

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
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www.saintstephenswhiting.org

**A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey**

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, Bishop  
The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector  
Gerrie Vergona, Treasurer  
Esther Graham, Music Director  
Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator  
Tom O'Brien, Sexton

**Wardens and Vestry 2022**

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden  
Peter Quigley, Property Warden  
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano  
Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue  
Kay Karlick, Tom Larson, Ken Seda  
Joanne Smithson, Clerk

**Mission Statement**

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered: to use the diversity  
of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach  
the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

*"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20*

**Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!**

We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly with the Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector.

**To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.**

Please notify the church office 732-350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations.  
If it is an emergency you may also reach Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or  
Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.

# Fourth Sunday of Advent



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Holy Eucharist Rite I**

December 18, 2022  
 8:00 & 10:15 AM

<i>Hymnal</i>	<b>THE WORD OF GOD</b>	<i>BCP</i>
56	Processional Hymn: "O come, O come, Emmanuel"	
	Opening Acclamation	319
	Opening Sentence	320
	Confession and Absolution	320
S-91	Kyrie	324
	The Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <b>Isaiah 7:10-16</b>	Insert
	<b>Psalm 80</b>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <b>Romans 1:1-7</b>	Insert
	Gradual – "Alleluia, He is coming" (lyrics on next page)	
	The Holy Gospel: <b>Matthew 1:18-25</b>	Insert
	Sermon: Fr. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.	
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	Prayers of the People	328
	The Peace	332
	Offertory Anthem:	
	Doxology: "All things come of thee O Lord"	
	<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>	
	Eucharist Prayer I	333
S112	Sursum Corda	
S113	Sanctus	
	The Lord's Prayer	336
	Breaking of the Bread	337
S157	Agnus Dei	
	Communion Hymns:	
314	"Humbly I adore you"	
318	"Here O my Lord, I see Thee face to face"	
679	"Surely it is God who saves me"	
	Blessing	339
	Announcements	
437	Recessional: "Tell out my soul"	
	Dismissal	

**Save the Date on Upcoming Events**

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

"The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart", Mondays at 11am, for info contact : *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863*

**CHOIR PRACTICE**

10am every Wednesday. Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs.

**HEALING SERVICES**

Thursdays at 10:00 am

**ORDER OF ST. LUKE**

2nd Thursday of each month, January 12th - after Healing Service

**VESTRY MEETING**

Monday, December 19th @ 10am

**THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

Monday, January 9th @10AM

**COME ATTEND ONE OF OUR EVENTS**

Visit our website at;  
<https://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org/new-events>  
 for more information on upcoming event in and around our community.

**OUR COMMITTEE TO HELP SELECT OUR NEXT BISHOP IS:**

Stefanie Bodine, Chair

Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke, Michelle Winfrey, Bob Virtue and Greg Hartline.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2023

**CRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
 3:30PM - (Coral sing a long)  
 4PM, 7PM, 9PM  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
 8AM, 10AM

## ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. Compline is now on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** at 7PM on **YouTube** and **Zoom**. All are welcome! COME AND SEE!!!

## STEWARDSHIP APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The stewardship Team is planning a big thank you luncheon on Sunday December 18th, so our parish family can be thanked for their support, pledges and contributions during the season.  
More info to come!

## Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is on January 29, 2023.  
Service 10:15 AM

The meeting will follow with our International Potluck brunch/lunch.  
Please bring your favorite dish to share with all.

## THANK YOU!

David and Diane Jacobs, for your generous donation of two Christmas tress with lights to St. Stephen's.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERINGS

The Altar Guild is again planning to order Christmas flowers and wreaths to decorate the Sanctuary as we prepare for the Celebration of Our Savior's Birth. This is a time when we especially may want to remember our loved ones and friends who have died or to express thanksgiving for our blessings.

Christmas Flower Offering envelopes will be available in the Narthex for those who would like to participate. Please fill out the appropriate information, and return the envelope to the church at your earliest convenience. **If you are unable to get to church at this time, you may mail your donation and memorial information to the Church to the attention of Valerie Thompson, Altar Guild Flower Chair. The deadline for submission of Christmas Flower Offerings is Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Altar Guild Flower Chair Valerie Thompson, at 732-657-4510. Thank you and God Bless.

## *Collect of the Day*



**W**e beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son Jesus Christ cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever... *Amen.*

## *First Reading*

*Isaiah 7:10-16*

**A**gain the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

### **Gradual:**

*"Alleluia, He is Coming";*

*"Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"*

*"Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"*

*"I looked up and I saw my Lord a coming"*

*"I looked up and saw my Lord a coming down the road"*

*"Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"*

*"Alleluia, He is Coming, Alleluia He is here"*





## Psalm 80

*Qui regis Israel*

- 1 **H**ear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.



**CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE** ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **WINTER** clothes **ONLY** in **TOP** condition, (clean, with no missing buttons, tears or stains). Also, continue to use the **FOUR BINS** in our parking lot for *out of season clothing, all men's wear,* and other items. Our Summer clothes are now on clearance sale. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

**ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN** ~ is in need of additional members. The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of parishioners who will pray for any who are in need. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Greta Pearl at 732-350-7584 for details. Greta is the contact when placing, on the Prayer Chain, your name or the names of family, neighbors, or friends who would like prayers for healing, comfort, or any other purpose.

**CARE GIVERS VOLUNTEERS** ~ Caregivers volunteers, is a faith base organization that offer assistance to the elderly. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Caregivers at 732-505-2273 Ext 213

### **COFFEE HOUR**

help wanted

A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2023 - sign up! Everyone is so grateful for the delicious food that you share, your help, and they love chatting after the services. Any questions, contact *Stefanie* at (732) 350-2904

### **Legacy, Estate and Will planning**

With a successful stewardship season behind us now, our focus turns to Legacy, Estate and Will planning which will make stewardship a year round effort! We're having a big planning meeting on Sunday, December 11th after the later service in the Parish Hall. We encourage and invite anyone who is interested in participating and helping out on the Legacy Team! The objective is to prepare and plan for the St. Stephen's Legacy Summit in the Spring 2023. We are confident for a very strong turnout and a huge plus for the church! Everyone needs this kind of service and opportunity to plan their legacies for themselves and their families.

For further information please contact  
*Bill Bodine - Legacy Chairman at 848-210-4206.*





## Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--November 10th, after the Healing Service.

### Prayer to send out LEMs with the Sacrament:

**Celebrant:** N. we send you out to share Communion this week with those who have been entrusted to your care.

**People:** May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ's presence.

**Celebrant:** Continues with a closing prayer.

### ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month	at 9:30 am
Aristicare	1st Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Arbors	2nd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Pines	3rd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm



## ST. STEPHEN'S CHRISTMAS CARD

Sign our church Christmas Card in the Narthex--save your postage and buying cards to share with your church friends and family.



## Daughters of the British Empire

The (DBE) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit American society of women of British or Commonwealth of Nations birth, heritage or ancestry. We share and promote our heritage while supporting local charities and our senior living facilities across the United States.

To learn more about our local chapter, here in Ocean County, please email *Joan Saunders* – [njstateorganizer@gmail.com](mailto:njstateorganizer@gmail.com)

## *Second Reading*

*Romans 1:1-7*



Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## *Holy Gospel*

*Matthew 1:18-25*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.





*Serving in the Liturgy today:*

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Susan Quigley</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Bill Bodine, Susan Clarke</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Debbie Fisher, Dave Fisher</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:15 am	<i>Greg Hartline</i>
LEM 10:15 am	<i>Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine, Barbara Marshall</i>
Altar Guild 10:15 am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:15 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>



The theme of the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the role of the Virgin Mary in the events that brought about our salvation. A related theme is the Lord's human nature.

The first reading deals with the Messiah's human origins. He will come from the village of Bethlehem within the clan of Ephratha, the smallest and least significant of all the clans of the Tribe of Judah. The importance of this prophecy from the book of Micah is that with the Messiah, as with all people, greatness comes from God rather than from human sources.

It was as an obedient human being that Jesus made the willing offering of himself for our salvation, says the author of the Letter to the Hebrews. The salvation of humanity was accomplished within human life not apart from it.

Human nature has a real and definitive role to play, a role revealed in the story of Mary. Today's Gospel reading is the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Both Elizabeth and her unborn son rejoice in Mary's role. Mary then praises God in the words used by the church at Evening Prayer, "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." God's blessing of Mary, the lowly servant, will be extended in the ministry of Christ to all, especially the poor and the lowly. In her acceptance and cooperation with God's will, Mary becomes the model for our response to God and the human agent of God's gift of the redeeming Christ to the world.



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**Sanctuary Candle**

*The Sanctuary Candle is given to  
The Glory of God*

*In honor of  
Claire Wolpert's birthday  
from Stefanie and Bill Bodine*

*In Honor of  
Baby Jesus's Birthday  
from Bill & Stefanie Bodine*



**Altar Flowers**

*Altar Flowers are given to  
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of  
My father, William H. Bodine  
by Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

*In Memory of  
William & Phyllis Jacobs  
by David & Diane Jacobs*

*In Memory of  
Park & Georgia Steele,  
Hope & Ernest Clarke Jr.,  
Charles & Janice Steele,  
Virginia & Ernest Clarke III  
by Susan Clarke*

*In Memory of  
Departed loved ones,  
by Raymond and Mary Storey*

