The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 17, 2019

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:30, 11:00 & 5:30 PM
Reconciliation: Fridays 9:00-10:00 AM
Saturdays 3:00-4:00 PM

Parish Office (253) 631-1940
Faith Formation (253) 631-6175
13055 SE 192nd Street Renton, WA 98058
www.ststephenslife.com
See a listing of Parish Staff on the back inside page.
A CHRISTIAN SHOULD
LIVE THE LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

WHOEVER PURSUES RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LOVE
FINDS LIFE, PROSPERITY AND HONOUR - Proverbs 21: 21

Today's gospel sets before us three blessings which will lead us to the kingdom of heaven and three woes contrary to those blessings which will lead us to destruction. Many people claim that they are righteous and are worthy of entering the kingdom of God in spite of all their wrong doings. And so today's Gospel is a warning to all the sinners that they may turn away from their sins and embrace righteousness and come back to God.

Let us reflect upon three important things which will make the acts and deeds of a person righteous.

Firstly, Through a life of righteousness: Every human being is dependent on God. When a person earns possessions on earth through righteousness his life will be a blessing. God will reveal himself in different ways to those who are righteous. His kingdom will be manifested in righteous acts. But the worldly life will lead to destruction for the desire is placed on material possessions and worldly pleasures. Earthly possessions are always inferior to heavenly treasures.

Secondly, A desire for holiness: All Christians through the sacrament of baptism are called to live a holy life. All the thoughts, words and deeds should be rooted in God's commandments which will make the deeds of a person righteous. God should be the center of one's life. Awareness of one's own sins and a sincere repentance helps in desiring for holiness by a righteous life.

Thirdly, Endurance even in the midst of sufferings: God promises his care and protection to all who have faith in Him. Jesus son of God, Himself underwent struggles and persecutions. But, He endured them till the end to fulfill the will of his Father. It is not easy to live a righteous life. Our life is strengthened during the persecutions because of the virtue of endurance. Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Let us pray to the lord from the depths of our hearts that all our sinful desires be uprooted and the virtues of righteousness, holiness and endurance may be rooted in our hearts, so that we may be found worthy to enter the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

Weekly Readings

February 17   Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 17:5-8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

February 18   Monday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time
Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13

February 19   Tuesday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time
Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3abc-4, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21

February 20   Wednesday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time
Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26

February 21   Thursday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time
Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-23, 29; Mk 8:27-33

February 22   Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle
1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19

February 23   Memorial of Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13

February 24   Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38
There’s Still Time to Join!

Do you know someone who doesn’t go to church and may wonder if there is more to life than this? Alpha is the place to introduce them to Jesus. Invite your friend or family member to have dinner, enjoy a 30 minute video, and talk about it in a non-judgmental environment.

Join us Thursday, February 21, at 6:30pm for dinner and our session “Why Did Jesus Die?” Invite someone to join you or come yourself and learn about how to share your faith with others!

While our Alpha has already begun, we welcome anyone who would like to jump onboard! To catch up we invite you to view the first two episodes by using these links:

- Episode One  https://vimeo.com/162771029
- Episode Two https://vimeo.com/233839348

Easy clickable links can be found at www.ststephenslife.com/alpha

To sign-up or get more information visit ststephenslife.com/alpha or call the Parish Office 253-631-1940

FORMED: THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND

Have you signed up for FORMED yet? - It’s Free!
FORMED provides amazing content 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. It’s FREE and now EASIER THAN EVER to Register!
Simply visit ststephenslife.formed.org and create your account!
FAITH FORMATION WINTER/SPRING/SUMMER 2019 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

Elementary Programs (K – 4th Grade) Wednesday Nights 6:00 to 7:15 pm
Feb. 20 – NO Religious Ed and 1st Eucharist Classes (President’s Week)
Feb. 27 - Religious Ed and 1st Eucharist Classes
Mar. 06 – NO Religious Ed and 1st Eucharist Classes (Ash Wednesday)

Youth Programs (5th – 12th Grade) Sunday Nights 6:45 to 8:30 pm
Feb. 17 – NO Connections Class (President’s Week)
Feb. 24 - Connections Class
Mar. 03 - Connections Class

(For Edge, Life Teen, CY1 and CY2 Check Your Calendars and Email for Program Dates.)

Please Note: During Last Weekend’s Snow Storm the Faith Formation Office and Social Hall were Flooded. Currently Our Office Has Limited Phone Access. The best way to reach us is via email. Listed below is a list of our email addresses. Please note this information is also located at the back page of the bulletin.

Shannon Battles (Director of Faith Formation): ststephenskids@gmail.com
Debbie Blomquist (Youth Ministry): sstm.youth@gmail.com
Maria Trejo (Support Coordinator): sstm.yfmooffice@gmail.com
Teresa Wright (Baptism & Marriage): sstm.baptism@gmail.com

Little Saints Preschool
Our Little Saints Preschool registration is now underway for Fall 2019-20. If you would like to enroll your child or for more information contact Abbie Nelson, our Program Director, at sstm.littlesaints@gmail.com.

Our Next Infant Baptismal Class is February 16, 2019 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm in classrooms 128-129. Please take class 3 months prior to desired month of baptism. A $10.00 donation per family is appreciated. Contact Teresa Wright; Contact Teresa Wright; (253) 631-6175, ext. 120 or sstm.baptism@gmail.com.

EDGE * Archdiocese Middle School Youth Rally
For youth in grades 6-7-8. Saturday, March 9, 2019. This year the Rally will be held at O’Dea High School in Seattle. Registration forms will be available beginning February 17th

STEUBENVILLE NORTHWEST

Steubenville NW Youth Conference
Registration is now underway. Students in grades 8 to 12 are invited to join the St Stephen’s Life Teen Group for the 2019 Steubenville Youth Conference which will be held in Spokane, WA, July 25 to 28, 2019. Youth will travel by charter bus to Silverwood theme park in Idaho on Thursday and then go to Gonzaga University where they will stay during the conference, Thursday thru Sunday. For more information contact Debbie Blomquist in the Faith Formation Office at 253-631-6175 ext 113 or e-mail sstm.youth@gmail.com.

Important Confirmation Update:
The Archdiocese is moving the age of Confirming teens to a younger age. St. Stephen’s teens currently in 8th grade are now eligible to begin the Confirmation Year One program. For more information or to register your 8th grade or older teen, contact Debbie Blomquist at sstm.youth@gmail.com.

Need some encouragement during the week? Want to know what is happening in our Teen Programs? Follow us on Instagram sstm_teen.
Human Life and Justice


St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry invites ALL to 2 events in our Social Hall 5 Friday, March 1, and Saturday, March 2:

A) 7:30 – 8:00 pm Distribution of 40 Days for Life Kent materials (signs, etc.). Learn more and sign up to participate in 40 Days for Life Kent online at www.40daysforlife.com/kent OR sign up in the Hall Friday or Saturday evening between 7:30 and 8:00 pm. (Option: Stay for the movie and popcorn, see below.)

B) 8:00 pm “UNPROTECTED,” a movie for adults exposing the distortion and perversion our children are exposed to daily and the solution to this perilous sexual chaos. No charge. Popcorn provided. Sponsored by Respect Life Ministry. All are welcome! More info and trailer at www.unprotectedmovie.com (Option: Come at 7:30pm for 40 Days for Life Kent materials.)

What if you knew where all of your money was going each month?
What if you were debt-free, investing and making wise spending decisions?
With Dave Ramsey’s class Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future. If you’re interested in learning more about the class, go to https://fpu.com/1082563 or https://fpu.com/1083402 to message the coordinator or to sign up because we’re offering it here at St. Stephens starting Sunday, February 17, 2019 and Monday, February 18, 2019! There will be a preview on Sunday February 3rd after 11am Mass.

The Filipino-American Choir of St. Stephen’s is looking for a volunteer pianist. The choir practices every Monday at 6:30 to 8:00 pm. and sings at the 11:00 am Mass every third Sunday of the month. Interested volunteers can email Grace Talic (Fil-Am Choir Director) at gbtalic@msn.com.

Grief Ministry - If you are grieving the death of a loved one, come find strength and compassion with the St. Stephen’s Grief Support Group on Sunday, February 17th from 1:00-2:30 pm in the Chapel. Our topic will be “Family and Friends Grieve, Too.” For more info, contact Sharon Rasmussen at 425-228-1437. “I am the Lord your God. I am holding your hand so don’t be afraid. I am here to help you.” Isaiah 41:13

Parish Communication With Flocknote! Parish members are invited to sign up to receive news, reminders, special announcements, etc. by subscribing to one or more lists, specific to your interests. Each member gets to choose their own preferred mode of receiving messages such as email, text message, social networking sites etc. To get started use the easy direct link on the front-page of our parish website www.ststephenslife.com. Choose any or all of our ministries you’d like to hear from! Note: Flocknote has been our most effective tool to communicate news about snow closures and power outages. It’s a great way to stay informed!

Favorite Business? Do you have a favorite hair dresser or barber? What about a dentist or doctor? Your parish family wants to know about these great businesses too. Please let your favorite business owners know that advertising on the church bulletin is affordable, reliable and helps to provide the bulletin at no charge to the church! Whether it be your favorite local business or your own business, our church bulletin is a great place to advertise! For more info, call Catholic Printery: 1-800-867-0660. With your help, we can keep our bulletin free of charge.
Outreach Ministry
Under the Patronage of Saint Teresa of Calcutta
Contact: Darlene Simpson
Office Phone: 253-631-1940 etc 103    Email: darsimpson@gmail.com

*It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.* -St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Food Bank in Outreach Building

**Needed this week:** Tuna, tuna, tuna! Can be canned, dehydrated, freeze dried.

**Served last week:** 17 families were served last week

FYI: People who are served by our food bank are only allowed to come once a month. You need to be a registered parishioner (min. 6 months) to receive financial aid from St. Stephens. The food bank is an exception.

We are Out of Gift Cards! We especially need general gift cards, i.e., Fred Meyer, Target gift cards, and gas cards. McDonald's and Subway gift cards are always appreciated! Please support our food bank with prayers and donations so that we can support others! Thank you for your generosity!

**NOTE:** Please take PERISHABLE FOOD items to Food Bank directly.

What does the Church say about Faith & Reason? Can I be spiritual but not religious? The Apologetics discussion group extends to you an open invitation for your questions about the Catholic Church. FAQ Apologetics is open to all for lively, fun and informative discussions. Drop-ins encouraged, come for a visit Sundays 7pm-8:30pm in the Conference Room by the office area. Contact Sean Stewart tarses@ix.netcom.com with questions.

Catholic College Corner - What kinds of brochures do we have in the kiosk at the bottom of the stairs? Pamphlets from affordable places like: Wyoming Catholic College (Lander), Franciscan Missionaries of our Lady University (Baton Rouge, LA) and Holy Apostles College and Seminary (Cromwell, CT). Check it out! "Life in the presence of God should be known to us in conscious experience. It is a life to be enjoyed every moment of every day." -A.W. Tozer

St. Anthony School - All families interested in sending their children to St. Anthony School for a quality, Catholic education, should call the school office at 425-255-0059 or e-mail Jill Eaton at Eaton@sasr.org. Pre-registration applications are due February 12, 2019. Please join us for our Open House on Sunday, February 10th from 10:30 am until 1:30 pm. Stop by to meet our Principal and teachers, tour the school and get all of your questions answered.

For Survivors of Abuse - Maria Goretti Network A peer to peer self help support group for women and men focusing on healing and forgiveness. For information on monthly meetings please e-mail Debbie@mgoretti.org or 253-307-4526.

The American Wheelchair Mission is a non-profit organization with a goal to deliver brand new, free wheelchairs and mobility aids to physically disabled children, teens and adults throughout the world who are without mobility or the means to acquire a wheelchair. The American Wheelchair Mission will continue to change the lives of entire families with the gifts of hope, dignity, freedom and independence. Please Join the St Stephen to donate to this great mission.

Our Jubilee Book Is Here! Parishioners who had photo portraits taken are invited to pick up their copy in the Narthex after weekend Masses. Parishioners who did not have a portrait taken, but would like a copy of the book, will be able to purchase one starting the weekend of Feb. 23-24. They are $20 each, cash or check only. Sales will be on a first come, first serve basis.

This Past Week Has Been a Challenging One! Thank you for your patience during this snowy, slushy icy time!
New to St. Stephen’s? Welcome! Learn more about our vibrant community by visiting our website at [www.ststephenslife.com](http://www.ststephenslife.com) or emailing us at WelcomeStStephens@gmail.com. Registration forms are online or may be obtained from the ushers and put in the collection basket or mailed in.

Parish Office Hours: Most weeks, Monday - Friday, 9 AM - Noon and 1-5 PM.

Bulletin Notices: The article deadline is 5 PM on the Monday before the weekend you wish it to appear. Notices about parish events or items of interest to the parish are welcome, however posting cannot be guaranteed. Email notices to: ourbulletin@gmail.com. Our bulletin is provided free of charge by the advertisers on the back of the bulletin. To place an ad, contact Nick Thoennes with Catholic Printery at 425-466-1378.

**Marriage:** Couples seeking Marriage must contact the church 9 months before their wedding date. Some preparation and Parish Registration are required before a date can be set. Contact Teresa Wright for details concerning marriage at (253) 631-6175, Ext. 120.

**Annulments:** For those who are divorced: For compassionate and confidential answers to your questions and for help through the annulment process, please contact our parish Tribunal Advocate, Veronica Smith-Casem, at vsmithcasem@gmail.com or 425-301-0356.

**Baptism:** Preparation and Parish Registration are required for both Parents and Godparents/Sponsors. Baptisms are held monthly. Contact the Faith Formation Office for details (253-631-6175).

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** For adults to become Catholic & be baptized. Contact Anne Merklin 253-631-1940 ext 126.

**Parish Stewardship Giving**
Due to snow closures our weekly budget figures were not available for publishing.

**Rachel’s Corner: Hope and Healing After Abortion** “Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord: Though your signs be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they may become white as wool. If you are willing, and obey, you shall eat the good things of the land.” - Isaiah 1:18-19. Come on a Rachel’s Vineyard™ retreat and experience the mercy and “good things” of Our Lord. He is waiting for you. Call Aleah at 206-920-6413 Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services. [www.ccsww.org/projectrachel](http://www.ccsww.org/projectrachel) You are loved with an everlasting Love!
We believe everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view.

Perhaps you, or someone you know doesn’t go to church and may wonder if there is more to life than this? Alpha is the place to encounter Jesus!

Come for dinner, enjoy a 30 minute video, and talk about it in a non-judgmental environment. Take an invite from your pew and invite someone to join you or come yourself and learn about how to share your faith with others!

Location: St Stephen the Martyr Church (Social Hall)
13055 SE 192nd St, Renton, WA 98058

When: Thursdays, Starting January 31st at 6:30 PM

To sign up visit: https://ststephenslife.com/alpha