

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- + During Lent, every Sunday before mass, we'll pray the Stations of the Cross. All are encouraged to come.
- + Confession time is available before mass on Sunday.
- + Today, **March 5th**, coffee and pastries will be served after the mass.
- + **On Sunday, March 12**, - we'll commemorate the 1848 revolution. Mass will be at 11 AM, after mass breakfast will be served, followed by a program pre-sented by Chicago Hungarian organizations.
- + 2017 envelopes are available in St. Elizabeth Hall.
- + Please stop by the office to sign up with Pongracz Cilike if you are interested in your 2016 donation paper for the tax deduction.
- + Please report any changes in address or phone number to the office.
- + Sunday mass intentions for our loved ones can be requested in the office.
- + To learn more about our events, visit www.stephenchurch.org.
- + For those parishioners who cannot attend mass regularly, at GiveCentral.org, donations could be offered to our church and to St. Stephen Hungarian School, as a one time or periodically, with a credit card or from a bank account.



HIRDETÉSEK

- + Nagybőjtben, minden Vasárnap 9:15-től Keresztutat járunk. Mindenkit várunk a közös imádságra, kövessük mi is Jézust a szenvedés útján.
- + Szentgyónás van minden vasárnap a Szentmise előtt!
- + Ma, **március 5.** - Szentmise után süteménnyel és kávéval várjuk a híveket.
- + **Március 12-én emlékezünk az 1848-as forradalomról.** A Szentmise 11 ó-kor kezdődik, ünnepi bevonulással. Uzsonna után a Chicagói Egyházak és Szevezetek közös rendezésében emlékezünk 1848 eseményeire.
- + Erzsébet teremben felvehetőek a 2017-es évi borítékok.
- + 2016-os adományok adóbevallásához szükséges papírokat felvehetik az irodában Pongrácz Cilikénél.
- + Kérjük, hogy akinek címe, vagy telefonszáma megváltozott, jelentse be az irodában.
- + Vasárnapra szentmiséket kérhetnek szereteik elékére. Kérjük jelentkezzenek az irodában.
- + Templomunk eseményeit és a fényképeket megtekinthetik: www.stephenchurch.org
- + Azok részére akik ritkábban tudnak templomba járni, de szívéükön viselik a templomunk sorsát, lehetőség van adományozni templomunk és az Szt. István Magyar Iskola részére a GiveCentral.org web oldalon, hitel kártyáról vagy bank számláról, egyszeri vagy rendszeres adományokat ajánlani.



**A Szt. István Magyar Iskola, Óvoda és Bokréta Népi
Táncsoport tanítási dátumok: Március 11 és 25,
Április 8 és 22, Május 6 és 13.**



Dear Parishioners,

I love to eat! You have learned that about me in the short time I've been with you. You have also learned that I have taken a special liking to Hungarian food. I don't know if I'm ever going to lose weight around here. This past week I was grateful for the spiritual practices that come with Ash Wednesday to begin our Lenten season. I appreciated the humble signing of ashes on my forehead as a reminder that I need to repent of my sins. I love the extra prayer time during Lent that is like an oasis of peacefulness in the midst of my hectic schedule. I enjoy engaging in additional works of charity during Lent especially doing things that help poor people know that God loves them. However, I hate fasting! It makes me crabby, out of sorts, and physically weak. I feel sorry for people around me when I fast. However, I do it because it is an important spiritual practice in our Catholic tradition designed to remind me of what Jesus said in the Gospel today, "*One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*" Much as I hate to admit it, there are more important things in life than food!

During Lent we look to fast from all those things that are leading us away from God rather than toward God. We try limit our intake of food and drink as a reminder of the fact that there are more important things in life than that and that we might be too dependent on those things. We also fast from certain behaviors like losing our temper with our co-workers, gossiping about people, looking at pornography, talking about what's wrong with the world all the time, being nasty to people who are different from us and the like. We get rid of those things just like Jesus got rid of Satan in the desert by repeating his own words, "*Get away, Satan!*" Whenever we feel tempted to sin all we have to do is call on the name of Jesus and he will give us his strength. Trying to be the good and holy people God calls us to be is a battle. However, we have powerful weapons with which to fight this battle: prayer, scripture, the sacraments of the Church and works of charity.

We can't do anything to make ourselves permanently sinless until we die. Human nature is ordered toward the good but that darn Adam and Eve gave us a propensity toward sin. So, during Lent we may ask ourselves a question: Am I partaking of the Tree of Life which is a close personal relationship with Jesus or am I partaking of the Tree of Death by acting in cahoots with the devil wreaking all sorts of havoc on the world? The fact that it is even possible for us to choose the tree of Life is because Jesus gave his life for us. During Lent it's time to give our lives totally to him.

I am happy to be walking the journey of Lent with you. May it be a time of spiritual renewal for all of us here at St. Stephen, King of Hungary, one of the finest restaurants in all of Chicagoland!

In God's love,
Father Michael Knotek

