March 24-25, 2018
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**Easter Egg Hunt**
We still need volunteers and candy donations! The annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 31 at 1:00pm, rain or shine. Please place bags of individually wrapped candy in the box in the Commons and stop by the square table to sign up to volunteer to help!

**Embrace This Holy Time**
As we head into the holiest of days of the church year, take the time to ponder our Lord’s walk to Calvary and His triumph over death. This Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00pm our music ministry prayerfully presents “Stations of the Cross - a Cantata for Holy Week.” Offer all the time you can this week to our Lord for all that He gave us through the cross.

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**Holy Week Schedule**

March 27, Holy Week Cantata: 7:00pm
March 29, Holy Thursday †
  Mass: 7:00pm
  Bring canned goods for food pantry and keep them under your chair until the offertory begins or place a donation in the basket.
  Compline: 11:30pm
March 30, Good Friday
  Morning Prayer: 8:30am-9:00am
  Tre Ore: Noon-3:00pm
  Stations of the Cross: 3:00pm
  Veneration of the Cross: 7:00pm
  Compline: 11:30pm
March 31, Holy Saturday †
  Morning Prayer: 8:30am-9:00am
  Blessing of the Food Baskets: Noon
  Egg Hunt: 1:00pm
  Easter Vigil: 8:00pm
April 1, Easter Sunday
  Mass: 8:30am (No CLOW/Nursery)
  Mass: 11:00am (No CLOW/Nursery) †
  Mass: 1:00pm †

† Incense will be used at this Mass.
**Revealed Youth Conference**

Rising 9th graders through current seniors are invited to join us in attending an amazing 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. Please contact Robyn Hilbert at 757-477-3436 or hertanega@gmail.com to register or if you would like more information.

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**No Youth Bible Study**

Due to the preparations for Holy Week and Easter, we will not have our weekly high school and middle school Bible studies on Wednesday, March 21 or Wednesday, March 28. They will resume in April as we continue to pray with the upcoming Sunday's Mass readings.

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**Pick Up Your Lifetouch Photos**

Please pick up your Free 8X10 Lifetouch photos in the office during the week or on the kitchen credenza over the weekend.

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**KOVAR**

**KOVAR** is a Virginia Knights of Columbus Charity established in 1971 to serve Virginians with Intellectual Disabilities. KOVAR has collected and distributed more than 12M in grants.

**Question of the Month:** Where do KOVAR funds go and what percentage of donations help Virginians with Intellectual Disabilities?

**Answer:** Every dollar raised by Virginia Knights of Columbus goes to assist Virginians with intellectual Disabilities. KOVAR directly supports the following programs/activities:

- Employment and training opportunities
- Furniture and fixtures for group homes
- Transportation
- Funds for health assistance
- Recreation opportunities
- Group homes
- Respite care

The annual KOVAR fundraising will take place at St. Stephen, Martyr the weekend of April 7/8, 2018. Fr. Brian has approved the annual KOVAR drive to be conducted after each Mass during the weekend of April 7/8. After each Mass, Knights will be dispensing “tootsie rolls” and soliciting donations.

**KOVAR Donations:** Please consider supporting the charity. Your contributions to KOVAR are tax deductible as permitted by law. Checks and cash are appreciated: make check payable to “Knights of Columbus 11984 – KOVAR.

For more information please email or call Ken Farmer at kfarmerjr53@gmail.com or 757-880-2218.

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**ASP Fundraiser Bake Sale**

Please help support our parish adult mission trip after all Masses on the weekend of April 14/15. If you would like to help by baking something tasty, please contact Denise at dhuffstickler1@gmail.com. Our goal in WV will be to make homes “warmer, safer, and drier” but we can’t do it without YOU!

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**Knights of Columbus**

**KOVAR**

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For more information please email or call Ken Farmer at kfarmerjr53@gmail.com or 757-880-2218.
Parish Council Nominations
The Parish Council at St. Stephen, Martyr advises the Pastor on many Parish matters and issues. The Council meets regularly. There are multiple Parish Council general membership vacancies that will be filled by discernment in May of this year. The Parish Council consists of Christian faithful who are: in full communion with the Catholic Church, 18 years of age or older and registered in this Parish. Only those who are willing to accept the calling will be considered for discernment. We ask that all parishioners give this important ministry prayerful consideration. If interested, please place your name in the wooden box on the credenza outside the kitchen labeled “Parish Council Nominations”.

Prayer Group
Please join fellow prayer warriors after every 8:30am Mass, Monday - Saturday to pray the Rosary for all intentions.

Parents Night Out
The next Parents Night Out is scheduled for April 20 from 6:00-9:00pm. Enjoy a night out on the town or some down time. Children ages 4-12 are welcome. The cost is $10 per child or $30 maximum for a family. There will be games, crafts, food and fun. Please sign up online at http://ssmrcc.org/parents-night-out/. If you have additional questions please email Lesley Sarver at lesley@ssmrcc.org.

Is Divine Mercy In Your Soul?
Keep your hearts and calendars open as we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday! Join us on Sunday, April 8 immediately following the 11:30am morning Mass, as we present “St. Faustina - Divine Mercy,” a movie about the miraculous visits of our Lord with St. Faustina Kowalska, a polish nun. At 3:00pm we will move into the Sanctuary for a Divine Mercy Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and music. Food for the body and nourishment for the soul will be provided! Don’t miss this opportunity to bask in the graces of Jesus’ Divine Mercy and to give Him praise and honor! Be sure to check your email and or pick up our Easter bulletin for additional news and details!

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Confirmation Course
We are offering a five week course for all adults 18 and older that have already received the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, only. This is the final step in completing the Sacraments of Initiation with Confirmation. If you are planning to take this course, please bring your baptism certificate to the first class. This class will be held Thursday’s, April 12-May 17 from 7:00-8:30pm in room 4. Adults will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, May 20 at the 8:30am Mass.

The Five Love Languages Seminar and Dinner
Save the date, Friday, May 18 from 6:00-9:00pm in the Commons, St. Stephen, Martyr will host author and speaker, Dr. Christine Bacon, PhD as she presents “The Five Love Languages.” This seminar/dinner is a MUST for any single, divorced, courting and/or married couple who desire to enhance the overall quality of their current and/or future relationships. Dr. Bacon provides personal insight, as well as many humorous examples of what "looks-like” a healthy, happy and holy marital relationship. Each guest/couple will be provided a copy of “The Five Love Languages” book written by Gary Chapman. At the beginning of the seminar, a profile for his/her is taken to help understand what your significant other NEEDS to EXPERIENCE LOVE!

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

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**Our Gifts To The Lord**

Due to the early submission of the bulletin the Offertory from 03/18/2018 will be provided in the Weekly Newsletter sent on Wednesday through email.

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**Holy Thursday Mass of the Lords Supper**

Please bring canned goods for local food pantries as an almsgiving opportunity.

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**Traveling?**

For an easy way to locate Mass during your travels, call 1-858-207-6277 or visit [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org). Serving more than 60 million Catholics who live and travel in the U.S.

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**Second Collection on Good Friday**

We will take a collection on Good Friday to support the Church in the Holy Land.

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**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

March 31/April 1, 2018

Scripture Readings:
Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
John 20:1-9

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**Palm Sunday**

I’D RATHER SUFFER ANYTHING THAN LET MY CHILDREN RUIN THEIR LIVES

I GUESS GOD FEELS THE SAME WAY ABOUT US...

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**Our Gifts To The Lord**

Due to the early submission of the bulletin the Offertory from 03/18/2018 will be provided in the Weekly Newsletter sent on Wednesday through email.
Mass Intentions

Monday, March 26
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass

Tuesday, March 27
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass

Wednesday, March 28
6:30am Mass
8:30am Mass

Thursday, March 29
7:00pm Mass

Friday, March 30
7:00pm Mass

Saturday, March 31
8:00pm Easter Vigil (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)

Sunday, April 1
6:30am Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)
8:30am Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)
11:00am Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)
1:00pm Mass (Parish of St. Stephen, Martyr)

Your Prayers are Cherished
for Loved Ones Inside our Parish
Randi Kuzmicki
Reagan Kuzmicki
Parker Kuzmicki
Dolores Chyczewski

Your Prayers are Cherished
for Loved Ones Outside our Parish
Theresa Marcoullier
Monique Violette
Erin Thibault
Eddie Shanley
Heidi Neff
Kevin Fitzgerald

Prayer for Our Troops
Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
Protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families for the selfless
acts they perform for us in our time of need,
and bring them home safely.
May their sacrifices bring about a lasting
and just peace in all lands.
I ask this in the name of Jesus,
Our Lord and Savior. Amen.