

December 13, 2024

The third Sunday of Advent is "Gaudete Sunday," and this Sunday we will light the Advent wreath rose candle that represents joy over the coming of Christmas. After church, we'll gather in the Parish Hall from 11:30-12:30 to sing carols and enjoy a soup lunch.





Thank you to those who have volunteered to bring soup and to help set up before the 10:00 service. Please contact **Jennifer Gary** to help out. If you can contribute other items, **please bring the following based on your last name:**

A-G: beverage

H-P: bread or crackers O-Z: salad or fruit

Contributions for Christmas Greens and Flowers

St. Stephen's parishioners have a tradition of supporting the Flower Fund during Advent. Your contributions help make our **Christmas decorations a glorious expression** of God's abundance and love.

If you would like to contribute to the Flower Fund, please turn in **this form** by **December 20th**. Drop a check payable to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church with "Christmas Greens/Flower Fund" in the memo line either in the offering plate or the mail. You can also email **Laura Lambert.**



Greening of the Church

Please help with the annual greening of the church for Christmas after coffee hour on Sunday, December 22! It should take about an hour. Volunteers welcome! Several groups will be doing tasks and more hands are welcome. Bring gloves. Questions? Call Debby Kearnes at 206-612-3857.

Community Updates



Organist Howard Wolvington to Retire: Our fantastic organist, Howard Wolvington has decided to re-retire and move to Nevada; his last service with us will be Christmas Eve, We will celebrate his ministry among us at coffee hour on Sunday, December 22. Howard and his daughter Sandra are planning special music on the 22nd as well.

Christmas Cheer: Last Sunday, the parish gathered to write Christmas cards and enclose gift cards for our neighbors at Sand Point Community Housing. Thanks to the generous contributions of 42 Fred Meyer cards from the community, St. Stephen's provided 50 gifts of good cheer. Many thanks to all who participated!





St. Stephen's at Zoo Lights: The outing to Woodland Park Zoo's WildLanterns on December 3 was a great success -- thanks to Jennifer Gary and Kathy Graunke for organizing! To learn more about this Seattle tradition, click **here**.

Annual Meeting: Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 26 after church**, approximately 11:15. We will be electing new vestry members and delegates to convention as well as reviewing all the new beginnings of this year. Please contact **Rev. Jennifer** if you would like to learn more about those roles. Mark your calendar!

Phishing Alert: Several parishioners were contacted this week by someone claiming to be Rev. Jennifer, asking for gift cards. Please know **the church will never ask you for your credit card info or an urgent purchase**. Learn more about avoiding phishing scams **here**. If you're ever in doubt about an email, contact Rev. Jennifer ASAP.

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm Carol Sing and Choral Music

Come sing some favorite Christmas carols and enjoy beautiful music offered by the St. Stephen's Choir

4:30 pm. Celebration of the Nativity and Holy Eucharist

Hear the Christmas Story and share in Holy Communion with your faith community

There is no service at St. Stephen's on Christmas Day. Saint Mark's Cathedral offers a Festal Eucharist with Carols at 10 am. More information **here**.



Coming Up at St. Stephen's

Sundays 10:00am Holy Eucharist (Nave/Church) and Coffee Hour (Parish Hall) Sundays 3:00pm Youth Group Food Program (Narthex) Wednesdays 6:30pm Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall)

December 15 11:30 Carol Sing and Advent Party (Parish Hall)

December 24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Carol Sing (Nave)

December 24 4:30 pm Celebration of the Nativity and Holy Eucharist (Nave)

The Rev. Jennifer King Daugherty (206) 331-2364

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