



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/

January 20, 2019

- **Jan. 21: Safe Environment Training; DR, 6:30-8 pm**
- **Jan. 25/26: 7th Grade Retreats (see Page 3) UPDATED TIMES**
- **Jan. 27: No Sunday School**
- **Jan.29/30: Rel. Ed. Masses**
- **Feb. 2/3: First Communion Blessing; Sat. Eve & Sunday Masses**
- **Feb. 12/13: No Rel. Ed.; MPS Conferences**

"Sweet Sundaes" & "Road Trip"



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.

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>

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:

Keira Bates	Grade 1
Micah Jones	Grade 1
Lexi Stoltenberg	Grade 1
Scarlett Klasna	Grade 1
Molly Klasna	Grade 1
Charlie O'Keefe	Grade 1
Avery Havranek	Grade 1
Jake Vogel	Grade 1
Keira Bates	Grade 1
Micah Jones	Grade 1
Liam Naeve	Grade 2
Jaxon Rief	Grade 4
Laurin Adams	Grade 5
Leah Mandel	Grade 5

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/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

Our Safety Patrol Volunteers have asked us to remind all the parents to park their vehicles in a spot and to USE THE CROSSWALK areas when entering and leaving for classes. Safety First!!

Trivia Night Volunteers Needed-February 2, 2019

Your volunteer time helps our parish achieve our mission of Encountering Christ, Knowing Christ, and Proclaiming Christ.



Please look over the sign-up genius and see if you can volunteer your time.

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

K of C Blood Drive

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a blood drive on **Saturday, February 2nd**, from 7am - Noon in the Gonderinger Parish Center. Questions? Contact Jason Castor at 402-850-7369 or visit the website.



Youth Group

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



Life Teen-We're putting the LIFE in Life Night, High School Teens! Let's have a real conversation about what the Church has to say about "from womb to tomb." Questions are encouraged, so be sure to bring them with you! We'll meet in the Parish Center this Sunday, January 20th from 7-9 PM.

Edge-We're egg-cited to see you all, Middle Schoolers! Join us in the dining room this Tuesday, January 22nd as we get real about life and truth...and how we can defend it.

T3 Bible Study-We'll resume our Bible Study on Wednesday, January 9th! 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.

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 Sundae 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: It's not too late to register for the Steubenville Youth Conference! 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.

Be sure to check our website at www.stephen.org/faith-formation/youth-ministry for more information on what our youth are up to. Contact Laura at 861-4509 or at l.bogue@stephen.org with any questions!

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.

Fair Trade Sale



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

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:

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

Soccer sign-ups are live!

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! Avoid late fees that start after February 18th!



Registration information can be found at <https://www.pachunka.com/ssm/soccer/reg/>

7th GRADE RETREAT ASSIGNMENTS 2019

Updated Times!!

January 25th, 2018 6:30-9:00 PM

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

January 26th, 2018 8:30-11:00 AM

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

January 26th, 2017 1:00-3:30 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.

**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.

GLOW

A Benefit Dinner for Essential Pregnancy Services



SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019

THE SPIRIT OF EPS AWARD

— honoring —

Bob and Lisa Goldsmith
& Extended Family



eps mom marissa and baby noah ♥

SUPPORT WOMEN & FAMILIES

The EPS Annual Benefit Dinner, GLOW - Giving Life through Our Works

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." This passage from James 2:17 inspired Essential Pregnancy Services' dinner theme GLOW. As first responders on the front lines of a spiritual battle for life, we walk confidently in a life-giving direction as we use our words, gifts, prayers and the works of our hands to serve those among us who are in need.



Read Jon Erwin's Biography
FRIENDSOFEPS.ORG/GLOW

EVENT INFORMATION

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Embassy Suites Ballroom
12520 Westport Pkwy, La Vista, NE 68128

Cocktail Hour 5PM | Dinner & Program 6PM



with guest speaker JON ERWIN
Director of October Baby & I Can Only Imagine

IN ADDITION TO ATTENDING GLOW, SUPPORT EPS BY:

- Sponsoring or underwriting the event: Call Brad, 402.554.0121
- Becoming a table host (tables available in rounds of 8, 10 & 12)
- Purchasing raffle tickets >> 1st Cash Prize: \$1500, 2nd Cash Prize: \$500, and 3rd Cash Prize: \$250.

Register for GLOW, Sponsor/Underwrite the Event, Become a Table Host, Request Raffle Tickets at:

REGISTER ONLINE friendsofeps.org/glow

Welcome Weekend

SSM Mom's and Dad's! Do you ever feel just a little "lost" in our parish and RE 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.

Welcome.
There is More to Life



**We Saved
YOU a
Seat!**

St. Stephen the Martyr School is having an open house for prospective families. We are so excited to share what makes our school amazing! Please stop in and check us out!

January 27
10:00-2:00
16701 "S" St.
For more information call 402-896-0754

*United in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community,
and learning*



Save the Date!

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

Please plan to join us for Fellowship, Fundraising and FUN!
Martyr Mission: Faith In Action (formerly, Martyr Madness)
Proceeds support St. Stephen the Martyr
Parish, School and Religious Education
Online registration available beginning February 2nd
**Choose a tag from the Donation Request Trees in the
Gathering Space next weekend and support the Silent Auction today!**



LENTEN SMALL GROUP INITIATIVE

Learn how to build and lead a Lenten small group that fosters real relationships and an authentic encounter with the Lord

January 28 6:30-9:00 pm	St. Francis Humphrey	February 2 9:00 am-Noon	St. Stephen Omaha
January 29 6:30-9:00 pm	St. Mary Osmond	February 7 6:30-9:00 pm	St. Patrick O'Neill

Register Online

<https://archdioceseofomaha.formstack.com/forms/lent19>

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One of the challenges of a large parish like St. Stephen the Martyr is developing and maintaining meaningful relationships. One of the ways this has been proven to happen is through small groups.

The Archdiocesan Evangelization office wants to help train individuals from the parish to be able to build and lead Lenten small groups that foster real relationships and an authentic encounter with the Lord.

I think this is a valuable skill for all of us to have as we often are called to lead small group meetings and help others grow in relationship with the Lord. I would like to personally invite you to participate in this opportunity and to invite others whom you feel might be ready to take this next step in their faith journey.

This is a short video which gives a brief description on what to expect: <https://vimeo.com/310830446>

DATES & LOCATIONS: There are several rural locations but only 1 in Omaha. Saturday, Feb. 2 - St. Stephen the Martyr, Omaha - 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Content is as follows:

- The content for the evening will incorporate in-depth training in these four areas:
- Explanation and practice of praying WRAP. (form of Lectio Divina using journaling)
- Explanation and practice of Intercession Prayer for the people the Lord has placed in their lives.
- Practical steps for forming a Lenten small group. (invitations, hospitality, consistency, etc.)
- Vision and practical steps for facilitating a Lenten small group (What resource/resources to use, leading conversation, transformation of heart vs transfer of information, proper challenge, follow up, etc.)

Deacon Ernie explaining the Mass to the Pre-K class

