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## eNews for January 31, 2025

### UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 31 – Spring Fun Run Early Sign-Up Deadline (see below)  
Feb 2 – Candlemas and La Chandeleur  
Feb 7 & 8 – Diocesan Convention  
Feb 8 – DAR · 9:00 AM · Parish Hall  
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 12 - Wednesday Lenten Simple Soup Suppers (see below)

### Blessing Box Requested Items

This week's requested items are: **Peanut Butter and Cleaning Supplies.**

### Candlemas Day

THIS Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, is Candlemas Day--a tradition that goes back 1500 years! It is often considered the last "Feast Day" of the Christmas cycle of light: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, then Candlemas. Candlemas is actually a Mass where the candles used in the Church and in our households are blessed. If you would like to have your household candles blessed, please bring them to the service of your choice.

Following the 10:30 Service, the children and youth should join us in the Parish Hall for some "flipping good fun" as we celebrate the French tradition of La Chandeleur! To celebrate, the French prepare crepes. Medieval farmers believed that it was critically important to make crepes on that day to insure a healthy wheat harvest. This tradition continues today with people flipping crepes while holding a coin. If they catch their crepe, they will have good fortune. If the crepe sticks to the ceiling or falls to the floor, their fortune is in question! Crepes for flipping--and for eating--will be provided along with apple cider.

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### Christian Education Meeting with Families

Following the 10:30 service this Sunday, a Soup (Chili and/or Vegetable) and Salad lunch will be served prior to a meeting with the parents to explain and plan Christian Ed. activities through the end of the school year. While the parents are meeting, the young people will take part in La Chandeleur activities.

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### 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.

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### 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

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### **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.

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### **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](mailto:rector@ststephensor.org).

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### **Loose Plate Offering**

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

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### **Diocesan Convention February 7 & 8**

The 41st Annual Diocesan Convention will take place February 7 and 8 at the Episcopal School of Knoxville. Please remember Fr. Bailey and our delegates, Leah Bailey, Betsy Ellis, Bill Lawrence and alternate Gary Dreier in your prayers.

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### **Parish Pizza & Pool Party**

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

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### **Parish Breakfast**

Mark your calendars! In lieu of our Monthly Parish Potluck, we will be having a Parish Breakfast on February 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### **♥St. Stephen's Sweetheart Dance♥**

Join us in February 16<sup>th</sup> 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!

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### **Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mardi Gras Family Fete will be March 1<sup>st</sup> 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!!!

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### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

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

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### **Wednesday Lenten Simple Soup Suppers**

From 5:30-6:30, beginning on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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### **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 29<sup>th</sup>. 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!

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### **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 and Cleaning Supplies. 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.

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### **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](mailto:editor@ststephensor.org) by NOON on Wednesday. Content for the eNews is determined in consultation with clergy and staff.