

Welcome to St. Stephen's Anglican Church



**St. Stephen (transferred)- Christmas II,
January 4, 2009**

St. Stephen's is a traditional Anglican presence in Athens, Texas witnessing God's love through worship, prayer, fellowship and outreach.

IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS LET US INCLUDE

The Catholic Church and all Anglicans

O GRACIOUS Father, we humbly beseech thee for thy holy Catholic Church; that thou wouldest be pleased to fill it with all truth, in all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, establish it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of him who died and rose again, and ever liveth to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

Our parish

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we thank thee for thy servants gone before who laid a firm foundation for the growth of thy Church here in Athens. Renew in us the gifts of thy mercy; increase our faith, strengthen our hope, enlighten our understanding, enlarge our charity, and make us ready to serve thee. Raise up, we beseech thee, others in our midst, that our parish of thy Church may grow and prosper to proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Those serving in our nation's armed forces

O LORD God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray thee, thine almighty arm to strengthen and protect the soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen of our country. Support them in the day of battle, and in the time of peace keep them safe from all evil; endue them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach; through Jesus Christ our Lord *Amen*

Our nation and our world

O LORD our Governor, whose glory is in all the world; we live in disturbing days. Throughout the world prices rise, debts increase, banks collapse, jobs are taken away, and fragile security is under threat. Lord God, meet us in our fear and hear our prayer: be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands, and a light in the darkness; help us receive thy gift of peace, and fix our hearts where true joys are to be found. We especially commend this nation to thy merciful care, that being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to The President of the United States, the Governor of our state and to all in civil authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness; and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who by Thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our [*alms and*] oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto Thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all those who do confess Thy holy Name may agree in the truth of Thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Especially **The Russian Orthodox Church**

Diocese of Missouri Valley St. Aidan, Des Moines, IA

St. Thomas, Dubuque, IA
St. George, Leavenworth, KS
St. Alban, Lenexa, KS
Trinity, Prairie Village, KS
St. Augustine, Topeka, KS

TAC The Traditional Anglican Church (England)

ALL Religious Orders...Especially

The Order of St. Augustine **St. Benedict's Abbey**

WE beseech thee also, so to direct and dispose the hearts of all Christian Rulers, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of Thy true religion, and virtue. Especially

George, our President **Rick, our Governor**
Barack, Joe, & all elected for County, State & National Offices
The Legislatures and Courts of our land.

GIVE grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other Ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth Thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer Thy holy Sacraments. Especially

Stephen, Missouri Valley
Louis, Anglican Church in America **Jack of Fort Worth**
John, Traditional Anglican Communion **James of Dallas**
John-David of San Joachin **Ignatius of Antioch**
Robert of Pittsburgh **Rowan of Canterbury**
Bartholomew of Constantinople **Benedict of Rome**

AND to all Thy People give Thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear, and receive Thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. Especially

Priscilla Morris **Kehyler Muehl**
Ken Nash **Fr. Jerry Pardue**
The PARROTT family **Charles Plotz**
The RAINWATER family
Hazel Smith **Sandra Thomas**

Those in the Military

John
AJ
Richard
Jerry+
Bill
Courtney
Tracey Sue
Samantha
Lauren
Sharon

Tim
Robert
TJ
Charlie
Simone
Jared
Ralph
Dallas
Joe
Jerry L.
Justin

Our troops in harms way, their leaders and their families.

AND we most humbly beseech thee, of Thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Especially

Rialann **Walter**
Ann & Marshall **Diana, Don, Ann**
John **The Jerry Irvin family**
Anne **Nola Robertson & family**
Valerie **The HOWARD Family**
Chuck & Sr. Mary Anne **Linda & Family**
Fr. Richard & Marsha **Fr. Vincent & Fr. Joseph**
Fr. Mack **Sr. Mary Michael**
Joseph **Elizabeth**
Ed & Margaret **Galen & Michelle**
Caitlyn & Aiden **Vicki Haimes**
Katy **Karen**
Vern **Sandy & Family**
Jenny **Alecia & Family**
Melvin **Loraine**
Miriam & Family **Shirley Anne**
Frances **The Holt Family**
Sr. Emily Ann **Camille & James**
Kris **Fr. Walter Wilson**
Pam **Gladys**
Luke

AND we also bless Thy holy Name for all Thy servants departed this life in Thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in Thy love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly kingdom.

Especially **Jane McMonigal** **Wilfred Armstrong**
Illeana Haeliger **Richard Doty**
Norean Clanton **Harvey Muehl**
David Thompson **+Alexis of Moscow**

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen*

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8 am Low Mass

Noon Book of Common Prayer HOLY COMMUNION

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY	BCP 99
THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS II	BCP 106
FOR THE EPISTLE Revelation 7:55	BCP 100
THE GOSPEL St Matthew 23:34	BCP 100
THE GOSPEL FOR CHRISTMAS II St Matthew 2:19	BCP 107

10 am MORNING PRAYER

Antiphon: Alleluia, Unto us a | child is born
* O come, let us adore him | Alle lu ia,
Psalm: 118 BCP 487
Lesson: 2 Chronicles 24:17-22
Canticle: Benedictus es

SUNG MASS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 42 (Gloria)
Angels We Have Heard on High

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY	BCP 99
THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS II	BCP 106
FOR THE EPISTLE Revelation 7:55	BCP 100
THE GOSPEL St Matthew 23:34	BCP 100

SEQUENCE HYMN 45 (Resonet in laudibus)

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine

Visitors please place a visitor card in the offering plate.

We are pleased and blessed you are worshipping with us!

OFFERTORY HYMN 22-23 (From Heaven High)

From Heaven High

COMMUNION HYMNS 29 (Dies est laetitiae)

Dost Thou in a Manger Lie

RECESSIONAL HYMN 35 (Quem pastores)

He Whom Joyous Shepherds Praised

THE GOSPEL FOR CHRISTMAS II St Matthew 2:19 BCP 107

~~~~~NEXT SUNDAY'S HYMNS~~~~~

PRO # 343 (Caithness) *Praise to the Holiest in the Height*

SEQ # 346 (St. Elisabeth) *Fairest Lord Jesus*

OFF # 117 (Pleading Saviour) *Sing of Mary Pure and Holy*

COM # 348 (Eudoxia) *Jesus Gentle Savior*

REC # 361 (St. James) *Thou Art the Way*

THE BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL
Sunday, January 4, 4 pm



At Roman feasts, boar was the first dish served and continued as a staple of medieval banquets. As Christian beliefs overtook pagan customs in Europe, the presentation of a boar's head at Christmas came to symbolize triumph of the Christ Child over sin.

A legend arose that a scholar was studying a book of Aristotle while walking through the forest on his way to Christmas Mass. Suddenly, he was confronted by an angry wild boar. Having no other weapon he rammed his metal-bound philosophy book down the throat of the charging animal and ended the danger. That night the boar's head, finely dressed and garnished, was borne in procession to the dining room, accompanied by carolers singing "in honor of the King of bliss."

The Boar's Head may be the oldest continuing festival of the Christmas season. First observed at Queen's College, Oxford, England 666 years ago, we continue the tradition in Athens. At St. Stephen's we intentionally chose to demonstrate the timeliness of the legend by including music from the 15th century through our own time. For the same reason the mediaeval characters usually portrayed will be represented by their modern day equivalents, dressed in present day costumes. The one exception will be Good King Wenceslas.

Much of the familiar music is assigned to the congregation present. All are invited and encouraged to join in loudly and joyfully in this Christmas music and thereby becoming an important part of the pageant.

Tradition calls for fellowship at table and all may join us in "the Manor Hall" for our feast to celebrate the triumph of good over evil, in Christ the victory.