



The Saint Stephen Church Parish Bulletin

1344 White Oak Bottom Road
Toms River, NJ, 08755
Reverend Volodymyr Popyk – Pastor of Parish

LITURGIES:
SUNDAY- 9:00 AM **English**; 10:30 AM **Ukrainian**

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For donations to our parish you can use VENMO: @StStephens-UkrainianCatholicCh

1st Sunday of the Great Fast - Orthodoxy – 1 Неділя Посту — Вселенського Православ'я
February 26 **Ep.:** Heb. 11:24-26:32 **Go.:** Jn.1: 43-51 Tone 5

9:00AM God's blessing for all parishioners – Благословення Парафіян
10:00AM Rosary for Victory of Ukraine over russia – Вервиця за перемогу України
10:30AM Благословення Українського Народу, Воїнів та визволення полонених
+ Анну Боднар і Анастасію, Ігора, Григорія, Володимир,Петро,Марія,Ніна, Іван.
+Степан,Орислава,Катерина,Якуб,Марія,Петро,Володимир,Ольга,Марія,Олекса,Антоніна
Здоров'я Тетяни,Сергія,Людмили,Йоанна,Злати,Бориса,Іларіона,Богдана,Марії,Івана,Юстини...

Monday, February 27 Office closed. Day off

Tuesday, February 28 Aliturgical day

Wednesday, March 1 2:30pm Stations of the Cross (led by a Rosary prayer group)

Thursday, March 2 Aliturgical day

Friday, March 3 6:15pm Хрестна Дорога (Українською мовою). **FIRST FRIDAY**
7:00pm Літургія Напередосвячених Дарів – Presanctified Gifts

Saturday, March 4 10:00am “Сорокоусти” - Літургія за Усопших і Парастас
“Sorokousty Services” and Panakhida

2nd Sunday of the Great Fast – 2 Неділя Посту
March 5 **Ep.:** Heb. 1:10-2:3 **Go.:** Mk.2: 1-12 Tone 6

9:00AM + Luba Bonczek from family
10:00AM Rosary for Victory of Ukraine over russia – Вервиця за перемогу України
10:30AM Благословення Українського Народу, Воїнів та визволення полонених
God's blessing for all parishioners – Благословення Парафіян

Rectory Office Hours: In emergency, parishioners can contact Father any time. **Mondays-Day Off - office closed.**

Church Membership: All faithful are welcome to our Church. Ukrainian Catholics, Roman Catholics and Orthodox people can pray with us. We would love to see at our Church non-Catholics and unaffiliated people. If any of the visitors feels that our Church is a house of prayer and spiritual life, this person can become a Christian and member of our parish. We appreciate all contributions for the Church to cover expenses of our the Parish. You may use your envelopes.

Baptism: All people can become Christians. Children can become Christians through the consent of the parents. According to our Ukrainian-Byzantine custom Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion is combined into one service. For adults Catechetical preparation is required.

First Confession and Solemn Holy Communion: Every baptized adult must go to Confession at least once a year. Children after the age of 8 have to receive First Penance and Holy Communion according to the Church's Law. Catechetical classes are available in our parish. Please sign up your child for classes at least one year before the day of the event.

Confession is available 30 min. before every Liturgy & at other times by requesting the priest.

Marriages All couples contemplating marriage are required to attend counseling sessions. A period of six months is needed for all preparations. Please contact Father as soon as you make plans to wed.

Anointing of the Home-bound Due to Illness: If you are home-bound and would like Father to visit you, please call the office to make sure your name is on the list. It is the family's responsibility to inform the pastor on time, especially of an emergency.

Funeral: Have your funeral director contact the rectory immediately after the death to make proper funeral arrangements.

Parish Ukrainian School: Parish Ukrainian school is now open. The schedule is Saturdays from 9:30AM to 11:30AM. Children of all ages are invited. **Запрошуємо до суботньої Української Школи всіх дітей різного віку! (732) 505-6053**

“SCHOLARSHIP of St. Stephen Parish”: A scholarship of \$500 is available from our parish to high school graduating students. To be eligible, graduating students must attend the Liturgy and services every Sunday and be active in the parish at least 3 years before graduation.

Rosary Society- The Rosary Society is a prayer group that fosters devotion to the Holy Mother of God through daily recitation of the rosary. We are welcome new members.

Religion education- Our parish holds catechetical classes for the promotion of spiritual development. The religion classes for adult parishioners and visitors are provided by Fr. Volodymyr on Sundays during “Coffee hour” at 12:00PM in the parish hall. On Saturdays at 11:30AM (after Ukrainian school) Father has 30 min. of religion classes for children. All are welcome!

Renting of the Hall: Our parish hall is available for rental for six hours until 10:00PM. For more information and/or to sign a rental agreement, please call Father Volodymyr at 732-505-6053. **NO RENTAL HALL THIS TIME!**

Coffee hour: We welcome all parishioners to participate in the Coffee Hour at our parish hall after 10:30 Liturgy on Sundays. If you would like to donate a cake please contact Iryna Bortnyk 609-290-5503. Запрошуємо всіх

Daily Prayer for the Lent time with prostrations (prayer of St. Ephrem):
“O Lord and Master of my life, give me not the spirit of sloth, indifference, lust of power and idle chatter. (prostration)
Instead, grant to me, Your servant, the spirit of temperance, humility, patience and love. (prostration)
Yea, Lord and King, grant me the grace to see my faults and not to condemn my brother; for You are blessed for ever and ever. Amen”. (prostration)

COLLECTIONS – \$ 1,470; For Ukrainian Army \$550
Thank you so much for your generous donations! Дякуємо щиро за офіру!

On Tuesday, February 21 at 7am passed away John Dzera. The funeral will take place on Tuesday, February 28 from St. John the Baptist Church in Newark, NJ due to the decision of the family. Our parishioners are offering condolences to the family and his wife Anna. Vichnaia pamiat! Вічна пам'ять нашому парафіянинові Івану Дзері!

On Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 12.15pm the Parish Sisterhood and Rosary Society will have meeting. All members have to participate this important meeting. Збори Сестрицтва та Групи молитви на вервиці відбудуться 26 лютого о 12.15 год. по полудні в Неділю.

On Monday, February 20, 2023 started “Great Fest”. Every Saturday of the Great Fest at church will be served “SOROKOUSTY”. Please submit envelopes with the names of your deceased relatives written on them. 20 лютого розпочався Великий Піст і щоосуботи у церкві відправлятимуться СОРОКОУСТИ. Прошу подати до Священика конвертку (чи листок) із написаними іменами ваших усопших із родини.

On Sunday, May 28, 2023 we will have celebration of the Very First Holy Communion and Holy Confession of the Children of our parish. Father Volodymyr encourages parents to enroll their children in preparatory Catechism lessons that will start on March, 2023. 28 Травня, 2023 року в нашій парафії відбудеться Свято Першого урочистого Святого Причастя і Сповіді Дітей. Просимо записати дітей на підготовчі класи по катехизму, які розпочнуться із Березня місяця.

The candles on the Holy Altar for month of February is offered in memory of + Stefania Hac from son Roman and family. **The candles on the Holy Altar** for month of February is offered from Elena Ptchelintseva in special intention. Thank you very much!

For to make donations to our parish you can use VENMO: @StStephens-UkrainianCatholicCh
Or, you can use QR Code of VENMO Account that is located on Bulletin board at corridor.
On Thursday, February 24, 2022 russia attacked Ukraine. Ukraine still in war and need our support. We must pray for victory over the enemy russia and an end to the war. Ukrainian army needs our support and support from the United States government, as well as the European Union. Lord God can change all this situations but we have to ask. Please pray sincerely! Молимося за Україну та її воїнів щиро і ревно!

Attention please! If you make request of the Divine Liturgy in the same day of requested service, please pass this on to father before the service in person. Offering of the check, for the service, should be made for **Father's Name** (not church). **УВАГА! Якщо ви робите** замовлення Служби в той самий день, то прошу вірних подавати замовлення на відправу Св. Літургії перед службою підійшовши до отця. Якщо ви хочите Службу на інші пізніші дні, то замовлення можна поставити в кошик або підійшовши до Священика. Офіру банківським чеком за Літургію, слід виповнити на ім'я Священика.

At our parish we have established a new tradition of the “Family candles on the Holy Altar”. Candles can be offered by a family for any intentions, and these candles will be lighted for every Divine Liturgy

on Altar of the church for all month. Your candles will become a part of the Liturgical service and the family will receive many blessings from God. The offering for the “Family candles on the Holy Altar” is \$45 per month. Please contact Father Volodymyr!

Please pray for our parishioners: Paul Brown, Richard Podlinski, Stan and Halyna Jakubowycz, Anna Pyrih, Mary Monani, Walter Adamkewych, Katherine Konopada, Euginia Bobek, Jane Sass, John Libowits, Pamela Chomiak Cavanagh, Mykola, Ramil-Mykola, Luba, Lidia, Jack, Anna Dzera, Gabriele, Alanna Tufaro, Olga Lucyk, Natalia Andrusyk, Ann Ogden, Jessy Kacuba, Stephen Holinatyj, Anna Turdo, Maria Danyluk. They need your support of prayers.

Our parish has Sisterhood and Iryna Bortnyk is the Chairwoman of Sisterhood (Голова Сестрицтва). The members of the Sisterhood are: Natalya Popyk, Galyna Ivanus, Luba Kelyman, Lida Kelyman, Halyna Pelikan, Ivanna Kelyman, Oksana Powzaniuk, Irene Dziaba, Nadya Kashuba, Iryna Stremenska, Iryna Karol, Viktoria Kelyman, Lesia Obaranec, Lesia Bashta. Our congratulations to new members of Sisterhood. **The main purpose of the Sisterhood are** to work for the good and development of the parish through serving the people of our parish and to help others in their needs, and help the Pastor in service to the people and financial support of the parish. To be a member of Sisterhood you need to be registered. All the women of our parish are invited to join the Sisterhood.

1st Sunday of the Lent: In the Ukrainian Rite, Lent begins on Monday following Cheese-Fare Sunday. It is called “Chotyrodesiatnytsia” (чотиридесятниця) or Forty day Fast. It lasts till the Saturday before Easter Sunday. All Sundays of Lent are non-fast days in the Eastern Rite. Lent is a time of penance. All amusements with music and dancing, marriages and other entertainments with music are forbidden. The early Christians were extremely rigid in fasting. Many of them abstained from food until night, and on some days bread and water were the only meals allowed to them. Our Church uses “poklony” (поклони) or “profound prostrations to the ground” as an exterior manifestation of the interior penance. Church vestments during Lent are dark or violet. All joyous decorations are removed from the altar and icons. The 1 Sunday of Lent is called “Sunday of Orthodoxy”. It was instituted by the Eastern Church as a reminder of her victory over the Iconoclasts (іконоборців). About 726 the Byzantine emperor Leo the Isaurian started a heresy known as “iconoclasm” or imagebeaking honor to the icons (images) of our Lord, the Blessed Mother of God and the Saints. He also began a ruthless persecution of their defenders. Countless precious icons were destroyed and many statues were demolished. In 787 the Holy Father of the Church assembled at the second Council at Nicaea and defined, that the veneration of the holy icons (pictures) is by no means idolatry and that a relative honor should be paid them for the sake of their prototype. On this Sunday the Church exhorts the faithful to purify the image of their souls by a true sorrow and penance. Thus on the first Sunday of Lent the Eastern Church commemorates the victory of the true Orthodox (true glorifying of God) faith over the heresy of the Iconoclasts.

Перша неділя посту називається неділею “Православ'я”. Тут, розуміється **не** конфесійну приналежність. Собор від 787 року постановив вживати слово православний для означення і як ознаку перемоги над іконоборцями, що палили ікони та закликали нешанувати ікони. Православним є кожна особа, що шанує Святих через пошану ікони. Тобто, якщо ми шануємо і поважаємо ікони то ми є правельно-славлячими Бога, тобто православними. Нажаль, сьогодні це слово набрало політично-конфесійного забарвлення і часом неправильно використовується. Собор постановив шанувати ікони. Саме тому ми маємо ікони по церквах та домах. Ми не чинимо ідолопоклонства коли молимося перед іконами, адже молимося не до ікони як такої (матеріальної речі) а до Особи, що зображена на іконі. Віра церкви є католицькою, тобто вірою в Ісуса Христа, що є для всіх людей на світі (вселенською, тобто “katolikos” по грецьки). Також, всі є і православними, бо молимося пред іконами. Нам неможна ці речі путати із конфесійною приналежністю.

“Rosary of the Divine Mercy – Вервиця до Божого Милосердя”:

Using Rosary beads, begin with:

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., the Apostles' Creed...

On the large bead before each decade say:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those that needs your mercy.

On the ten small beads of each decade:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

After the last decade, recite the following prayer three times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world (3 times)

Prayer: *“O Lord God, bless all people of the USA to live in the peace, faith, hope and love to You and all people in the country. Protect all lives, especially unborn children”!*

Prayer for unborn Children:

“O Most Holy Blessed Mother who carried the “Source of All Life” in your virginal holy womb; intercede with your tenderly maternal love and graces answering our prayers to end abortion and save precious infant lives. Amen”

God's Love for you is...

UNENDING – God's love is eternal. He loved you yeasterday, loves you today and will love you forever! (Jeremiah 31:3)

UNSELFISH – God didn't wait for us to love Him first. His love was freely given.(1 John 4:19)

UNDESERVED – God is Holy, righteous, and just. As sinners, we have done nothing to deserve God's love. But He loves us anyway. (Romans 5:8)

UNIMAGINABLE- God's love led Him to send His Son Jesus to bear the punishment for our sins on the cross. Can you imagine watching someone you love being punished to the point of death for something they didn't do? (John 3:16)

WILL YOU CHOOSE to accept God's love? Then you too can experience God's unfathomable love for all eternity!

ВШАНУВАННЯ ПЕРШИХ П'ЯТНИЦЬ МІСЯЦЯ. ОБІЦЯНКИ, ЩО ДАВ ГОСПОДЬ ІСУС ДО МАРІЇ МАРГАРЕТИ АЛЯКОК:

1.Уділю їм усіх ласк для виконання обов'язків їхнього стану.

2.Поверну взаєморозуміння роз'єднаним родинам.

3.Втішу в усіх їх терпіннях.

4.Моє Серце стане їм притулком на протязі життя, особливо у годину смерті.

5.Зміцнюватиму їх у праці й благословлю усі їхні наміри й бажання.

6.Грішники знайдуть у моєму Серці джерело й океан Милосердя.

7.Байдужі стануть ревними.

8.Ревні скоро підіймуться до високої досконалості.

9.Щедро благословлятиму місце, де буде розміщений і вшанований образ мого Серця.

10.Священикам дам силу зворушувати найбільш закам'янілі серця.

11.Імена тих, котрі поширюватимуть це набоженство, будуть записані в моєму Серці, й ніхто вже не буде в силі їх звідти викреслити.

12.У потоці милосердя Мого Серця обіцяю, що Моя всемогутня любов надасть ласки остаточного витривання всім тим, які приймуть святе Причастя в кожную першу П'ятницю на протязі дев'яти місяців підряд. Вони не помруть без Моєї ласки і без прийняття святих Таїн, а Моє Серце стане для них безпечним притулком у ті останні хвилини.

Prayer for Ukraine and its people:

“We pray to you, O Virgin of Kyiv, our Lady of Tenderness, for your protection and help for the people of Ukraine, during this time of war. Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with confidence, I fly yo you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen. “
Hail Mary Most Pure, conceived without sin save our souls, save Ukraine!

“О Непорочно Зачата Діво Маріє врятуй наші душі, врятуй Україну !”

Hail Mary Most Pure, conceived without sin save our souls, save Ukraine!

Your name or names of your family members can be displayed on a new board of donations for the church loan for 2020-2022. To receive this acknowledgment the parish is requesting an offering of \$500 or more for the payment of the church loan. Your contribution will help the parish repay the church mortgage. Please make the check out to St. Stephen Church and note the purpose on the check. The new board of benefactors will be made and displayed on the wall at the church entrance.

Dear parishioners! Father is asking all parishioners to **remember to make** their donations so that the parish can continue to provide essential services to our congregation. Donations can be made by mailing them to the parish. Our address is: 1344 White Oak Bottom Rd., Toms River, NJ 08755.

The religion classes for adult are provided by Fr. Volodymyr on every available Sunday at the coffee hour time (after second the Divine Liturgy). Father would like to get some questions from parishioners.

ЦИТАТИ Григорія Сковороди: 1.“Що може бути шкідливіше за людину, котра володіє знаннями найскладніших наук, але не має доброго серця.” 2.“Хто соромиться визнати

недоліки свої, той з часом безсоромно виправдовуватиме своє невігластво, яке є найбільшою вадою.”

ЦИТАТИ отця Піо: 1. “Божа доброта не тільки не відкидає покірних душ, але й шукає душі, закам’янілі у злі.” 2. “Ти покутуєш, з болем думаючи про зневаги, завдані Богові. Покута — це витривалість у доброму. Покута - це перемагання своїх вад.” 3. “Молитва є хлібом і життям душі, диханням серця, плідною і тривалою зустріччю з Богом.”

Jesus invites everyone: *“Come to Me, all you who are weary and are burdened, and I will relieve you!”*

Prayer: “O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, grant that our hearts become the altar of Your love, that our lips proclaim Your bountiful mercy, that our eyes constantly gaze into the wound of Your most Sacred Heart, that our minds meditate upon Your unfathomable perfections, that our memory guard the precious souvenirs of Your mercy. O Lord, our God, let everything within us praise the ineffable love of Your most Sacred Heart, for Your name is blessed, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, world withoIn the parish we have new tradition to worship Lord Jesus and His Sacred Heart on every First Fridays of every month. That was will of the Lord Jesus.
