



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/

December 16, 2018

- Dec. 16: Christmas Program; Gym 3:00 pm
- Dec. 18/19: Last R.E. and Advent Prayer Services
- Jan. 6/8/9: R. E. Back in session
- Jan. 13: Catechist & Volunteer Potluck 1 p.m.; GPC
- Jan. 25/26: 7th Grade Retreats
- Jan. 27: 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

Advent Prayer Service-You're Invited!

Religious Education Families



Parents, please join us during the last half hour of our last class* for the year (December 18/19) in the Gathering space for our **Live Advent Wreath** with all the students. It will be a beautiful time spent in prayer before we break for the holidays.

Our prayer service will be lead by our eighth graders and their catechists. Hope to see you there!

*Our 7 p.m. class on Wednesday, December 19 will be start at the beginning of class.



Feel free to stay and help decorate the Church for Christmas if you can! See page 2 for more details.

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 student earned the Disciple of Christ Award from their Catechist:

Sam SantaMaria Grade 1
Alexis Stoltenberg Grade 1
Beckham Breen Grade 2
Sarah Russell Grade 2
Eva Rohrbach Grade 4
Jadynn Smidlein Grade 7
Emily Wilbrand Grade 7
Ava Povondra Grade 8
Ellie Fulcher Grade 8
Zoey Crespo Grade 8
Tyler Sudeta Grade 8



Sunday School Lessons

December 16

Intro: Lesson 14; Jesus is Born.

PreK: Lesson 24; Jesus Came for All People

Kind.: Lesson 7; God Sends his Son and Lesson 23 Gifts for Baby Jesus
Prayer: Promise Prayer

All Classes Christmas Program and Party

December 18/19

Kind.: Advent Prayer Service, Last Class before Christmas



Catechists & Volunteer Needed

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 a Second Grade; 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

Youth Group

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



Edge: It's time for us to put the Advent in our Adventures, Middle School Heroes! Join us in the dining room from 6:30-8 PM this Tuesday, December 18th, and feel free to bring a favorite sweet or side to share.

Life Teen: It would be very Advent-tageous to join us at Life Teen tonight, High School Teens! Don't wear your ugly sweaters, bring a festive side-dish or sweet to share, and celebrate with us this Sunday, December 16th from 7-9 PM in the Parish Center.

T3 Bible Study: It's never too late to join us for our Bible Study! 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're looking for a way to put into action the reason for the season, visit our Forms & Events page to find opportunities where you can share Jesus's love with others! 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 helping us prepare and serve dinner to the clients of 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.

Steubenville Save-The-Date: We're returning to the much loved Steubenville Youth Conference in Rochester, MN this summer! Mark your calendars for Friday, July 12-14, 2019. This awe-inspiring, faith-awakening event is open to all current 8th-12th grade youth. With world renowned chastity speaker Jason Evert speaking this year, and other fantastic speakers like Katie Hartfiel, Paul George and Nic Frank in the mix, it's sure to be a memorable weekend! Registration will be opening soon. Stay tuned for more details!

Weather Cancellations



Should icy or snowy weather occur, the Religious Education program observes the school closing policies of the Millard School District. If Millard Public Schools cancel classes or evening activities due to inclement weather, we will not hold Religious Education classes that evening.

Occasionally, because of deteriorating weather conditions during the day, we will need to cancel R.E. classes late in the afternoon or early evening, even when Millard has held classes. Cancellations and plans for re-scheduling activities will be published on the parish web-site at www.stephen.org. Parents should use their discretion as to whether it is safe for their children to attend class. The safety of our children is always our primary concern.

Third Week of Advent



Week 3, Joy

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.



Grade 3-Wed. 4 p.m. Riedl's Class and their Advent Wreaths

Fair Trade Thank You!



We sincerely appreciate all who made purchases at the Fair Trade Sales in October, November and December. We sold over \$3,000.00 in crafts, coffee, chocolate, etc. FUTURE SALES ARE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 13, AND FEBRUARY 10, 2019. You may want to replenish your coffee or chocolate supply or need a birthday gift or a gift for some other occasion. Your purchases continue to help our brothers and sisters struggling in poverty.

Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating for the beautiful Christmas Liturgies on Wednesday evening, December 19th at 7:30 p.m. If you want to obtain Confirmation Hours you must sign up with a parent by utilizing the Sign Up Genius below. We would love to see more Adult Men assist with our decorating as well. It takes many hands and strong backs to retrieve all of our decorations from the basement. For further information feel free to contact Karen at k.hardy@stephen.org.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4da4a82ea02-christmas2>

Christmas Decoration Removal: We will be removing our Christmas decorations on Sunday Night January 6th following the 6:00 p.m. If you want to obtain Confirmation Hours you must sign up with a parent by utilizing the Sign Up Genius below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4da4a82ea02-christmas3>

Masquerade

Daddy-Daughter
Dance

Saturday

January 19, 2019

6:30-8:30pm



SSM Cafeteria

Hosted By 2nd Grade Girl Scouts Troop
Join us for dancing, snacks and fun!!

Register by Jan 7th: \$20/couple or
\$25/couples with additional children

At the Door: \$25/couple or \$30/couples
with additional children

Please return this portion of the form and money (cash or check made out to Girl Scout Troop # 45329) and send in envelope labeled "Kelli Waller Daddy Daughter Dance 2019" to the school office no later than January 7th. A receipt/email will be sent as a confirmation.

Email: _____

Reservations for: _____

(Daughter/s and Date)

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.