

Saint Stephen

Directions: Read the biography and answer the questions.

Saint Stephen was one of the first deacons in the Church and the first martyr. A martyr is someone who was killed for being a Christian. In the Book of Acts, the Apostles appointed seven deacons including Saint Stephen to care for the needs of widows and the poor within their community. Saint Stephen and the other deacons also helped the Apostles preach and teach the gospel. Saint Stephen's teachings in the synagogue angered some of the Jewish leaders. He was killed after a long speech before the Sanhedrin about the history of Israel leading up to its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Before his death, Stephen looked up and saw heaven opened up and Jesus standing at the right of the Father. After his death, the other disciples fled. Saul of Tarsus, who oversaw the stoning of Stephen set out to find and arrest more Christians. However, he encountered Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus and become one of Jesus's most important disciples taking on the new name of Paul.



1. The Feast of Saint Stephen is called "Boxing Day" in some countries because on this day after Christmas gifts are boxed and given to the poor. What can you give to the poor during the Christmas season?

2. How can you help and support the priest(s) in your parish?

3. Eventually, Christians forgave Paul (Saul) for killing Stephen. Who do you have the hardest time forgiving and why?
