



# The First Order

## St. Stephen's Parish

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OCTOBER 2016

## SOS: Soothe Our Soul

### A Series of Contemplative and Simple Services

Joseph and Cricket will lead a series of various simple worship opportunities in the coming months.

Join us for one, two, or all. Invite a friend or neighbor!

They are all listed on the handy insert, so you can tape it to your calendar or refrigerator!

## Election Vigil Prayer Service

Monday, November 7, 6:30 PM

Join us on Monday the 7th of November for a non-partisan prayer and contemplation time, and let the loudness of the past months soften into silence. As the political wrangling comes to a close, let us allow our hearts to find their rest in God.

## Mark Your Calendar

Harvest Supper, Saturday, October 22, 6:00 PM

Once again this year, the Stewardship Committee will be delighted to host you for our annual Stewardship Festival kick-off dinner!

Come for an amazing meal, fellowship with your friends, and "entertainment" (TBA!). This is not a time to be harangued for money~ we promise!

Reflections

# Family Time: Praying Together at Meals

As we nestle into fall, many families find themselves settling into routines both new and familiar. A change of seasons is often a great time to start or rekindle new spiritual practices as well.

Praying together as a family at the start of a meal – also known as saying grace – is a simple way to take a break from the busyness of the day, center ourselves, and reconnect with what – and who – is important.

If this is an unfamiliar practice for your family, not to worry! There is no wrong way to pray together. Some families hold hands. Some bow their heads. Some pray silently. Others pray out loud. Some families repeat familiar, traditional prayers, while others pray something new and different every day. And they are all right! Give it a try.

## Here are some simple prayers to try – maybe tonight!

For good food and those who prepare it, for good friends with whom to share it, we thank you Lord.

Let us thank God for food when others are hungry; for drink, when others are thirsty; for friends when others are lonely.

Bless the food before us, the family beside us, and the love between us.

Thanks for the earth for the soil.

Thanks to the sky for the rains.

Thanks to the farmers for the harvest.

Thanks to our friends for the love

Thanks to God for the whole of creation.



*I will give thanks to your name  
because of your kindness and truth*

# October

## Happy Birthday:

- 2 Noah Haas (13), Jeff Pringle, Peter Rousseau (a milestone!)
- 3 Dennis Carney, Jennifer Gregg
- 6 Isiaha Hartman-Caesar (16), Marshall Kysor, Ed Wilder
- 7 Florence Allen (98 years young!), Claire O'Connor (a milestone!)
- 8 Lexy Corcoran (11), Curran Doyle, Matthew Oakes (8), Rory Shea (6)
- 9 Ed Van Dyke (96 years young!)
- 10 Sydney Corcoran (14), Jeannette Ward, Zachary Wheelock (3)
- 13 Theodore Caesar (a milestone), Michael La Malfa, Kahlil Lanphear-Dyer (18), Scott Luczynski
- 15 Michela Laurin (17)
- 18 Dion Bianco (12), Anthony Trapani (11)
- 19 David Harrington, Sabrina Reynolds (13), Michael Wheelock (a milestone!), Carol Wilson
- 23 Colin Behnke (7), Martie Ekstrom
- 24 Barbara McShane, Dona Senecal (a milestone!)
- 25 Sean Coakley (17), Quinton Cookis, William Sosa (a milestone!)
- 26 Jennifer Duchaine, Robert Talanian
- 28 Sue Jenkins (a milestone!), Dot Restel (96 years young!)
- 29 Jeffrey Hine
- 30 Crystal Hassan
- 31 Cathy Doyle, Jordan Hamilton (15)

## Happy Anniversary:

- 3 Ann and Ev Heiss (1954)
- 4 Teddy and Bill Carter (1970)
- 6 Jennifer and Michael Laurin (1995)
- 10 Leah and Scott Luczynski (2006)
- 11 Christine and Craig Reynolds (1986)
- 12 Aloha and David Winchester (1963)
- 23 Cathy and Joseph Carchedi (1982)
- 25 Claire and Gerald O'Connor (1952)
- 27 Marie and Roy Sutton (1978)
- 29 Donna and Bill Chandler (1977)
- 30 Lynne and Philip Blanchard (2010)



## from Joseph

Whew, it's already October! Not only has the summer flown by, but we're already deep into the beauty of fall.

The youth group will start meeting informally after the 10:00 am services on the second and fourth Sundays of the month; we will also be discerning a theme for our year to help guide us forward. I am grateful for the wisdom of the teenagers who are dedicated to St. Stephen's and their community!

This autumn will offer some opportunities for rest and refreshment, so check this month's calendar for worship / prayer opportunities to help center yourself in this time of busy-ness and anxiety.

We're also in the closing stretch of the election season, so here's a prayer from the prayer book to keep in mind as we prepare to elect leaders all across this nation:

"Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Peace,  
Joseph

## Did You Know?

That we had a few teams entered in the Josh Billings: "The Sawyers and Porters" (Charlie, his son and daughter and son-in-law) came in 43rd, just 35 minutes behind 1st place; followed by "The Loose Pickles," including Dan Moon; "Don't Wobble" with Pam and Andy Breslin and son Luke; and "Slip, Slop and Flop" with Sharon Biller. Congratulations one and all. If I missed anyone, sorry – I know Mike Lauren took part last year but I couldn't find him!

## Fall Bible Study: The Book of Revelation

*taught by The Rev. Marc Britt*

October 12 - December 9

excepting November 23

Register by calling the Church Office today, @ 448-8276

Wednesday Evenings 6:30 – 8:30 pm~ LIMITED to 10 students.

The course is offered at the Britt-Hills home, and can be offered again if there is enough interest. Are you ready for a rigorous inquiry into this book? Then read Marc's description and see if it "fits" for you.

### Requirements:

- An annotated NRSV Study Bible, for example, Oxford or Harper Collins;
- A reading of the complete book before first meeting,
- And rereading chapters assigned for each meeting.

Revelation is an enigmatic and highly symbolic book, perhaps the most misunderstood book of scripture. This study should help participants gain a good understanding of this important text.

St. Stephen's Parish  
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## Eclectic Book Club

We had a great meeting in September, learning about lots of good books read over the summer. For October 7th we will read *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George. Our hosts will be Linda and Don Walsh, who wowed us with their decorations last year and promise to do the same this year! And, planning ahead, we will read *Zealot* by Reza Aslan for our November 4th meeting.

The food and fellowship are great with this group and we welcome anyone to join us. We mourn the loss of our friend, Joan McFalls, but were pleased to welcome a newcomer in September. Look forward to seeing a good gathering in October!