

December 19, 2025



Greetings for the Fourth Week of Advent!

The last week of Advent invites us to **open our hearts** to the abiding Love that comes at Christmas so we can **show that Love in our own lives** -- generously, compassionately, and courageously. Please consider these opportunities to **share your lives and blessings with others**; more information is below.

- Support the **Christmas Flower Fund** in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for the blessings of your life.
- Donate \$25 gift cards for Christmas to our **neighbors at Magnusson Park**.
- Donate blankets for **teens who live with housing insecurity**.
- Lend aid to those impacted by last week's **catastrophic flooding** in Western Washington.

Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#56 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#53 Once he came in blessing

#73 The king shall come

#57 Lo! He comes



Christmas Greens and Flowers



Greening of the Church

Deadline Sunday, December 21

Support the **Flower Fund** in memory of loved ones and/or in thanksgiving for the blessings of our lives.

To contribute, **fill out this online form or turn in this paper form no later than Sunday, December 21st.** You can **pay online here** and choose "Give to Flower Donations," or write a check to St. Stephen's with "Christmas Greens" in the memo line.

Monday, December 22 at 9 am

Come be part of the annual greening of the church for Christmas on Monday, December 22 from 9 am to noon.

Volunteers welcome! Several groups will be doing tasks and more hands are welcome. Bring gloves.

Questions? Call Debby Kearnes at 206-612-3857.



December 24: Christmas Eve Services

4:30 pm Carol Sing

Welcome Christmas as we sing our favorite carols

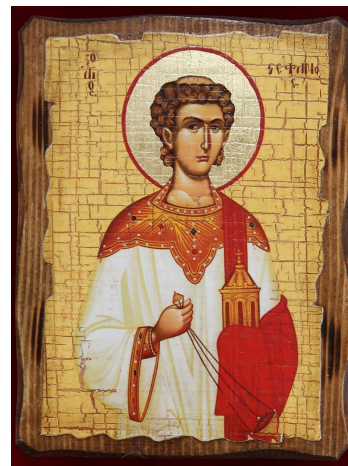
5:00 pm Celebration of the Nativity and Holy Eucharist

Rejoice that Christ is born and share in Holy Communion

December 28: Feast of St. Stephen with Bishop's Visitation

On Sunday, December 28, we welcome **Bishop Phil LaBelle for a rich time of celebration and blessing.** We will honor our **patron saint's** feast day (December 26) and members of the parish will receive the **sacraments** of confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation of faith.

A festive brunch is planned for after church; **Jennifer Gary is looking for helpers to bring food.** Please contact her at jennifer_gary@comcast.net.



Outreach at St. Stephen's

Blankets for Teen Feed: Please help Teen Feed support youth in our community beyond just meals but with blankets for the many teens who experience housing insecurity. Please **bring new or gently used blankets to church** for delivery to Teen Feed; contact **Beth Cogan** with questions.



Gift Cards for Solid Ground: Help our neighbors at Magnusson Park celebrate the holidays by providing **Amazon and Target gift cards in \$25 denominations.** Please **bring the gift cards to church;** Beth Cogan and Jack Irby will deliver them on December 15th and 22nd.



Flooding Across Western Washington: Please assist the many people and parishes who are impacted by the **catastrophic flooding in Western Washington**. You can support Episcopal Relief and Development's relief work **here**. Specify "flood relief" in the donation designation box.



Sunday Forum: Community, Contemplation, and Action (CCA)

January 11, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

Weekly Contemplative Prayer and Community

Tuesdays, 10:00 am in the Parish Hall and 7:00 pm on Zoom



Join your community and Elizabeth Clark-Stern to **learn about a new weekly group** designed to **deepen our connection** to each other and to God, and **create a confidential space** for sharing our challenges, joys, and ideas about our calling. Inspired by the program innovated by Richard Rohr, this Forum will offer a sampling of the weekly practices of CCA, including some gentle Thai Chi and a 10 minute Centering Prayer. Beginning January 13, **the group will meet each Tuesday** at 10:00 in the Parish Hall and 7:00 pm on Zoom.



Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector

Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 pm, in the Nave

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 25 -- **a very special evening of celebration and blessing!** Bishop Phil LaBelle will be present at St. Stephen's as we renew the mutual ministry of all the people in our community and institute Rev. Jennifer as the next rector of the parish. The bishop will also **bless our new preschool**, Laurelhurst Early Learning and give **thanks for the leadership and generosity of Cloud 9**.

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Community Bulletin Board

Monday, December 22: The Parish Hall refrigerator will be cleared out and cleaned on Monday, December. Once the preschool is up and running, the refrigerator will be needed for storing student lunches and snacks until a second refrigerator can be ordered and installed. Please take any items that are yours out of the refrigerator before Monday.

Wednesday, January 14: Our own Elizabeth Clark-Stern will read from her new novel, *The House in the Ebony Tree* at Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park. Inspired by events in her own life, the story follows the life-long friendship of a Black girl and a white girl who meet in Mississippi in 1955. More details **here**.

As the Salmon Run: Watch a recording of Elizabeth Clark-Stern's new play **here**.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Greenlake is looking for **help in their nursery** on Sunday mornings. Learn more about the job **here**.

Coming Up at St. Stephen's

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

December 24 4:30 pm Carol Sing (Nave)
December 24 5:00 pm Feast of the Nativity -- Holy Eucharist (Nave)
December 28 10:00 am Bishop Phil Labelle Visitation (Nave)
January 11 10:00 am Forum on Community, Contemplation, and Action (Parish Hall)
January 13 10:00 am Community, Contemplation and Action (Parish Hall)
January 13 7:00 pm Community, Contemplation and Action (Zoom link to come)
February 25 6:30 pm Renewal of Ministry with Welcoming of a New Rector (Nave)

The Rev. Jennifer King Daugherty, Rector
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RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org

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