and there are a few copies in the Parish Office.

THE LIFEGIVING HOME BOOK STUDY



We yearn for a place of belonging and becoming. A lifegiving haven of warmth, rest, and joy that will bless everyone who enters it. A welcoming respite in an isolated culture. We long for a Lifegiving Home. Join us on a new path to creating special memories for your children, establishing God-centered traditions, and cultivating a loving atmosphere your family will cherish all their lives. This book study will be facilitated by Emily Doane using the text, The Lifegiving Home by Sally Clarkson (ISBN #978-1496403377).

The Lifegiving Home Book Study will begin on January 30, 2020 at 11:45 A.M. The location will be announced next week.