

A quarterly publication of the
St. Stephen Cathedral parish



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and more!

Meet James Wells

Our new music minister at St. Stephen Cathedral

James is an OCHS (class of 2010), Brescia University, Kentucky Wesleyan College alum. He graduated in 2014 from KWC with a BA of Music in Organ Performance. James and his wife Madison met at KWC and were married in 2014. She is the music teacher at Cravens Elementary school. *Here are 10 things you should know about James.*

1 Pets: We have two dogs - Cujo, a yorkiepoo, and Daisy, a lab/chow mix.

2 Favorite piece to play: *Sweet Sixteenths*, a piece by William Albright, a 20th Century composer of keyboard music. It is a rag that was originally written for piano then transcribed for organ. The reason I like it is because it is a fun piece and is written in a style rarely heard performed on the organ.

3 Favorite instrument: A few years ago, I was very drawn to the organ. That is why I decided to pursue it as my area of study in college and later my career. There just aren't any other instruments that can do what the organ does.

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"I never thought I would have an opportunity to serve at a Cathedral Parish in my lifetime without having to move across the country. I feel like it was a call from God."

Meet James Wells

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4 Favorite music genre (or singer/group):

I am a huge fan of 'classical music.' Some of my favorite music comes out of the Romantic Period, particularly the works of Brahms and Mendelssohn.

5 Reason you went into music ministry:

I've always been interested in church music. My dad began singing in the choir at Sts. Joseph and Paul when I was young, so I was always involved in a small way through his participation. I had the opportunity to work with multiple church musicians and realized that it might be my calling to use the gifts God had given me to help others pray through song.

6 Why St Stephen's?:

Big opportunities don't come around often. My wife has a great job as a music teacher in the Owensboro Public School System with a lot of support and loves what she does. Jobs like that don't come around very often (especially in music). I never thought I would have an opportunity to serve at a Cathedral Parish in my lifetime without having to move across the country. I feel like it was a call from God.

7 Goals for St Stephen's:

As the mother church for the Diocese of Owensboro, I think a good goal is to have a music ministry that can be looked up to and serve as a model.

8 Hobby/-ies:

In my free time, I love to play golf. I'm not very good at it, but it always brings me great joy and peace. I also love to read and collect books.

9 Item you should throw away, but probably never will:

Well, this is a difficult question because, if I haven't thrown it away, I probably don't think I need to. If I had to pick something, it would be some old magazines that I've saved because I might reference them later (I never do, of course).

10 Something fun about yourself that most people don't know:

I play the accordion.



May Crowning

"Hail Holy Queen enthroned above, Oh Maria"!! With May being the month dedicated to our Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, St. Stephen Cathedral parish honored Mother Mary by crowning her on the 1st Sunday of May. All the first holy communicants wore their first holy communion dress and the confirmation candidates recited a decade of the Rosary.



Have You Been Called?

By Joan Perry



St. Stephen was the first martyr who ministered to the poor and disenfranchised. The Stephen Ministry chose its name because of the work that Stephen, one of the first deacons of the Church, was called to do. He extended himself out to those people who needed to feel the love of Christ through a warm-blooded human being who cared for them. We are now being called not only by Jesus Christ but also by our Pope Francis, Jesus' representative in the world today. Both are telling us that we must focus on the people of God who are going through a crisis in life. St. Stephen Cathedral is offering you a chance to answer this call in the Stephen Ministry. A non-threatening,

confidential, assertive listening that you can be trained to do. Do not be afraid that you "think" you cannot do it because the Holy Spirit will gift you this ability. Notify Joan Perry or Donna Murphy if you wish to minister to other parishioners in this way. Call us at 270-852-8421 or 270-852-8424. Allow the Holy Spirit to work through you and you will notice that you will receive much more than you give! We would like to begin classes around Advent time. Pray to the Holy Spirit to discern this Stephen Ministry call. "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" Galatians 6:2

Rosary Making

A group of 8 people from St. Stephen Cathedral, namely Doreen Harney, Bridgette Whittinghill, Karen Howard, Don/Mary Houle, Amy Payne, Vickie Davis, Kathleen Johnson and Donna Murphy, makes rosaries periodically to give to the needy. Recently they made 600 rosaries for all those people who came for the Vocare Dinner hosted by the Diocese.



Photo by Elizabeth Barnstead



Doreen Harney teaching Kathleen Johnson how to make rosaries.

The Rose Window

By Fr. Jerry Riney

Words are not adequate to express my gratitude to all who helped to celebrate my 40th anniversary of ordination as a priest on August 9, 2015, at St. Stephen Cathedral. The vibrant Mass was followed by an elegant dinner, a memorable video, toasts (and roasts!) galore—and all with such a joyful spirit. Even before processing up the aisle with my family, Pastoral Council members, and my brother priests, I was deeply moved to see so many people who had touched my life over those 40 years and to hear the beautiful music created by the joining of the voices of music ministers from St. Thomas More Parish in Paducah, Holy Spirit Parish in Bowling Green, and the St. Stephen Cathedral Choir.

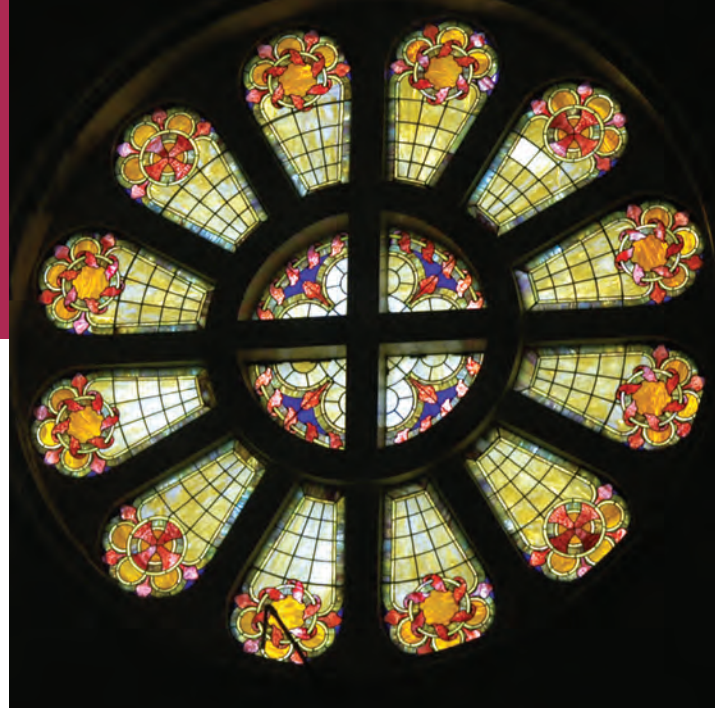
My homily on that grand day focused on the Cathedral's Rose Window. Facing East, it sparkles on a bright clear day, and even at 7AM it can wake me up and even inspire me with its beautiful features:

The Cross represents the suffering of the Paschal Mystery, dying to self before rising in Christ, coming to grips with our weaknesses, our challenges, our incompleteness--for it is in that vulnerability that we realize our need for the community of others and our even greater need for God, who feeds us.

In his first homily in the Sistine Chapel, Pope Francis proclaimed, "When we walk without the cross, when we build without the cross, when we confess Christ without the cross, we are not disciples of the Lord." Indeed Jesus did say, "If you want to be my follower, take up your cross daily, and follow." As Christians we embrace the starkness of the cross, knowing that it leads to resurrection and a new life.

The Circle of the Rose Window symbolizes the never ending presence of God's love. As parents stoop down to care for their child, so does God bend down to us through the Mystery of the Incarnation. God did not cling to heaven, nor to His divinity, but was born to earth as a human being, to draw us into the circle of His extravagant, forgiving, and healing love.

God has loved me in many ways, through my loving and selfless parents, through my faithful siblings, nieces and nephews, and their spouses, and through our many



friends. He has loved me most supremely through His Son, Jesus Christ, who poured out His life for me and for you, who founded His Church and continues to love us through Word and Sacrament.

From the day I celebrated my first Mass at the Cathedral, on June 19, 2013, the sight of the Rose Window captivated me, and I was strengthened by the circle of God's love.

The Petals of the Rose Window are rays shining brightly, reaching outward! One could conclude that they represent the 12 apostles, the building upon the faith of our ancestors, a Church that is vibrant, not turned in on itself, one which cannot keep the Good News of the Gospel to itself! It is a Church which is inclusive, one which sees Christ in the poor, the hungry, the thirsty, the imprisoned, the needy. It is a Church which attracts those hungry for more and invites them to satisfy their emptiness through the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation.

Throughout the years of my priesthood I have been both edified and humbled by the many people who live their faith so passionately. Your commitment, your fidelity, your care for others challenges me always to be a better priest. You and I together, like the rays of that Rose Window, are commanded to reach out in love and generosity to evangelize and to live out the Eucharist.

As I reflect back over my 40 years as a priest, the feeling which keeps bubbling up within me most profoundly is that of gratitude. I am so grateful to God for His call to servant priesthood. In thanksgiving, for all of you, and with all of you, may we say together, "to You we lift our song—Love ever new; O God who bows, we sing our song to You."

Fr. Jerry's 40th Anniversary



High school classmates present for Fr. Jerry's 40th anniversary as a priest: Mary Tompkins, Suzi Schmuckie, Tony Schmuckie Fr. Jerry Riney, Tommy Tompkins, Jim Hayden, & Larry Tompkins.

Honoring the Religious



During this year of consecrated life, St. Stephen Cathedral honored those religious sisters and priests at a reception at the rectory on May 13th.

Celebrations



Congratulations to Nick and Carrie Warren who baptized their son Benjamin on the 15th of August at the 5 PM Mass.



Bill Kelley, along with his children, family and friends, surprised his wife Brenda on her 70th birthday at the Hampton Inn and Suites on July 18th. He set an example for all other men in the parish to know how important it is to surprise their wives sometimes in life. Happy 70th Birthday, Brenda! God bless you.



Congratulations to Alice Bittel and parents Adam and Ashley on her baptism.



Happy Father's Day!



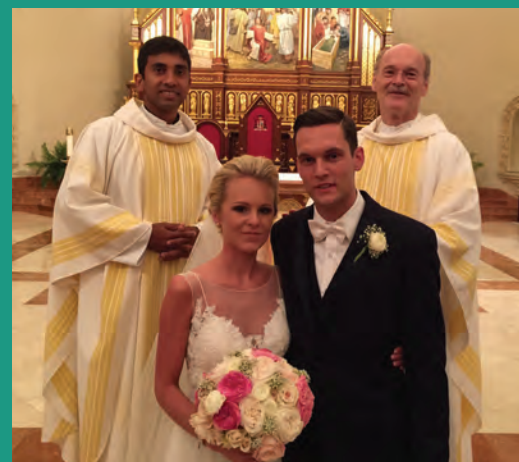
Congratulations to Ben Rhodes and Kelsey Napper who married July 11th.



Congratulations to Katelyn and Taylor West who married at the Cathedral on July 18th.



Parish members Haley Fitzgerald, Will Payne, Jenny Abney, and Kate Abney completed the Muncie, IN 70.3 Half Ironman July 11.



Congratulations to Molly and Brian Howard who married on August 29th at the Cathedral.

A Taste of the Philippines



In thanksgiving for the support of St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Community in helping them in their medical mission financially, and in prayer, Deacon Dirck and Chona Curry offered on June 2, at 5:30pm, a simple Filipino Dinner in the Father Vaughan Community Center for all who wanted to attend. There were over 50 people and a great tasty spicy meal.

Currys

On the 24th of May, St. Stephen Cathedral honored Dn. Dirck and Chona Curry for their service to our Parish and beyond.



Parishioner Spotlight: Maury Schaefer

By Marianna Robinson

Longtime St. Stephen Cathedral member Maury Schaefer recently celebrated his 96th birthday in July with family and friends. Pictured here is Maury with neighbors Harry and Peggy Bellew who are often found in the pew together for Sunday Mass. Maury began his lifelong career in the pharmaceutical business in the U.S. Army in 1941. When asked about some of the more striking changes he has witnessed in his years, he replied that advanced technology takes care of many of these changes including communication, entertainment, social media, medicine, and transportation. With a smile in his voice, he recalled his 3-pedaled Model T. Avoiding getting too stressed and state-of-the-art medical advances have helped him lead a happy, healthy life. A favorite cliché of Maury's is "moderation in all things."



St. Stephen Cathedral



Fall Festival 2015



Youth Group



Every year, the Diocese of Owensboro recognizes 18 high schoolers who excelled in their ministry in their parish, deanery or in the diocese. Adam Hayden won this SLIM (servant leaders in ministry) award from St. Stephens. Congratulations Adam!



On the 14th of June 11 St. Stephen's youth Madelyn Lyon, Andrew Ellis, Hope Johnson, Anna Atkins, Rachel Kyle, Jade Flaherty, Lucy Kurtz, Drake Steele, Brooklyn Reynolds, Will Clark and Molly Payne along with adults Matt Steele, Dn. Dirck, Brenda Clark, Mark Heinz and Ron Bornander painted a Habitat Humanity home.



St. Stephen youth group organized a pancake breakfast as a fundraising event for their trip to the National Youth Conference in Indianapolis. Members in the picture are Kevin Gonzales, George Kurtz, John Kurtz, Christian Leigh, Meghan Payne, Ross Leigh, Lucy Kurtz, Aaron Carrico, Sr. Sharon Miller and Anna Atkins.



Congratulations to Jenna Carrico, Chase Clouse, Cecilia Crowe, Adam Hayden, Paige Hicks, Gabby Hoffman, Leslie Kuntz, Shelby Lewis, Jack Padgett, Jacob Payne, Adney Rakotoniaina, and Sam Booth who graduated this year from their respective schools. On the 30th of May St. Stephen parish family honored these kids.

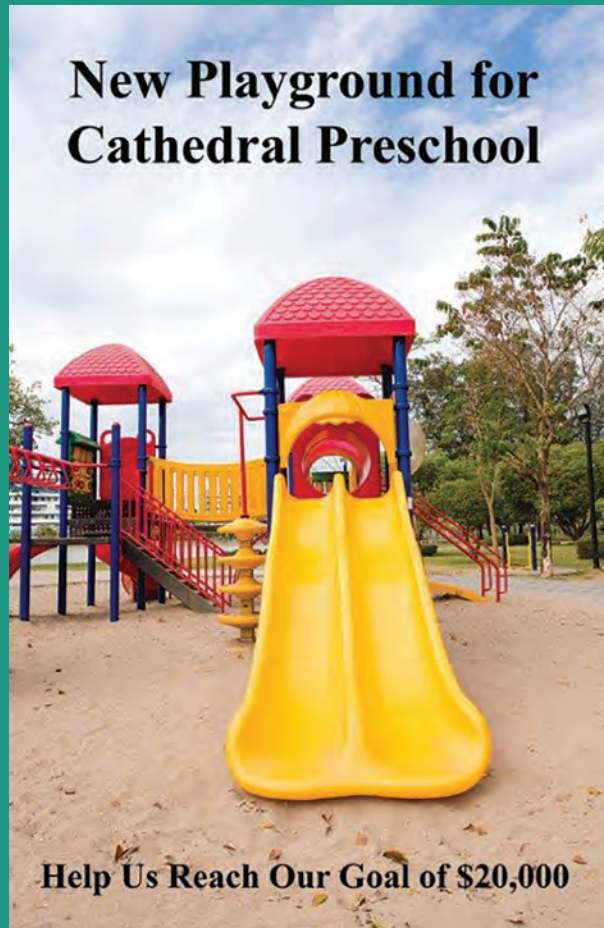
Students in the picture are Adam Hayden Calhoun, Paige Hicks, Gabby Hoffman, Leslie Kuntz, Jack Padgett, Adney Rakotoniaina and Sam Booth



Youth group back to school party at the Clark's lake. A day filled with fun, water inner tube rides, presentation on different topics "called to spirituality through marriage, dating and purity" by Matt and Haley Fitzgerald, prayer and food.

Preschool News

By Pam Weafer



We are off to a great start of another school year here at Cathedral Preschool. We have 110 students in several different classes. Three year olds, four year olds and five year old pre-k children have settled in nicely.

Unfortunately this year we are starting off without playground equipment on our playground. The slides we had were installed in 1986 and had become outdated and have been removed.

We are currently raising funds to purchase new equipment. We have had several fundraisers and have had donations of \$1,000 each from 3 very generous people. We hosted a pancake breakfast here at St. Stephens over the summer. So far we have raised \$5,000 toward our goal of \$20,000. We still have a long way to go.

Beginning in October we will hold a raffle of at least 15 pairs of UK home SEC men's basketball tickets, also University of Louisville, WKU, and KWC basketball tickets. The prize list is still being organized; there may be more great prizes.

Coming Soon: You will be able to purchase raffle tickets and see the complete prize list at www.cathedralpreschool.com. Spread the word and support our preschool by helping us with new playground equipment!

Right to Life

By Hannah Padgett

Going to Washington, DC, for the March for Life was such an amazing experience. I went with my FCA group from Owensboro Catholic Middle School; we were all very uncomfortable having to sleep on a parish hall floor, but it was totally worth it. That was the least we could do for those thousands of babies killed every single day. On the day of the march, we listened to all of the pro-life speakers, and some friends and I were interviewed. My favorite part of the march was when I walked to the

top of this hill and looked behind me; I have never seen so many people in my life. I couldn't even see the end of the people marching. It really gave me hope that my generation will be the one to stop abortion. My hope is that everyone who witnessed the march that may have been pro-abortion would have been influenced by the people marching and experienced a change of heart. I want to make a change and I will do whatever it takes to help end abortion.



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Confirmation



Back Row: Fr. Suneesh, Sam Polio, Bishop Medley, Madelyn Lyon, Christian Leigh, Fr. Jerry
Middle Row: Katelyn West, Hannah Padgett, Will Clark, Lillie Matthis, Caitlin Sullivan
Front Row: Rachel Kyle, Jade Flaherty, Sierra, Storm, Donna Murphy