



212 North Tulane Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830
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eNews for April 18, 2025

SERVICES

Sat 8:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter
Sun 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sun 11:00 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

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)

Apr. 18 Seven Last Words Service
May 11 Youth Sunday
May 17 Smokies Game
May 25 Lemonade in the Grove Returns
May 31 Invite - Welcome - Connect Workshop

Announcements Announcement

Due to the printing of bulletins for Holy Week and Easter, the office has amended submission deadlines for eNews and Bulletins.

Printed bulletin announcements and eNews announcements for April 27th (The Second Sunday of Easter) must be submitted by Wednesday, April 23rd.

Full edited pertinent information, including dates, times, and location(s) should be sent to editor@ststephensor.org. This email goes to Rob Steele III, our eNews editor. Final content is at the discretion of the clergy and staff.

Courtney Manrod to Preach April 27th

Over the last year, our own Courtney Manrod has been enrolled in the diocesan Lay Preaching School designed to raise up and equip laity to preach in our parishes. Courtney felt a call to this ministry, and I very eagerly recommended her to enter this program. Now, as she completes the program, I am delighted that she will be offering her first sermon with us on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 27th. I am deeply grateful for Courtney's willingness to share this call with us.

- Bailey

Celtic Service

We will host another Celtic Service on Sunday, April 27th at 5 PM

Holocaust Remembrance Program

Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge (JCOR) invites the community to the Holocaust Remembrance Program - Yom HaShoah, Sunday, April 27th from 3 PM – 4 PM at 101 Madison Lane in Oak Ridge in the JCOR Sanctuary or on Zoom. It will include: a candle lighting ceremony, city proclamation, the ORUUC Chorus, readings, songs, prayers, and closing speaker Benno Kimmelman. Holocaust Memorial Candles will be available to attendees for pick-up at the Service.

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.

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.

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!

Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt

We will again have our annual Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt between the 8:30 and 11:00 services. The Brunch will run from 9:30 - 10:45 and the Egg Hunt will begin at 10:00. Please plan to bring a favorite brunch dish to share with your church family. Parish Life will provide the Easter Ham and beverages.

Smokies Tickets

April 27th, tickets will go 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

Invite - Welcome - Connect Workshop - May 31st

As St. Stephen's takes the next step forward in its evangelism ministry of reaching out and helping new people to become involved in our life and ministry at St. Stephen's, we invite (no pun intended!) anyone interested in this work to consider attending the Invite-Welcome-Connect workshop to be held Saturday, May 31st at Church of the Ascension in Knoxville.

This workshop is an all-day retreat (9 AM - 4 PM) that will train and equip St. Stephen's parishioners as evangelism leaders - how to be bold in speaking to people about our church, how to truly welcome people, and how we can help them find a place to belong and offer their God-given gifts within and out of our community.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Fr. Bailey at rector@ststephensor.org. The deadline to let him know you are interested in Wednesday, April 16st.

Loose Plate Offering

For the remainder of the month, the Loose Plate Offering will go to Haiti.

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 Canned Soup, Ramen Noodles, Cup of Noodles. They can be placed in the little red wagon in the narthex.