



ST. STEPHEN'S SPIRIT

The Newsletter of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkinsburg PA

MAY 2024

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.

Father Chuck has been busy with baptisms this year, and there are more to come, so we thought it might be fitting to stop and consider the significance of baptism, not just for the one baptized but for all who have been sealed as Christ's own forever.

As many of you know, on April 7, baby Raymeir was baptized. His mother, Ray'Onna, grew up at St. Stephen's and wanted to have her baby baptized here. His grandmother Tameka said it was important for her to have him baptized to have Jesus in his life from the beginning, and she prays that he follows Jesus as she teaches him about the Lord. She added, "And to see my daughter accepting and willing to have Christ in his life was a wonderful feeling."

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, Tee and Jerome will be baptized as adults. Tee said that she knows baptism will help her to feel more free and closer to God. She says she will be a new creature with new ways of being, and she is looking forward to standing up together with her son to be baptized.

Episcopalian writer Frederick Buechner agrees with Tee: He says that baptism, "symbolizes the end of everything about your life that is less than human. Coming up again from the water symbolizes the beginning in you of something strange and new and hopeful. You can breathe again."

"Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?"

One thing for us all to remember is that baptism is not a solitary endeavor; rather the community of believers supports the newly baptized for the rest of their lives. That means that we are all supporting each other in our life in Christ. Let's consider how we might do that! If you have ideas, share them with us. One place we can start is to pray continually for our brothers and sisters using the words of the Book of Common Prayer.

Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

Send them into the world in witness to your love.

Morning Prayer happens the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. See you on May 1.

PRAYER FOR MAY

O Great Spirit who dwells in the sky, lead us to the path of peace and understanding, let all of us live together as brothers and sisters. Our lives are so short here, walking upon Mother Earth's surface, let our eyes be opened to all the blessings you have given us. Please hear our prayers, Oh Great Spirit.

-Native American Prayer



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

May 1-Louise Broujos and Kevin Carter

May 5-Tanika Snyder

May 21-Tim Brucker

May 23-Laila Matthews

May 30-Ernie Scott

RAYMEIR'S JOYOUS BAPTISM



April birthday celebration!



Upcoming Building Drive

The vestry has agreed to a building drive so watch for an announcement and pray about how you might help pay for the needed repairs to our beloved St. Stephen's which serves as a safe and nurturing place not only for our church family, but for two other church communities, youth and adult programs for the Wilkinsburg community, NA and AA groups and many other groups in Pittsburgh. St. Stephen's is getting a reputation as a welcoming place, not just for a few, but for all. By maintaining our church's physical plant we are fulfilling Jesus' command to love others.



Bishop Ketlen invites us all to a morning of **Nurturing Joy**, where we as a diocese participate in fellowship, idea sharing and worship. Refreshments will be served. Trinity Cathedral, May 18, 9-12:30 pm. Please register at the link below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVPjKnb09AVzYjDYtI2XHW0ymy84HMIFpKo_8AUfqNnhOyXw/viewform

FOOD OF THE MONTH

PASTA AND SAUCE



Mission of the Month

WILKINSBURG COMMUNITY MINISTRY

WCM shares food. They offer their Wilkinsburg neighbors a diversified and sustainable source of fresh food in addition to a variety of other foods provided by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

WCM shares food with over 5,000 residents each year, including senior citizens, citizens with disabilities, at-risk youth and families who are economically challenged, underemployed or facing emergency situations. The outcomes of their programs include reducing hunger in Wilkinsburg, supporting the health and well-being of our senior citizens, helping economically-challenged families have basic necessities and keeping Wilkinsburg streets safer through partnerships with education and after-school youth programs.

If you'd like to give, you can donate on their website

[Wilkinsburg Community Ministry | \(wcm15221.org\)](http://wcm15221.org)

Or write a check and place it in the offering plate or mail it to WCM, 704 Wood Street, Wilkinsburg PA 15221

*Whoever wishes to be great among you
must be your servant.*



*Please join us at St. Stephen's on Sunday, June 2, to give thanks
for this great servant of God. We are celebrating the 25th anni-
versary of Father Chuck Esposito's ordination.*

*Our regular liturgy will be held at 10:30 a.m.
(There is also an 8 a.m. service.) After the 10:30
a.m. service, we will meet in the parish house to
celebrate the 25th anniversary of Chuck's ordina-
tion. Please come and celebrate with us!*



Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM

Contact Us

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
600 Pitt Street
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
412.243.6100 (phone)
ststephenswilkinsburg@gmail.com (email)

www.ststephenswilkinsburg.org

Parish Staff

Rev. Chuck Esposito, Priest
Soon Choi, Dir. of Music Ministry
Melanie Sprenkel, Parish Ministry
Coordinator
Gerry Dalton, Financial Admin.
Elise Morris, Archivist & Historian
Tim Brucker, Caretaker

