



SAINT STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH

The churches of St. Mary and St. Stephen trace their histories many years ago. Father Goulet was the first officiating pastor of the mission parish of St. Mary in 1883, followed by Fr. John Linden, who served as the first resident pastor in 1906. Fr. Thomas Hanley was the first resident pastor for St. Stephen Protomartyr on June 30, 1952. Many parishioners joined them to build the history of these two parishes and nourished their faith by establishing the catholicity on the east side of Des Plaines. Nowadays, you are part of a new beginning of St. Mary and St. Stephen Protomartyr as a newly united parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago starting this July 1, 2022. As the first pastor of this parish, I am confident that God will continue the work that He has begun in each of you to grow in his love and to be a witness of his Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in everything you do.

I invite you to join me in welcoming Fr. Gerald O'Reilly as our Associate Pastor. He has served as a priest for thirty-seven years and is eager to meet you and accompany us on our journey towards holiness. He and I have agreed to bring you more opportunities to encounter the Lord in the Sacraments. Thus, as you can see in the inserted flyer, there are new times for Confessions and Masses in Spanish. In addition, with the assistance of Deacons Bill Warmouth, Conrad Wojnar, James O'Leary, and Jose Figueroa, we will continue offering opportunities for adoration with the Blessed Sacrament two times a week in each church location. Also, there will be a blessing with the Blessed Sacrament at the end of every mass on the first weekend of every month.

I am grateful to all the members of the Unification Committee who have brought their ideas and will continue working through the different committees of Naming, Communications, Worship, Parish Life, Evangelization, and Environment. Here are some of the tasks they have assisted.

- As you know, the selection of the new name for the parish is undergoing, and the three names with more votes will be presented to Cardinal Blase Cupich for him to choose the final name.
- A transitional parish website has been created, www.stmaryststephen.org, for you to look for any information needed. We are open to suggestions for improvement and better serve you in communicating the parish information to you.
- You can receive an email blast once a week of the current and coming events of the parish. Please submit your email to the Parish Secretary Noreen Johnson at sspasst@sbcglobal.net to be added to the list.
- Save the date on Sunday, **August 7, from Noon to 4 PM** as we plan to have our first parish picnic on St. Stephen grounds. More information will be offered later for you to participate and donate any food item.
- Bishop Jeffrey Grob will install me as the first pastor of St. Mary & St. Stephen Protomartyr on **August 7th at 11 am** at St. Stephen Church. Therefore the 10 AM and Noon Masses at St. Mary and St. Stephen will be canceled on this day.
- A combined and new parish bulletin is being created. You can also subscribe to receive it electronically at <https://www.parishesonline.com/organization/st-mary-and-st-stephen-protomartyr-parish>
- Registration for Religious Education programs is open. Please check the new parish website for more information.
- We have been studying the needed renovation projects of the two church sites, such as roofing, AC & heating units, parking lots, and improving access to our buildings for people with handicap disabilities. Later in the fall, we will give you more information on how to tackle these projects.
- As you know, your support through the Sunday collections is part of the stewardship commitment in which the mission of the Church continues and as a way for you to express your gratitude to God. Please continue to use your contribution envelopes. Before the year ends, I will let you know of any changes. You will keep the same envelope number. However, there will be some digits added before your number.

On behalf of the clergy and staff of the new Parish: Sister Teresa Quintero, Sister Revelina Santiago, Phyllis Rotondo, Noreen Johnson, Jasmin Miranda, Toni Olague, Daniel Roldan, Andrzej Kasprzyk, Angel Robles, and Anthony Dadabo, we wish you a happy 4th of July weekend. We are committed to serving you. Keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

Fraternally,

Rev. David Arcila, Pastor

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