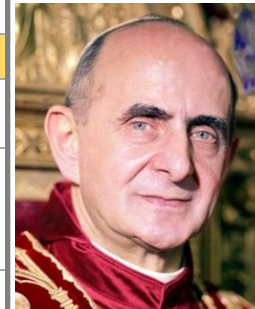


**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**  
December 26, 2021 ~ Bulletin No. 52 Vol. XXXVII

**CALENDAR ~ December 25, 2021-January 2, 2022**

Sat 25	<b>5:00pm</b>	No 5:00pm Mass
Sun 26	<b>9:00am</b> <b>11:30am</b> <b>3:00pm</b> 7:30pm	<b>Mass for ROS Guise &amp; Maria Tuong by Kim Tran</b> <b>Mass for ROS Robert Riley by Giuliana Riley</b> <b>Mass for the Parish</b> AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 27	<b>9:00am</b> 7:00am	<b>Mass for ROS Barbara Bridges by Mario &amp; Alba Hernandez</b> Men's Prayer Group
Wed 29	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
Thurs 30	<b>12:10pm</b> 1:00pm 7:00pm	<b>Communion Service</b> Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 31	<b>5:00pm</b> 7:00am	<b>Mass for ROS Krantz Family Members by the Krantz Family</b> Men's Prayer Group
Sat 1	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b> <b>Mass for Sharon Date, Happy Birthday from Terry Date</b>
Sun 2	<b>9:00am</b> <b>11:30am</b> <b>3:00pm</b> 7:30pm	<b>Mass for the Parish</b> <b>Mass for ROS Jean Ebel by Theresa Fitch</b>  AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information



*From the Holy Father*

*"How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of life, learning again God's truths."*

~ Saint Pope Paul VI ~

*Wisdom of the Saints*

*"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold their sin against them."*  
~ Saint Stephen ~



**For Annulment Information Contact:**

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or  
Email: [reharrill@rcdoc.org](mailto:reharrill@rcdoc.org).



*"God did not create a human family made up of segregated, dissociated, mutually independent members. No. He would have them all united by the bond of total love of Him and consequent self-dedication to assist each other to maintain that bond intact."* Ven, Pope Pius XII

**Prayer to the Holy Family**

**JESUS**, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

**MARY**, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

**JOSEPH**, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.

**HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH**, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.

**COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS**

Parishioners have the option of making their contributions online through the following link:  
<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>

**Contributions from December 19, 2021**

Regular Collection: \$8,300.00  
Building Repair Loan: \$1520.00  
Ladies Guild Donation: \$6,500.00

**Mass Schedule for Next Weekend**

Saturday, Jan 1: 5:00pm Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Sunday, Jan 2: **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule  
9:00am, 11:30am, 3:00pm



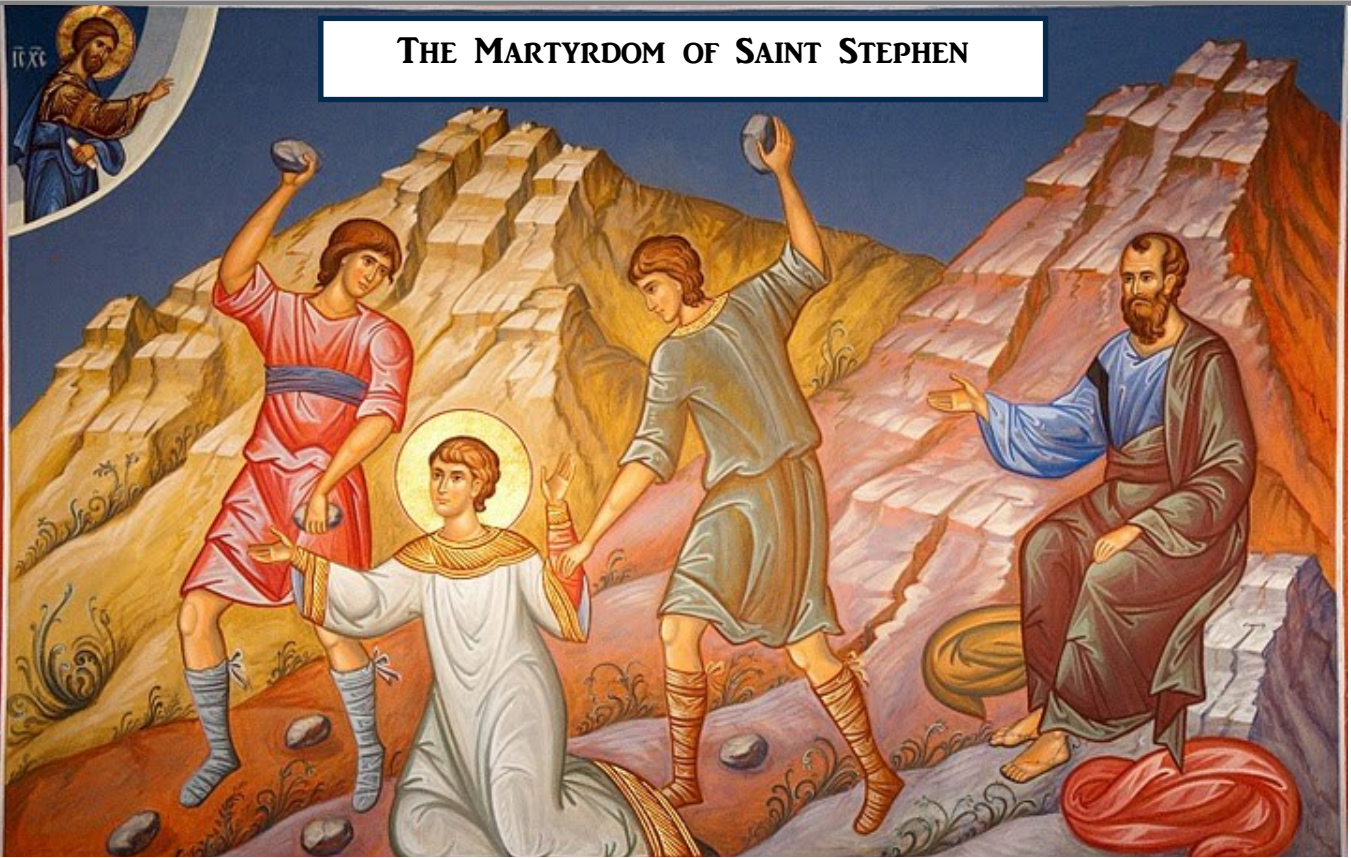
The Knights of Columbus will meet **next Sunday, January 9th** at 7:00pm. Adoration in the Chapel at 6:30pm.

**Next Sunday** is *Yokefellow Sunday*.

Our item to contribute is pancake mix and syrup.

**Submit information for the bulletin** to Penny Watkins, at [pjwlmg@gmail.com](mailto:pjwlmg@gmail.com); Deadline: 12:30pm, Wednesday before the bulletin comes out.

## THE MARTYRDOM OF SAINT STEPHEN



December 26, The Second Day of Christmas, has been observed as the Feast Day of Saint Stephen, Protomartyr, since at least the fifth century. Fulgentius of Ruspe, a North African bishop, in the following sermon, notes how fitting it is that the birthday of love should be followed by the heavenly birthday of one who died loving his enemies.

*“Yesterday we celebrated the birth in time of our eternal King. Today we celebrate the triumphant suffering of his soldier. Yesterday our king, clothed in his robe of flesh, left his place in the virgin’s womb and graciously visited the world. Today his soldier leaves the tabernacle of his body and goes triumphantly to heaven.*

*Our king, despite his exalted majesty, came in humility for our sake; yet he did not come empty-handed. He brought his soldiers a great gift that not only enriched them but also made them unconquerable in battle, for it was the gift of love, which was to bring men to share in his divinity. He gave of his bounty, yet without any loss to himself. In a marvelous way he changed into wealth the poverty of his faithful followers while remaining in full possession of his own inexhaustible riches.*

*And so the love that brought Christ from heaven to earth raised Stephen from earth to heaven; shown first in the king, it later shone forth in his soldier. Love was Stephen’s weapon by which he gained every battle, and so won the crown signified by his name. His love of God kept him from yielding to the ferocious mob; his love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him.*

*Love inspired him to reprove those who erred, to make them amend; love led him to pray for those who stoned him, to save them from punishment. Strengthened by the power of his love, he overcame the raging cruelty of Saul and won his persecutor on earth as his companion in heaven. In his holy and tireless love he longed to gain by prayer those whom he could not convert by admonition.*

*Now at last, Paul rejoices with Stephen, with Stephen he delights in the glory of Christ, with Stephen he exalts, with Stephen he reigns. Stephen went first, slain by the stones thrown by Paul, but Paul followed after, helped by the prayer of Stephen. This, surely, is the true life, my brothers, a life in which Paul feels no shame because of Stephen’s death, and Stephen delights in Paul’s companionship, for love fills them both with joy. It was Stephen’s love that prevailed over the cruelty of the mob, and it was Paul’s love that covered the multitude of his sins; it was love that won for both of them the kingdom of heaven.*

*Love, indeed, is the source of all good things; it is an impregnable defense, – and the way that leads to heaven. He who walks in love can neither go astray nor be afraid: love guides him, protects him, and brings him to his journey’s end.*

*My brothers, Christ made love the stairway that would enable all Christians to climb to heaven. Hold fast to it, therefore, in all sincerity, give one another practical proof of it, and by your progress in it, make your ascent together.”*