March 10-11, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Lent

2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal
Welcome to the 2018 Annual Diocesan Appeal
Building Our Family of Faith.

Our SSM Parish goal is $58,500. Funds that are returned to the parish will be used for lighting improvements on the grounds and parking lot. You should have received a letter from the Bishop within the past few weeks as we will have another in pew solicitation on March 17/18. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 at 1:00pm, just following the Blessing of the Easter Meal Food Baskets. Join in the fun rain or shine! We still need candy, and a lot of it! Please place bags of individually wrapped candy in the brightly decorated and labeled box in the Commons. We are also in need of volunteers for the event itself. Sign up sheets are located in the Commons on the center table. Thank you for your continued generosity by donating candy and your time to make this event a success each year.

Friday Fish Fry

Friday Night Fish Fry’s are hosted by the Knights of Columbus. There are still two dates available, March 16 and 23 from 5:00-7:00pm. Come out and enjoy delicious FRESH baked or fried pollock, french fries, coleslaw and hushpuppies.

Children (under 12) $5
Adult (all you can eat) $9
To go meal $8

St. Patrick’s Day and The Admirals

There’s still time to buy your tickets to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day at the Admirals Game with Fr. Brian Saturday, March 17 at 7:00pm! There will be green ice, 50¢ hotdogs, $2.00 beers and the Fur Circus will be there for the children. Be sure to wear green! Tickets can be purchased on the website under events. If you’d like more information, please contact Linda Hollingsworth at ssmparishlife2@gmail.com or call 757-642-1277.

Holy Week Cantata Musical

Please join us Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Our Music Ministry will present “Stations of the Cross” a cantata for Holy Week. Don’t miss this exciting and powerful presentation of the Passion of our Lord through music!

KOC Mulch Sales

The Knights of Columbus Council 11984 will be selling mulch through March 24. The Knights will be available after each Mass to take your order.

Prices per bag:
$3.50- You pick up
$4.50- We deliver to you
$5.50- We deliver it and spread it

Cash, Check, or Credit Cards are accepted. We sold out last year so please don’t wait! Pick up or delivery is Saturday, April 7. If you have any questions please contact Ray Sanders at 757-985-0036 or email rasandersjr@yahoo.com.
**Youth Ministry Jewelry Fundraiser**

Religious jewelry is the perfect Easter, First Communion, Confirmation, or Mother's Day gift! The SSM Youth Ministry will host a jewelry sale fundraiser in the Commons next weekend March 17/18. Proceeds from this sale benefit the youth ministry. Checks and cash will be accepted. Please contact Jason Morrison at jason@ssmrcc.org with any questions.

**Food Collection Weekend**

As we continue the holy season of Lent, please remember the hungry in our community in your Lenten almsgiving. We will be collecting food during all Masses next weekend, March 17/18. Please prayerfully consider donating the following food items: noodles, pancake mix and syrup, instant potatoes, hearty soups, canned meats, tuna, cereal, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables (carrots, mixed vegetables, potatoes, peas), baked beans, peanut butter and jelly. Thank you for serving the poor.

**Chili Cook Off**

If you weren’t there, then you really missed out on some great fun and food! The Chili Cook Off to help support our parish Appalachia Mission Trip in October was a huge success. Many thanks to everyone who helped set up and clean up, donated food items, cooked and gave so generously. We raised almost $1,000 for our ASP Mission. We also learned that Fr. Brian can whip up a mean pot of chili...actually TWO different kinds of chili! Thank you, Fr. Brian!

Our winning Chili Chefs were:
- **First Place**- Mary Cook  
- **Second Place**- Sam Perrotta  
- **Third Place**- Rick Gregovich  
  
Our **50/50 winner** was John Birckbichler

A special thanks to Greg Branigan and Steve Meszaros for providing such enjoyable music for us all to enjoy while we ate. The music was great! Everyone voted that we should definitely do this again!!

**Natural Family Planning**

Natural Family Planning is a way of life based on love. Love begets love and many NFP couples find their hearts growing and desiring to welcome more children than they originally planned. Is this a disadvantage of NFP? No, it's a beautiful side effect!

The next series starts at 6:00pm on Friday, April 6 at St. John the Apostle. Contact Stephanie and Deacon Chris Finocchio at finoc@msn.com or 757-430-1493 or visit http:www.live-the-love.org.

**St. Joseph Table**

At all Masses on March 17/18, we will celebrate the feast of St. Joseph. This feast began in Italy where special breads were made and placed on a table for the poor. No one in need would be turned away from this table. We will have our table in the Commons where you may place STORE BOUGHT bread and baked goods. These items will be donated to the needy in our community. Thank you for being so generous during this Lenten season.
Welcome Back

Do you have a relative or friend whom you would like to return to an active practice of the faith? To participate in this ministry on a one-to-one format, please call Dr. Jack Buchner at 757-421-7416 during office hours on Thursday, March 15 to schedule an appointment. To participate in a group setting, we will meet on Thursday, March 22 at 7:00pm in Gordon Hall.

St. Monica Ministry

Are you hurting because a loved one, who was raised in the faith, is no longer active in the practice of the faith? The St. Monica Ministry is for you! This is a two session ministry. We will meet on Tuesday, April 3 and April 10, at 7:00pm in Gordon Hall. For more information, please call Dr. Jack Buchner during office hours on Thursday, March 15 at 757-421-7416.

Adult Faith Formation

- **Symbolon** - Monday, March 12 from 9:30-11:30am in rooms 3 and 4. The topic will be on “A Love that Lasts.”
- **Upper Room Prayer Fellowship** - Tuesday, March 13 from 7:00-8:30pm in the Sanctuary. The topic will be on “The Cross: From Ashes to Glory.”
- **RCIA** - Thursday, March 15 begins at 7:00pm in room 4. The topic will be on the Ten Commandments.
- **RCIA Adult Retreat** - Saturday, March 17 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Sponsors do not need to attend.
- **Back to Basics The Catholic Faith Explained** - Monday, March 19 from 7:00-8:30pm in Gordon Hall. We will continue the discussion on “What Catholics Believe.” The first 30 minutes Deacon Keith Fournier will present the core truths and pillars of the Catholic faith. Followed by about 15 minutes of questions and answers. Wrapping up with group discussions. All adults, 18 and older, are welcome to join us for this special time of faith, fellowship, and fun!

If you have questions, please contact the Adult Faith Office at scott@ssmrc.org or 757-421-7416.

Stations of the Cross

Take the journey with Jesus. Feel the power of his love as he suffered and died for you. Join Fr. Brian for this beautiful Catholic devotion on Friday, March 16 at 6:00pm.

Steuenville Youth Conference

For the past 40 years, high school youth from across the United States have had their faith awakened and their hearts set on a fire through a personal encounter with Jesus at a Steubenville Conference. This summer, over 54,000 teens and their leaders will be a part of this movement of grace. We are hoping and praying to gather a group of youth (rising 9th graders through current Seniors) to attend this MOST AMAZING & POWERFUL youth Conference in Steubenville, Ohio July 20-22. The cost is $207 with a $40 deposit due at registration and the remaining $167 due on April 17. Cost includes the conference, lodging, and meals at the conference. This does not include transportation. Method of transportation and costs will be determined once all teens and chaperones have registered. Transportation will either be personal vehicles with chaperones driving, bus rental, or car rentals with chaperones driving. Please contact Robyn Hilbert at 757-477-3436 or herlanega@gmail.com to register or if you would like more information.
Lent, Holy Week and Easter Decorating 2018

Welcome one and all! Mark your calendars to come to help with Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Decorating. Any amount of time is appreciated, so come whenever you can. We start most days at 9:00am, after the 8:30am Mass. The basics are listed below, but on any given day there could be other small tasks that need to be accomplished. Call Marcia Tschohl for any questions at 757-724-1356 or email at MFT195610@gmail.com.

Tuesday, March 13 9:00am- Remove the pink from the Church after Laetare Sunday. Iron the purple shrouds and cover all statues in the Sanctuary. Cover the hanging Crucifix in red. (A shorter ironing and work day than usual.)

Wednesday, March 21 and Thursday, March 22 9:00am- Prep for Palm Sunday begins with turning the church color to red. We will iron everything we need for the weekend. Bring your iron. We have 2 ironing boards at the church and I will bring another, making 3. The large cross and the rocks will be placed in the Commons, draped in red and decorated. We will allow 2 days but may get it done in one.

Tuesday, March 27 9:00am- Remove all red from the church. Remove the cross from the Commons and place in Room 3 until Friday. Complete any other tasks that can be done ahead of time. Ironing of everything gold and white for Holy Week/Easter will be done today. Bring your iron and ironing board.

Wednesday, March 28 9:00am- Easter Plants will be delivered today and must be placed in baskets/hats and stored for the weekend. No exact delivery time, but it is usually around 10:00am.

Thursday, March 29 9:00am- Set up of the Commons for Holy Thursday service. Create the Altar of Repose in the Commons and prepare the Reconciliation Room to receive the Blessed Sacrament after the services. Displays in the church for Thursday night to receive food items and offertory envelopes from the parishioners, set up a place to receive the Holy Oils, and any of the set up for the washing of the feet that is needed. Floral delivery today from the florist.

Friday, March 30 9:00am- Clean up the Commons and do the preparation for Good Friday services. Check all the plants and ice them as needed so they will be fresh for the weekend. Rocks and large cross platform to the Sanctuary for the services tonight.

*** We need a few strong people AFTER the Good Friday evening service to help move the rocks, cross and the cross platform from the Sanctuary to the Commons so it will be ready for decorating early Saturday morning. Please stay if you can assist, but note that we cannot remove the Cross until all parishioners are finished praying and the Sanctuary is empty.

Holy Saturday, March 31 8:00am- Clean Reconciliation Room. Altar design, plants/floral to be placed. Everything will be changed to gold and white, banners and flags to be hung, drapes and cloths changed. Cross in the Commons draped in white and gold and decorated with plants. Any last décor details will be done. Everything will have been prepped and ready and we’ll be bustling to make the transformation complete. Hope to be finished by 12:00pm (Noon) prior to the church service for the Blessing of the Easter meal food baskets.

Joyous Easter to All!

Think Ahead!! Mark your calendars. May 17 and 18 we will decorate for Pentecost. Pentecost Sunday is May 20. On Thursday May 24, we will prepare for Memorial Day weekend. The church stays white for the next 2 weekends, then we will change to Ordinary Time (green) on June 7 and 8. We may not need both days, but I’ll allow for 2, just in case! Thank you in advance for all of your hard work.
**Our Gifts To The Lord**

- Offertory 03/04/2018: $21,711
- Debt Reduction: $1,582
- Samaritan Fund: $2,319

---

**PARISH STAFF**

- Pastor: Rev. Brian Rafferty (frbrian@ssmrcc.org)
- Deacon Keith Fournier (deaconfournier@outlook.com)
- Deacon Kevin Trail (kftrail@cox.net)
- Business Manager: Crystal Anderson (crystal@ssmrcc.org)
- Office Manager: Maura Waggoner (maura@ssmrcc.org)
- Communication Director: Zoe Barnette (zoe@ssmrcc.org)
- Facility Manager: Alex Shuflat (alex@ssmrcc.org)
- Liturgy: Marge Marino (marge@ssmrcc.org)
- Music Director: Jessica Kohan (jessica@ssmrcc.org)
- Religious Education (K-5 grade): Traci Baker (traci@ssmrcc.org)
- Religious Education (6-10 grade): Jason Morrison (jason@ssmrcc.org)
- Religious Education (11-12 grade): Lesley Sarver (lesley@ssmrcc.org)
- Adult Faith Formation & Social Ministry: Scott Turbitt (scott@ssmrcc.org)

---

**Facebook**

Stay up to date with current events, Mass cancellations and more! Like us on Facebook! [https://www.facebook.com/ststephenmartyr/](https://www.facebook.com/ststephenmartyr/)

**Second Collection**

The in-pew collection next weekend, March 17/18 is for The Annual Appeal.

**Eucharistic Minister Training**

The next training for new Eucharistic Ministers will be held on Thursday, March 15 at 6:00pm. It will be held PRIOR to 6:30pm Mass. For more information, please contact Linda Curran at mlmsme@gmail.com.

---

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

March 17/18, 2018

Scripture Readings:
- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Hebrews 5:7-9
- John 12:20-33

---

**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

FATHER, I'M SO ASHAMED OF MY SINS, I JUST WANT TO HIDE IN THE DARK MOST OF THE TIME.

FRIEND, THE LORD SEES IN THE DARK...
Mass Intentions

Monday, March 12
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass

Tuesday, March 13
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass (Bernard Loonam)

Wednesday, March 14
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass (Linda Weber)

Thursday, March 15
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass
6:30pm Mass

Friday, March 16
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass

Saturday, March 17
8:30am Mass
5:00pm Mass (Ellen Callahan)

Sunday, March 18
7:00am Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)
8:30am Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)
11:30am Mass (Bruce Cowper)
5:00pm Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)

Your Prayers are Cherished for Loved Ones Inside our Parish
Lauren Orlando

Your Prayers are Cherished for Loved Ones Outside our Parish
Debbie Showers
Patti Long
Jack Howell
Joseph Russo
Jack Barr
Madison Davis
Jonathan Gillette
June Gunther

Rest In Peace
Barbara Crainer
Stephanie Evans