

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
67 East Street + Park Square
Pittsfield, MA 01201

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021



Into joy from sadness

Our Mission

is to be the heart and hands of Christ: nourishing people, transforming lives

Readings for the Second Sunday of Easter

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133 *(please read responsively at the half verse)*

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

The Second Lesson 1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all

unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Holy Gospel John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

In the Prayers of the People we pray especially for Michael T. and for Maria Patricia and William Evans who have died.

This Week's Music

Hymn 208

“The strife is o’er” (*stanzas 1,2,4,5*)

Victory

Antiphon at the beginning and the end – “Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”

1. The strife is o’er, the battle done,
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!
2. The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shout of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!
4. He closed the yawning gates of hell,
the bars from heaven’s high portals fell;
let hymns of praise his triumphs tell! Alleluia!
5. Lord! By the stripes which wounded thee,
From death’s dread sting thy servants free,
That we may live and sing to thee. Alleluia!

Organ Solo

“We walk by faith and not by sight”

James Biery

The Fraction Anthem

“Alleluia”

George Nesbit

Voluntary

“Christ the Lord is risen today”

Robert Powell

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

SUNDAY

All persons serving in the armed forces and their families: MAJ Andrew B., CPT Nicholas P., ILT Curran J. D., Lance CPL Chad L., SPC Amanda D., Pvt. Corey F. D., Army Ranger Sean J., Micah H.

St. Paul's, Holyoke
Latino/Hispanic Ministries
Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue
Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF)
Forward Movement Publications

Province of the Indian Ocean

MONDAY

Diocese of Bhopal (India)

TUESDAY

We remember all who need our prayers especially:
Timothy A., Clarence D., Ken & Diana E., Cyndi K., Henry L., Christina O, Clara V., Maureen W., Abby, Becca, Betty, Donna, Faye, Fiona, Heather, Jay, Jim, Joan, John, Josh, Judy H., Karen, Keith, Lisa, Marilyn, Mary, Melissa & Family, Nancy & Rick, Noreen, Pam, Patrick, Paula, Susan, Marion, Joe, Roy, Marie, Bob, Jill, Barbara A., Jeff S., Shirley, Maryann J. and family, Marion, Charles W. Sydney A., Jeffrey B., Thomas S., Peter, Barbara D., William, Doris, Barbara, Erika, Johnathan W., Nancy G., all who are

impacted by the Coronavirus, Pat, Jack, Susan, Frank L., Deane, Tom, David P, Eileen, David W., Michael C., Amelia, Eric & Katelyn, Scott, Ann P., Ernest W., family of Francis Groleau, Michael T.

Those with mental health issues

Diocese of Bida (Nigeria)

WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Biharamulo (Tanzania)

THURSDAY

The Elizabeth Freeman Center
Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations
Members of Congress

Diocese of Birmingham (England)

FRIDAY

St. Stephen's Teaching and Learning Team
St. Stephen's Parish Life Team

Diocese of Blackburn (England)

SATURDAY

Diocese of Bo (Sierra Leone)

PARISH NOTICES

WHO ARE WE? St. Stephen's Parish is a community of people who together seek to serve our community, drawing strength and joy from worshipping together. We don't all believe the same, act the same, vote the same, or dress the same – but we strive to love the same, as Christ loved and served all people.

ST. STEPHEN'S TABLE - Gifts in thanksgiving or in memory can be made by sending a donation to the church with the name of the person to be honored or remembered. You can also make a donation online! Just go to our website, select "Support Our Ministries," and follow the prompts to the list of gift opportunities. Select "St. Stephen's Table" and follow the directions. *Gifts this week are given by*

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR at 11:00 a.m..

The link is: <https://zoom.us/j/92912815694?pwd=NEY2NINqbHVyeTNETjlrSG5BcFBzUT09> or go to zoom.us/join and enter meeting ID 929 1281 5694. The passcode is 619428.

LIVING GREEN TIP

Looking for ways to cut down on food waste? Here are two from greatist.com: 1. Start a weekly log of food you throw away, it's likely a pattern will emerge and you'll be able to adjust your shopping habits. 2. Understand the difference between sell-by and use-by dates. Many expiration dates do not refer to food safety instead, they relate to dates when quality and flavor may begin to decline

Cardboard-Breakdown
Bottles and Cans Toter

Dot Lambert
John Garinther

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN'S

SUNDAY, April 11

10:00 a.m. Online Service
11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved
Grab and Go Lunch

MONDAY, April 12

TUESDAY, April 13

7:15 pm Zoom Vestry Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 14

THURSDAY, April 15

4:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Table-
Grab and Go

FRIDAY, April 16

4:30 p.m. Parish Office Closed
St. Stephen's Table-
Grab and Go

SATURDAY, April 17

5:00 p.m. Sunday's Online Service
Available

SUNDAY, April 18

10:00 a.m. Online Service
11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved
Grab and Go Lunch

Saint Stephen's

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www.ststephenspittsfield.org



Our Vestry

Erin Sullivan, Co-Warden	Valerie Andersen	Chris Plankey
Craig Reynolds, Co-Warden	Louise Penney	Wendy Coakley
Angela Moon, Clerk	Mark Miller	
Leah Luczynski, Treasurer	John Culver	

Our Staff

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector npooly@ststephenspittsfield.org	Joy Mullen, Director of Music jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org
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Weekday Sextons-Berkshire County ARC Sunday Sexton	Jenell Pullano, Supervisor Roy Stillman

The Diocese of Western Massachusetts
The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher 800-332-8513 www.diocesewma.org

Ministers of the this week's Celebration

PRESIDER

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTOR

Donald Phipps

PRAYERS

William Frazier

ALTAR GUILD

Marie Sutton, William Frazier

VOCALISTS

Sarah Novak, *soprano*
Wavelyn Hine, *alto*

Jeffrey Hine, *tenor*
Robert Szczepaniak, *bass*

VIDEO PRODUCTION

MusiChris DJ and Lighting Service

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