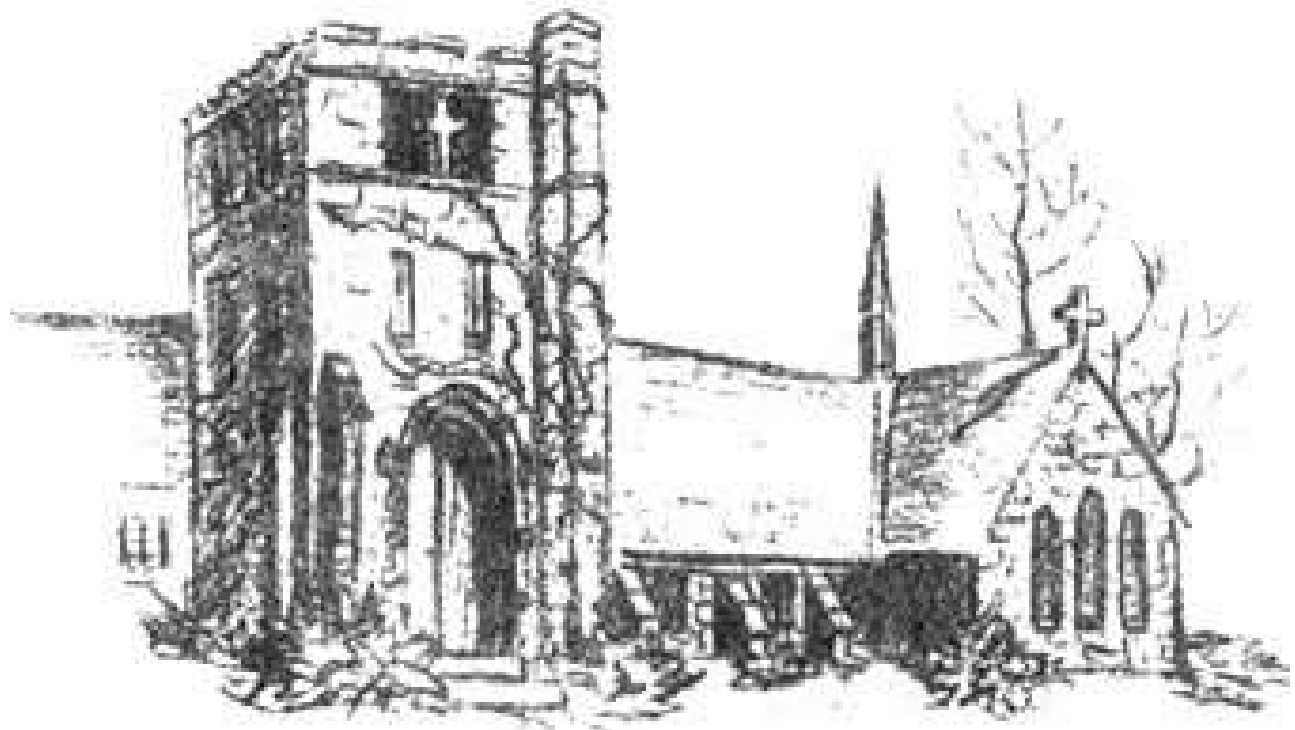


The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 31, 2025



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1935 The Plaza
Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue
Schenectady, New York 12309
518-346-6241; office@st-stephens.church

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 17
August 31, 2025

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude

Prelude in C

Bach/Gounod

The Gathering Prayer

The Processional Hymn

Hymnal #376

The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation

Page #355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Page #355

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The Gloria

Hymnal S-280

All: **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Page #233

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Sirach 10:12-18

Lector: A reading from the Book of Sirach.
The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord;
the heart has withdrawn from its Maker.
For the beginning of pride is sin,
and the one who clings to it pours out abominations.
Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of calamities,
and destroys them completely.
The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers,
and enthrones the lowly in their place.
The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations,
and plants the humble in their place.
The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations,
and destroys them to the foundations of the earth.
He removes some of them and destroys them,
and erases the memory of them from the earth.
Pride was not created for human beings,
or violent anger for those born of women.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 112

- 1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!
- 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.
- 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- 6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- 7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.
- 8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- 9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
- 10 The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Lector: A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #279

The Holy Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Celebrant: On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

Rev. Canon Richard Visconti

The Nicene Creed

Page #358

All: **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,**

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Form III

Page #387

Intercessor: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: **That we all may be one.**

Intercessor: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Intercessor: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Intercessor: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Intercessor: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Intercessor: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Intercessor: Give to the departed eternal rest.

People: **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Intercessor: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Intercessor: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Page #360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People: **Amen.**

The Peace

Page #360

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Lamb of God

Paris/Larson

Carolyn Morin, Mary Alexander, Chris Morin, Rick Morin

The Doxology

V.3, Hymnal #380

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

Page #361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Page S-129

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Page #364

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Page #364

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Lamb of God

Hymnal S-161

All: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
 have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
 have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
 grant us peace.**

The Invitation

Page #364

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

 Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by
 faith, with thanksgiving.

Celebrant/Minister: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.
 The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

The Communion Hymn

Hymnal #324

Post-Communion Prayer

Page #365

Celebrant: Let us pray.
All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
 you have graciously accepted us as living members
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
 and you have fed us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
 Send us now into the world in peace,
 and grant us strength and courage
 to love and serve you
 with gladness and singleness of heart;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

The Blessing

Celebrant: Let us bow our heads and pray for God's Blessing:

 May you have the hindsight to know where you've been. The foresight to know where
 you are going, And the insight to know when you've gone too far. And may the Blessing
 of God be ever with you: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spir-
 it.

People: **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #610

The Dismissal

Page #366

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

Fantasia

Pachelbel

* * * * *

Our Intercessions

for the week of August 31, 2025

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of South India (United).

Our Leaders: Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady.

Our Church Leaders: Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Richard Visconti, Interim Priest-in-Charge.

The Church of England and the Anglican Communion, and for discernment of members of the Crown Nomination Commission.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in need of strength and healing: Mary Ann Harrington, Marilyn Causey, Vincent Avila, Peter Nelson, Basil Dewdney, Austin Spang, Don Regula, Chris Morin, Helen Perkins, Perrin, Denise Crates, William O., Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Linda, Ann M., Billy K., and Jean V.

For all public employees that they may continue their work for justice, peace, and the common good, for those who have lost their jobs, and for all those who live in fear.

For those in the Military: Zachary.

* * * * *

Announcements

August 31, 2025

Serving Today:	Celebrant	The Rev. Canon Richard Visconti
	Altar Guild:	Mary Alexander
	Ushers/Greeters:	Marilyn Humphrey Douglas Lohnas
	Eucharistic Minister:	Allison de Kanel
	Acolyte:	George Woodzell
	Lector:	Marilyn Humphrey
	Intercessor:	Ruth Basantes
	Counter:	Bob Brockway
	Coffee Hour:	The Belardos

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Kathy Hoffmann in loving memory of her parents, Norman and Charline Hoffmann, and her mother's twin sister.

Tuesday Mornings: You are invited to join The Rev. Canon John Perris in the Vestry meeting room, Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in reading and reflecting on the coming Sunday's readings. Discussion group members decide where to begin and take turns (if they wish) in reading aloud the Sunday scriptures. No prior study is required, and you can take part on just those Tuesday mornings when you are able to come for this hour.

School Supplies: Thank you to all those who have brought in school supplies during the past month! So far we have enough to fill ten Kids Kits, with a good start on another ten. There are a few other items which will be given to a local school in September.

Sycamore Collaborative Food Pantry: If you have extra 2026 calendars, please bring them in for the guests at the pantry. They can also always use any personal care items, especially soap and body wash, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste and disposable razors.

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, September 21, immediately following the service, we will have our Beginning of the Program Year Parish Picnic. This year's picnic will be even more special as it is also Mother Lisa's official first day as our new rector, so we want to be sure to make it a special welcoming event for her and her family. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church to help with set-up, cooking, and clean-up, as well as to bring a dish to share. As usual, the church will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, cheese, rolls, condiments, beverages, and paper products. If you have any questions, please see Linda Emaelaf or Carole Merrill-Mazurek.

Texas Hill Country Flooding: Episcopal Relief & Development is working closely with partners to support people affected by the Texas flooding. Please contribute to the Flood Response Fund to help respond to immediate needs and support long-term recovery. You can find it at support.episcopalrelief.org/disasters/ or you may put a donation in the offering, marked for "Flood Response."

Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour: There are still available dates on these sign-up sheets in the nave extension for donating Altar Flowers and hosting a coffee hour. Please consider your willingness and ability to fill in one or more of the blank dates.

* * * * *

UPCOMING EVENTS

At Saint Stephen's

Sunday, 8/31, 9:30 a.m.: Pastoral Care Committee meeting today following the service.

Tuesday, 9/2, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

Thursday, 9/4, 7:00 p.m.: Chancel Choir rehearsal.

Sunday, 9/7, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Monday, 9/8, 7:00 p.m.: Vestry Meeting.

Tuesday, 9/9, 2:00 p.m.: September Book Club meeting.

10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

Sunday, 9/14, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Canon Richard's last Sunday with us.

Monday, 9/15, 7:00 p.m.: Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 9/16, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

Wednesday, 9/17, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.: Schenectady Clergy against Hate – Vestry meeting room.

Sunday, 9/21, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Mtr. Lisa Busby's first Sunday with us.

Fall Parish Picnic following the service.

Tuesday, 9/23, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

Sunday, 9/28, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Service Committee meeting in the Youth Lounge following the service.

Tuesday, 9/30, 10:00 a.m.: Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

* * * * *

Church Staff & Lay Leaders:

Rev. Can. Richard Visconti, Interim Priest-in-Charge

George Woodzell, Senior Warden

Carole Merrill-Mazurek, Junior Warden

Susan Lohnas, Organist

Douglas Lohnas, Director of the Choir

Jon Ewbank, Office Manager

Denise Crates, Treasurer

Theresa Fay, Clerk

Vestry

Ruth Basantes

Denise Crates

Basil Dewdney

Linda Emaclaf

Vicki Hoshko

Stan Jakubowski

Deborah O'Connor

Jean Stefanski

Welcome!

We are glad you have chosen to worship and give thanks to God with us.

WORSHIP: The Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Join us for refreshments most Sundays in Begley Hall after our service.

Members of the parish offer Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please contact the church office for the link.

Other services are announced.

HYMNS: Our hymns are posted on hymn boards and are listed in our bulletin. They are drawn from the blue *Hymnal* and the black-and-red *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. "Service music," indicated with an "S" before the number, comes at the beginning of the *Hymnal*. Hymns come in the second section. Hymns from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* are preceded by an "LEV."

CHILDREN: We are delighted to have children of all ages and love hearing their voices. We offer a children's sermon when children are present and post a brief children's message each week on our website. The greeters can give them an activity pack. There is a nursery with toys and a comfortable chair if you would like to take a break from the service with your child or find a quiet place to nurse. In the Episcopal Church it is customary for parents to determine the appropriate age for children to take communion. We can always offer "first communion" instruction to you/your children.

COMMUNION: All baptized persons may receive Holy Communion. If you do not wish to take the bread (wafer) or the wine, place your arms across your chest and a member of the clergy will ask God's blessing upon you and on any children not yet receiving communion. If you would like the elements brought to your seat, please speak with a greeter.

FOR THOSE WITH ALLERGIES: If you would like to receive communion wafers that are gluten-wheat-yeast-dairy-egg-soy-nut- and corn-free at Communion, please ask for one from the ministers distributing communion.

OFFERTORY: During the offertory, the greeters take up a collection for funds which support the church and our various ministries. Many people pledge annual support, which is helpful in developing our budget. All contributions are welcomed.

MASKS: The use of masks is optional. The greeters can provide you with one if you like.

CONVERSATION / PASTORAL VISITS are available. Please contact the Parish Office.

MEMBERSHIP: We welcome visitors from other churches as well as those for whom church is a new experience. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to talk with you about becoming a member. Please speak with a warden or fill out a pew card for someone to contact you.

LABYRINTH: Our labyrinth, in the courtyard between the church and Begley Hall, is an adaptation of the millennia-old classical type. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path in and out; there are no tricks or dead ends. The path winds from the exterior to the center and can become a mirror for our journey of life, touching our sorrows and releasing our joys. Walk it with an open mind and an open heart. Instructions are available at the back of the church.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: Please be in touch with the parish office if you have suggestions for this ministry.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Prayer request sheets can be found on the lectern in the back of the church. You can place anyone on our "Prayer Chain" by contacting Suzanne Taylor at popage@aol.com or by contacting the parish office. Please get the permission of those you add for their names to be used. We will include your request for four weeks in our services of Morning Prayer and count on you to keep us updated.

COMMUNICATION: You may contact us at 518-346-6241 (Office Phone); office@st-stephens.church (e-mail); <https://st-stephens.church> (website); and <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephensSchenectady>. The Parish Office is generally open Mondays-Fridays from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Rev. Can. Richard Visconti can be contacted at 518-637-7736 or rvisconti@st-stephens.church.