

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ We will be praying the rosary every Sunday morning at 9:30 before Mass. All are welcome to pray.
+ Confession is available before mass on Sunday.
+ **Today, September 18th**, there will be a second collection during mass benefiting the seminarians. Please pray for seminarians and be generous with your donations.
+ **Today**, coffee and pastries will be served after the mass.
+ On **October 8th**, everybody is invited to attend the Harvest Ball., from 6PM, organized by the Hungarian Scout Troop #19.
+ For mass intentions, please call or stop by the office.
+ We ask that if anyone has changed their address or phone number, please notify the office.
+ To learn more about our events, visit www.stephenchurch.org.



A Szt. István Magyar Iskola, Óvoda és Bokréta Népi Tánccsoport tanítási dátumok: Október 01. és 22, November 05. és 12, December 3. és 10.



Prayer for Vocations:

Pray, beseech you, o Holy Mother of God, that religious vocations to this work of mercy be multiplied, and that those who are called for help be eager to respond for the greater glory of God, your honor, and the relief of many who suffer in misery and abandonment. Amen

HIRDETÉSEK

+ Rózsafüzért imádkozunk minden vasárnap a Szentmise előtt 9:30-kor. Mindenkit szeretettel hívunk a közös imádságra.
+ Szentgyónás van minden vasárnap a Szentmise előtt!
+ **Ma, Szeptember 18.** - A Szentmisén 2. gyűjtés lesz a Szemináriumok javára. Világszerte kevés a pappá szenteltek száma, imádkozzunk papi hivatásokért. Adományaikat előre is köszönjük.
+ **Ma**, Szentmise után sütemény és kávé várja a kedves híveket.
+ **Szeptember 24.** - Emlékmise lesz **Wimffen Éva** emlékére 11 ó-kor, Templomunknál.
+ **Október 8 - Szüreti bál**, a Hunyadi Mátyás Cserkészcsapat - Délvidéki Csaoport támogatásával- rendezésében este 6 órai kezdettel. Szeretettel hívnak és várnak mindenkit. A bevételt a gyerekek kirándulására és nyári táborozására fordítják. Részletek a szórólapokon, vagy érdeklődjenek Baksay Zoltánnál.
+ 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

Dear Parishioners,

God is always on the side of the poor and we better be too!

The prophet Amos was a humble man of faith who bred and raised sheep and pruned sycamore trees. He observed many innocent people being cheated and taken advantage of by ruthless people who had no fear of God and only strived to live in the lap of luxury. They stopped at nothing to increase their wealth including ripping off people who were poor. God gave Amos the very difficult task of challenging the king and all the rich people of the land about how they were getting rich. The kingdom was experiencing tremendous prosperity. However, much money was being made by exploiting the poor and engaging in immoral business practices. God spoke very clearly through Amos in confronting those who got rich by taking advantage of the poor. He named it as the sin that it was.

In the gospel we see an example of two crooked businessmen who are at odds with each other about how to cheat people. The “loan shark” lowered the amount owed to his boss by poor people as a way of trying to win favor from his boss and them. Jesus almost seems to be referring to this man as an example for us to follow. However, Jesus never encourages us to engage in deceitful practices. Instead, by highlighting the cleverness of the immoral debt collector Jesus is telling us that as clever as evil people are about cheating people so we have to be clever about upholding God’s justice and bringing people to God. It’s a tough, competitive, aggressive world out there. We can’t allow evil people to destroy us or the poor. In living out our baptismal promise of putting our faith into action we have to be very clever about how we address injustice. Like Jesus we are called have what we call a “preferential option for the poor” which means we not only don’t exploit the poor we help them get what they need.

At the heart of today’s gospel is the reminder that we cannot serve both God and mammon. Mammon is an old word for material wealth. Focusing on God brings us to heaven. Focusing on money can bring us to eternal damnation if we live only for the sake of getting rich. Worse yet, we are in partnership with the devil when we take advantage of the poor or ignore their needs.

The choice is ours on a daily basis. Either we love God or we love material things. If we love God we also love the poor because we are called to serve the needs of the poor throughout our lives. How are we doing this as a faith community here at St. Stephen King of Hungary? How are we doing this as individuals? Those are good questions for us to reflect upon and continue to discuss amongst ourselves in the days ahead. Let’s see how the Holy Spirit guides us in this direction!

In God’s love,
Father Michael Knotek

