



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

eNews for December 13, 2024

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

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 22nd · The Bishop Is Coming!

ONGOING CHURCH EVENTS

Sunday · *After Both Services* · Coffee and Conversation
Parish Hall
Sunday · 9:30 AM
Lectionary Study for Adults · Pollard Room
Advent Study · Room 209
Sunday School · Aged Rooms
Tuesday · 10:00 AM · Bible Study · Pollard Room
Wednesday · 8:30 AM · Men's Group · Pollard Room
Thursday · 4:00 PM · Contemplative Prayer · Via Zoom

Office Changes (for the season)

Christmas week, the office will be open on the 23rd, but closed from December 24th through the 27th. The deadline for eNews stories will be moved up to the 24th.

Adult Advent Study – Reflecting on the Names of the Messiah

Join Fr. Bailey for a continuation of his storytelling class from October as we listen and reflect on the names given to the Messiah by the prophet Isaiah: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. This class will be loosely based on the book "Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study" by Walter Brueggemann. We will spend some time reading, praying, and writing about these names as they reflect our understanding of who Jesus is and what he is preparing us for in this Advent season.

Virtual Morning Prayer Coming for Advent!

Thanks to the leadership of Bonnie Bautz, St. Stephen's will be posting daily Morning Prayer on StStephensOR.org for the duration of Advent. Each day (with the exception of Sunday) you will be invited to join in praying with Bonnie or our leader for the day out of one of the daily office traditions in the Anglican tradition. We hope you will use this as a way to focus your day on the work Christ is doing to prepare us for His coming this Advent season.

Loose Plate Offering Schedule

Dec. 15 Compassion Closet
Dec. 22 Bishop Discretionary Fund
Dec. 29 Compassion Closet

Flower and Ambry Candle Charts

The 2025 flower and ambry candle charts are now posted on the bulletin board outside of the parish office. You may now sign up for the new year. Flower costs for two arrangements is \$85.00. The cost for ambry candle is \$5.00. This is a lovely way to contribute to our worship services.

Come to Lectionary Class

The Lectionary class at St. Stephens 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 Drier, 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.

The Compassion Tree Is Up!!!

The Compassion Tree is up in the Parish Hall and still has some ornaments on it to pull if you haven't been by yet. Please return unwrapped gifts to the Tree by December 18th so we can get them to Compassion Closet for the foster parents to pick out gifts for the children. If you prefer to make a financial donation, please do so as a Loose Offering this Sunday (12/15) or by leaving a check in the office to St Stephen's with Compassion Tree marked in the memo.

The Bishop Is Coming!

Bishop Cole will join us for both services on December 22nd. We will have a Holiday Brunch between the services from 9:00-10:15. Please bring your favorite brunch dishes (quiches, casseroles, pastries, etc.) to share with your parish family. Parish Life will provide the ham and beverages. After the Confirmation service at 10:30, plan to join us in the Parish Hall for coffee and cake with the Bishop and our newest members of the St. Stephen's family.

Coming in January!

January 5th we will celebrate the Feast of the Three Kings in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service. We will be serving the traditional New Orleans' style Kings Cake, a French Galette des Rois and a Mexican Rosca de Reyes. Come and join us!

Ecumenical Storehouse December/January

It is St. Stephen's time again to volunteer at the Ecumenical Storehouse. As a result of the mid-December holiday closing of the Storehouse, we will have our volunteers there on December 14th. We will return to the Storehouse to volunteer again after the reopening on January 14, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 25. We have most shifts covered but always need reserve volunteers for service when someone is ill or otherwise unable to make their sign-up date. If you would like to volunteer on any of these dates, please contact Kathie Shearer at 865-660-0861.

Interested In Joining St. Stephen's?

As our parish continues to grow, we have a large number of new folks who have blessed us with their presence over the past year. Bishop Cole will be here for his annual visitation on December 22nd this year. Leading up to that, Fr. Bailey will be offering classes beginning in November for those who are considering confirmation and/or joining St. Stephen's. You do not have to make that commitment just yet, but if you have any interest in this or simply learning more about our parish and the Episcopal Church, please let Fr. Bailey know at rector@ststephensor.org. This applies as well to any members who are looking for a refresher in their faith!

Blessing Box Requested Items

This week's requested items are: **Soup, Bar Soap, Liquid Soap, Toilet Paper, Chef Boyardee.**

Do you have news for an upcoming issue of The St. Stephens's Messenger (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 Messenger is determined in consultation with clergy and staff. **For Christmas week, the deadline is Tuesday!**
