



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

eNews for December 20, 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!
Dec. 24th – Jan. 1st · The Church Office Will Be Closed

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)

The St. Stephen's parish office will be closed December 24th through January 1th. We will reopen on January 2nd. Our immensely hard-working team of staff and volunteers in the office will be around to some extent, but they will be taking a much-needed break from keeping regular hours through the first week of Christmas season. If there are any pastoral emergencies during that time, you may call Fr. Bailey directly at 865-323-1417. The deadline for eNews stories will be moved up to the 24th and 31st respectively.

The Bishop Is Coming!

This Sunday, Bishop Cole will join us for both services. We will have a Holiday Brunch between the services from 9:00-10:15. Please bring your favorite brunch dishes (quiches, deviled eggs, breakfast casseroles, fruit salads, 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.

Deck The Church!

If you can spare some time on Monday afternoon, the 23rd starting at 12:30, to help decorate the church for Christmas, please come help. We'll be fluffing garland, placing poinsettias, and hanging the window wreaths. Also, we could use some fresh greenery such as magnolia, fir, and cedar to add to the decorations.

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.

New Vestry Officers for 2025

First, we want to give a big thank you to our outgoing Vestry members Adam Cavender, Tom Clary, Emily Doane, and Beth Reed for their faithful service and leadership. We want to give a big thank you as well to Courtney Manrod, who has provided exceptional servant leadership as Sr. Warden over the last two years.

The Vestry elected its officers for the upcoming year. We are deeply grateful for their willingness to serve (or continue to serve) in these capacities:

SENIOR WARDEN - Leah Bailey

JUNIOR WARDEN - Ben Shassere

SECRETARY - Betsy Ellis

TREASURER - Alan Liby

Loose Plate Offering Schedule

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.

Coming in January!

January 12th 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 In January

It is St. Stephen's time again to volunteer at the Ecumenical Storehouse. The Storehouse volunteers will be needed 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.

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, December 24th!