



**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/](http://www.stephen.org/faith-formation/religious-education/)

December 16, 2018

- Dec. 23: No Sunday School
- Dec. 25/26: No Rel. Ed. Classes
- 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](mailto:RE.attendance@stephen.org).

## Have A Blessed Christmas!

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David ...

Luke 1:69, NRSV



## 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:

- |                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Liam McCrae      | Grade 1 |
| Avery Havranek   | Grade 1 |
| Cecilia Pontiero | Grade 4 |
| Harper Keber     | Grade 4 |



### 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](mailto:m.maguire@stephen.org),
- Admin. Asst.: Eileen Smith at 861-4513 [e.smith@stephen.org](mailto:e.smith@stephen.org)
- Confirmation: Betsy Carroll at 861-4510 [b.carroll@stephen.org](mailto:b.carroll@stephen.org)
- Sunday School/WBS: Rhonda Richeson at 861-4511 [r.richeson@stephen.org](mailto:r.richeson@stephen.org)
- Youth Ministry: Laura Bogue at 861-4509 [l.bogue@stephen.org](mailto:l.bogue@stephen.org)

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

## Sacrament Information

Betsy Carroll, our Confirmation Coordinator has resigned her position. We are so grateful to Betsy for the wonderful and creative work that she has done during her time here at St. Stephen's. Her passion for her faith and her willingness to share it was so much appreciated.

Please be assured that we will continue to educate our confirmation students in the same spirit that Betsy has and ensure their preparation for the Sacrament in May.



We wish Betsy well in her future endeavors.

## 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](mailto:l.bogue@stephen.org)



**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 Sundae 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](mailto: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](http://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.

## Fourth Week of Advent



Week 4, Love  
Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

## Martyr Jump Start Events

*May the Lord bless you and your family this Christmas!*

As we begin both a new church year and a new calendar year, we want to help you *Encounter, Know and Proclaim Jesus Christ*. We are aware that everyone is at a different place in his or her spiritual journey and we want to help you take *YOUR* next step.

Please click below to complete a short survey to help us better support you in your faith journey. [Click here to complete the survey](#)

ALL are invited to attend our monthly Martyr Jump Starter events:

January 13<sup>th</sup>-11:30am: Understanding the Mass

February 9<sup>th</sup>-6:00pm: Behind the Scenes Tour of St. Stephen the Martyr

March 10<sup>th</sup>-10:00am: Lenten Practices

April 7<sup>th</sup>-7:30pm: Guest Presenter: Danny Leger – Hope of the Poor

May 19<sup>th</sup>-10:00am: Mary our Mother

Our parish has a subscription to Formed, a wonderful web-based resource. Please click here <https://formed.org/> to visit this site.

Our parish access code is e8af4. After you enter it, you may create your own account and begin utilizing all of the many resources available. If you have any other questions, thoughts or suggestions, I would love to hear from you!

Cathy Ashton  
Director of Evangelization  
[c.ashton@stephen.org](mailto:c.ashton@stephen.org)  
402-861-4507

## Christmas Decorating



**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>



Joy To  
The  
World!



2018  
Sunday School  
Christmas Program



# 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

*All Pre-K to 5th grade  
girls and their dates are  
welcome.*

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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 6:00-9:00 PM

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



### January 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 the Religious Education Office **ASAP**  
402-896-5683*

*(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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH RETREATS  
CONTACT the Religious Education Office; 402-896-5683**

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