

December 26, 2025



Merry Christmas!

Our **Christmas Eve celebration was full of joy and beauty** -- thank you to all for your loving care and leadership for the altar, flowers, music, welcome, liturgy and more!

*Whichever way we turn, O God, there is Your face
in the light of the moon and patterns of stars,
in sacred mountain rifts and ancient groves,
in mighty seas and creatures of the deep.*

*Whichever way we turn, O God, there is Your face
in the light of eyes we love,
in the salt of tears we have tasted,
in weathered countenances east and west,
in the soft skin glow of the child everywhere.*

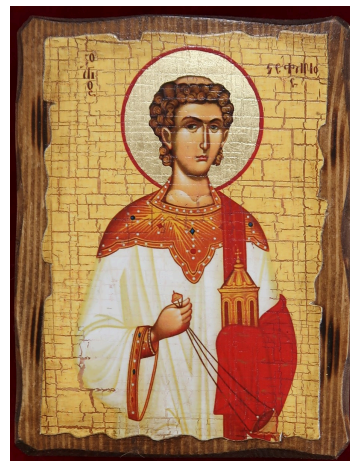
*Whichever way we turn, O God, there is Your face,
there is Your face
among us.*

John Philip Newell

This Sunday: Feast of St. Stephen with Bishop's Visitation!

This 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.



Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#89 It came upon the midnight clear

#653 Dear Lord and Father

#692 I heard the voice of Jesus say

#287 For all the saints



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.

Outreach at St. Stephen's

Social Justice Forum -- Sunday, January 25, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

Come learn more about the needs of our community and the work that **Teen Feed** and **Roots Shelter** are doing to care for our neighbors. Thank you to Beth Cogan for organizing this important event!

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.

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.



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.

Community Bulletin Board

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**.

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 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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