



212 North Tulane Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830
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eNews for May 2, 2025

SERVICES

Sun 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I
Sun 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II*
Tue 11:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I and Healing
Service in St. Alban's Chapel

* Live streamed on YouTube™

ONGOING CHURCH EVENTS

Sun 9:30 AM
Lectionary Study for Adults · Pollard Room
Sunday School · Aged Rooms
Tue 10:00 AM · Bible Study · Pollard Room
Wed 8:30 AM · Men's Group · Pollard Room
Wed 6:45 PM · Choir Practice · Nave
Thu 4:00 PM · Contemplative Prayer · Via Zoom

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

(see stories below for more details)

May 4 New Easter Adult Formation
May 11 Youth Sunday
May 17 St. Stephen's Spring Clean
May 17 Smokies Game
May 25 Mass In The Grass
May 25 Lemonade in the Grove Returns
May 31 Invite - Welcome - Connect Workshop
Jun 8 Holy Ghost Weenie Roast - after 10:30
Jun 29 Parish Potluck

New Easter Adult Formation Beginning May 4th

"The Spiritual Life" by Evelyn Underhill

"The average Christian has no notion at all of the mighty symphony which fills the universe, to which our lives are destined to make their tiny contribution, and which is the self-expression of the Eternal God." So writes Evelyn Underhill, one of the great Christian writers and mystics of the 20th century. Beginning May 4 and running for the four Sundays in May, we will be exploring one of her great works quoted above titled simply "The Spiritual Life." It is a book written both for those who are new on the Christian journey and those who are more experienced. We are entering a season at St. Stephen's where we will be learning more about our call to contemplate God's presence in our lives (the contemplative life) and learning how to better faithfully listen to that call (spiritual direction). While there are many works which can help introduce this, I can think of no better than this short but powerful work of Evelyn Underhill. You may order copies of the book online or, if you prefer, please let the office know and we can order a copy for you.

Smokies Tickets

Tickets are on sale in the Parish Hall for the Smokies Game at the new stadium. Tickets are \$30 each and include a \$10 voucher for concessions at the stadium. The new stadium is cash free, including parking, so be prepared. Parking details will be announced as they become available.

Potluck de Mayo

"Cinco de Mayo"-themed Parish Potluck after the 10:30 service followed by a Parish Midterm Meeting in the Parish Hall. Please bring Mexican/Tex-Mex style food (tacos, enchiladas, tostadas, rice, beans, guacamole, salsa, etc.) to share with your parish family and stay for the Mid-year Parish Meeting. We will be discussing upcoming projects, finances, and a new mission statement.

Diocesan Carbon Net Neutral Initiative

Did you know that our Diocese of East Tennessee has adopted the goal of being carbon net neutral by 2030? Per Google AI, carbon net neutral means: "balancing the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere with actions that remove or offset an equivalent amount, essentially achieving a net zero carbon footprint." Carbon neutrality can be achieved through reducing emissions and/or investing in projects that remove or reduce carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

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The Diocese has established a Carbon Net Neutral Task Force to help focus efforts to accomplish this goal. The great news is that these efforts can also reduce utility bills and help us address our larger needs including replacement of HVAC systems. Please contact Cleon Hartman or Courtney Manrod if you'd like to learn more or join this initiative!

Giving Statements

Giving statements for the 2025 have been emailed. The statements come from notifications@onrealmail.org, so email may not be recognized or may be junk mail. Any questions (or corrections) please email rachel@ststephensor.org

Gears Up for Annual Spring-Cleaning Extravaganza!

Spring is in the air, and it's time for a seasonal clean. The parish is invited to St. Stephen's Spring Clean on Saturday, May 17th at 10:00 AM. A goal of the Evangelism Committee is to ensure the physical environment is welcoming and organized, so the focus of St. Stephen's Spring Clean will be to deep clean areas of the church, organize specific rooms and spruce up the outside space. Be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet!

Loose Plate Offering

This is a first Sunday of the month, so the Loose Plate Offering goes to the Clergy Discretionary Fund.

Blessing Box Requested Items

Thank you to everyone who is supporting the Blessing Box! Please remember the Blessing Box when you shop. This week, we are requesting donations of **peanut butter, canned soup, saltines/crackers and cereal**. They can be placed in the little red wagon in the narthex.

Do you have news for an upcoming issue of The St. Stephen's eNews?

Please send fully edited articles with all pertinent information, including dates, times, location(s), and contact information, to editor@ststephensor.org by NOON on Wednesday. Content for the eNews is determined in consultation with clergy and staff.