



212 North Tulane Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830
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eNews for February 28, 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™

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Mar 1 – Mardi Gras Family Fete (see below)
Mar 2 – Living Compass Registration Begins
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)

The Living Compass 2025 - A Lenten Devotional

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church invites you to embark on a transformative spiritual journey with our new Lenten Class, rooted in The Living Compass 2025 Lenten Devotional, this Lenten season. This class will allow you to reflect on and cultivate the Fruits of the Spirit while exploring how every dimension of your life—heart, soul, strength, and mind—interconnects in the pursuit of balance and well-being. Children will have their own group to explore these same themes while, of course, having lots of fun!

For more information, visit the Living Compass page on our website: www.ststephensor.org/livingcompass2025

Burning of the Palms

If you saved your palm crosses from Palm Sunday last year, please bring them and join us on the front patio Tuesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. for the Burning of the Palms. The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are made from the burning of palms blessed in the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration.

Ashes Delivered

Fr. Bailey typically tries to deliver ashes to those who are homebound on Ash Wednesday (March 5th). However, if you are physically unable to come to services and would like ashes delivered on that day, please contact the church office or e-mail him directly at rector@ststephensor.org.

Ash Wednesday Services Including A New Family-Friendly 4:30 PM Service

There will be FOUR 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. In addition to our 3 regular Ash Wednesday services, we will offer a more *kid-friendly* service at 4:30 PM as well. This service will be shorter and geared specifically to talking about Ash Wednesday and Lent in general with our kids. If the weather is good, we will meet outside in the Memorial Garden (Chapel if it rains).

Mite Boxes for Lent

This Lenten season, we invite all the people of St. Stephen's, young and young at heart, to collect coins in a mite box. The Outreach Committee and the Christian Education Committee voted that the proceeds go to Gift of Life, a subsidiary of the The Episcopal Relief Fund. Mite boxes will be available for pick up at any of the in-person worship services and during communion delivery during Lent. Mite boxes will also be available in the hospitality area during the week. Children and adults are asked to collect coins throughout the season of Lent and return the boxes as an offering on Easter Sunday or during the week following Easter.

Art As Prayer

Beginning March 9th, Jamey Kennedy will be hosting sessions on art as prayer. Come write, sing, dance, etc., your way closer to God. Each session will begin with a brief meditation to which you will be invited to respond as your artistic self-desires... or to simply sit in quiet reflection. If desired, you may share what you created with the group. Art supplies and paper/pens will be provided. Bring your own instruments and dance attire. We will meet in the parish hall between Sunday services. Look forward to seeing you there.

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.

Loose Plate Offering

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

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. The deadline for sign-ups is February 27th. 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. Please sign up online as we don't want to run out of pancakes, and we don't want to waste eggs--those are pricey! 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. If you would like to make a soup for one of our April dinners, please contact Leah Bailey (leah.bailey@ststephensor.org).

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!

Seven Last Words - Request for Meditations

The 'Seven Last Words' service is one of our Holy Week traditions. We gather on Good Friday (April 18th) to meditate on the seven last words of Christ. We are looking for parishioners to offer short meditations on each of these words. If you are interested, please contact the Fr. Bailey, or the parish office for more info.

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, Fruit and Beans (pinto, black and northern). 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.