



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

The Family Connection

St. Stephen the Martyr Religious Education
Mary Maguire, Director

www.stephen.org/faith-formation/religious-education/

November 25, 2018

Catechists & Volunteer Needed

Disciples of Christ

- Nov. 25: No Sunday School
- Dec. 3/4: First Reconciliation; 7 p.m.
- Dec. 8: St. Augustine Angel Tree delivery
- Dec. 9: Pancake Breakfast
- Dec. 16: Christmas Program; Gym 3:00 pm
- Dec. 18/19: Last R.E. and Advent Prayer Services
- Jan. 25/26: 7th Grade Retreats

There is a teacher who would love your help and a class that needs you to share your faith with them!

- ◆ We have an immediate need for a catechist in our Kindergarten class; Wed. at 5:30.
- ◆ We need a childcare Volunteer; Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Several of our classes need a co-catechist to teach with a catechist who is already in place, especially on Tuesdays at 4:15 and 5:30 pm and Wed. at 4 pm. We have many grade levels to choose from. Please consider joining us in this very important teaching ministry. All lesson plans and materials are provided for you and tuition is waived for your children. We even have child care for your younger children. Please call or stop by the Religious Education Office for more information.

All volunteers must be Safe Environment Trained

Current Catechists: Save the date; January 13 at 1:00 p.m. Join us for our annual pot luck at 1 p.m. Followed by a general meeting at 2 p.m. all catechists are required to attend.

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

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

Grade 4

Matthew Pappilil



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

Confirmation Candidates

Each Confirmation candidate in grades 7 and 8 must perform a minimum of 10 hours of stewardship service (5 within the parish, 5 in the outside community). The first 5 hours are due December 5, 2018. The remainder of the hours are due May 1, 2019. On-line Stewardship Reflection Forms are available under the Confirmation tab of the parish Sacrament Preparation page at <https://stephen.org/education/sacrament-preparation-for-church/>. Stewardship Reflections can even be completed on a cell-phone. Please see the above webpage or contact Confirmation Coordinator Betsy Carroll at b.carroll@stephen.org with questions.



Love or Lust? with Jason Evert

Jason Evert is a bestselling author of more than ten books, and has brought the message of chastity to more than one million people on six continents. He and his wife, Crystalina, run chastityproject.com.

Monday, November 26

6:30 p.m. - Parenting for Purity

7:15 p.m. - Love or Lust
(for 7th grade & above)



St. Wenceslaus Church
15353 Pacific St.
Omaha, NE 68154

Free Event

Youth Group

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



Edge: Welcome back, Middle School Kiddos! We're sure to have a ball this Tuesday, November 27th from 6:30-8 PM in the dining room. Join us for pizza and gym night!

Life Teen: Happy Thanksgiving! There will be no Life Teen this Sunday. Please enjoy this time with your loved ones and give thanks to God for all He has blessed you with. We will meet for our Angel Tree Packing Party next Sunday, December 2nd, from 7-9 PM in the Parish Center. Bring some helping hands and cardboard boxes!

T3 Bible Study: Let the adventure begin! Open to all 8th-12th grade teens, T3 (The Teen Timeline) Bible Study follows in the footsteps of The Great Adventure Bible Study System. So what does that mean? It means it's a great way for teens to not only read the Bible, but to understand it, appreciate it, and enjoy it. Mark "The Bible Geek" Hart is featured in the series of engaging, dynamic videos, and participants are not required to do any homework in between sessions. Beginning Wednesday, November 7th, T3 will meet on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30 PM in the School Library. A suggested donation of \$15 covers the cost of materials, including a student workbook/study kit. Contact Laura Bogue for more information or to sign-up.

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 Stephen Center and setting-up for our Angel Tree Project. 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.

Angel Tree Delivery to St. Augustine Indian Mission

Saturday, December 8, 2018
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Would you and your family like to help take the parish donations we've collected to the mission? This is an awesome family experience. We will meet in the Gathering Space of St. Stephen the Martyr at 8:30 AM to load donations into vehicles, and then will travel to the mission (in Walthill and Winnebago, NE). Once there, we will help deliver and sort donations and possibly have a tour of St. Joseph's Parish and the St. Augustine Parish and School. Youth will return to St. Stephen the Martyr by 4:00 PM.

Volunteer permission forms can be found on the website in youth ministry under forms and events. Drivers are needed!! Contact Laura Bogue if interested at 402-861-4509 or l.bogue@stephen.org



St Stephen the Martyr
Religious Education

First Reconciliation

All second graders and those receiving First Communion in the Spring will celebrate First Reconciliation during the Reconciliation services in Advent on December 3 & 4. Family and friends are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament together. A reception will follow in the Dining Room. The second grade classes have been assigned to the following evenings:

Monday, December 3: 7 p.m.

2AT4 N. Shoemaker/J. Lozier
2BT4 R. Turner/B. Skartvedt
2AT5 A. Havranek/C. Meraz
2AW4 A. Rachow
2BW4 L. Baker/K. Hraban
2A Mary Gill

Tuesday, December 4: 7 p.m.

2AW5 D. Timmerman/C. Busskohl
2BW5 Jason & Sherri Castor
2AW7 K. Cameron/S. Parks
2BW7 Carissa & Tim Nath
RCIC Mary Maguire
2B Marlene Roduner
2C Angie Lowry

Reminders:

- If your son/daughter was not baptized at St. Stephen the Martyr, we need a copy of their Catholic Baptism certificate. This was due October 31. Please send, FAX or drop it off in the Religious Education Office ASAP. Our FAX number is 402-861-4590.
- Reconciliation Parent/Child packet due December 4, 2018.

Angel Trees in Gathering Space

From November 3rd-December 2nd, we will again be collecting donated items for several area organizations. Listed below are the different charities and some information about them.



• **Essential Pregnancy Services** All of their services are free and confidential. Every day, their programs provide pregnant women and mothers with the *medical, educational, material, financial and emotional support* they need to become healthy, knowledgeable, and caring parents

• **St. Augustine Indian Mission of Winnebago** St. Augustine Indian Mission has served the Native American people of the Winnebago and Omaha Tribes since 1909. Through the years it has touched the lives of thousands of Native American children and impacted the lives of their families

• **Open Door Mission** The Open Door Mission is a Gospel Rescue Mission providing basic needs and life-changing programs for the homeless and needy

• **St. Stephen the Martyr Parish Pantry** Provides food and essential items to families in need

Help Needed to Deliver Donations-Over the years our parish has been overwhelmingly generous with this project, and for that we thank you! If you are interested in helping to sort, pack, and/or deliver donations to the various locations, contact Laura at 402-861-4509 or l.bogue@stephen.org or [click here](#) for the sign up genius form.

Introducing...

Martyr Jump Starter

Please join us for coffee, donuts and Catholicism!



First Featured Topic: Advent

Speaker: Fr. Dave Belt

Sunday, December 2, 2018 @ 10 a.m.

Dining Room

All Families Welcome!



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CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Questions? Contact Cathy Ashton, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, at 402-861-4507



Sunday School & Kindergarten Christmas Program Come One, Come All!

Our Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 16th, at 3:00 p.m. in the school gym. Come watch our little ones reenact the Christmas Story. Join us in the Dining room afterwards for refreshments. This will be sure to put a smile on your face!!

For Parents of children in the Program:



The rehearsal will be Saturday December, 15th at 10:00 AM.

This rehearsal is very important because it is the only time we have to practice in the gym.

Intro and Pre-K students and teachers should go to their classrooms first on Saturday morning for rehearsal. Kindergarten students will be assigned to either room 118 or 119 to go to before rehearsal and on Sunday. Check the list outside the room. Students and teachers should be in the classroom by 2:15 PM on Sunday to put on costumes and get lined up.

Costumes:

Intro classes will be angels. The children will make wings in class. They will need to wear "Sunday Best" clothes. The children will be standing and sitting, so please make sure they are comfortable.

Pre-K students are sheep. We have sheep hats with ears and pillowcase bodies for them to wear. They will need to wear long sleeve white shirts and dark pants or tights. Any big ribbons or bows in the girls' hair will be uncomfortable under the sheep hat, so simple is best.

Kindergarteners will play all the other parts. We have costumes for everyone. Once again "Sunday Best" is appropriate, but make sure they are comfortable.

There will be a cookie reception in the dining room after the program. We are asking each family to bring one dozen treats to share. Please take your treats to the dining room before the program.

Questions: Contact Rhonda Richeson at 402-861-4511 or r.richeson@stephen.org

The Catholic Voice's 2018 Colors of Christmas

A special art contest for students in grades K-6

All nine winning entries will be published in the Dec. 21 issue of the Catholic Voice and receive gift cards!

Official Rules

(If rules are not followed, entry may be disqualified)

HOW TO ENTER: Contestants must follow the instructions listed under "Here's how it works" at right.

ELIGIBILITY: Contest participants must be students in Catholic schools or parish religious education programs, or Catholic homeschooled students in families registered at parishes, in the Archdiocese of Omaha.

JUDGING: Winning entries will be selected soon after Dec. 1 from among all submitted eligible entries by an independent panel of instructors chosen by the Catholic Voice.

PERMISSION: Upon selection of winners, the Catholic Voice will notify parents using phone number on entry form. Parent must grant permission by either phone or voicemail message for their child's winning entry to be published in the Dec. 21 edition of the Catholic Voice.

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA
CATHOLIC VOICE
Delivering the news ... sharing the faith

Here's how it works:

- * Create Christmas art based on the Christmas story told in Matthew 2:9-11: the three Magi following the star and presenting their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ child.
- * Draw and color using crayons, markers, glitter, oil or water color, pastels ... whatever you want.
- * Use an 8 1/2 x 11 or 9 x 12 sheet of paper
- * Submit your entry to the Catholic Voice at the address listed below. Attach a contest form, available on the Catholic Voice website: catholicvoiceomaha.com.
- * One entry per student.
- * Entry deadline: Nov. 30

Staple completed entry form – facing out – to back of entry (please don't fold) and send to:

Colors of Christmas
Catholic Voice
P.O. Box 4010
Omaha NE 68104-0010

Gift card prizes!

The top three entries in each of three grade categories (K-1, 2-3 and 4-6) also receive gift cards from participating book/gift stores:

- * \$50 in gift cards for first place
- * \$30 in gift cards for second place
- * \$20 in gift cards for third place

Plus: The overall winner will receive an additional \$30 in gift cards!

Underwriter



Omaha • 402-551-8785 • 800-228-8108

Participating Sponsors





OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name: _____ Age: _____
 School: _____ Grade: _____
 Parish: _____
 Parish City: _____ Parent Phone: _____

Staple completed entry form – facing out – to back of entry (please don't fold) and send to:

Colors of Christmas
 Catholic Voice, P.O. Box 4010, Omaha, NE 68104-0010

Underwriter



Omaha • 402-551-8765 • 800-228-6108

Participating Sponsors



7th GRADE RETREAT ASSIGNMENTS 2019

January 25th, 2018 6:00-9:00 PM

7A Mrs. Mabeus
7AT4 Patricia Kolega
7AW4 Julie Riedel
7BW5 Amy Pink & Peggy Millerbernd



January 26th, 2018 8:00-11:00 AM

7B Mr. Hentzen
7BT4 Tina & Taylor Peterson
7AW5 Matthew & Jennifer Hustedt
7AW7 Susan Ward & Brandy Bunjer
MAT5 Betsy Carroll
MBW7 Kate Anderson

January 26th, 2017 1:00-4:00 PM

7C Mrs. Potach
7AT5 Lisa & Alex Schrier
7BW4 Stacia Jarzowski & Tonya Lampe
7CW4 Shellie DuBay & Julie Johnson
7BW7 Terri Maier

Sacramental Preparation Information available at

<https://stephen.org/education/sacrament-preparation-for-church/>

*If you have a conflict on your assigned retreat date, contact Betsy Carroll **ASAP***

402-861-4510 or b.carroll@stephen.org

(There are a limited number of candidates on each retreat)

Confirmation Retreat Day

- Candidates should meet in the Dining Room at St. Stephen's.
- Snack will be provided.
- Students should not bring cell phones or any other electronic devices.
- **NO RETREAT TIME CHANGES WILL BE MADE AFTER January 18th, 2018.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH RETREATS
CONTACT Betsy Carroll at 402-861-4510 or b.carroll@stephen.org**

Please consider this opportunity to volunteer to make the retreat the best it can be for all of our candidates.