

The Family Connection



St. Stephen the Martyr Religious Education

Mary Maguire, Director www.stephen.org/faith-formation/religious-education/

September 16, 2018

- Sept. 16: Catechetical Sunday
- Sept. 30: First Reconciliation Parent Mtg., DR; 7:15 p.m.
- Oct. 12/13: Grade 8 Retreats
- Oct. 16/17: No R.E., MPS Conferences
- Oct. 21: No Sunday School

If your child/children will be absent, please contact the Religious Education Office at 402-896-5683 or email us at RE.attendance@stephen.org.

Office Hours:

Monday: 9 AM –3 PM
 Tuesday: 9 AM - 6:30 PM
 Wednesday: 10 AM - 8 PM
 Thursday: 9 AM - 1 PM
 Sunday: 9 AM - Noon

You can also call us at 402-896-5683
 Fax number: 402-861-4590

- Director: Mary Maguire at 896-5683 m.maguire@stephen.org,
- Admin. Asst.: Eileen Smith at 861-4513 e.smith@stephen.org
- Confirmation: Betsy Carroll at 861-4510 b.carroll@stephen.org
- Sunday School/WBS: Rhonda Richeson at 861-4511 r.richeson@stephen.org
- Youth Ministry: Laura Bogue at 861-4509 l.bogue@stephen.org

Want to add something to the newsletter?
 Contact Eileen at: 402-861-4513,
e.smith@stephen.org

Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Let's Raise Some "Dough"!

Our annual fundraiser is under way, and our first turn-in is September 18/19. Return forms on these dates and they will be delivered on Sept. 25/26. *But don't worry—you will still have a another week to sell or make a purchase.*

Remember those wonderful cookies you had at the parent meeting?! Now you can have them whenever you want!

Please help us raise some money to pay for resources to be used in our classes, in the Parish, and to help with tuition assistance for those who can't afford R.E. This fundraiser will run through October 3. Information and order forms were sent home with the students this week and are included in this newsletter. We will also have the order forms available online and extras in our office.

- Stock up for all the Fall & Holiday baking.
- Dough can be thawed and refrozen (*for when you just want a few cookies*).
- Parishioner run business!
- A Prize for the two top sellers!



Server Appreciation Event

Our annual Server Appreciation Event on Sunday afternoon, October 7th, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Dining Room. Hotdogs and Lemonade will be served for all who attend this event. We will also go over various Server Responsibilities during the Liturgy as well as have our Master and Senior Server's Commissioned for their new roles. Please RSVP at the Link below. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Hardy at k.hardy@stephen.org. See the link below:

<https://goo.gl/forms/Xb5pw7BESN5rk67V2>

Sunday School Lesson

Sept. 18/19 Kindergarten Classes

Lesson 5-We Pray to God
 Prayer-Sign of the Cross & Our Father

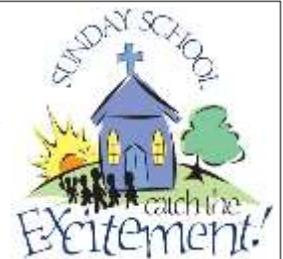
September 23 Sunday School

Intro: Lesson 5-My Family
PreK: Lesson 5-God Keeps His Promises
Kind.: Lesson 5-We Pray to God
 Prayer-Sign of the Cross & Our Father



Openings in Sunday School

We have a place for your 3, 4 or 5 year old child in our awesome Sunday School! You can drop your child off before the 9 am or 10:30 am Mass and pick them up when Mass is done.



Just visit our office to register your child or get more information. Sunday School is a wonderful place where children make friends and learn about Jesus and their Catholic faith through Scripture, Prayer and age appropriate activities (music, drama, arts and crafts). Sunday School students have special events throughout the year, like the Festival of Saints, Christmas program, Palm Sunday procession and May Crowning. Contact Rhonda Richeson at r.richeson@stephen.org with questions.

Youth Group

Laura Bogue at 402-861-4509 or at l.bogue@stephen.org



Edge: Calling all Middle School Super Heroes! Join us for Edge this Tuesday, September 18th from 6:30-8 PM in the dining room for a night filled with the Holy Spirit. Remember: Friends are always welcome!

Life Teen: It's Feuding Fun Night, High School Teens! Wait...that doesn't sound right, does it? Hmm...you had better join us Sunday, September 23rd to help us sort out what's going on. Rumor has it Deacon Wes Kreun will have some wisdom nuggets to share, as well. We'll meet in the Gonderinger Parish Center from 7-9 PM.

Save the Date-Life Teen Retreat: Hey, High School Teens! Don't miss our overnight weekend Fall Retreat, In Reverse, held at Camp Carol Joy Holling. You will gain a whole new perspective of the Lord's Prayer, and are guaranteed to strengthen your relationship with Jesus in the process. So drop your nets and come join us for 3 days full of friendship, faith-sharing, Nerf-gun battles, pancakes, time with the Blessed Sacrament, and more. Registration will open on-line on Sunday, September 16th. More information to come. Contact Laura at l.bogue@stephen.org with questions.

Hearts Open Wide: Youth Service Squad-If you enjoy opportunities to give back to the community both inside and outside of our parish, visit our Forms & Events page to find out what's to come! We have several upcoming opportunities to get involved (and earn a stewardship hour or two), from our monthly Sundaes Sunday events at the Country House Residence, to serving dinner at the Rainbow House and at the Stephen Center. Family participation is always welcome and encouraged! On-line volunteer registration is required to participate in each of these events. Please contact Laura at l.bogue@stephen.org with questions.

Adults Needed for Youth Ministry

We are currently looking for more adults (19 and older) to join our EDGE and Life Teen core teams. If you love sharing your faith and enjoy working with youth, our core team could be the place for you...We would NOT be able to offer youth ministry programs without our amazing core team family! Please contact Laura at l.bogue@stephen.org or at 402-861-4509 for more information on becoming involved with youth ministry, or visit the Core Team page of our website.



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St Stephen the
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Education

First Reconciliation Meeting-Grade 2

First Reconciliation Parent Meeting
September 30, 2018
7:15 p.m.
Dining Room



Parents of 2nd graders and other children who will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in December will meet in the Dining Room on Sun., Sept. 30th at 7:15 pm. Please come to hear more about Reconciliation and receive Parent/Child packets. Please contact Mary Maguire, Director of Religious Education, at m.maguire@stephen.org with questions or visit the Sacrament Preparation page of our website at <https://stephen.org/education/sacrament-preparation-for-church/>.

A Prayer For Families



Heavenly Father, we come as your children to praise you for putting us into families. Thank you for the love and nourishment we've received — and been blessed to give. We confess our need for your daily forgiveness and guidance in our families. Please grant harmony in our homes and help us always show respect and love for one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Welcome Cathy Ashton

My name is Cathy Ashton and I am the new Director of Evangelization and Catechesis at St. Stephen the Martyr. I am new to Omaha. My husband, Mike, and I moved here from Durham, NC one year ago for his job. We have four children who are grown and scattered about the globe. We feel blessed that God has led us to Omaha and that we have found a home in which to worship here at St. Stephens. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you. In my short time here I have met so many wonderful parishioners who are passionate about their faith and are sharing it in many wonderful ways. Please review the opportunities to explore your faith more in the bulletin. No matter where you are in your faith journey, we invite you to take the next step with us. If you don't see something that meets your needs, please don't hesitate to contact me and share your ideas.



If you have any questions or just want to stop by and say "hi", my office is in the Gonderinger Parish Center (GPC). My phone number is 402-861-4507 and my email is c.ashton@stephen.org. I would love to meet you!

Confirmation

Dates to Remember:

- 8th Gr. Retreats October 12/13
- Stewardship Due Dates 7th & 8th 5 Hours December 1st
- 5 Hours May 1st
- 7th Gr. Retreats January 25/26
- **8th Gr. Parish Commitment Masses** March 2/3 all Masses
- **Confirmation Reflections** April 23/24

Please contact Betsy Carroll with any questions (402) 896-5683 or b.carroll@stephen.org

Confirmation Prep is an exciting time for parents, candidates and their sponsors! Confirmation guidelines, events and important dates were discussed at the meeting. If a parent/guardian did not make the meeting, please contact Betsy Carroll at b.carroll@stephen.org to set up a personal meeting. **No Parent Packets will be sent home with students.**

***all candidates must now ATTEND BOTH the 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Prep courses either in SSM school or RE classes.**

Disciples of Christ

This is an award given to a student when they are caught showing an example of following Jesus's teachings.

The following students earned the Disciple of Christ Award from their Catechist:

Grade 1

- Micah Jones
- Kellen Parker
- Ophelia Smith



2018 8th Grade Retreat Assignments:

October 12, 6-9 p.m.

- 8A Mr. Harvey
- 8AT4 Karen Freiburger
- 8AW4 Foreman/Shaner
- 8BW5 Amy Hynes
- MAT5 Wright/Carrol

October 13, 8-11:00 a.m.

- 8B Mrs. Pestel
- 8BT4 D&N Gilmore
- 8AW5 Smith/Beal
- 8AW7 Cheryl Vanicek
- 8BW4 Gail Boschult

October 13, 1-4:00 p.m.

- 8C Mrs. Oliver
- 8AT5 Jenna Saraka
- 8CW4 Lisa Larkin
- 8BW7 D&J Stock

Do you feel called to join the Catholic Church?

Were you baptized Catholic but didn't receive First Communion and/or Confirmation?

Do you have family or friends who are considering the Church or need the initiation sacraments?

The Becoming Catholic! program at St. Stephen the Martyr will help you deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ by increasing your knowledge of the Catholic Church and Holy Scripture and prepare you for full communion or initiation in His Church.

For More Information Contact:

Scott and Julie Tylski
402-861-2209
tylskisj@cox.net

OR

Cathy Ashton
402-861-4507
cashton@stephen.org