



**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/)

## February 10, 2019

- 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
- Mar.17-23: MPS Spring Break; No Classes



**You're Invited - Mark your Calendar!**

## SSM TAGG LAUNCH PARTY

**Tuesday, Feb. 12, 5-9 PM**

Take the night off from cooking, and join us to meet new SSM families, find out ways to get involved, and see how easy it is to TAGG your purchase to support SSM!

**Brewsky's will donate 10% of your purchase to St. Stephen the Martyr (and 5% every other day)!**

All you have to do is download the Together A Greater Good (TAGG) app and take a picture of your receipt!

**BREWSKY'S**  
FOOD & SPIRITS  
156th & Q

Can't make it to Brewsky's? Take out or delivery can be TAGGed for the 10% too!

**TOGETHER A GREATER GOOD**

In addition to Brewsky's, hundreds of other local businesses on the app will donate (usually 5%) as well!

## Job Opening

**Confirmation Coordinator Needed-** Have you felt blessed by your faith and want to share it with others? We are looking for someone to coordinator our Confirmation sacrament preparation for the school and R.E. and coordinate grades 6-8 in R.E. If you are interested, please contact Director of Religious Education Mary Maguire at [m.maguire@stephen.org](mailto:m.maguire@stephen.org) or 402-896-5683 for more information.

## 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 ASAP. We are grateful for your assistance and together we can put our Faith in Action!

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



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](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)

## 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 were distributed after classes last 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.

## Youth Group

Laura Bogue at 402-861-4509 or at [l.bogue@stephen.org](mailto:l.bogue@stephen.org)



**Life Teen**-Happy Sunday, High School Teens! Join us this Sunday, February 10th from 7-9 PM in the Parish Center for dinner and to hear from Laura and hubby Andrew about what it takes for love to be free, total, faithful, and fruitful...and what illusions in everyday life may prevent that from happening. Yep! We're tackling the big stuff, Friends!

**Edge**-There will be NO EDGE this week, Middle School Kiddos! Join us next Tuesday, February 19th for a special night of Son Bathing...Fr. Padraic Stack will be joining us for a night on Eucharistic Adoration! We'll meet from 7-9 PM in the Dining Room.

**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 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.

**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](http://www.smartwaiver.com/v/steubenville2019). Contact Laura at [l.bogue@stephen.org](mailto: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](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.

## 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:**

**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](mailto:c.ashton@stephen.org)  
402-861-4507

## Soccer Sign-Ups

Spring CYSL and MICRO soccer sign-ups are open! 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 was 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](http://www.stephen.org). Parents should use their discretion as to whether it is safe for their children to attend class.

## Eucharistic Miracles of the World

There will be a Vatican International Exhibition entitled "Eucharistic Miracles of the World" set up in our dining room the weekend of Feb. 23-24. Eucharistic miracles consist of unexplainable phenomena occurring after transubstantiation, such as a host visibly transforming into human tissue, a host surviving a fire, or a host bleeding for example. In order to be considered a Eucharistic miracle, the event is investigated by a special task force before deciding it is worthy of belief. Secular sources are often used to investigate and confirm the miracle. This exhibit can reassure us all of God's presence in the Eucharist and in our world today. **Please visit the exhibit before or after Mass on Feb. 23-24.**



## Disciples of Christ

The following students received The Disciple of Christ Award from their Catechists this week for going above and beyond and being a loving example of God's love.

Baylor Baker	Kindergarten
Boston Sovereign	Kindergarten
Ryder Parr	Grade 1
Sarah Simonson	Grade 2
Grace Valasek	Grade 2
Annabel Simeon	Grade 2
Addison Korth	Grade 3
Gavin Ourada	Grade 5

## 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.



## UNDIE SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND FEBRUARY 16-17

Our annual Undie Sunday Drive to assist the homeless is scheduled for next weekend, February 16-17. Labeled boxes will be on tables in the dining room. Please put your donations in these boxes.

## Service Opportunities

**Fish Frys:** It's that time of the year again where the Knights of Columbus would love to invite the youth of the parish to sign up to help with the Fish Frys. Not only are these a ton of fun – as I'm sure most of you realize – but they are also great opportunities for service hours. On the Sign-up Genius link below, you'll see 12 total slots for "youth volunteers" during each of the Friday nights (6 from 4:30-6:30 and 6 from 6:30-8:30). For safety reasons, we would prefer that youth do not sign up for shifts other than "youth volunteers". The first Fish Fry is March 8<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4EAEAD23A4FE3-ssmfish1>

**Coming Soon:** Soup Supper, Passion Play, rosary making, clean up the church for Easter, and fixing chairs. Check the **Forms & Events** page on our website under Youth Ministry for these sign-ups.



## A MESSAGE OF *Love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



### What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

### What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.

## KOC Pancake Breakfast This Weekend





# 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](http://essentialps.org) • 402.554.0121

***Let us break bread together!***

## **Theology Matters: Food and Resurrection Faith**

Food was important to the life and ministry of Jesus. Sharing food continued to be important to his followers, and sharing food still plays a role in the Christian life.

*“There is nothing to eat but the body of the Lord”*

Dr. Julia Feder

**Monday, February 25 7:00—8:30 PM**

St. Pius X Parish Center, 6905 Blondo Street

Sponsored by Creighton University's Amelia and Emil Graff Chair of Catholic Theology and St. Pius X Catholic Church † Questions? Contact St. Pius X 402-558-1898

**Bring a loaf of bread (or spread) to share over conversation.**



# HUNDREDS OF LOCAL BUSINESSES WILL DONATE TO ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR!

St. Stephen the Martyr has partnered with TAGG to provide parents an easy way to earn tuition credit for their religious education. To learn more about how this program works and to register your family please visit: [www.togetheragreatergood.com/ssmtuition](http://www.togetheragreatergood.com/ssmtuition).

## SOME NEARBY BUSINESSES INCLUDE...



- 1 Download the free TAGG (Together A Greater Good) mobile app.
- 2 Visit participating businesses and snap a photo of your receipt within 7 days.
- 3 Select St. Stephen the Martyr, Religious Education, then your family's name.
- 4 A portion of your total will be donated back to the parish and credited towards your child's tuition AT NO COST TO YOU!



**TOGETHER A GREATER GOOD**



For full program details, please visit: [www.togetheragreatergood.com/ssmtuition](http://www.togetheragreatergood.com/ssmtuition).