

February 22, 2009

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# Sunday



God comes new each day.

SHUTTERSTOCK

We are in Ordinary Time in the Church calendar. Depending on where you are, it could be gray or cold outside, boring.

It would be easy to plod through ordinary days and miss an extraordinary message—a message that is repeated often enough that we might lose its power.

It's the kind of situation that would lead Jesus to ask, "Do you have ears that hear?"

Isaiah's audience was stuck. Their habits, their religious practices, were not working. They forgot God. Even so, the Lord says through Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing." To those who could not remember God, God says, "I will not remember your sins." What? We've messed up, but God doesn't remember it? Is that too good to be true?

We burden God with our sins, our excuses, our forgetting. We slip into our patterns and habits and ruts. We forget what God has already done for us. We forget God comes to us over and over. Do we dare accept that God knows about our sins but will wipe out the memory of them?

The man Jesus heals in Capernaum is paralyzed. His friends literally take apart the house where Jesus is teaching so he can touch the man.

Watch carefully how people in the house react. Did they resent the interruption? Jesus tells the man his sins are forgiven. Some scribes mumble to themselves—who does he think he is? What he is saying is blasphemy! What did the others gathered in that house think? When the man got up and walked out the door, everyone knew something astounding had happened.

What is so new? God comes new each day, toward us, healing. What is easier for the Lord to say, "stand up and walk" or "your sins are forgiven"?

Is that too good to be true? Where are *we* stuck?



### Today's Readings

Is 43:18–19, 21–22,  
24b–25  
2 Cor 1:18–22  
Mk 2:1–12

DAN FINUCANE  
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# St. Stephen Catholic Church

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Office Hours – Monday through Friday  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Rectory – 1904 Bethel Road  
817-596-9586

Web Page – www.ss-cc.org

Gift Shop – Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM  
Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM  
Noon to 12:30 PM

Club House—817-599-8423  
Pro Shop—817-599-8431

## MASS SCHEDULE

*All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted*

**Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM**

**Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)**

**Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

**Daily Mass 8:45 AM**

## WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

*Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!*

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 21	6:00 PM	Phil Nixon, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. Peter Damian, bishop and doctor of the church</i>
Sunday	February 22	8:00 AM	Our Community	<i>7th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Peace	<i>7th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>7º Domingo Ordinario</i>
Monday	February 23	8:45 AM	Jim Hickey	<i>Memorial of St. Polycarp, bishop and martyr</i>
Tuesday	February 24	8:45 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>	<i>Weekday</i>
Wednesday	February 25	7:00 AM	English	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
		6:30 PM	English	
		8:00 PM	Spanish	
Thursday	February 26	8:45 AM	Candice Murray, RIP	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
Friday	February 27	8:45 AM	Nell Hosch, RIP	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
Saturday	February 28	6:00 PM	Our Community	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
Sunday	March 1	8:00 AM	Phil Norton, RIP	<i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>
		10:45 AM	Our Youth	<i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>1º Domingo de Cuaresma</i>

**Marriage** – six months notice required – please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** – seis meses es necesaria  
**Baptism Instruction**—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)  
**Quinceañera** – three month notice required – girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* – please see Fr. Casey  
**Prayer Chain Coordinators**—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)  
**Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins.** Contact the church office to be on the schedule.  
**Census Information**—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.  
**Bulletin Notices** are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event – notices may be e-mailed – deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday – your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

**REGULAR  
COLLECTIONS**  
February 14-15  
\$9,232.00



### WELCOME TO ALL, INCLUDING VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS.

Please join us this Sunday between Masses for breakfast  
in the Parish Hall, provided by the Boy Scouts.

### SECOND COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY

*Church in Central & Eastern Europe  
February 28-March 1—Black & Indian Mission*

### PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATION

Cost of New Property—\$1,631,842.00  
Monthly Interest Payment—\$9,700.00  
Total Contributions to Date—79,936.59  
Interest Paid to Date—\$72,333.21

### 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

God's healing power is at work in you. Who needs your compassion? How will you be an instrument of healing and forgiveness?  
(Mark 2:1-12)

### 7º Domingo Ordinario

*Nuca hemos visto nada parecido. ¿Qué es lo más asombroso, la habilidad de curar, o el regalo de perdonar los pecados? Considera ser un instrumento del perdón de Dios a través del ministerio sacerdotal. (Marcos 2:1-12)*

*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend  
Are a Gift From the Ladies Altar Society  
In Tribute to Our Loyal Member, Lois Gensweider  
On the Occasion of Her 90th Birthday.*



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY!!** What a blessing to have St. Stephen serve at the Center of Hope. You served approximately 294 hot meals and donated a total of 139.5 hours of service. A special thank you to Norma Gonzales for coordinating your efforts at the Center of Hope. Everyone worked together to do an amazing job! *On behalf of the Staff and Board, Mary Tekell, Churches of Hope Co-Coordinator.*

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for serving and donating at the Center of Hope. You do make the difference! All of us working together—we make it happen! Our next time to serve at the Center of Hope will be May 18-21—so mark your calendars. *Thank You and God Bless, Norma Gonzales*

**CALLED TO PROTECT—KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE** will have a training session on **Thursday, February 26 at 6:30 PM.**

**HEALTH SCREEN SPECIALISTS** is hosting a stroke prevention and vascular disease screening on **March 18 & 19, 2009**, at St. Stephen. *Please watch the bulletin on February 28 and March 1 for a special insert.* Representatives will be available on March 7 & 8 for pre-registration or you may call 1-800-931-4772 for information or to schedule an appointment.

**ESPECIALISTAS EN SALUD EVENTIVA** ofrecerán pruebas que pueden detectar posibles infartos y enfermedades cardio-vasculares el 18 y 19 de Marzo de 2009 en St Stephen. **Por favor preste atención al Boletín de la Parroquia de Febrero 28 y Marzo 1. Encontrará allí una hoja con la información.** Representantes estarán presentes el 7 y 8 de Marzo aceptando solicitudes o bien usted puede llamar al 1-800-931-4772 para más información o hacer una cita.

**Lenten Vocation Awareness Program** - For Single Men and Women discerning between Single, Married, and Religious Life. The Vocations Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth, with the endorsement of Bishop Kevin Vann, is presenting a Lenten Vocation Awareness Program held at St. Patrick Cathedral (1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth, TX 76102). It begins on **Monday, March 2 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM, for six consecutive Mondays.** This program is designed to help discern: What is my purpose in life? How do I realize my calling from God? A comparative look at single, married, and religious life. Addressing fears associated with saying Yes to God's call. Ages 18-50, 15-17 with parental support. Come for an evening of prayer, reflection, presentations, discussions and a free dinner. There is no cost and it isn't necessary to make all six meetings. For more information, please go to the Fort Worth Diocese Website on Religious Vocations or call Father Kyle Walterscheid at 817-560-3300, ext. 110, or padrekyle@gmail.com.

## LENT

### Ash Wednesday Schedule

Wednesday, February 25

7:00AM English

6:30 PM English

8:00 PM Spanish

### LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH SCHEDULE

Come join us for Soup & Sandwiches from 5:30-6:30 PM

followed by Stations of the Cross

February 27—Boy Scouts

March 6—Catholic Daughters

March 13—Altar Society

March 20—Knights of Columbus

March 27—Mission Group

April 3—Youth Group

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Diocese of Fort Worth, Inc.

Since 1973, Catholic Charities has provided clinical counseling services to the community. We are excited to announce that Catholic Charities has partnered with St. Stephen to provide Clinical Counseling in the Parker and Palo Pinto County areas. Services to include: Individual Therapy, Marital Therapy, Family Therapy, Group Therapy. Additional referrals may include, but are not limited to parent/child conflict, anger management issues, and stress management. For additional information please contact Catholic Charities' Clinical Counseling at 817-534-0814, ext. 2376 or 1-866-727-1494 or the parish office for more details.

Desde 1973, Caridades Católicas ha proporcionado servicios de consejería clínica a la comunidad. Estamos emocionados de informar que Caridades Católicas se ha unido con la parroquia St. Stephen para proporcionar servicios de Consejería Clínica en el condado de Parker y áreas de Palo Pinto. Los servicios incluyen: Terapia Individual, Terapia Marital o Matrimonial, Terapia Familiar, Terapia en Grupo. Referencias adicionales pueden incluir, pero no son limitadas a crianza/conflictos de niñez, controlando el coraje y manejando el estrés. Para información adicional por favor de contactar a Caridades Católicas, Programa de Consejería Clínica al 817-534-0814, Ext. 2376 o 1-866-727-1494 o la oficina de parroquial para más detalles.

### Registration for Holy Family Catholic School is now in progress for the 2009-2010 school year.

If you have not considered Catholic education for your children, now is the time to visit and tour our campus. For a tour call the school at 817-737-4201. Enrollment forms and information are also available on our website: [www.hfsfw.org](http://www.hfsfw.org).

## TEEN CORNER

**Wednesday, February 25.** Please meet us in the hall at 6 PM so that we can go to Mass together at 6:30. Remember, we will **NOT** have dinner due to Mass.

**Saturday, February 28, YOUTH FUN DAY!** Meet us at Mineral Wells State Park at 9 AM for a day of fun. Please contact Susan Ourada at 817-596-3872 or Jeanette Houle at [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net).

**SAVE THE DATE:** Lenten lock-in will be **April 3.** Watch for more information.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(All activities held at Bethel Road)

### Sunday February 22

9:15 AM Religious Education Classes (English)

9:15 AM Adult Catechism (Room 19)

9:15 AM Adult Bible Study (Room 3)

11:15 AM Religious Education Classes (Spanish)

### Monday, February 23

7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72

7:00 PM Grupo de Oracion

### Tuesday, February 24

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus

### Wednesday, February 25 (Ash Wednesday)

7:00 AM Mass in English

6:00 PM Youth Group (Meet for Mass)

6:30 PM Mass in English

8:00 PM Mass in Spanish

### Thursday, February 26

10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

10:00 AM Quilting Group (Pro Shop)

6:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study, Room 4

6:30 PM Called To Protect—Keeping Children Safe

7:00 PM Hora Española Santa

### Saturday, February 28


9:00 AM YOUTH FUN DAY (Mineral Wells State Park)

7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya—Spanish

February 22, 2009

# Dear Padre

## Are divorced couples still married?

 Ten years ago my husband and I were married in the Catholic Church. After six years we divorced, and he remarried outside the Church. That marriage didn't last, and now we're back together. Since we never had our marriage annulled, do we need to remarry? And is it OK to tell people we've been married for ten years?

Happy at Last

Dear Happy,

The Catholic Church teaches that divorce doesn't break the bond of marriage, so you and your husband are still married in the Church. Legally, however, you need to get a new marriage license and remarry, either outside of church or in a church ceremony in which you renew your vows.

Before you do that, however, I suggest you and

your husband talk with your pastor about the first part of your marriage and your years apart. Receiving the sacrament of reconciliation would probably also be helpful. Doing these things will give you some perspective and closure and give a fresh start to your future together.

As for the length of your marriage, honesty is always the best policy, but if someone asks and you don't care to go into the details you may simply say, "We were married ten years ago."

Rick Potts,  
C.Ss.R.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 February 23 Saint Polycarp, bishop and martyr Sir 1:1-10 Mk 9:14-29	 February 24 Weekday Sir 2:1-11 Mk 9:30-37	 February 25 Ash Wednesday Jl 2:12-18 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	 February 26 Lenten Weekday Dt 30:15-20 Lk 9:22-25	 February 27 Lenten Weekday Is 58:1-9a Mt 9:14-15	 February 28 Lenten Weekday Is 58:9b-14 Lk 5:27-32	 March 1 First Sunday of Lent Gn 9:8-15 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15