



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 9, 2018

- 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. 6/8/9: R. E. Back in session
- Jan. 25/26: 7th Grade Retreats

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.

Sunday School & Kindergarten 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!!

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:

Gracie Beach	Grade 1
Presley Keber	Grade 2
JD Baker	Grade 2
Adam Thies	Grade 7
Amelia Farber	Grade 7
Kelsey Rix	Grade 7
Shayna Miller	Grade 7
Eamon Flynn	Grade 7
Anna Gillum	Grade 7

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.



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 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

Youth Group

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



Edge: Let's talk Goodness and Patience, Middle School Kiddos! Speaking of goodness and patience, who knows our core team the best? It will be a virtuous night of fun and games this Tuesday, December 11th from 6:30-8 PM in the dining room! We can't wait to see you there (pun intended).

Life Teen: How do you know what you are called for, High School Teens? Let's brainstorm some ways this Sunday, December 9th at Life Night! We'll meet in the Parish Center from 7-9 PM.

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 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!

Fair Trade Sale-Today

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9



The sale will be held from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM. WE WILL HAVE COFFEE, CRAFTS, TEA, SPICES, AND EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE – CHOCOLATE. GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!

Come shop with us and help others at the same time.



St Stephen the Martyr
Religious Education

Second Week of Advent



SECOND SUNDAY
Advent

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

Week 2, Peace

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

Angel Tree Thanks

We were once again pleasantly surprised and overwhelmed by our parish's extreme generosity during our Angel Tree Project! Several TONS of much-needed donated items, including baby supplies, clothing, and personal and household care items, were delivered to the Open Door Mission, Essential Pregnancy Services, the St. Augustine Indian Mission, and our own Parish Pantry. We are very thankful to the dozens of volunteers who gave their time and came in weekly to help us sort and pack all of the items, and to the many families who made numerous trips to the various organizations to deliver donations. And of course, a very special thank you to all who made the Angel Tree Project the success that it was by so graciously donating enough items to overflow our Gathering Space 5 times over, plus fill an entire Camper. We have been so blessed!

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>

Linus Blankets Needed

Hello wonderful Linus Blanketeers! Our blankets are low as we start to fill the requests that we have received for the Holiday Season. We would love it if you would consider making some blankets for us before the Holidays. It is a great family activity or an opportunity to get your co-workers together and do something great for our local kids in need. (Please follow the directions below to ensure that we can send them right out and not have to spend time fixing them.)

Please start with 1 and 1/2 yards or 2 yards of fleece with a printed top and a matching bottom. Below is a wonderful tutorial on how to cut off the salvages and make the blanket look extra nice. Also, if you would please double check the blankets to make sure that the knots are securely tied and won't come apart when the blankets are laundered by the children's families.

<https://www.agirlandaglugun.com/2015/10/everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-making-fleece-blankets.html>

Please drop off your completed blankets at the Country Sampler Quilt Shop at 120th and Center Street. We will pick them up from there. God bless you and your wonderful helpers doing such great deeds this holiday season.

Ginny
Omaha Project Linus



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, December 8
3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 11
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, December 15
3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18
5:30-6:30 p.m.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN FAITH

Scriptures Studies: There are many scripture studies currently taking place. All studies meet in the Gonderinger Parish Center. For a complete listing of opportunities and contact information, please visit our website at www.stephen.org under Adult Education or contact Cathy Ashton by phone at 402-861- 4507 or by email at c.ashton@stephen.org

Becoming Catholic! – Do you feel called to join the Catholic Church? Were baptized Catholic but didn't receive First Communion and/or Confirmation? Do you have family or friends who are considering the Church or who need these sacraments? Then Becoming Catholic! RCIA Program is for you! For more information contact:

Scott and Julie Tylski at tylski@cox.net or 402-861-2209 or
Cathy Ashton at c.ashton@stephen.org or 402-861-4507

Do we have a parish library? Yes! We do! All parishioners are invited to visit our parish library before or after Masses on the weekends. It is located at the end of the hallway past the restrooms. The check out and return procedures are simple and you may keep the books as long as you like. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Ashton at c.ashton@stephen.org or 402-861-4507.



Sunday School Lessons

December 9

Intro: Lesson 13-Mary & Joseph take a trip

PreK: Lesson 23-Jesus is born

Kind.: Lesson 22-All creation welcomes Jesus. Prayer: Family Poem

December 11/12

Kind.: Lesson 23-Gifts for baby Jesus. Prayer: Promise Prayer

December 15: Christmas Program Rehearsal (see page 4)

NATIVITY SCENE POTS

Celebrate the joy of Christmas — and remember Jesus' birth — by making this craft to decorate your home or to give as a gift.

What you need:

- 3 terra cotta pots (any size)
- Acrylic paints (including one for skin color)
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue (or a glue gun, with an adult to help)
- Brown yarn
- Material swatches
- Straw-colored raffia

What you do:

1. Decide which pot will be Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus. Turn each pot upside-down and paint a face on each one.
2. Decorate the pots by painting hair and clothes or by using yarn and material as hair and head coverings.
3. For baby Jesus, glue raffia along the bottom to look like straw in a manger.



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.

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)