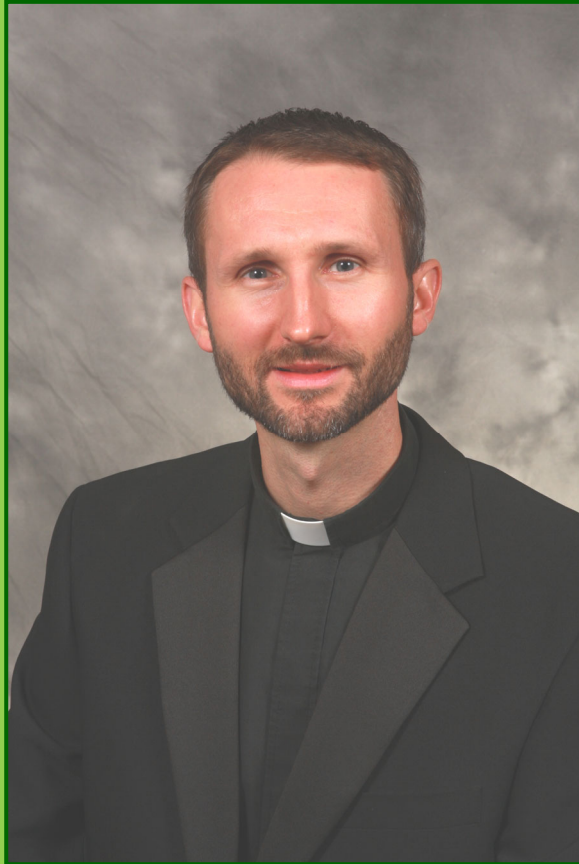


*St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr
Catholic Church*

*17500 84th Avenue, Tinley Park, Illinois 60487
708-342-2400*



Fr. Michael Wyrzykowski



Fr. Robert Stuglik

**WE WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR,
FR. MICHAEL WYRZYKOWSKI
AND OUR NEW ASSOCIATE, PASTOR
FR. ROBERT STUGLIK,
TO SAINT STEPHEN'S !**

Blessings to You All!

As I send my greetings and take this opportunity to share a bit of my own past as a means of introduction, I would like to first express my joy and excitement in joining this wonderful parish family here at *St. Stephen Deacon and Martyr Church*. As the weeks and months unfold, I am truly looking forward to coming to know you and journeying with you as we gather for prayer and worship. I am also very grateful to Fr. Tom Bernas for his hard work and years of dedication to this parish and for his guidance to me as I make this transition.

My past begins all the way in Poland. I was born in the town of Szczecin (northwestern part of Poland). I came to the United States with my family at the age of ten. First, we lived in Chicago but then moved to Addison, IL. My mom Wieslawa and my dad Marcin still reside there. My sister Dorothy and her husband Witek have three lovely little children: Julia, Joseph, and Victoria. They live in Chicago and Dorothy is a teacher at the *Saint Luke Catholic School* in River Forest.

Before entering the seminary, I worked as a warehouse manager but my heart was already in the Catholic Church. I was involved with the young adult and music ministry at my home parish, *Holy Trinity Church* on Noble Street in Chicago. Also, I was part of the Archdiocesan lay ministry formation program titled *Together in God's Service*. Ultimately, discerning a call to priesthood, I entered *Mundelein Seminary* in 2008 and was ordained a priest on May 17, 2014.

My first three years as a priest (2014-2017) I served as an associate pastor at *Saint Ferdinand Church* in Chicago, a bilingual (English / Polish) and vibrant community with two schools, two religious programs, and many other initiatives. I was blessed to be part of this rich community of faith and serve as their priest and chaplain.

My next four years of priesthood (2017-2021) involved serving as pastor at *Our Lady of Victory Church* in Chicago, another remarkable community of faith. One of our focuses was the revitalization of various ministry initiatives and spiritual life of the parish. This included emphasis on the devotional life, the formation of young family ministry, the Eucharistic Adoration Center, parish formation sessions and other undertakings. Yet the reality of challenges presented by our modern culture and increasing secularization continued to take its toll. Through the *Renew My Church* initiative, ultimately the decision was made that *Our Lady of Victory* together with *St. Paschal* and *St. Bartholomew*, will become one parish starting July 1st, 2021.

Just to give you a little bit of an insight on the things that I like to do in my free time, I truly enjoy nature and the outdoors, in particular I love the mountains. Now having said that, unfortunately Chicagoland is very flat, but on rare occasions when I get to travel, I love spending time in the mountains hiking, climbing, skiing, or camping. One of my most cherished mountaineering trips involved a ten-day attempt at climbing Mt. Denali in Alaska. Also, more at home, I really enjoy getting out on my bike, mostly on the bike trails nearby, and occasionally off-road as well. Finally, since last year, I got involved a bit with astronomy and star gazing. It's worth mentioning, another great thing about Tinley Park, it has darker sky than Chicago, and many more stars can be watched through a telescope on a clear night. I am looking forward to that.

Dear friends, once again, I feel very blessed and fortunate that God's providence has led our paths cross at this time. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you better. I am also excited to work together with Fr. Robert Stuglik. Together as your priests, we want to journey and grow with you, and foster a deepening in connection to Christ, our Lord and Savior.

In Christ,

Fr. Michael Wypychanski



Greetings,

My name is Fr. Robert Stuglik, but most people just call me Fr. Bob. It is very nice to meet you. As we begin our time together, I ask that you please pray for me, as I pray for you.

Let me take a moment to briefly introduce myself. My parents are from Poland, and they immigrated here to Chicago. I have one older brother, Fr. Stan (who is also a priest and was ordained a priest after me). Both my brother and I were born on the southwest side of Chicago. Later, I grew up in Alsip and Orland Park. I attended public school for elementary and junior high school. Afterwards, I attended Marist High School. When I finished Marist, I attended St. Joseph College Seminary, on the campus of Loyola University. After graduating from St. Joseph College Seminary, I attended Mundelein Seminary. I was ordained a priest in 2003. Following my ordination, I was assigned as the associate pastor at St Damian Catholic Church, in Oak Forest, from 2003-2009.



In 2009, I was assigned as pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church, in Summit, a little west of Midway airport. At the time, I was the youngest pastor in the Archdiocese of Chicago. St. Joseph Church is a trilingual parish, serving parishioners in English, Polish, and Spanish. I have been serving as pastor at St. Joseph from 2009-2021. The last nine years at St. Joseph, I have been by myself as the only priest at the parish, serving the trilingual parish. Being pastor of a trilingual parish is kind of like juggling three balls at once. Another familiar example you may relate to is being a parent of three children. That's what being a pastor at a trilingual parish is like: every ethnic group has their own particular needs, wants, complaints, etc. As pastor, you try to serve each group and make everyone feel and be part of one parish family, but it is not easy. This past year has been very challenging, as it has been for all you as well. St. Joseph had a parish school since 1913, but this past year, the Archdiocese made the decision to close the school finally in June 2021. The outbreak of the Covid pandemic presented new and different challenges to lead and care for the parish.

At the same time, beginning in fall 2020, the Archdiocese activated our parish, one year earlier, in Renew My Church. As a result of the initial Renew My Church process, the Archdiocese announced the decision to unite St. Joseph Church and St. Blase Church as one new parish, utilizing both building as worship sites. After serving as pastor of a trilingual parish for twelve years, mostly by myself, in addition to working through the school closure, parish merger, and the pandemic all at the same time in the past year, in consultation with the Archdiocese, I decided to step back from being a pastor for a while.

So, that brings me to now, that brings me here, to all of you. I like nature and being outdoors. I am a fisherman and enjoy fishing, especially Musky and northern pike fishing up in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. (Please share with me your best lakes/spots, I will keep it secret like Confession). I enjoy working with growing things in the garden, walks outside, and star gazing at night/astronomy. I enjoy reading, especially works by J.R.R. Tolkien. Finally, I am a big baseball fan, especially for the best team in the MLB and in Chicago: the Chicago Cubs!

Once again, it is very nice to be here with all of you. I look forward to being your parish priest with Fr. Michael, praying with you, and sharing Christ's grace with you and your families. May the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph be with you and your loved ones!

Vivat Jesus! Live Jesus!

Fr. Bob

Novena for America

Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, Intercede for us, your children in America, as we pray for our nation, our military, and our families.

We pray for our government leaders, that they will make just decisions and govern us in accordance with truth and the principles upon which our nation was founded.

We ask protection for those serving in the military and for our first responders. Bless them and their families as they sacrifice themselves to keep us safe.

We pray for our families. In a culture that seeks to destroy the morals and values upon which this country was founded, may our families be united in faith and charity.

Reclaim this great country for your Son's glory, that under His protection and guidance, we may stand together as a people of faith and trust in Him for the changes we seek.

Amen.



Registration for our Religious Education Classes are now being accepted.

The St. Stephen Parish Religious Education Program assists parents with the sacred responsibility of educating their children in the Catholic faith. The passing on of our Catholic Faith and traditions is the key focus of our Religious Education (RE) program. We see our mission as supportive to families as they raise their children in the Catholic faith.

Classes are set to begin Monday September 13, 2021.

- In Person Classes will be offered on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Sunday classes will also be offered if the minimum of 10 students per classroom is met.

- Family Catechesis (Home Study) is available for grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 only)

- Students preparing for Sacraments (grades 1, 2, 7, and 8) must attend in person classes.

- Families are encouraged and expected to attend Mass each weekend.

For students preparing for Sacraments, there is a two year minimum of preparation in keeping with Archdiocesan policies. Families will receive a supplemental calendar outlining what is required. This calendar is provided during the academic year in which the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation will be celebrated.

Our RE classes are small with trained, dedicated, volunteer catechists who give generously of their time. We are always looking for additional catechists and catechist aides to serve full time or to serve as a substitute.

Virtus training (a free, 3 hour course required by the Archdiocese for the protection of children) is required as well as a criminal background check and other compliance items. For more information, please contact Dee at 708-342-1544 or by email her at dee@ststephentinley.com

Feast of Faith

Little Mysteries

Two small rites—or, as one liturgist has called them, “little mysteries”—accompany the preparation of the gifts. The priest or deacon takes a small cruet of water from the server and adds a drop of water to the wine. Then, after the elevation of the chalice (and the incensation, if incense is used), the priest washes his hands. Both of these actions were at first practical, matter-of-fact realities: in the ancient world the wine was usually quite thick, and was generally mixed with water before it was drunk. And in the early church, when the faithful brought forward a great variety of gifts at this time, there was a definite need for the presider to wash his hands! But now these rites serve a purely symbolic function. The mingling of the water and wine is accompanied by a prayer that speaks of the wonderful exchange of the Mass, the mingling of Christ’s divinity and our humanity. And as the priest washes his hands, he prays words of supplication from Psalm 51, acknowledging his own sinfulness in the presence of the assembly before he dares to approach the altar for this most sacred action.
—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



No Bad News

There are many times when we say, “Tell me what I want to hear, and don’t confuse me with facts.” And we don’t take kindly to someone who might be bold enough to snuff out our expectations.

The biggest problem with such an attitude is not that we miss out on the truth or the facts, but that we miss out on the new and surprising gifts others can give us. Like the townspeople in today’s Gospel story, we too often refuse to allow others to display the talents that can be good news for us.

Today’s readings call for hospitality and faith and discernment. Hospitality opens the doors of our hearts and minds to the “stranger” among us, no matter how familiar he or she may seem to be. Faith enables us to accept the gifts of others, no matter how alarming or “strange” they may seem to be. Discernment helps us discover the prophets in our midst, no matter how amazing they may seem to be. Hospitality, faith, and discernment—cultivate these. Then, nobody can bring bad news.

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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gn 28:10-22a; Ps 91:1-4, 14-15ab; Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday:	Gn 32:23-33; Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b, 15; Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday:	Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19; Mt 10:1-7
Thursday:	Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 10:7-15
Friday:	Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mt 10:16-23
Saturday:	Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Ps 105:1-4, 6-7; Mt 10:24-33
Sunday:	Am 7:12-15; Ps 85:9-14; Eph 1:3-14 [1:3-10]; Mk 6:7-13

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Independence Day
Monday:	St. Anthony Zaccaria; St. Elizabeth of Portugal
Tuesday:	St. Maria Goretti
Friday:	St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions
Saturday:	Blessed Virgin Mary

Our Lord prefers to wait himself for the sinner for years rather than keep us waiting an instant.

St. Maria Goretti
Young Italian girl who refused to submit to the impure advances of a boy and prayed for him and forgave him even after he stabbed her.

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Today’s Readings

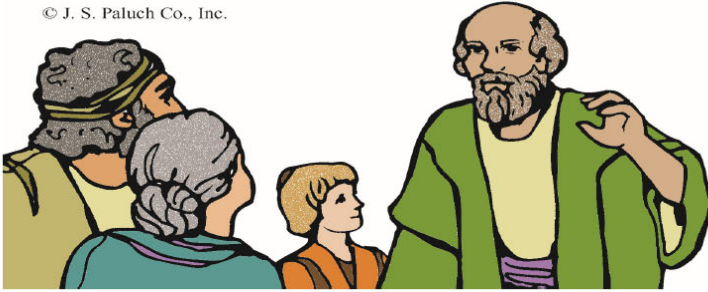
First Reading — They shall know that a prophet has been among them (Ezekiel 2:2-5).

Psalm — Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy (Psalm 123).

Second Reading — I am content with weaknesses and hardships for the sake of Christ (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Gospel — “Where did this man get all this? Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary?” (Mark 6:1-6a).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 4, 2021

My grace is sufficient for you, for power
is made perfect in weakness.

— 2 Corinthians 12:9

Idleness

Idleness is the enemy of the soul.

—St. Benedict

The Shape Of Things

We cannot help conforming ourselves to what we love.

—St. Francis de Sales

Treasures From Our Tradition

The American summer is officially underway, and people are on the move. Signs of hospitality are everywhere. In today's Gospel, Jesus' visit home is hardly marked by hospitality. He goes up to the bema, the elevated place for solemn public reading of the Torah, and his message is poorly received. Today, we read from the descendant of the bema, the ambo, almost an "altar of the Word of God." Many ancient ambos are preserved in Italy, decorated with marble, ivory, precious metal, and jewels. Six hundred years ago, the pulpit came into use, meant for preaching rather than proclamation of scripture. Before microphone systems, pulpits were often located halfway down the church, amid the gathered people, and not so clearly associated with the altar.

Today, the ambo (the plural is "ambone"!) is an expected feature of our worship spaces because the Word is once again proclaimed to the people. Before 1964, typically the readings were done quietly by the priest at the altar in Latin, and optionally repeated in English from the pulpit. With the restored place of scripture in our worship, a beautiful and worthy ambo, related in design to the altar table, has once again become a prominent and familiar feature of Catholic architecture.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Strength in Weakness

Is Paul serious? Can you imagine being content with "weaknesses, insults, hardships, and persecutions?" (2Cor 12:10) Paul never specifies what that "thorn in the flesh" was. I used to think it referred to a physical weakness, or disability. But some of the commentaries I've read say that it was a person who opposed Paul (think of a "thorn in my side.") That opponent may have been a Christian who Paul did not want to mention by name. Paul could have been proud of all that God revealed to him, and of all that he accomplished in spreading the gospel. He sees that "thorn" as God's way of keeping him humble. So instead he boasts about his weaknesses. He knows that all the good work he has done have been accomplished by Christ. So he accepted suffering, rejection, setbacks and persecution because they helped him see how much Christ was doing through him.

We can learn a lot from St. Paul. Remember how Jesus said to love your neighbor as yourself. Paul loved himself in the good sense of accepting his faults and weaknesses. He was always aware that he once persecuted Christians. But that fault enabled him to experience God's forgiveness. I usually try to avoid doing things that show my weaknesses. That means I might miss a chance to see how God can help. Suppose you don't know how to swim, so you stay out of swimming pools. Of course, then you could never learn to swim. But if you get in the water and let someone teach you, you might just find yourself liking the water.

St. Paul says that when he is weak, then he is strong. He knows that God will still work through him, showing God's power to heal the sick and draw converts to Christ, in spite of Paul's weaknesses. Paul did what he could to encourage others to follow Jesus, but he knew the results of his preaching and healing were up to God.

When you think that you would fail at spreading the faith, remember Paul and give your weaknesses to God. Then see what he can do!

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And you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God."
 As for them, whether they listen or not
 -for they are a rebellious house-they will know
 that a prophet has been among them. Ez 2:4-5

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CATHOLIC CORNER

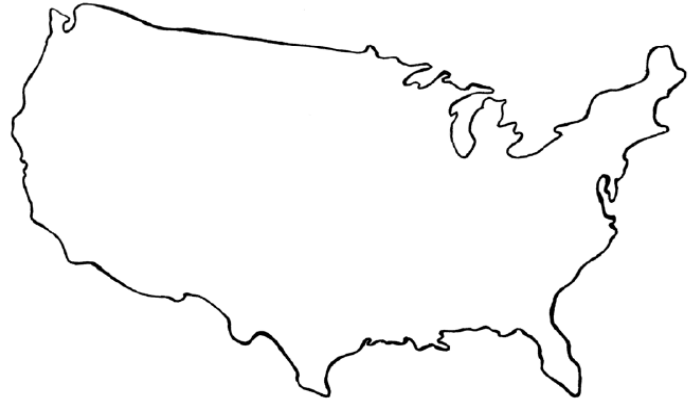
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

On July 4, Americans celebrate Independence Day, when we give thanks for our country and the blessings and freedoms we share as citizens.

In 1895, a woman named Katharine Lee Bates published a poem entitled "America the Beautiful" in an issue of *The Congregationalist*. Over the years she made changes and revisions to her work, and finally in 1926 it was set to music and became the song we know today.

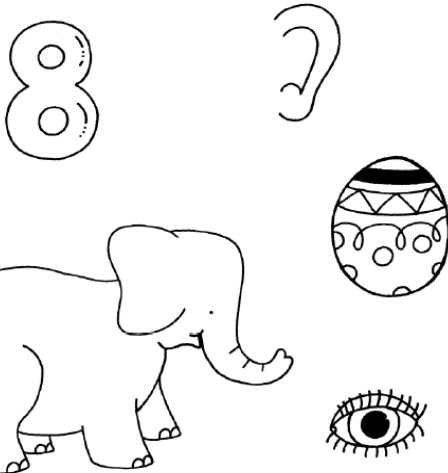
Ms. Bates recognized the beauty of our country and included what she saw in her poem. She wrote of "amber waves of grain," "purple mountains," and "fruited plains." She made reference to pilgrims, heroes, patriots, and gleaming cities. She ended many verses with a prayer that God would shed grace on our land.

These are beautiful thoughts to remember on our nation's birthday. In this map, write some of the beautiful things you love about our country. Then, like Katharine Lee Bates, say a prayer that God will continue to bless us with freedom and peace. Perhaps your family can sing this song together sometime during the day.



God's Word for Children

God told a prophet that he would be sent to the Israelite people to warn them not to turn away from God. Look at the pictures below and decide which letter they start with. Then write that letter into the empty circles. The circles will spell the name of the prophet who heard the voice of God.



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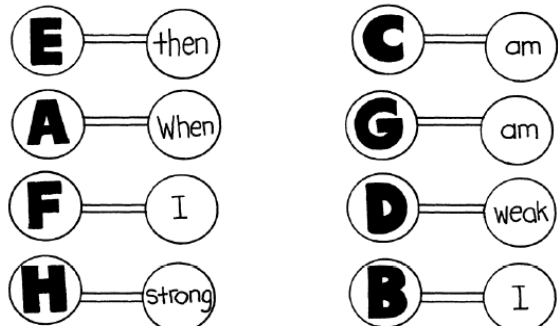


Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

When we are sick, discouraged, or in a bad situation, we can always depend on God.

God will always give us the strength to get through whatever comes our way.

Read these barbells in alphabetical order to see how Paul said this (2 Corinthians 12:10).



A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____
 E _____ F _____ G _____ H _____



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