



212 North Tulane Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-483-8497 www.StStephensOR.org

eNews for February 7, 2025

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb 8 – Pizza & Pool Party (see below)
Feb 9 – Celtic Service @ FUMCOR – 5 PM
Feb 11 – Evangelism Committee Meeting 6PM Parish Hall
Feb 16 – Parish Breakfast · 9:00 – 10:15 Parish Hall
Feb 16 – Sweetheart Dance · 5:30 – 7:30 Parish Hall
Mar 1 – Mardi Gras Family Fete (see below)
Mar 4 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (see below)
Mar 5 – Multiple Ash Wednesday Services (see below)
Mar 12 - Wednesday Lenten Simple Soup Suppers (see below)

SERVICES

- Sunday 8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I
Sunday 10:30 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite II
Live streamed on YouTube
Tuesday 11:30 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I
and Healing Service in St. Alban's Chapel

ONGOING CHURCH EVENTS

- Sunday · *After Both Services* · Coffee and Conversation
Parish Hall
Sunday · 9:30 AM
Lectionary Study for Adults · Pollard Room
Instructed Eucharist · Chapel
Sunday School · Aged Rooms
Tuesday · 10:00 AM · Bible Study · Pollard Room
Wednesday · 8:30 AM · Men's Group · Pollard Room
Wednesday · 6:45 PM · Choir Practice · Nave
Thursday · 4:00 PM · Contemplative Prayer · Via Zoom

House Blessings for Epiphany

During the season of Epiphany, it is very appropriate for the church to offer house blessings. House blessings go back to the ancient church in which the church actually met in people's homes before special places were consecrated for worship. Fr Bailey is delighted to come out and offer this blessing, both for the blessing itself and the opportunity to have fellowship with you in your home. It is appropriate for anyone, but it is especially fun for families with kids as we can include them in part of the service. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Fr Bailey directly at rector@ststephensor.org to schedule a time for the blessing.

Lectionary Class

The Lectionary Class at St. Stephen's is unique in that it is a discussion each Sunday about the Gospel that is in that Sunday's bulletin insert. It is also unique in that the class is led each Sunday by a member of the class. Recent leaders have been Roger Johnson, Steve Damos, Emily Doane, Gary Dreier, Mary Ellen Klots, Joseph Womble and Father Bailey. If you'd like a better understanding of the Bible (who doesn't), come to a Lectionary class on Sundays at 9:30 am in the Pollard library.

Instructed Eucharist Class

Fr. Bailey will also be offering an extended Instructed Eucharist class at 9:30 in the chapel. What is an Instructed Eucharist? In years past, St. Stephen's has offered an "extended" Eucharist during regular service in which the priest pauses to teach and explain certain parts of the service and why we do things the way we do. In this class, we will take a piece of the Eucharist service each week, carry it out together, and then talk about the origins and meaning behind each part. Toward the end of the class (closer to Lent), we will host a Eucharist one evening with a dinner following that will emphasize what we have learned. This class is open to everyone, especially to those newer to the Episcopal tradition. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Fr. Bailey at rector@ststephensor.org.

Ash Wednesday Services

There will be three services on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Please join us either at 6:30 AM, 12:10 PM or 7 PM as we enter the season of Lent.

The Warden's Corner - "The Vestry Is In"

Have you ever wondered where the terms Vestry and Warden originated? Vestry comes from the room where church officials would originally meet with their Rector, which was his office and the room where he put on his vestments! Warden is from old French and means "guardian" or "keeper", which signifies their role as the primary lay representative responsible for overseeing the well-being and smooth operation of the parish.

Your wardens and vestry want to be visible representatives of your parish. In order to be more connected with you, we are setting aside one Sunday a month as "The Vestry Is In" Sunday. Each month, a different vestry member will be present at both services and their coffee hours, chatting with people, and getting a feel for likes/dislikes/concerns, etc. Taking the "pulse" of the congregation, so to speak! They will then report back to Fr. Bailey, Jr. Warden Ben Shassere, or me. This information will inform our agenda for the upcoming Vestry Meeting.

This month, look for vestry representative *Courtney Manrod* on February 9th.

Loose Plate Offering

For February, the Open Offering goes to The Family Resource Center of Oak Ridge .

The Family Resource Center of Oak Ridge (FRC) was founded in 1993 by the Tennessee Department of Education, as one of 13 Centers in the state. It has an office at Willowbrook and one at Glenwood Elementary Schools. Its mission is to break down barriers to a child's educational success and to eliminate problems that keep families from becoming fully functioning and independent members of their community. Below is some information about this important ministry to the at-risk children and their families.

- FRC provides emergency assistance with utilities, rent, gas to get to work, medication, rides, clothes, shoes, and short hotel stays (for families that have lost their residence).
 - FRC provides important case management services (home visits, collaborating with community mental/behavioral health providers and acting as a family advocate).
 - FRC provides children's programs: Food for Kids, school supplies assistance and children's clothing closet.
 - FRC provides adult programs: Parenting programs, job skills/resume assistance and budget classes.
 - Last year FRC served 392 unduplicated families and 902 children, and networked with over 200 professionals, medical, and social services providers.
 - There is one full time staff member, Jo Bruce, ED, who has been the director since FRC inception. There is also one part-time assistant.
 - All donations will be used for direct assistance for the clients. Staff salaries and benefits are paid by the Tennessee Department of Education.
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Parish Pizza & Pool Party

This Saturday, February 8th will be a free pizza and pool party. We will meet in the Parish Hall at 5:00 for pizza, and then make our way to the Civic Center indoor pool for swimming from 6:00-8:00. Lifeguards will be provided and 50 people may be in the water at a time. Please join us for food, fun and fellowship!

Parish Breakfast

Mark your calendars! In lieu of our Monthly Parish Potluck, we will be having a Parish Breakfast on February 16th from 9:00-10:15. Scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, and biscuits along with beverages will be provided. Please plan to bring a favorite breakfast dish, fruit salad, or some pastries to round out the meal

♥St. Stephen's Sweetheart Dance♥

Join us in February 16th from 5:30 - 7:30 for the Sweetheart Dance in the Parish Hall. Grab your sweetheart, friends and neighbors for a night full of fun, food and music from all generations. All are welcome!

Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!

Our 3rd Annual Mardi Gras Family Fete will be March 1st in the Parish Hall from 5:30 - 8:00. Come and enjoy gumbo, jambalaya, étouffée, Kings Cake and other Creole/Cajun delights! You are welcome to bring your favorite New Orleans style dish as well. In order to ensure that we have enough food, we ask that you sign up online. We don't want to run out of gumbo!!!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

We will again be serving our traditional pancake supper on March 4th from 5:30 - 7:00 in the Parish Hall. Donations will be accepted and will benefit our Blessing Box.

Wednesday Lenten Simple Soup Suppers

From 5:30 - 6:30, beginning on March 12th, we will again sponsor our *FREE* simple soup suppers which will consist of two soup choices--one of which will be vegetarian, bread and/or crackers, fruit, and a beverage. Please come and join us for some delicious soup and great fellowship.

Spring Fun Run!

St. Stephen's Parishioners are invited to support Oak Ridge Civic Music Association at their 2nd annual Spring Fun Run at A.K. Bissell Park on March 29th. Stroll at your own pace, a one-mile loop around the Civic Center, while enjoying uplifting springtime classical music along the way. All proceeds support ORCMA's youth programs, including their Free Family Concert and Adolf Summer Strings Program. Come in your favorite costume and make it a festive celebration!

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 **Bar or Liquid Soap, Toothpaste and Feminine Hygiene Products**. Many of those in need do not have access to a can opener. If you are purchasing canned items, please check to see if your item can be bought with a pop-off lid. 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.