PRO-LIFE CORNER: Mercy Triumphs
The Church opposes abortion, but embraces with mercy those who have made this mistake. Let’s all take encouragement from these words of Pope John Paul II: “I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To the same Father and to his mercy you can with sure hope entrust your child.” (The Gospel of Life, #99).
(US Bishops, 2001). From www.priestsforlife.org 11/14/18

REFLECTION FOR THE 33RD SUNDAY
In today’s gospel, Jesus invites all those who suffer because of their love for truth, justice, peace and freedom not to get discouraged. Even during the darkest moments, they will be able to see the signs of the kingdom that is coming closer. And here, another saying of Jesus which is quoted by Luke is very significant and to the point: “When these things begin to take place (persecution, disasters, calamities), stand erect, hold your heads high because your liberation is near at hand.” (Lk 21:28). We may ask ourselves a very simple question today - what different attitudes do we adopt as we face both joys and sorrows in our lives? The answer is simple; in both situations we ought to raise our heads high so we can see in every event the sign that the son of man is near. – Rev. Caroli Shao, AJ

GIVE THANKS TO GOD THROUGH SONG! The Living Bread Radio Network will have a special hour of Thanksgiving music on Thanksgiving Day, November 22nd at 8:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. Listen on the radio, online, on your phone, or even through Alexa and Google Home!

SUPPORT ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH when you shop at smile.amazon.com. Log onto smile.amazon.com, select St. Stephen Catholic Church Cleveland as a charitable organization to support. Make a “qualifying” purchase. Each quarter, St. Stephen receives a .5% donation from each and every purchase you made.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION
November is a month of remembrance for the dead, and cemeteries have long been a focus for prayer. Our tradition holds great respect for bodily remains, since the body was created and redeemed by God, was once the “dwelling place of the Holy Spirit,” and has a destiny of life with God in glory. The funeral practices of the early church contrasted greatly with those of the pagans, who had a great dread of the dead body. The ancient Christian funeral liturgy ended with the relatives and friends giving a final kiss to the body. It expressed affection and showed their faith that the grave would not be the last word. This kiss horrified pagans, who thought that any contact with the dead was degrading.

Every year on their loved one’s “birthday to life,” the Christians would return to the place of their burial to mark their profound communion with those whose lives were hidden in Christ. Typically, they buried the dead with their faces turned toward the east, symbolizing the rising of the Sun of Justice, Christ, at the end of days. They were attracted to the catacombs or burial grounds just as we are today. They would often celebrate the Eucharist at the tomb. Before long, as soon as Christians were allowed to build places for worship, they relocated cemeteries from beyond the city walls to surround the church. This was not so much because the church made the ground holy, but because the bodies of the saints hallowed the ground on which the church was built, a subtle but beautiful difference.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?
This beautiful wood always needs oiled! This is a great activity to do as an individual or a family. Cleaning and preserving your historical church is a meaningful act of charity. We use a special oil that is generously donated by the members of the Society of St. Stephen. The next scheduled oiling is Saturday, December 1st at 10:30 AM but if you have some time on a weekday we can still use your assistance in cleaning and preserving all this beautiful wood! Please call the office with times you are available.

50/50 TICKETS are available through the Parish Office and from Fundraising Committee Members for $10 each OR 3/$25 OR 6/$50. One very lucky Grand Prize Winner will be drawn around Christmas. All net proceeds benefit St. Stephen Church. Thank you for your support!
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 18, 2018

Please pray for the following:

Robert Johnson          Jim Cables          Burley Blankenship
Michalyn Blasius        Wayne Daubert       Karin Whyde
Patricia Burfield       Wanda Eland         Jean Gandee
Leo Bevelacqua          Judith Kenny         Fr. Lawrence Tosca
Inis Lustri             Lawrence Blasius      Sharon Sneed
Susan Hatta             Fran Corbin          Michael George

Our brave First Responders who worked tirelessly to keep us safe. If you would like someone added to this prayer list, please call the Parish Secretary at 216-631-5633. Thank you.

SAINTS/OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF 11/18 (o) = Optional

Sunday: Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wednesday: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday: St. Cecilia; Thanksgiving Day
Friday: St. Clement I; St. Columban;
                          Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro
Saturday: St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions

READ THE BIBLE WITH THE CHURCH (Daily Mass Readings)

Monday: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Ps 15:2-5; Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday: Rv 4:1-11; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 19:11-28
Thursday: Rv 5:1-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 19:41-44
           Thanksgiving Day—Suggested:
                   Sir 50:22-24; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Friday: Rv 10:8-11; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131;
               Lk 19:45-48
Saturday: Rv 11:4-12; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 20:27-40
Sunday: Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

TOUR OF GOOD CHEER We are in need of new or used toys
for children in the homeless shelters and for those inner-city
children who will not receive presents for Christmas. For the past
two years this nonprofit has partnered with St. Stephen Church
to bring the love of Christ to the needy. This is a perfect way
to teach your children to ‘pay it forward’ while out shopping. We
are once again asking for your help.

Do you have an extra hat, scarf or mittens in your
closet? Perhaps a new blanket, comforter, or unused hygiene
supplies? The residents in the shelters would truly appreciate these
daily basics that we sometimes take for granted.

Please consider sharing with your brothers and
sisters who are having a difficult time. Be creative! We are
starting our collection now and will continue until Christmas. We
thank you for helping us to share your Love of God with those
less fortunate!

THE GLORIOUS BIBLE
It is one of the glories of the Bible that it can embrace many
meanings in a single passage.—St. Thomas Aquinas

THIS WEEK’S CHURCH SERVICES

Saturday, November 17, Church
4:15 - 4:45 PM Reconciliation (Confessions Heard)
                                Pray the Holy Rosary
5:00 PM Vigil Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
                                      † Helen Ujvari

Sunday, November 18, Church
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 AM †† Madeline T. & Roland M. Sittley
9:00 AM Reconciliation (Confessions Heard)
                                Pray the Holy Rosary
9:30 AM Tridentine Latin Mass
                        6th Resumed Sunday after Epiphany
                                      † John J. Volkenant
11:00 AM † Chrisann Bewley & † Dawn Smith

Monday, November 19, Chapel
6:30 PM For the Intentions of St. Stephen Parishioners

Tuesday, November 20
6:45 AM (Church) Latin Mass
                        (St. Felix of Valois)
                                Peace for the Traill Family
6:30 PM (Chapel) Parishioners of St. Stephen

Wednesday, November 21, Church
6:30 PM Latin Mass
                        (Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
                                For the Intentions of Rev. Harald Eder
Thursday, November 22, Church
10:00 AM Thanksgiving Day Mass
                                      † Francis Kelly
6:30 PM For the Parishioners of St. Stephen

Saturday, November 24, Church
4:15 - 4:45 PM Reconciliation (Confessions Heard)
                                Pray the Holy Rosary
5:00 PM Vigil of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the
                          Universe
                                      † Helen Ujvari

Sunday, November 25, Church
The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
8:00 AM †† For the Parishioners of St. Stephen
9:00 AM Reconciliation (Confessions Heard)
                                Pray the Holy Rosary
9:30 AM Tridentine Latin Mass
                        Last Sunday after Pentecost
                                The intentions of the Kappler Family
11:00 AM † Francis Kelly

Contact the office at 216.631.5633 to schedule a Mass.
The customary stipend (offering) is $10.00.