



Important Dates: February / March 2024

▶ **Inquirer's Class and Dinner - Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

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

Held in the St. Alban's Chapel from 6:00 - 7:00 PM (Class)

▶ **Lenten Season Simple Soup Supper - Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

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

Also held March 6, March 13, March 20

▶ **Daughters of the King Luncheon - Sunday, March 3, 2024**

Held after the 10:00 AM service in the Parish Hall - food and fellowship

▶ **Free Pool Party - Saturday, March 9, 2024**

Starts at the Parish Hall for pizza at 5:00 PM

Party at the Oak Civic Center Indoor Pool - 6:00 - 8:00 PM

A Lent Message from Father Bailey

Earlier this week, Fr. Bailey sent out a Lent Message to the Parish. If you missed it, you can read it by clicking [here](#).

St. Stephen's Website Links

Download printable copy: [St. Stephen's E-News for February 23, 2024](#)

Download the bulletins for this week's services: [Home](#) | [St. Stephen's](#)

This Week in Our Faith - February 23, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

This Sunday, February 25, 2024:

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

▶ 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist Rite I Location: St. Stephen's Nave

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

Lent Begins



This season called Lent is an opportunity to work on healing and restoring relationships of all sorts. Lent began as a time of solidarity with those who were preparing for baptism at Easter. It marks the beginning of a special relationship with new members of the body of Christ.

Lent is a time in which we are invited to recommit to the deepening of our relationship with Almighty God and grow in our interior life of prayer. Lectio Divina (holy reading) is an ancient practice from the Christian tradition which can aid us in the Lenten aim of listening more deeply to God, through the slow and intentional reading of Holy Scripture. Because for us the Scriptures are not dead words simply telling us of things that happened in the past, but living words through which God still speaks to us. As St. Cyprian of Carthage said, "When you pray, you speak with God; when you read, God speaks to you."

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 Continues**

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 - Adult Education**

Please join us for the remainder of Lent as we meditate on portions of the Passion Narrative, listen to what Jesus has to say to us now, and journey with Him as He makes His way to Calvary.

Sunday - Children's Christian Education

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)

Stations of the Cross

You may notice that our beautiful banners have been taken down and replaced with Stations of the Cross. Booklets entitled *The Way of the Cross* are available in the narthex and in the hallway outside the sacristy. This resource will guide you through the stations as you walk the Way of the Cross.

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: It's about Abigail! Who was Abigail, you ask? Abigail played prominently in the life of David before he was king... and before Bathsheba. Want to know more about this remarkable woman. Come and join us! If you have any questions, please contact Jim Rousey at james.rousey@aol.com.

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 - Inquirers' Class 5:30 PM

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.

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 - 5:30 PM Lenten Simple Soup Suppers and Fellowship

The FREE Lenten Simple Soup Suppers continue in the Parish Hall from 5:30-6:30. Each Wednesday during Lent we will offer two soups: one vegetarian and one with meat. This week, we are offering Minestrone Soup and 15-Bean Soup with Ham. Please join us!

For those that want the fellowship but no soup, we will have bread and/or cornbread, crackers, and fresh fruit, peanut butter, jelly, and pimento cheese.



Parish News

Mite Boxes Available

As part of our Lenten tradition, Mite Boxes can be found in the Narthex, Parish Hall or Hospitality Area. We invite you to take one home and for everyone in your family, both young and young at heart, to use it to collect coins during Lent. Donations will go towards the Rio Grande Borderline Ministries (RGBM).

Envisioning Committee Thanks You

The Envisioning Committee Focus Sessions were very successful, thanks to you! In the next few weeks, we will be finalizing our report to the parish. We hope to have that ready by the end of March or early April. If you didn't get a chance to attend, or if you have any questions, please reach out to one of the committee members, listed below.

Heather Hartman drhhartman@gmail.com	Craig Brent cbrent@covhlth.com	Deborah Clary dpclary3@aol.com
Ray Evans Rnevans@bellsouth.com	Brittany Shassere bpshassere21@gmail.com	Brittany Tipton brittanyt04@gmail.com

Ongoing Church Events

Tuesday Bible Study - Pollard Room, 10:00 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](https://www.kroger.com/rewards).

Upcoming Parish Events / Outreach News

Free Pool Party - Saturday, March 9, 2024



What a great way to start Spring Break! Mark your calendars! Parish Life is parenting with Christian Education for a church-wide pizza and pool party! We'll start at the church for pizza at 5:00 PM, and head over to the Oak Ridge Civic Center and Indoor Pool to go swimming from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. City lifeguards will be provided. We'll see you there for lots of fun and fellowship! Families AND friends are most welcome - so we hope you bring someone to experience the fellowship of St. Stephen's parish.

This Week's Outreach Spotlight - Blessing Box

► Please keep the Blessing Box needs on your shopping list. This week we are requesting individual toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant and shampoo. Please keep the size of the Blessing Box in mind when you shop.

Outreach Spotlight on Ministries

This month we highlight two Vantage ministries - The Rio Grande Borderland Ministries and the Blossom Center. A brief description of these ministries is included here. To read more, please visit our website at [St. Stephen's Outreach](#)

► For 2024, your Outreach and Christian Education Committees have jointly designated our Mite Box offerings to help support a shelter for unaccompanied refugee children in the Diocese of the Rio Grande. The shelter is under the umbrella of The Rio Grande Borderland Ministries which is an Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande ministry serving the borderlands of New Mexico and far west Texas.

► Suzanne Bailey and Liz Herbes visited Blossom Center on Monday, February 12, 2024. We met with Shakitha McKenzie, Executive Director, who gave us a tour of the facility and spoke with us about the center. A non-profit organization, they are the only childcare facility that opens as early as 5 AM. They provide working families childcare that is affordable, safe, and academically oriented.

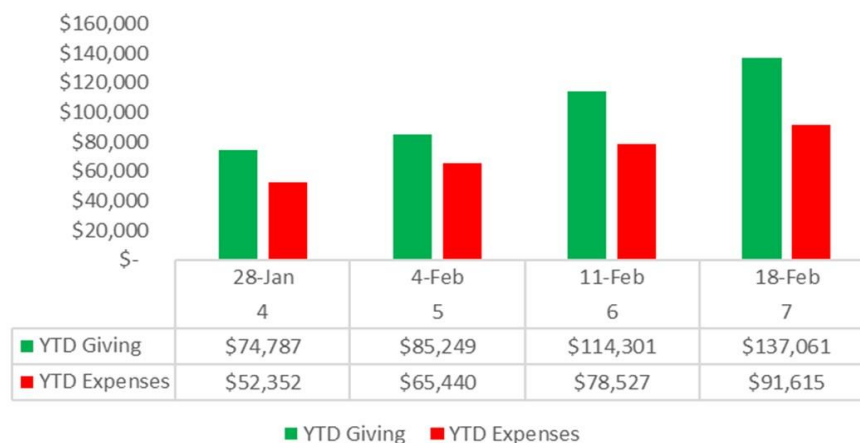
Focus on the Parish

Daughters of the King Luncheon - Sunday, March 3, 2024

St. Agnes Chapter DOK will gather in the Parish Hall on Sunday, March 3, 2024, following the 10 AM service. We will start with lunch - pizza, salad, and dessert will be provided so there is no need to bring anything! Afterwards we will meet to talk about DOK and to enjoy the joy of Christ together. While this gathering serves as our March meeting, any women of the parish are welcome. Please come and find out more about our ministry while enjoying food and wonderful fellowship!

St Stephen's Financial Status - February 23, 2024

Every week, we will be publishing a chart showing the Giving Vs. Expenses at St. Stephen's. We're hoping this will give everyone a clear view of our financial health. If you have any questions, please contact our bookkeeper, Rachel Durfee, CPA, at rachel@ststephensor.org.



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!)

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



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
212 N Tulane Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830