



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

August 18, 2019

20th

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" - Lk 12:49

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

ENCOUNTER

Pray & Worship

Join us! All are welcome!

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am
10:30 am, 12:00 pm,
6:00 pm

Daily Mass

Mon-Fri: 6:30 am, 12:05 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am

Confession

Saturday: 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm
Tuesday: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Morning Prayer

Mon-Sat: 6:10 am

Rosary

Mon-Fri: 11:40 am
Saturday: 7:50 am

Adoration

Perpetual in the Reservation Chapel

Contact Us:

Parish Office:

Phone: 402-896-9675
Emergency: 402-896-9675 ext 2
Office Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, M-F

Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Padraic Stack

Deacons:

Dcn. Ernie Abbott
Dcn. Chuck Botdorf
Dcn. Denny Dethlefs
Dcn. Jerry Kozney
Dcn. Marty Warwick

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Facility Reservations:

Contact Angie at 402-861-4502 or
a.carnazzo@stephen.org

Bulletin Deadline:

Submit requests to
a.hartwig@stephen.org by
3 pm on the Thursday one week (10
days) prior to the bulletin publication.

Welcome New Parishioners!

Please stop by the Welcome Table in
the Gathering Space after Mass to
introduce yourself and learn how we
can support your faith journey.
Questions? Contact Cathy Ashton at
402-896-4507, c.ashton@stephen.org.



Pastor's Message

In those days, the princes said to the king: "Jeremiah ought to be put to death; he is demoralizing the soldiers who are left in this city, and all the people, by speaking such things to them; he is not interested in the welfare of our people, but in their ruin."

Jeremiah was a prophet in the southern kingdom of Judah about 800 years before the birth of Christ. Except for a few beautiful teachings about God's love and care for his people, Jeremiah is known for being a prophet of doom and gloom that foretold the fall of Jerusalem. In our first reading for Mass this weekend, we hear

how the people received the prophet's message. The advisors to the king said that Jeremiah was demoralizing the soldiers and something needed to be done, so they took Jeremiah and threw him into a cistern full of mud.

Being a prophet is tough work because they bring a message that people don't want to hear. The prophets of the Old Testament spoke the truth to the people about the way that they were living and what would happen to them if they did not repent and turn their lives around. Change is difficult—especially when change is expected in our own attitudes and actions.

The message of Jeremiah and the prophets still speak to us today. We must listen to the voices of God's messengers who spoke generations ago because their words still call us to examine our lives and make changes. None of us wants to go through the process of change, but if we want to know the joy of eternal life, we have to change. Let us pray that we may be open to the difficult messages of the prophets—past and present—so that we may have a change of heart and draw nearer to the God who loves us.

"The church must suffer for speaking the truth, for pointing out sin, for uprooting sin. No one wants to have a sore spot touched, and therefore a society with so many sores twitches when someone has the courage to touch it and say: "You have to treat that. You have to get rid of that. Believe in Christ. Be converted."—Saint Oscar A. Romero

May God bless you,
Father Dave

Welcome Newly Baptized

Mariella Mae Gutgsell, daughter of Vincent and Britnee Gutgsell
Mason Thomas Osterloh, son of Christopher and Elizabeth Osterloh
Fiona Alice Ostwald, daughter of Jeffrey and Keirna Ostwald
Conor Mitchel Carbullida, son of Adam and Sheila Carbullida

Looking for ways to get your kids helping out at Mass?

Two easy and simple ways to help and get your younger kids involved is be **Greeters**, entrusted with promoting a sense of welcoming and belonging or assist in serving coffee and donuts through **Hospitality**. Both Ministries are great to do together as a family! Email Karen at k.hardy@stephen.org to sign up or for more information.

Children's Liturgy Volunteers Needed!

Do you love children? Would you like to share the Word of God with our youth? If the answer is yes, come join this ministry! Volunteers are needed to teach the lessons each week as well as to assist with the supervision of the children. This is a great opportunity for adults and high school youth. Please contact Beth Beecham at bethbeebeam62@gmail.com for more information.

Prayers to Begin a School Year

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Upcoming Bible & Book Studies—Join Us!

We're here to help you learn, grow and form your faith. One great way is come to a bible or book study! Fall studies are organizing now. Below are a few to consider. All studies meet in the Gonderinger Parish Center unless otherwise indicated. More studies will be posted at [stephen.org/adult-faith-formation/](https://www.stephen.org/adult-faith-formation/) as the details become available. Contact Cathy Ashton with any questions.

Life of St. Paul—Young Adult Bible Study

All young adults (19-35) are invited to gather for a bible study of the life of St. Paul. **When:** Every other Sunday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. starting August 18 through December 15. **Sign Up:** No need to sign up but if interested please join our Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/502047863956547> or email Nicole Rugg at nicolerugg18@gmail.com or call/text at (847) 946-4376.

Seeking Truth: Study of the Book of Isaiah

Each class will involve prayer and discussion of the materials and a video presentation by the teaching director, Sharon Doran. Bring your Bible, take notes. **When:** Tuesdays from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. beginning September 10, 2019 through March 2020 with breaks during Thanksgiving and Christmas. **Sign Up:** Everyone is welcome to come and join at any time; please RSVP to Diane Burton at Burdi561@gmail.com or Bonni Pulte at rbpulte@yahoo.com. There is no charge.

Study of Ephesians

Discover Your Inheritance as a Child of God. Ephesians was one of the most widely circulated of St. Paul's writings because of its powerful, practical instructions for Disciples of Christ. **When:** Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. starting Monday, September 23 through November 18, 2019. **Sign Up:** Call or email Wendy Synowicki at 402-896-2218 or wendysyno@gmail.com.

How to Pray Like Mary

Wouldn't we all like to pray like Mary? Through the course of the book *How to Pray Like Mary* by Sonja Corbitt, a best-selling Catholic author and radio podcast host, we will explore Mary as the principal model of prayer and practice each step under Mary's guidance. **When:** Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. beginning September 17 through November 19. **Sign Up:** Email Nancy Wiederholt at wiederholtncancy@hotmail.com.

Lectio Divina

Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love as you draw closer to Jesus. Learn how to listen to the Word in scripture and study *No Greater Love, A Biblical Walk*, presented by Edward Sri. This book and DVD series will walk us step-by-step with Jesus during the last hours of Christ's life. **When:** The first Wednesday of each month from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. beginning in September through May. **Sign Up:** Email Pam at pmdavis9@gmail.com.

Sacred Scripture Study: Entertaining Angels

Learn what angels are and are not, where they come from, and their role on earth and in our lives, and just about everything you will need to bring them into your spiritual lives, and enjoy a fruitful relationship with them. The materials are from CSSI, a "Points to Ponder", Scriptural references, Catechism Connections, and concludes with a "Rome to Home". **When:** Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. starting September 12 through November 14. **Sign Up:** Email Deacon Marty Warwick at m.warwick@stephen.org or Anita Finger at a.finger@stephen.org to register and information about purchasing the workbook.

Living the Power of the Holy Spirit - Women's Bible Study

Come join us to grow in your faith and enjoy fellowship with other women as we study: *Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit* by Rich Cleveland. **When:** Second Saturday of the month from 8 to 10:00 a.m. starting September 14 through May with a break in December. **Sign Up:** Call Janice Dethlefs at 402-895-9039 or Jan Mitchell 402-895-3215 to sign up and get a book.

Seeking Truth: Study the Book of Genesis

Each class will involve prayer, video presentation by the teaching director, Sharon Doran and discussion of the *Come and See* book curriculum. The entire book will be studied in a systematic format with intriguing commentary that offers a view of creation that respects natural science, biology, geology and human anthropology. **When:** Sundays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. beginning October 6 through March with breaks during Thanksgiving & Christmas. **Sign Up:** Everyone is welcome to come and join at any time. There is no charge.

Becoming Catholic! RCIA Program

Are considering becoming Catholic? Curious about our faith? Have you missed a sacrament or two along the way? The Becoming Catholic! program will help you deepen your relationship with Jesus by increasing your knowledge of the Catholic Church and Holy Scripture. This program will prepare you for full communion into His Church. Contact: Scott and Julie Tylski at 402-861-2209 or tylskisj@cox.net or Cathy Ashton at 402-861-4507 or c.ashton@stephen.org.

KNOW

Formation

Learn. Grow. Form your faith.

Adult Faith Formation

Are you seeking opportunities to learn and grow in the Catholic faith? We're here to support you!

Explore opportunities:
[stephen.org/adult-faith-formation](https://www.stephen.org/adult-faith-formation)

Contact: Cathy Ashton at 402-861-4507
or c.ashton@stephen.org

Sacraments

Getting married? Having a baby? Needing an anointing?

Baptisms:

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 1:30 pm. Parents are required to attend a preparation classes prior to their child's Baptism. Contact parish office to schedule and to register for a class.

Weddings:

Preparation for Marriage begins at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Contact parish office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that he may raise them up and save them. Contact Dcn Denny at 402-861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.

Homebound Eucharist

Are you homebound and need Holy Communion brought to you? Contact parish office for more information and to arrange.

Vocations Corner

Sunglasses or swimming goggles? An interesting and seasonally relevant choice, right? Perhaps, not a choice that we envision Jesus offering us, however. Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus is to be our focus. But what kind of eyewear will we need? What kind of fire or immersion will we choose to experience? Will we allow ourselves to be plunged deeply into the waters of our Baptism, dying to self and rising with Our Lord? Will we allow our hearts to burn with the fire of the Holy Spirit, proclaiming His Word and doing His Will? Let us ask for Our Holy Mother's encouragement and intercession, that we may be ready to plunge ourselves into our vocations with greater conviction to focus on Christ Jesus, Our Lord.

KNOW

Formation

Learn. Grow. Form your faith.

School

Grades PreK-8

Considering a Catholic Education for your children? St. Stephen the Martyr School is united in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning.

Website:
school.stephen.org

Phone: 402-896-0754
Email: school@stephen.org
Principal: Julie Perrault
Assistant Principal: Dr. Joe Greco

Religious Education

Grades PreK-8

Do you want to build a strong Catholic faith foundation in your children? We can help! St. Stephen's offers religious education for children 3 years old through 8th grade.

Website:
stephen.org/religious-education

Phone: 402-896-5683
Contact: China Weil
Email: c.weil@stephen.org

Youth Ministry

Grades 6-12

Did you know that 13 year's old is the average age that youth leave the Church? We're here to help! Our Youth Ministry programs are designed to keep youth actively Catholic and to provide real answers to real questions.

Website:
stephen.org/youth-ministry

Phone: 402-861-4509
Contact: Laura Bogue
Email: l.bogue@stephen.org

Children's Liturgy

Ages 4-8

During the school year, children are welcome to gather for an age-appropriate bible lesson during 5 PM, 9 AM and 10:30 AM Masses. Children will be dismissed from Mass after the welcome and return prior to the Eucharist.

School News

Classes Begin this Week!

We are so excited to welcome our students back in the building! Thank you for supporting our school and for your prayers as we begin a new academic year!

Calendar:

Aug. 19: First Day of School for K-8
Aug. 20: First Day of School for TK, 2-day Preschool & 5-day Preschool
Aug. 21: First Day of School for 3-day Preschool
Aug. 28: Home & School Meeting
Sept. 5: Curriculum Night
Sept. 26: Martyr Marathon

Boo-Hoo/Woo-Hoo Bagels—First Day of School

Attention Kindergarten & New Families to St. Stephen the Martyr School: after dropping off your child(ren) on the first day of school, you are invited to the dining room for bagels & coffee with other SSM parents, Principal Perrault & Dr. Greco! This is a great chance to meet other parents and get any school questions answered that you may have for the Welcome Committee. We know how tough and exciting that first day of school can be for parents too. We will have Tissues and High-Fives on hand! We hope to see you there! Questions, please contact the Welcome Committee at ssmwelcomecommittee@gmail.com.

Religious Education News

Classes Begin this Week!

- ⇒ Assigned times were mailed last week.
- ⇒ Call or email with any questions.
- ⇒ Still need to register? Visit our website or stop by the RE office for registration forms and information.

Parent Meetings

Parents are invited to the Gonderinger Parish Center during RE class times on August 20/21. Meet China, our new Director, learn and ask questions. Cookie Sale samples available!

Calendar

Aug. 18: Sunday School Begins, 9 & 10:30 am
Aug. 20/21: RE Begins
Aug. 20/21: RE Parent Meetings, GPC, during class times

Confirmation Preparation

Save the Dates:

- ⇒ **Sept. 7/8:** All 7th graders beginning their preparation for Confirmation will be recognized at the Masses of Enrollment (all weekend Masses) and then will be invited to enter their names in the Enrollment Book.
- ⇒ **Sept 8:** 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Parent Meetings
- ⇒ Confirmation will be **April 27, 28 & 29 2020**

Youth Ministry News

Kick-Off Parties: We are gearing up for a new year of Youth Ministry, and boy, are we excited! Life Teen, for our high school youth, will resume meeting weekly on Sunday, September 8. Edge, for our middle school youth, will resume on Tuesday, September 10. Stay tuned to learn what this year's launch party theme will be, and for more on what's to come!

Teen Trivia Night: It's baaa-aaack! One of our favorite traditions: Teen Trivia Night! All 6-12 grade youth (and friends close in age) are invited to join us on Sunday, August 25 from 7-9 p.m. in the Parish Center for a night full of fun, food, laughter, and of course, some wisdom nuggets. No fees or pre-registration required...just bring your friends! You will have an opportunity to put your teams together once you arrive. Dinner will be included.

Brush-Up NE Thanks: We are very grateful to everyone who came out to help us with the paint-a-thon these past two weekends (we had over 50 volunteers, of all ages)! We were especially thrilled to see so many participate as a family, and I know that our homeowner is overjoyed to have their home looking so lovely again. Also, thank you to our Knights of Columbus for making sure we were fed on Prep Day, and to Runza for providing lunch on Paint Day!

Calendar

Aug. 25: Teen Trivia Night, 7-9 pm, GPC
Sep. 8: Life Teen Kick-Off, 7-9 pm, GPC
Sep. 10: Edge Kick-Off, 6:30-8 pm, Dining Room

Hearts Open Wide: Youth Service Squad

If you enjoy giving back to the community both inside and outside of our parish, visit our Youth Service Opportunities page to find out what's to come! From our monthly Sundae Sunday event at the Country House, to our upcoming Stephen Center Dinner opportunity, there are plenty of ways to lend a helping hand. Family participation is always welcome and encouraged.

Online registration is required. Visit: stephen.org/youth-service-opportunities. Contact Laura at l.bogue@stephen.org with questions.

HOW Calendar

Aug 25: Sundae Sunday at the Country House, 1:30-2:30 pm
Aug 31: Serve Dinner at Stephen Center, 4-7 pm

Calling all Grade School Singers!

The SSM Children's Choir will be starting up once again in September! If your child loves to sing, give us a try! Rehearsals begin on Thursday night, September 19th at 6 p.m. Each rehearsal lasts 45 minutes long and there are no tryouts! Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there! For more information, contact either Linda Liesner at Liesner_linda@hotmail.com or Paula Bonkiewicz at p.bonkiewicz@stephen.org



Step Out and Serve Bake Sale THANK YOU...

Our Bake Sale was a great success! Thanks to all who baked, all who purchased, and all who volunteered, especially the Social Justice Committee. We raised \$1,381.76 that we will be sending to Holy Family Door Ministry. God bless all of you for your generosity.

Your Faith Journey

Share your story for consideration to use in our parish's social media and blog posts. Email a.hartwig@stephen.org for more information.

Catechists Needed

Our Religious Education program is seeking grandparents, single people, engaged and married couples, and parents to serve our young people as catechists on Sunday mornings, or Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. Answer the call by filling out a catechist form and return it to the Religious Education office.

>>>Forms available at: stephen.org/seeking-catechists or in the RE office.

Prime Timers Upcoming Events



August 27 — "Happy Camper Picnic" at 6 PM in the GPC. \$6 per person prepaid to Moe. Meat and desserts are provided. Please bring a veggie, potato dish, or salad to share. BYOB.

2nd and 4th Thursdays — Monthly Cards, Games and Conversation at 1 PM in the GPC. Please bring an item for the food pantry and a snack to share.

Prime Timers activities are open to anyone who would like to attend. Questions? Contact Moe (402-896-2577), Jan (402-592-1298), Pat (402-201-7945).

PROCLAIM

Community

Get involved. Belong. Serve.

Do you want to get more involved in our parish community? Are you looking for ways to serve others? Are you being called to participate in the Liturgy?

Visit: stephen.org/community

Stewardship

Sunday Stewardship

Weekend of 8/11/2019

Online/Checks/Cash: \$48,334.50
Children's Giving: \$211.00

"Do you think I have come to give you peace on Earth? No, I tell you, but rather division." LUKE 12:51

Living a stewardship lifestyle means stepping out of our comfort zone when needed. Many of us like to play it safe, not cause waves, stay in the middle of the road. In today's world we are called to be informed and take a stance for life, marriage and religious liberty.

Give online at stephen.org/give

TAGG

YTD raised: \$5,075

Business Spotlight: Make your occasion extra special with a Yard Greeting from Sign Dreamers! Contact Stephanie Miller, SSM Parishioner. www.signdreamers.com/sign-dreamers-of-omaha-nebraska/

Learn more: togetheragreatergood.com/ssm



TaiChi for Better Balance is Starting Again at St. Stephen's

The 8 form beginner class will be on Monday and Wednesday from 9:15-10:00 and the Advanced class will be on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:15 to 11:00 am. The classes will start September 9th and will be for 12 weeks. Another class will follow for another 12 weeks. If you are interested please contact Colleen Simonsen at colleensimonsen1@gmail.com or 402-689-5420.

Metro-Wide Women's Bible Study



**Seeking
TRUTH**
Women & Children

Join us for the Gospel of Luke with Seeking Truth Women & Children. Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. starting September 11 through April 29. Hosted at Gretna-St. Pat's. ALL women are welcome! Go to www.seekingtruth.net under parish programming for more info or email Brooke Keller at bnkeller@gmail.com.

Grieving with Great Hope Workshop/Support Group

A journey for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one, firmly grounded in our Catholic Faith and is a 5-week walk with those who have lost a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild or a friend. This workshop will be held September 3, 10, 17, 24th and October 1, 2019 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Parish Conference Center at St. Cecilia Cathedral 701 N 40th street. Attendance is necessary for each session and seating is limited. Please contact Deacon Jim Tardy at jtardy@catholiccem.com or (402) 391-3711 or (402) 551-2313.

Archdiocesan Youth Choir Holding Auditions for 2019-20 Season

The choir is open to students grades 4-12 who show interest in singing and music ministry. To schedule an audition for your child or request more information, contact River Fisher at rkfisher@archomaha.org or Dr. Marie Rubis-Bauer at merubisbauer@archomaha.org.

Mary Our Queen Church Fall Festival-Saturday, September 7th

Free all-ages outdoor music festival as part of the Mary Our Queen Catholic Church Fall Festival. Start your Saturday night off with an outdoor mass presided by new Pastor Fr Marc Lim at 4 pm. Live Music follows- with plenty to eat including homemade tacos, fried rice with egg rolls, sausages, burgers, even Italian food truck. We will have a shaved ice truck and the adult beverages will be ice cold as well! Don't worry Husker fans, we'll have the game on too. Bring out the entire family as there is something for everyone. <https://www.facebook.com/MOQFallFestival/>

Volunteers Needed: Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital is currently looking for volunteers to serve their patients to transport patients in their wheelchairs to and from therapy sessions. Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. If interested contact: www.madonna.org/volunteer or give Celeste a call @ 402-401-5338 or contact Deacon Denny.

Back to Work Ministry

Have you lost your job? Do you believe you are underemployed? We help networking, resume writing/editing and interviewing. We believe the power of the Holy Spirit, receiving the Eucharist and prayer to St. Joseph greatly enhances one's opportunity for change and in securing a new employment position. For additional information on the Back2Work Ministry contact Deacon Denny Dethlefs at 402-861-4538 or d.dethlef@stephen.org

⇒ Looking for several individuals to work a temporary position in Waterloo, NE at an International Multi-Billion Dollar company. There are 11 different jobs so not mind taxing semi manual work that allow you to get paid \$13 to \$14/hr. The shift is Friday /Saturday and Sunday 9:00am to 9:00pm. If you are in-between jobs or just want to make some quick money please send resume to Snelling Staffing: office@snelling-staffing.com or call Jim with questions: 402-330-0100

Tip from Create Care Team

Save those used pens, pen caps, mechanical pencils, markers, marker caps, permanent markers and permanent marker caps. Starting in September, the Creation Care Team will be collecting them to recycle. Details will be provided later. Thanks for caring for the planet!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 17

8:00 am † Joe Tiesi (PS)
(No Confession)
5:00 pm † Laura Skocz (DB)

Sunday, August 18

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (DB)
9:00 am SI Our Parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Juanita Mutuc (PS)
12:00 pm † Concepcion Gutierrez (PS)
6:00 pm SI Gail Boschult (PS)

Monday, August 19

6:30 am † Charles
& Patricia Rinn(PS)
8:15 am † Cathy Krupa (PS)

Tuesday, August 20

6:30 am † Dwayne Jakub (PS)
8:15 am † Rev. Edward Quinn (DB)
5:30 pm Confessions (PS)

Wednesday, August 21

6:30 am † Dwayne Jakub (PS)
8:15 am SI Dorothy Stessman (DB)

Thursday, August 22

6:30 am SI Tom Waldron (DB)
8:15 am † Patricia Kielty (DB)

Friday, August 23

6:30 am † John & Anne Demyan (PS)
8:15 am SI Mike & Mary Maguire (DB)

Saturday, August 24

8:00 am † John Maddock (DB)
Confessions (PS)
5:00 pm † Juanita Mutac (PS)

Sunday, August 25

7:30 am † Leo & Ellen Britten (PS)
9:00 am † Walt & Jean Stover (PS)
10:30 am † Our Parishioners (DB)
12:00 pm † Bill Lutz (DB)
6:00 pm SI Jeanette Hauptman (GM)

The Priest Schedules are subject to Change
DB=Fr. Dave Belt, PS=Fr. Padriac Stack,
GM=Fr. Gerald Melchior

SI = Special Intention
† = Repose of the Soul

Prayers

Please pray for these members of our parish family who are sick:

Russ Mitchell, husband of Jan

Please pray for these members of our parish family who are deceased:

Ray Masters, father of Lorrie Kurfman

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