



The Saint Stephen Church Parish Bulletin

1344 White Oak Bottom Road
Toms River, NJ, 08755

Reverend Volodymyr Popyk – Pastor of Parish

LITURGIES:

SATURDAY-4:00pm, SUNDAY- 9:00 am English; 10:30 am Ukrainian

Rectory Phone 732-505-6053

Phone for ordering pyrohy 732-505-6293

Pastor's cell: 609-372-7161

Email: pastor@ststephenchurch.us

Website: www.ststephenchurch.us

Saturday, February 24 10:00am “Sorokousty Service” - Сл. Божя і Парастас за Усопших (Сорокоусти)

+ Bohdan Smolynsky by Marta Cybuk

4:00pm Blessing All parishioners – Благословення Парафіян

2nd Sunday of the Great Fast - 2-а Неділя Посту

February 25

Ep.: Hebr.1,10-14; 2,1-3 Go.: Mark 2, 1-12 Tone 5- page 120-121

9:00am + Emilia Onyszkewycz by Maria Onyszkewysz. + Anna Bodnar by Popyk family

10:00am Rosary for repentance and peace of the world to God — Молитва на Вервиці

10:30am **St Basil Divine Liturgy:** + Helen Dzera by John, Paul, Rick and Family.

Blessing for Vika. + Dimitrij, Roman and Myhail by Olga Rabik.

Monday, February 26 Day Off. Office closed

Tuesday, February 27 Aliturgical day

Wednesday, February 28 1:00pm Stations of the Cross (**Eng.**), provided by parish Rosary Society

Thursday, March 1 Aliturgical day

Friday, March 2 5:00pm Presanctified Divine Liturgy – Літургія Напередосвячених Дарів

6:00pm Stations of the Cross (**Ukr.**)

Saturday, March 3 10:00am “Sorokousty Service” - Сл. Божя і Парастас за Усопших (Сорокоусти)

4:00pm Blessing Maria Chaban by George Shevchuk (70th Birthday Anniversary)

and “Prostrations for the Cross” after Liturgy

3rd Sunday of the Great Fast “Veneration of the Cross” - 3-а Неділя Посту-Хрестопоклінна

March 4 Ep.: Hebr. 4,14-16; 5,1-6 Go.: Mark 8,34-38; 9,1 Tone 6- page 122-123

9:00am + Sophie and Theodor Furda by family. **“Prostrations for the Cross”**

10:00am Rosary for repentance and peace of the world to God — Молитва на Вервиці

10:30am **St Basil Divine Liturgy:** Blessing all parishioners – Благословення Парафіян

Blessing and good health of Mediuch family by Barbara Mediuch

Здоров'я Степана П'ятничка від Осипа Федина. **ПОКЛОНИ.**

At 12:00PM Concert in honoring Taras Shevchenko

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 will feel that our Church is a home 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 Parish. You may use your envelopes.

Baptisms: All people can become Christians. Children can become Christians through the free will of the parents. According to our Ukrainian-Byzantine custom we give Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion in one service. For adults there is needed Catechetical preparation.

First Penance and Solemn Holy Communion: Every adult Baptized has to receive Penance 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 request of the priest.

Marriages All couples contemplating marriage are required to attend counseling sessions. Time 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 school days are Saturdays from 9:30am to 1:00pm. We have three groups of children. The children participate in this school and their teachers Maria Ivanus, Galia Ivanus and Natalia Koshkina lead these classes. Children of all ages are invited. **Запрошуємо до суботньої Української Школи всіх дітей різного віку! (732) 505-6053 or (732) 267-3655**

“SCHOLARSHIP of St. Stephen Parish”: A scholarship of \$500 is available from our parish to high school graduating students. To receive this, graduating students would have to visit our parish every Sunday and be active in the parish at least 3 years before graduation.

Bingo information- Every Tuesday, at 7:00pm, we have Bingo at our parish hall. The income from Bingo is helping us to cover our expenses of the mortgage for our new church. **Please come and play bingo!**

Rosary Society- Our Parish has a very spiritual group called the Rosary Society. The group keeps the will of the Holy Mother of God to pray the Rosary every day.

Religion education- To be educated in the religious life, our parish has Catechetical classes.

The religion classes for adult parishioners and visitors Fr. Volodymyr provides on Sundays during “Coffee hour” time at 12:00pm in the parish hall. On Saturdays at 1:00pm (after Ukrainian school) Father have 30 min. religion classes for children. All are welcome!

Ukrainian “DANCE SCHOOL” – Ukrainian Dance classes will start shortly. All children are welcome! Просимо записувати дітей у Школу Українських танців – (609) 372-7161

The Parish Outreach – Парафіяльна допомога для кожного. In our parish we have an independent group of volunteers. Offer includes providing occasional transportation to/from our church for services, visiting the home-bound, visiting those who are laid up in a hospital or rehab. Please contact Olga or Gerry Tchir 732-364-6838 or George Shevchuk 732-905-0507 or outreach@ststephenchurch.us.

Renting of the Hall: Our parish hall is available for renting. Six hours of rent will cost \$600 for non-parishioners and \$500 for parishioners. For more information and/or to sign a rental agreement please call Father Volodymyr at 732-505-6053. **Просимо винаймати на рент наш зал для ваших веселих подій!**

Coffee hour: We welcome all parishioners to participate in the Coffee Hour at our parish hall after all Liturgies on Sundays. If you would like to offer cakes please contact Oksana Powzaniuk 732-255-6549. Запрошуємо всіх на дружнє спілкування за чашкою гарячої кави! Запрошуємо!

COLLECTIONS - \$1,778. Thank you so much for generous donations! Дякуємо щиро!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This week Father Charles, the pastor of the parish of “Lady of Perpetual Help” of the Byzantine Catholic Church passed away. Our sympathy to the family and all members of the parish. Funeral services will be served on Sunday, February 25 at 7:30pm (Parastas) at the church located at 1937 Church Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753. For more information call 732-255-6272. May the Lord grant Father Charles happiness in Heaven and Vichnaia Pamiat!

On Monday, February 19, our parishioner Bohdan Hupalowsky passed away. Funeral services will be served on Monday, February 26 at 11:00am at our church. Our sympathy to the Hupalowsky family. May Lord Jesus grant the soul of Bohdan rest in Heaven and Vichnaia Pamiat!

Parish “Flea Market” will be held on Saturday, March 10. We are asking parishioners to offer some good items for sale for church needs and homemade cakes. All items have to be very clean and prepared for sale. For more information please contact Janina Cermak 732-323-0168 (address for Janina is: 14 Dorset Rd., Manchester, NJ 08759). All volunteers and visitors are welcome!

The concert honoring Taras Shevchenko will be held on Sunday, March 4 with a program by the children of our parish Ukrainian School and parish choir. All parishioners and guests are welcome to participate. Запрошуємо всіх на парафіяльний концерт на честь поета Тараса Шевченка в неділю, 4 березня о 12 годині.

Income Tax Preparation: Free income tax preparation service is available at many locations in Ocean County from Feb 1 through April 17. This service is provided by IRS-certified volunteers from AARP. AARP membership is not required. A list of locations with service days, times, and appointment phone numbers is posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer. For more information see or call George Shevchuk, one of the participating volunteers, [\(732\) 905-0507](tel:7329050507). **Хто бажає безоплатну допомогу в приготуванні TAX за 2017 рік то просимо звернутися до п. Юрія Шевчука (732) 905-0507.**

For your TAX report of 2017 you may need receipts of your contributions for our church. Please contact Father Volodymyr. Thank you for your cooperation!

“Sorokousty” service (Liturgy and Parastas) is served every Saturday of the Great Lent at 10:00am. Please offer intentions for your deceased members using the yellow envelope to Pastor.

Shroud of Jesus Christ (shroud of Turin): From Thursday, March 15 to Tuesday, March 20 in our parish a copy of the Shroud of Turin (Plaschanitsia) will be displayed. All parishioners and non-parishioners are invited to visit this special event in our parish. Father Volodymyr will provide all explanations for the Shroud every day of that period. To visit the Shroud by groups from schools or

other parishes please contact the office 732-505-6053. This is a very unique moment in our parish and in your life. **“Come and see!”**. До нашої церкви буде привезена оригінальна копія Туринської Плащаниці (Плащаниця Ісуса Христа). Після кожного Богослужіння і на протязі всіх днів перебування Плащаниці отець Володимир проводитиме пояснення всіх подробиць та досліджень Плащаниці. Це є рідкісна можливість побачити Плащаницю Ісуса Христа. Запрошуємо вірних інших церков та шкіл. **Прийдіть та подивіться!**

Bingo Support: We are asking parishioners to come and help us with bingo. We need help for selling tickets every Tuesday from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Help in the kitchen is needed too. If you would like to help us please contact Luba Bonczek 732-505-8782. Your help will contribute to pay church loan and you will enjoy good friendship with people that help with bingo. Welcome!

“Christians are protecting those that were created by God”

What a wonderful sight to behold: From Capitol Hill as far as people could see, there was a sea of people on the march for life! But the recent 45th March for Life was bitter sweet. So many people, from so many states, marching on behalf of our unborn brothers’ and sisters’ right to be born. But it was sad to think that Christians have been marching for 45 years—with no end in sight. While progress has been made in many states to restrict abortion on demand, we are still a very long way from the day when every single unborn child will be allowed to see the light of day. In 2017 alone, over 900,000 unborn human beings were aborted in the U. S. While worldwide the number of fellow human beings killed by abortion was approximately 56 million. The reality of abortion is brutal, ugly and deadly. Challenge yourself to glimpse at what abortion looks like, and then commit yourself to make a difference. Please click this one-minute video <https://www.abortionno.org/>. the annual March for Life in Washington, DC, the Walk for Life West coast (January 27), the Midwest March for Life (January 27), and pro-life demonstrations in various state capitols are shots-in-the-prolife-arm, but these one-day annual events are simply not enough! We need to have an ongoing peaceful, prayerful presence at every abortion center. the pulpit needs to be used much more often to awaken the consciences of the faithful. Our schools need to effectively teach students about embryonic and fetal human development (see the wonderful video “conception to Birth”: <http://bit.ly/1Xeztp2>), and how abortion brutally ends that development. Students for Life are a good resource here (www.studentsforlife.org). At the March for life I saw signs carried by humble and courageous women saying, “I regret my abortion.” Also inspiring were the signs of men saying, “I regret lost fatherhood” (see: www.silentnomoreawareness.org). Powerful on-going political pressure needs to be exerted on our local, state and national representatives to pass legislation that will protect all unborn human beings— without exception. For there is never a good reason to kill an unborn baby. Go to your state Catholic conference’s website and sign up to receive their legislative alerts. And please email and call (capitol switchboard number: 202-224-3121) your congressional delegation urging them to cosponsor and vote for the “Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act” (H.R. 4712/S.220), the “Pain-capable Unborn Child Protection Act” (H.R. 36/S. 2311) and the “conscience Protection Act” (H.R. 644/S. 301). And urge them to de-fund Planned Parenthood—which performs over 300,000 abortions every year. For more information, and to contact your legislators online, go to: <http://bit.ly/2IHt7vu>. in her Nobel Peace Prize speech, St Teresa of Kolkata said, "I feel the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a direct war, a direct killing—direct murder by the mother herself. ... Because if a mother can kill her own child, what is left but for me to kill you and you to kill me—there is nothing in between." Let’s continuously respond to the Lord’s call to be consistent peacemakers on behalf of all of our brothers and sisters—born and unborn. Let’s tirelessly peacefully demonstrate, witness, educate, donate, lobby, call, email, text and pray for unborn life, for all life, all year long! Be truly Christians and never support the abortions. Be true protectors of all life beings that were created by Lord God!

