

The Crown

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

Spring 2010 ❖ Issue 9



Dear Parishioners,

During Lent we open our hearts to the call of Christ. The events of Holy Week and Easter remind us that the victory of Jesus can be ours if our lives find their model in Him.

We invite you to live again the great mysteries of our faith by attending services and receiving the sacraments during Holy Week and Eastertime. We are blessed when you are present. Please plan on coming - and bring a friend.

We all pray that the blessings and grace of this Holy Season be with you and your loved ones. **Happy Easter!**

Devotedly yours in the Risen Christ,

The Priests, Deacons and

Staff of St. Stephens Parish

HOLY WEEK - Schedule 2010

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION - March 28

Saturday Vigil - 5:00 pm

Sunday - 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am and 12:15 pm

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday 3:30 and 4:30 pm

Monday, March 29 - 9:30-10:30 am

Wednesday, March 31 - 7:00 pm

Penance Service with additional priests

No Confessions on Holy Saturday

HOLY THURSDAY - April 1

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30 pm

Adoration until Midnight in the Atrium

GOOD FRIDAY - April 2

(Day of Fasting and Abstinence from Meat)

Prayer Vigil (Scripture & Song) - 12:00-3:00 pm

Children's Service of the Passion - 3:00 pm

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 7:30 pm

HOLY SATURDAY - April 3

Blessing of Easter Food - 12:00 noon

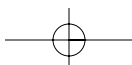
The Easter Vigil - 7:30 pm

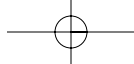
(No 5:00 pm Mass)

EASTER SUNDAY - April 4

7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am and 12:15 pm

Additional 10:30 am Mass in school gym





Kid's Corner

~ cut 2 strands of palm (or paper) about 1/2" x 14"
 ~ follow instructions to form a palm cross

Weave a Palm Cross

step 1 step 2

step 3 step 4

step 5 step 6

www.lucylearns.com

Knights of Columbus

Save the Date!!!

The Warwick Valley Council #4952, Knights of Columbus, is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their Charter with a week of celebration in April 2010. It will begin with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 12:15 p.m. here at St. Stephen's on Sunday, April 18, celebrated by Father Michael, Chaplain. The Mass will be followed by refreshments in atrium. All are invited.

Culmination of the festivities will be a Dinner/Dance at Kuhl's Highland House, Middletown, NY on Saturday, April 24, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. The evening will begin with an open cocktail hour with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, full course dinner and dancing to live **MUSIC!!!** Black tie optional. The cost for this grand evening is only \$50 per person. All are invited to attend. For tickets please call Ticket Chairman, Tom Coughlin, 651-4115, or Bill Wendel, 986-4990.

Gifts For The Spirit

For your convenience, the gift shop at St. Stephen's, Gifts for the Spirit, is now offering Easter and First Holy Communion items. The shop is also selling Equal Exchange products: organic, fairly traded coffee, chocolate and tea, good for your heart in many ways. Purchasing these products helps small farmers in Third World countries, the environment, our parish and may have health benefits as well: they are just what the "Doctor" ordered!

The gift shop is open after all Masses and purchases can be made through the Church office during the week. Proceeds from sales go back to the parish.

For further information, please contact Marie at 986-4423 or Miriam at 987-7543

St. Stephen-St. Edward Educational Trust

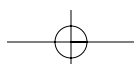
Recently, the Trust provided a modest credit to all school families to defray part of the book bill costs; it is currently generating funds for a tuition endowment fund. Donations to the Daniel Battista Scholarship Fund are also handled through the Trust. For further information about the programs, the proposed Freedom of Education Act or to make a contribution, please contact Ed Scharfenberger at 986-5591.

Spirited Spokes Bike Tour

St. Stephen's, along with John S. Burke H.S. Goshen, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Joseph, Middletown, have teamed up to host a bike ride through Orange County on Saturday, May 22, beginning in Goshen at the Government Center. Walk or ride 5-10 miles on the Heritage Trail, or ride 25, 45 or 62 miles. Registration pamphlets are available in our parish atrium or registration is available online at www.spiritedspokesny.com. Call 986-3590 for more information.

One Stop Gift Card Shopping at St. Stephen's

Did you know that St. Stephen's parish sells gift cards to all the popular retailers? In addition, Visa and American Express gift cards are available with no activation charge in \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$200 denominations. We now carry gift cards of local business, Pennings Farm Market and Quick Chek. St. Stephen's earns a profit on the purchase of all gift cards. For more information about the gift card program at St. Stephen's, contact Mary Juliano at 987-7235 or at jmjuli@warwick.net



Our School News

During the first week of February, we celebrated Catholic School Week with this year's theme: Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life. Each student was asked to write an essay using this theme and the following was submitted by one of our Sixth Grade Students, John Di Mauro.

Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life

Catholic schools are a good investment. There are many things they teach that other schools teach, but in a special way. Some dividends are discipline, faith, and making faith part of our everyday lives.

In Catholic schools, we are taught that working hard is a good quality. Through the work we do, we develop good working habits. We are expected to work well with others.

Faith is an important part of life, and is able to be taught in Catholic school and not in public school. From Catholic schools, we have a knowledge and understanding of our religion. On certain days we are even able to attend Mass. Our teachers are sowing seeds of faith that will grow throughout our lives. Faith is learned at home, but is reinforced in Catholic School.

We are able to bring faith into everything we do in Catholic schools. This teaches us that religion is more than a subject. It is a way of life. In Catholic schools we can learn about the lives of the Saints as examples of how to live a Catholic life.

Catholic schools teach us to be trustworthy, diligent, honest and dependable. They teach us this through the teachings of Jesus and His church.

Registration for Grades Pre-K through Grade 8 is now open. Please call the school (845) 986-3533 or check our website www.ststephen-stedward.org for information about the school.

Dorothy Anderson Celebrates Her 100th Birthday

Long time parishioner Dorothy Anderson celebrated her 100th birthday at Mount Alverno Center with a party hosted by the Court of St. Anne No. 909 of the Catholic Daughters of America, of which she has been a faithful member for 39 years. The celebration began with a special Mass followed by a luncheon attended by friends and colleagues, many of whom have worked with Dorothy on committees and fundraisers over the years. Always a familiar figure in Warwick, Dorothy stayed active as a dedicated volunteer well into her nineties. Catholic Daughters Regent Flora Roberto said, "She raised more money than anyone and did a great job in whatever she worked on."



Congratulations, Dorothy, and God bless you!

Backpack Snack Attack

Each year the children of St. Stephen's Religious Education program become aware of people in need; as Christians, they are called to respond. This year they are helping children in their own schools, perhaps a buddy or friend, someone they spend part of the day with. Hidden behind smiling eyes and contagious laughter are a surprising amount of needy children who lack food to fill their growling stomachs. Our children are participating in Backpack Snack Attack, a weekend meals program that dispenses 13-14 snacks per child each weekend. The Reformed Church and Warwick schools developed the program: kids don't want other kids to be hungry and so they help provide food for them.

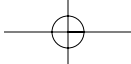
Individual sized, ready to eat items are collected and delivered to the Reformed Church. Volunteers fill backpacks with snacks for children who have been identified for the program and the packs are distributed on Friday. On Monday, the backpacks are returned to school and the cycle continues.

Our Religious Education students have donated since the school year began: pudding cups, oatmeal, granola bars, cup of soup, easy mac, cheese crackers, small cereal boxes, fruit cups and 100% juice boxes. Kids know what kids like so choosing snacks for the project is easy.

Backpack Snack Attack runs throughout the school year and donations are always welcome. Confirmation students have earned community service hours and REC families have been very generous. Please consider participating in this worthwhile program. Try giving up a favorite snack as a family during the week and donating it to the Snack Attack. Food items can be brought to the Religious Education Office from 9-3 Monday through Friday. Finally, please pray for the children who give and receive these snacks and especially for the end of hunger in our world.

Bazaar News (This is Big)

Over the years, in concurrence with the St. Stephen's Bazaar, each family received raffle books as a fundraiser for the parish. This year, St. Stephen's famous Bazaar Raffle is going to be different. **Only 500 tickets will be sold at \$50 per ticket with a single prize of \$10,000 going to the lucky winner: this could be you!** Ticket sales start on the last weekend of February (27-28) and continue until 500 are sold. Winner will be drawn at the Parish Bazaar. As the saying goes, you have to be in it to win it!




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