



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/

February 3, 2019

- Feb. 2/3: First Communion Blessing; Sat. Eve & Sunday Masses
- Feb. 10: First Communion Parent Meeting; 7:30, Worship Space
- Feb. 12/13: No Rel. Ed.; MPS Conferences
- Feb. 19/20: Rel. Ed. Reconciliations
- Feb. 19/20: Baby Bottles Due Back to R.E. Office
- Mar. 2/3: Grade 8 Parish Commitment Masses
- Mar. 6: Ash Wednesday; No classes on March 5/6

Essential Pregnancy Services

EPS Baby Bottle Campaign



Support the important work of Essential Pregnancy Services (EPS) with your financial contribution! The EPS Baby Bottle Campaign offers parents an opportunity to start the conversation early with children on the value of human life while filling a baby bottle from church. Bottles will be distributed after classes next week on Tuesday, Feb. 5 and Wednesday, Feb. 6. Please consider filling a bottle with coins, cash or check and return the bottles to the RE office by Tuesday, Feb. 19 and Wednesday, Feb. 20.

By engaging children in discussion and encouraging them to fill a bottle with spare change, they are able to actively be hands-on in serving those in need of compassionate support and life-saving services. Last year our baby bottle campaign raised over \$26, 500 in support of women and babies. Fill bottles. Change lives. Thank you for your consideration!

For more information on EPS: <https://friendsofeps.org/>

See Flyer on page 3 for more information on tips for talking with your children and details of the program.

Martyr Mission

We need your assistance to help with the Religious Education baskets! We are requesting an item donation for either the "Sweet Sundaes" or "Road Trip" silent auction baskets. Please sign-up and drop off your donation to the Religious Education office by February 6. We are grateful for your assistance and together we can put our Faith in Action!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094ba5a822a64-sweet>

Our parish's largest annual fundraiser, Martyr Madness, has been rebranded: **Martyr Mission**. This new branding better aligns with our updated parish logo and mission: St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all to encounter Christ, know Christ and proclaim Christ. To further support this effort and to bring freshness to each year's event, an annual theme will be created.

This year's theme is Faith In Action. Please plan to join us for fellowship, fundraising and FUN on March 16, 6 p.m. at Tiburon Golf Club. Proceeds support our Parish, School and Religious Education.

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: Contact R.E. Office at 402-896-5683
- Sunday School/VBS: 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

Martyr Moms

Bring your kids and come join the Martyr Moms and decorate Valentine placemats for a local nursing home!! We will be decorating them in the SSM Dining Room on Sunday, February 10th from 2-3pm.



Please sign up to bring a snack or craft item if you are planning to come:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b084ea9ad2ca6f85-martyr>

And be sure to email ssmartyrmoms@gmail.com to be added to our email list for future events. We can't wait to see you February 10th!



First Communion

If you need to change the time of your child's First Communion Mass or have special needs seating, please let the office know no later than March 15, 2019.

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Time/Date Change

First Communion Parent Meeting- Date, time and location change! Who would have scheduled a meeting at the same time as the Super Bowl? Surely not us!

The First Communion Parent Meeting will now be held on **Sun., Feb. 10, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Worship Space**. The First Communion blessing for children and parents planned for Feb. 2/3rd will go on as planned at weekend Masses.

Youth Group

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



Life Teen-It's sure to be a SUPER Sunday, High School Teens! Yes, we will still be having Life Teen this Sunday, February 3rd from 7-9 PM in the Parish Center. We may not be watching a certain game or commercials during our time together, but there will be food, faith, and fun! Feel free to bring a snack to share, or your favorite board/card game to play.

Edge-Greetings, Middle School Manna-Manna-Maniacs! Join us this Tuesday, February 5th from 6:30-8 PM for a Heavenly Edge night that's sure to be a bread of fresh air.

T3 Bible Study-It's never too late to join in on this engaging way to dive into Scripture while building friendships with peers. We meet each Wednesday from 7-8:30 PM in our School Library. All 8th-12th grade youth are welcome. Join us on Wednesday, February 6th as we venture through Egypt with Moses, and ask ourselves what God is calling us to do.

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), including our monthly Sundaes Sunday events at the Country House Residence and preparing dinner for the residents of the Rainbow House. 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 Registration: The Early Bird pricing may have flown away, but we still have room on the bus for more teens to tag along 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! Cost is \$340 and includes entrance to the conference, meals, 2 nights in a hotel, transportation, and a t-shirt. Register on our Forms & Events page or visit www.smartwaiver.com/v/steubenville2019. Contact Laura at l.bogue@stephen.org with questions.

Welcome Weekend

Do you ever feel just a little "lost" in our parish community? Does it sometimes seem like a sea of faces and you don't know which parents belong with which kids? Or perhaps you simply could use a weekend away to renew yourself and your faith life? What if one weekend could make you a better husband, father, wife, mother, co-worker, or friend, while at the same time making our community feel smaller and more like home? We invite you to take a break from your busy schedule and attend a Welcome Weekend at St. Stephen's! You will witness God's work in other people and notice His own work in your life. You will have a chance to relax, have fun and connect personally with other parishioners!

Women's weekend: February 23-24, 2019



Men's weekend: March 2-3, 2019

To learn more and sign up, visit www.ssmwelcomeweekend.org or email ssm.welcome.weekend@gmail.com for any questions. Unable to attend? Please pray for the success of the Welcome weekends and visit the website to provide food donations for the weekend.

Fair Trade Sale-February 10



WE WILL HAVE ONE MORE FAIR TRADE SALE THIS YEAR – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – 8:30 – 2:00. You may need to replenish your supplies. We sincerely appreciate all who made purchases at previous sales to assist our brothers and sisters who are striving to provide better education and living conditions for their families.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE SALE IN FEBRUARY.

Martyr Jump Start Events

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.

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

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

March 10th-10:00am: Lenten Practices

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

May 19th-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
402-861-4507

Soccer Sign-Ups

Spring CYSL and MICRO soccer sign-ups are NOW! Preschool through 8th grade! Hey OLDER kids...want to play some recreational soccer with your school friends?? Sign-up to represent your school...who cares if you haven't played since 1st grade! Or maybe you are a club player that can play secondary for your school?! January 31st is the deadline to register for CYSL (ages 6-14), as teams need to be formed soon after to get all information in to the CYSL league on time.

Registrations after January 31st can not be guaranteed placement. Avoid late fees that start after February 18th! Registration information can be found at <https://www.pachunka.com/ssm/soccer/reg/>

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.



BABY BOTTLES

a campaign supporting women & families

you can make a difference

Support the important work of Essential Pregnancy Services (EPS) with your financial contribution! The EPS Baby Bottle Campaign offers parents an opportunity to start the conversation early with children on the value of human life while filling a baby bottle from church with coins, cash or check. By engaging children in discussion and encouraging them to fill a bottle with spare change, they are able to actively be hands-on in serving those in need of compassionate support and life-saving services.



it's easy to do

- 1 Baby bottles will be distributed after classes on Tuesday, Feb. 5 and Wednesday, Feb. 6! Please take time to review this flyer and discuss the opportunity with your children.
- 2 Fill the bottle at home at home with coins, cash or checks. Every penny is helpful!
- 3 Return your bottle to your RE classroom on Tuesday, Feb. 19 or Wednesday, Feb. 20.
- 4 Pray for the moms and their babies and families that they seek out the help, education and resources they need to choose life for their babies and to work towards self-sufficiency.

tips for talking with children

- 1 Focus on the value of human life from conception to natural death.
- 2 Teach them about the dignity and worth of every human being, no matter how small or different they may be from them.
- 3 Point out how filling the bottles and bringing change back to their classroom is making a difference in a mother's life and helping to provide resources and important materials for families in need. EPS offers parents the opportunity to attend educational classes and earn credits to shop in EPS baby boutiques (boutiques located in Benson and Bellevue) to shop for baby essentials including diapers, clothes, blankets, wipes, toys, books and much more!
- 4 Involve the whole family/group in talking about the EPS Baby Bottle Campaign and discuss how you can provide ongoing support to EPS.

ESSENTIAL PREGNANCY SERVICES is dedicated to helping expectant women and parenting families make life-affirming choices for themselves and their children through medical services, education, professional counseling, material assistance and resource information. EPS functions as an independent, non-profit, non-denominational and non-political corporation. All services are free and confidential.

fill bottles.
change lives.

FRIENDSOFEPS.ORG *life-saving care* **BENSON | MAPLE VILLAGE | BELLEVUE**
client site essentialps.org • 402.554.0121

Martyr Jump Starter

Enrich your faith journey



Please join us for a *Behind the Scenes Tour*

Featured speaker: **Fr. Dave Belt**

Saturday, February 9, 6 - 7 p.m.

Wine and light appetizers will be served.

All are Welcome!



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

MARTYR MISSION EVENT NEWS

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church

Telluride, Colorado Lodging Package!

Enjoy 7 nights in beautiful Telluride, CO at the River Club, March 23 - 30! Bidding for this featured package opens February 1 and closes February 18 at 8 PM. Event ticket purchase is *not* required to bid! Visit bidpal.net/martyrmission.

Support the Silent Auction

Please choose a tag off the donation request trees.

Thank You!

Thank you, Mark Elman, Elman Printing for donating graphic design time toward our new Martyr Mission logo!



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Save the Date!

Our Parish's largest annual fundraiser, *Martyr Madness*, has been rebranded: **Martyr Mission: Faith in Action**. Please plan to join us for Fellowship, Fundraising and FUN on March 16 at 6 p.m. at Tiburon Golf Club. Online registration begins February 1. Proceeds support our Parish, School and Religious Education.

Check Your Mailbox Next Week!

Invitations will be mailed Tuesday, January 29.



PLEASE JOIN US!

Saturday, March 16, 2019
6 p.m. Tiburon Golf Club

Fellowship, Fundraising, FUN!
Dinner | Cocktails | Silent & Live Auctions | Raffle

\$100 per Ticket | Casual Attire

Proceeds help fund
St. Stephen the Martyr Parish,
School and Religious Education

Cannot attend, but still want to help?

Donate online:
bidpal.net/martyrmission

Mail a check:
St. Stephen the Martyr
Attn: Martyr Mission
16701 S Street, Omaha, NE 68135

RSVP Required

Visit: bidpal.net/martyrmission

Questions? Contact: Joyce Bernard
joyce.bernard61@gmail.com