

# ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1300 NE J Street, Bentonville, AR 72712

November 29, 2020

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Pastor

Rev. Msgr. Scott L. Marczuk, J.C.L.

### Associate Pastor - Administrator of Blessed Stanley Rother Church in Decatur

Fr. Balaraju (Bala) Akkala

### Parish Secretary - Bethany Hill

[ststephen@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:ststephen@ststephenbentonville.com)

### Parish Accounting - Melanie Ray

[accounting@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:accounting@ststephenbentonville.com)

### Receptionist/Bulletin Editor Crisselda Espinosa

(Habla Español) [receptionist@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:receptionist@ststephenbentonville.com)

### Social Media Coordinator Elizabeth Ganey

[marketing@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:marketing@ststephenbentonville.com)

### Liturgical Environment - Sandy Baumhover

### Parish Communications

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

Phone: 479-273-1240 Fax: 479-464-0969

E-mail: [ststephen@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:ststephen@ststephenbentonville.com)

Website: [ststephenbentonville.com](http://ststephenbentonville.com)

Parish access code: KFNGGY @ [Formed.org](http://Formed.org)

[facebook.com/ststephen.church](https://facebook.com/ststephen.church)



“Then the  
glory of the LORD  
shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together.”

Isaiah 40:5, NRSV

### Weekday MASS

Monday - Friday 12:00 PM - English

Saturday 9:00 AM - First Saturday

### Saturday Vigil & Sunday MASSES

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 7:45 AM

Sunday 10:00 AM

Sunday 11:45 AM - Spanish

Sunday 5:00 PM

### Reconciliation / Reconciliación

Saturday / sábado - Bilingual/Bilingüe

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Monday / lunes - Friday / viernes

11:30 - 11:55am

### Adoration Times / Horario de Adoración

Monday - Thursday / lunes - jueves

9:00am - 11:30am & 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Friday / viernes 9:00am - 11:30am

### Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday by 12:00 PM (5 days prior to the publication date). Email articles to [receptionist@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:receptionist@ststephenbentonville.com).

### Membership

We extend our hands and hearts in Christian Fellowship. Longtime residents or newly arrived, contact the parish office to register.

### Infant Baptism

Offered once a month in English and Spanish. Baptism preparation required. Parents must be registered members of St. Stephen. **No baptisms in December.**

### Catholic Marriage

Marriage preparation required. Contact the parish at least 9 months in advance. Two additional months' notice needed for wedding in another country. If you plan on getting married, always contact the church before booking a reception site or setting a date.

### RCIA

Sessions open to those interested in learning about or renewing their connection to the Catholic Faith.

### Pre-School Director

Cathy Townzen

[preschool@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:preschool@ststephenbentonville.com)

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM September - May

### St. Stephen also attends to Blessed Stanley Rother Church in Decatur:

Mass Time (Spanish Only)

Saturday Mass 6:00 PM

### Kids/Youth Faith Formation:

#### Catholic Kids & IMPACT Director

Suzanne Sutton

[ssutton@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:ssutton@ststephenbentonville.com)

Pre-K - 6th Grade

#### Catholic Kids Youth Minister

Monica Shoemaker

[youthoffice@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:youthoffice@ststephenbentonville.com)

Pre-K - 4th Grade

#### EDGE/Confirmation Director

Chris Teague

[edge@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:edge@ststephenbentonville.com)

Edge: 7th & 8th Grade

[confirmation@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:confirmation@ststephenbentonville.com)

Confirmation: 8th & 9th Grade

#### Life Teen Youth

Jessica Petter

[lifeteen@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:lifeteen@ststephenbentonville.com)

9th Grade - 12th Grade

Instagram: Lifeteenststephen

**Christmas Masses** – Due to the diocesan and governmental restrictions on capacity, we can only seat about 400 people in the building per Mass time. Therefore, we will be using a reservation system for our six Christmas Masses. Our Mass times are: Christmas Eve, 4:00pm\*, 6:00pm, and 8:00pm, all in English; Christmas Day, 8:00am and 10:00am both in English followed by 11:45am in Spanish. **You will need a reservation for a seat in the building, it is not a guarantee for a seat in the main worship space in the Church.** Seating will begin 45 minutes prior to Mass and will be done on a “first-come-first-choice” basis, like any normal Mass. Reservations will become invalid 15 minutes before the start of Mass. Reservations are limited to 10 seats per family; if you need more than 10 seats, please email Elizabeth. To reserve your seats now, visit our website at [www.ststephenbentonville.com](http://www.ststephenbentonville.com) or our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ststephen.church](http://www.facebook.com/ststephen.church). Reservations will be available until December 15<sup>th</sup> unless we reach our Mass capacity sooner. If you have any issues finding the link or have additional questions email Elizabeth at [marketing@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:marketing@ststephenbentonville.com).

❖ 4:00 PM Christmas Mass is FULL

**Advent Penance Service** – Our St. Stephen Penance Service is scheduled for this **Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 PM**. You are still required to physical distance 6 feet apart and a mask must be worn before entering the building.

**RCIA Calendar** –The next session will be Wednesday, December 2, on the Commandments 1-10 led by Msgr. Marczuk. RCIA meets in the Church. We meet every Wednesday at 7:00pm.

**Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule** –Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is Tuesday, December 8. This Holy Day of Obligation will be celebrated with a Vigil Mass on Monday, December 7 at 5:30pm in English, and Masses on Tuesday, December 8 at Noon and 5:30pm in English, and 7:00pm in Spanish.

**Ushers, We need Your Help** – Ushers are needed for the 6:00 and 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Masses and 8:00 and 10:00 AM English Christmas Masses. If you are a trained usher or would like to get trained, please contact the parish at [ststephen@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:ststephen@ststephenbentonville.com) or 479-273-1240. We appreciate your help!

**Altar Servers** - With the approval of Bishop Taylor, we will be resuming the use of one Altar Server at the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. If you are interested in serving please contact Chris Teague at [edge@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:edge@ststephenbentonville.com).

**Spiritual Work of Mercy** – It is a Spiritual Work of Mercy to pray for the deceased. The death toll now in the United States is 258,000+ and world-wide death toll is now at 1,400,000+ due to Covid-19. Many of these persons have been buried without the customary religious services, & some have no one to pray for the repose of their souls. While we continue to pray for an end to the pandemic & all those who have been affected, in charity, let us not forget to assist the faithful departed with our prayers and Masses.

Faithful Departed Prayer

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in Peace. Amen*

**With Great Sadness** – This is to inform you of the death of Mrs. Frances Hobbs, mother of Rev. Rick Hobbs, who passed away Sunday, November 22. Fr. Hobbs is grateful and appreciates everyone's support and prayers. Please pray for the repose of her soul, and keep Fr. Hobbs and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

**Con Mucha Tristeza** – Les informamos del fallecimiento de la Sra. Frances Hobbs, madre del Rev. Rick Hobbs, quien falleció el domingo 22 de noviembre. Rev. Hobbs está agradecido y agradece el apoyo y las oraciones de todos. Por favor, oren por el reposo del alma de la Sra. Frances Hobbs y mantenga al Padre Rick Hobbs y su familia en sus pensamientos y oraciones.

### **St. Stephen Christmas Pageant and Plays Canceled**

This year, due to diocesan and government regulations, all our Christmas festivities have been **CANCELED**: Our Annual Christmas Children's pageant, Our Lady of Guadalupe play, the children's pastorela and the annual Posadas will not take place this year.

**Sunday Missals** – We now have the Sunday Missals for Liturgical Year B available for \$5. Look for them on the window ledge outside the receptionist office.

**Los Misales de domingo** para el año litúrgico B están disponibles por \$5. Búselos en la repisa de la ventana, fuera de la oficina de la parroquia.

**Ministry Scheduling** – Work will be starting soon on the



ministry schedule for the months of January, February and March. Please note that January 1 was included in last quarter's schedule. This schedule will include special Masses for Ash Wednesday (February 17). Please let us know of any conflicts you might have for the next quarter **by Monday, December 14** by calling 273-1240 or emailing Bethany at [ststephen@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:ststephen@ststephenbentonville.com). No response indicates that you do not have any conflicts for your preferred Mass time. If you do not indicate a preferred Mass time for Holy Days, please note that you may be scheduled at a time you do not normally attend Mass on those special days. A friendly reminder that the parish office does not find subs.

**Advent Series (Zoom Meets)** – Ready to put Christ back in Christmas? As we bring the crazy year of 2020 to a close, let's take the opportunity to re-center ourselves on what really matters. Join us as we discuss weekly devotions this Advent, embracing the joy and love of the Christmas season. Every Tuesday evening in Advent (starting on Dec 2nd at 7pm), we'll have a short devotional with prayer, scripture and reflection. We'll conduct it over Zoom from the comfort and safety of your own home. If you want to make sure Christ is the center of your Christmas, send an email to [StStephenAdvent@arhunters.us](mailto:StStephenAdvent@arhunters.us) and you will receive an email with instructions on how to join the meeting.

**St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School** is doing open registration grade K through 8th for 2021-2022 school year. For more information, please contact Sandra Stephens at [admissions@svdpschool.net](mailto:admissions@svdpschool.net) or (479)685-3576. December 1<sup>st</sup> is "Giving Tuesday" this means 100% of the proceeds benefit the SVdP Scholarship Fund. Donate by going to [www.bit.ly/SVdPscholarships](http://www.bit.ly/SVdPscholarships).

**St. Stephen MASS Attendance** – We are delighted to have you here for Mass. With increasing attendance numbers comes unique challenges! We want to give you an update on Mass attendance. Our allowed capacity is 215 in the Church making it a total of 400 in the building according to COVID-19 regulations. Last week's Mass attendance was:

5:00pm – 255                      7:45am – 203  
10:00am – 320                    11:45am (Spanish) – 214  
5:00pm Life Teen – 189

We continue to thank you for your patience and support during this time. Please know that you have additional options for Mass should you choose to attend, such as utilizing overflow seating available in the family life center, chapel, and narthex; or, participating in the Mass via YouTube, or listening over the speakers in the courtyard, & coming inside for Holy Communion only.

**Year End Donations** – Please consider the Parish's financial needs in your year-end giving plans. Donations have been lower due to COVID-19 limitations, so please consider an extra year-end offering to either our stewardship or building fund accounts. You can donate at [www.ststephenbentonville.weshareonline.org](http://www.ststephenbentonville.weshareonline.org), or follow the "Donate" link on the St. Stephen website or on the app. We are also prepared to handle donations of stock.

**Clergy Welfare Fund** – Please remember the collections on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses are for the Clergy Welfare Fund. This is a very important collection but these funds do not stay in our Parish. Your prayerful consideration of our Parish's financial situation is appreciated.

**Donaciones del Fin De Año** – Por favor considere las necesidades financieras de la parroquia en sus planes de fin del año. Donaciones han sido menores debido a limitaciones de COVID-19, por favor considere una oferta adicional al fin del año a nuestra cuentas de fondos de construcción o administración. Puede donar en [www.ststephenbentonville.weshareonline.org](http://www.ststephenbentonville.weshareonline.org), o siga el enlace "Donar" en el sitio web de St. Stephen o en la aplicación. También estamos preparados para manejar donaciones de acciones.

**Fondo del Clero Diocesano** – Recuerde que la colecta en la Misas de Nochebuena y el día de Navidad son para el Fondo del Clero Diocesano. Estas colectas son muy importantes, pero estos fondos no se quedan en nuestra parroquia. Su apoyo para la situación financiera de nuestra parroquia es muy apreciado.

**Knights of Columbus (K of C) News** – The K of C will restart the gift card program during this Christmas season. Gift cards make a great gift, and with the pandemic, many of our parishioners are trying to stay safe during the holiday shopping season. If you recall from 2017-2018, when you buy a gift card, the Knights received 1-8% of the card value that goes back into the church and community. The card program will only be this December. There are plenty of different cards to order from many area restaurants, retailers and even online companies. The order forms can be picked up next to the bulletins or can be retrieved from the church website. Instructions on submitting your order form at church, via email, or via mail is with the order forms. The ordered cards may be picked up outside the church after all Masses on December 5/6, 19/20 or on Tuesday, December 22nd.



**Life Teen News** – Life Teen has been meeting in person on Sunday and Wednesday evenings since September for youth group and Bible study. We have also offered a virtual component that interacts with our live ministry in real time via Zoom. Turnout has been tremendous this year, and we are grateful that you entrust us with the faith formation of your child as well as their safety. We have introduced several policies in response to COVID-19 including capping capacity, increased sanitization and cleaning procedures, mask requirements, and spaced seating. We are also following the local school districts in regard to meeting in person. If local schools switch to a virtual learning environment, Life Teen will also switch to virtual youth group. Due to Thanksgiving break, Life Teen is not scheduled to meet, but we would have switch to virtual if meetings had been scheduled. We plan to resume IN PERSON ministry on December 6<sup>th</sup> if the schools return to in person education. It is our hope that our teens will still join us via Zoom on Sunday and Wednesday evenings in the event of continued virtual requirements. Thank you again for your trust and commitment to Life Teen and leading teens closer to Christ! Check back here for more details or for more information email Jessica at [lifeteen@ststephenbentonville.com](mailto:lifeteen@ststephenbentonville.com).

**Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious** – Help our elders. In good and bad times, sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to acts of mercy and service. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Please be generous, your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities.

**Colecta para el Fondo de la Jubilación de Religiosos** Ayuden a nuestros mayores. En los buenos y en los malos tiempos, hermanas, hermanos y sacerdotes católicos mayores de órdenes religiosas hacen obras de misericordia y se han dedicado a servir. Hoy ellos oran por un mundo que sufre. Sin embargo, años sirviendo por ninguna o poca paga han dejado a sus comunidades religiosas con gran escasez en los fondos de jubilación. Sean generosos, su donativo ayudara con las recetas médicas, cuidados de enfermería y otras necesidades.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** – Due to covid-19, Eucharistic Adoration has moved to the St. Francis of Assisi Chapel and is available Mon. – Thur. 9:00 – 11:50am and 1:00 – 3:00pm and Friday 9:00 – 11:50am. Jesus said: "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Are you heavy laden with guilt from past sins? Are you trying to find hope and meaning in life? Do not lose your heart! Abandon yourself to Jesus in this "Sacrament of Love" He will refresh you! Those who are devoted to the Eucharistic Adoration program witness a happier and more content life knowing that the Lord is with them always. For every hour we give Him, He showers us with many gifts including peace and mind and heart. The Guardian Angels of the Blessed Sacrament ministry needs adorers who would like to commit One Hour every week. Our goal is to have a permanent and continuing Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during this time of difficulties. If interest please call parish office to schedule a training.

**1 Corinthians 4:5** – *Therefore, do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.*

**Church Operations for November**

Expenses Month-to-Date - \$ 103,139.88

Loan Balance - \$ 1,294,542.80

As we watch and wait for the coming of Jesus during this Advent Season, we recall that the Lord has placed us servants in charge of our work. May we faithfully fulfill all aspects of our stewardship with faithful giving, and offering our time in serving various ministries.

Revenue	Month-to-Date	Monthly Goal
Stewardship and Other	\$ 86,074.33	\$ 117,000
Building Fund	\$ 11,313.26	\$ 23,000

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday, November 28**

5:00pm Madge Spiller †

**Sunday, November 29**

7:45am All Souls Novena

10:00am Parishioners / Feligreses

11:45am Adelida Bermudez †

5:00pm Frances Sutton †

**Monday, November 30**

12:00pm Eileen Heaney †

**Tuesday, December 1**

12:00pm Special Intention

**Wednesday, December 2**

12:00pm Pham/Dinh Family

**Thursday, December 3**

10:00am Frances Hobbs †

**Friday, December 4**

12:00pm Louise Smith †

**Saturday, December 5**

9:00am Special Intention

5:00pm Sally Crenshaw †

**Sunday, December 6**

7:45am Maria Nhu Bui & Peter Thong Le †

10:00am Ron Meier †

11:45am Ramon Ochoa † y

Guadalupe Yopez †

5:00pm Parishioners / Feligreses

**Scripture Readings for 12/06/20**

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

**Church News** – Monsignor will continue to bless salt, candles, olive oil, water, and religious sacramentals during this time of need. When bringing in the items please place those on the cart outside the office, write your name and phone number on the paper provided. We will call you when the items have been blessed.

**Noticias de la Iglesia** – El Monseñor continuará bendecir sal, velas, aceite de oliva, agua y sacramentales religiosos durante este tiempo de necesidad. Cuando traiga los artículos, colóquelos en el carrito fuera de la oficina, escriba su nombre y número de teléfono en el papel provisto. Nosotros le llamaremos cuando los artículos hayan sido bendecidos.



December 5 - 6	Lector	Eucharist Minister HEM & Vessels	Eucharist Minister - Host	Usher	Lock-Up	Sacristan & Vessels	Projector Operator
<b>Saturday, 5:00 PM</b>	Janet Palmer	Philip Palmer	Philip Palmer Jill Saulsbery	Mike Power Steve Saulsbery <b>NOT FILLED</b> (C - G)	Janet Palmer	Amy Fulmer	<b>NOT FILLED</b>
<b>Sunday, 7:45 AM</b>	Christy Yuska	Bruce Peterson	Tony Baker Christina Baker	Len Oswald Geri Oswald Karen Howard Greg Woodell <b>NOT FILLED</b> (E - G)		Barb Hamernik	Tracy Sullivan
<b>Sunday, 10:00 AM</b>	Paul Krapf	Joe Hartnett	Rose Hartnett Angela Mensah	Steve Harrington Daniel Cruz Brian Rabal Tim Koch <b>NOT FILLED</b> (E - G)		Joe Hartnett	Gina Koch
<b>Sunday, 11:45 AM</b> (Spanish MASS)	Teresita Perez	Raquel Perez	Ricardo Almaraz Raquel Perez	Fernando Perez J. Concepcion Serrano Maria Rocio Cervantes Victor Lopez Maria Dalia Lopez Bertha Váldez Martha Mendoza		Crimilda Viera	
<b>Sunday, 5:00 PM</b>	Eric Belin	Cary Richard	<b>SUB NEEDED</b> Terry Shepard	<b>NOT FILLED</b> (A - G)		Cary Richard	Jennifer Haddinger