



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

## eNews for February 21, 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)

### ONGOING CHURCH EVENTS

Sun *After Both Services* · Coffee and Conversation  
Parish Hall  
Sun 9:30 AM  
Lectionary Study for Adults · Pollard Room  
Instructed Eucharist · Chapel  
Sunday School · Aged Rooms  
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

### 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](http://www.ststephensor.org/livingcompass2025)

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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](mailto:rector@ststephensor.org) to schedule a time for the blessing.

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### Ashes Delivered

Fr. Bailey typically tries to deliver ashes to those who are homebound on Ash Wednesday (March 5<sup>th</sup>). 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](mailto:rector@ststephensor.org).

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

There will be FOUR services on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. 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).

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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**

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

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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. 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. Burning of the Palms will begin at 6:30 on the patio.

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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. If you would like to make a soup for one of our April dinners, please contact Leah Bailey (leah.bailey@ststephensor.org).

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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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### **Seven Last Words - Request for Meditations**

The 'Seven Last Words' service is one of our Holy Week traditions. We gather on Good Friday (April 18<sup>th</sup>) 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.

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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 Canned Soup and Fruit, Peanut Butter and Saltine or Other Crackers. 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 by NOON on Wednesday. Content for the eNews is determined in consultation with clergy and staff.

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