

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.

Second Sunday of Advent

PEACE | MATTHEW 3:1-12





Second Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist Rite I

December 4, 2022
8:00 & 10:15 AM

<i>Hymnal</i>	THE WORD OF GOD	<i>BCP</i>
59	Processional Hymn: <i>“Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding”</i>	
	Opening Acclamation	319
	Opening Sentence	320
	Confession and Absolution	320
S-91	Kyrie	324
	The Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10	Insert
	Psalm 72	Insert
	Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13	Insert
	Gradual – <i>“Alleluia, He is coming”</i> (lyrics below)	
	The Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12	Insert
	Sermon: Fr. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.	
	The Nicene Creed	327
	Prayers of the People	328
	The Peace	332
	Offertory Anthem:	
	Doxology: <i>“All things come of thee O Lord”</i>	
	HOLY COMMUNION	
	Eucharist Prayer I	333
S112	Sursum Corda	
S113	Sanctus	
	The Lord’s Prayer	336
	Breaking of the Bread	337
S157	Agnus Dei	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	<i>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</i>	
53	<i>“Once he came in Blessing”</i>	
75	<i>“There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”</i>	
	Blessing	339
	Announcements	
66	Recessional: <i>“Come thou, long expected Jesus”</i>	
	Dismissal	

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”

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, December 8th - after Healing Service

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, December 19th @ 10am

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, December 12th @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.

CHRISTMAS AT THE QUIGLEY'S

Mark your calendars!!

The annual St Stephens Christmas Party at the Quigley's will be on Friday December 16, 2022 beginning at 4 o'clock. Please sign up to attend at the church narthex or call the church at (732) 350-2121.

Address; 2001 Elizabeth Ave, whiting NJ 08759

Please bring a Dozen cookies for a COOKIE EXCHANGE.

And webring a gift for our GIFT EXCHANGE (\$20 value)

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

TREE LIGHTING

will be held on Thursday, December 8 beginning at 4:30 with a carol sing along. Grants will be awarded to two or more local non-profit groups that support community needs. Refreshments will be served. The tree lighting and singing of "Silent Night" will conclude the event. Organized by the Whiting Business Association. All are invited.



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 18th.**

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



Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever....*Amen*.

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.





Psalm 72

Deus, iudicium

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen



Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,



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



"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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.

Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws

Days and Hours of Operation are:

Tuesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

Wednesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws is made up of members of the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church community and other volunteers who assist in maintaining our pantry, provide food for the sick, the hungry and the needy. The food pantry is here to help those who have minimal funds to work with and come to us when they have a specific need for food.

The *Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws* through very generous donations is also able to provide pet food for dogs and cats. For further information please call: **Jim Jados, Director, Food Pantry at (732) 408-5948.**



Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	<i>JoAnn Smithson</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Richard Smithson, JoAnn Smithson</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>Mike Munson</i>
LEM 10:15 am	<i>Carol Torres, Susan Clarke</i>
Altar Guild 10:15 am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:15 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

Today is the first of the two Advent Sundays on which John the Baptist is the central figure. This dynamic prophet marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He announced the time of Messiah's arrival and called the people of Israel to repentance in preparation for that coming. The Gospels see him as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of one who will prepare the way for God to come to the peoples of the earth.

The writer of Baruch, one of the books accounted as the Apocrypha by Anglicans, is presented as addressing the Jewish exiles in Babylon with words probably borrowed from Isaiah. God's people are called to look forward to the coming of God with joy and gladness, for when he comes God will lead all the peoples to our true home.

The second reading is from Paul's letter to the Philippians. In greeting this congregation, Paul speaks of his affection for them and of his imprisonment. He urges them to continue in faith as they await the day of Christ's return.

The Old Testament and John the Baptist looked toward the coming of the Messiah in history to establish God's Kingdom. The New Testament looks toward the return of Christ at the end of history to bring that Kingdom to fulfillment. We, the Church, gather in Eucharist in the "inbetween times" to celebrate the foretaste of that Kingdom and to be equipped by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Kingdom to the world.



Sanctuary Candle

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

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

Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

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

*In Memory of
My father, William H. Bodine
By Bill Bodine*

