



**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/)

## January 27, 2019

- **Jan. 27: No Sunday School**
- **Jan. 29/30: Rel. Ed. Masses**
- **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**
- **Mar. 6: Ash Wednesday; No classes on March 5/6**

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

## "Sweet Sundaes" & "Road Trip"

Bring in donations  
by February 6!

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>

*See Flyer on page 4!*



## 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:

Jaxton Nath	Grade 1
Carson Williams	Grade 2
Madison Akins	Grade 2
Sarah Pappalil	Grade 2
Cali Clark	Grade 2
Emilio Carlson	Grade 2
Luke McGargill	Grade 2
Andrew Timmerman	Grade 2
Jenna Novak	Grade 2
Kenley Spencer	Grade 2
Ava Zuhlke	Grade 2
Cameron Hayes	Grade 2
Parker Johnsen	Grade 5
Travis Schmidtbonne	Grade 5
Katie Sykora	Grade 5
Zac Grandgenett	Grade 8
Anna Burton	Grade 8
Rory Sinnott	Grade 8
Kaden Larkin	Grade 8



## 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.



## R. E. Masses

On Jan. 29/30th, students will be celebrating the Mass together during classes next week. Parents, grandparents and loved ones are invited to join us.

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



**Life Teen**-Who's ready for a Nerfstastic Life Night, High School Teens? Join us this Sunday, January 27th from 7-9 PM in the Parish Center. After dinner, we'll head to the gym to dart around and other shenanigans. See you there!

**Edge**-It's GYM NIGHT, Middle Schoolers! Join us in the dining room this Tuesday, January 29th for some prayer, pizza, and our monthly social night in the gymnasium. We'll meet from 6:30-8 PM.

**T3 Bible Study**-We resumed 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](mailto: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](http://www.smartwaiver.com/v/steubenville2019). Contact Laura at [l.bogue@stephen.org](mailto:l.bogue@stephen.org) with questions.

Be sure to check our website at [www.stephen.org/faith-formation/youth-ministry](http://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](mailto: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](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.

## 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

*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.

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

**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

## 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/>



## KNIGHTS FREE THROW CONTEST: RESCHEDULED

Please join the Knights for a free throw contest! The contest is open to boys and girls ages 9-14 and the contest is Friday, February 1 at 7:00pm in the gym. Questions? Contact Matt Kreber at [kreber4@yahoo.com](mailto:kreber4@yahoo.com).





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



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.)

**Welcome.**  
There is More to Life

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](http://www.ssmwelcomeweekend.org) or email [ssm.welcome.weekend@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:ssmartyrmoms@gmail.com) to be added to our email list for future events. We can't wait to see you February 10th!



# 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](http://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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*Encounter, Know, Proclaim*



## 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](http://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](http://bidpal.net/martyrmission)

Questions? Contact: Joyce Bernard  
[joyce.bernard61@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.bernard61@gmail.com)