



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 17, 2019

- Feb. 17: No Sunday School
- 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. 10: Parish Commitment Mass; 9 am
- Mar. 6: Ash Wednesday; No classes on March 5/6
- Mar. 17-23: MPS Spring Break; No Classes

Registration to Begin Soon

Catechist/Volunteer Registration: Early Registration for Catechists and R.E. Volunteers begins February 18th! Catechist/volunteer slots fill up quickly, so we give our catechists and volunteers for 2019-20 the first chance to register their children and sign up for a volunteer position.

Family Registration: We will email registration forms to parents and post forms on our website on Feb. 25th. Please contact the R.E. office for registration information or visit our website at <https://stephen.org/education/religious-education/re-registration/>.

Reminder:

Ash Wednesday- We do not have R.E. classes on March 5/6th so our students and families can Wednesday Mass together.



Mass Times Wednesday, March 6

6:30 am, 8:15 am, 12:00 pm, 4 pm, 5:30 pm,
7:00 pm

Job Opening

Confirmation Coordinator Needed!

Do you love your faith? Do you love helping middle school students to find Jesus in their life? Do you like challenging students and families to make their faith a priority in their lives? We may be looking for you!!

St. Stephen's is looking for a part-time Middle School/Confirmation Coordinator (25 hours a week). This person is responsible for the curriculum and working with R.E. volunteers and catechists for grades 6-8, preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation for the school and Religious Education programs and facilitating retreats and parent/family meetings.

If you have questions about this position or would like more information, please contact Annette Otteman, Operations Team, at 402-896-9675 or a.otteman@stephen.org.

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

Thank You Rhonda!

We want to offer our heartfelt thanks to Rhonda Richeson for her dedication to our parish children and her leadership of our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs. Rhonda has decided to leave her position on staff in May, after the end of classes and sacrament celebrations are done.



Rhonda wants everyone to know that “It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with you and your families for the past twelve years. I have been blessed to watch your children grow in their faith and watch the Holy Spirit enter their lives at First Communion and Confirmation. I am thankful for the many friendships that I have made along the way. I will cherish them always.”

She will be missed, but we wish her well and know she will enjoy having more time with her family.



Thank you for your donations! Please don't forget to drop off your donations to the office!

We requested items for either the “Sweet Sundaes” or “Road Trip” silent auction baskets. We are grateful for your assistance and together we can put our Faith in Action!

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

Youth Group

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



Life Teen-Guess who's coming to Life Night, High School Teens? Be sure to join us in the Parish Center from 7-9 PM this Sunday, February 17th as we welcome back special guest speaker Fr. Mark McKercher! Rumor has it that he knows a thing or two about Chastity, so he will be helping us wrap up our series on Sexuality.

Edge-Welcome back, Middle School Kiddos! Join us this 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 6:30-8 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. 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.

Undie Sunday Drive This Weekend



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

Martyr Jump Start Events

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

Cathy Ashton
Director of Evangelization
c.ashton@stephen.org
402-861-4507

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!

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 a few weeks ago 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 this 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 6 for more information on tips for talking with your children and details of the program.



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.

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.**

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.



Middle School Track

Middle school PAL (Parochial Athletic League) Track and Field is now open for registration online at <http://clubs.stephen.org/track/>. This is open for ALL middle schools that attend school or RE at St. Stephen The Martyr. Practices will start the week of March 11th and will be Monday/ Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:30-7 pm at Russell middle school track. St Stephens has had great participation for several years now and would like to keep the tradition strong. Cost is \$35 and uniforms provided. A total of 5 meets on Saturdays with a Super Meet on 5/4th. Deadline for sign ups is March 8th with a \$60 late registration fee. Please contact SSM Track Coordinator Kate Harr if questions at kateharr@rocketmail.com



Service Opportunities

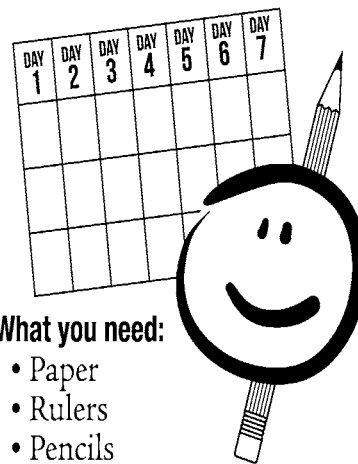
Fish Frys: It's that time of the year again where the Knights of Columbus would love to invite the youth of the parish to sign up to help with the Fish Frys. Not only are these a ton of fun – as I'm sure most of you realize - but they are also great opportunities for service hours. On the Sign-up Genius 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 8th.

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

Make a Blanket Day 2019: Project Linus is a volunteer organization with a mission to provide a sense of comfort to children who are seriously ill or traumatized through the gifts of new, handmade blankets or afghans, crafted by volunteer "blanketeers." All blankets donated to our local chapter of this nation-wide organization are given to seriously ill or traumatized children of the Greater Omaha and Council Bluffs area. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute something special to our local children in need. This is our Annual Make a Blanket Day for our chapter. Over the last 15 years we have donated over 72,000 blankets to local kids in need. Come help us celebrate! We have a brand new sewing machine to be given away at Make a Blanket Day! (Thank you to Susan Young!) You will receive one entry for each blanket donated. Please bring your blankets to our Make a Blanket Day celebration at Bryan High School. (Blankets created with fleece provided during blanket day are not eligible for the drawing.) Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 9am-1pm. What you need to bring? You can bring 1 1/2 or 2 yards of printed fleece with a matching solid piece for the back and scissors. Don't know how? NO PROBLEM!!! We will teach you! You can also bring new, handmade, washable blankets and afghans OR bring your knitting, crocheting, or your sewing machine and you can stay and make a blanket with us OR just bring yourself and a friend! We will have a limited number of fleece pieces to make some no-sew blankets. Also bring a snack to share, if you like! If you can't join us for that day but would still like to contribute, we would love donations of cotton fabric, batting, fleece, yarn or cash, etc... For more information please call Omaha Project Linus at (402)212-3975 or email omahaprojectlinus@hotmail.com or visit our website at www.omahaprojectlinus.org

DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.

Let The Good Times Roar!

We need your commitment!!

Are you available to be an adult volunteer as a station leader this summer for Vacation Bible School?

June 10-14

Before the planning begins, we need to make sure our adults are on board. Look for a sign-up genius soon to verify your commitment as a station leader and what you would like to volunteer with or send an email to r.richeson@stephen.org.



Hungry Herd Café (Supervising the preparation of snacks for the group)

Stampede Sports (Make a connection with the day's bible verse by fun and active games)

Kid Vid Cinema (True stories of children around the world exploring God's goodness with a daily scripture discussion)

Imagination Station (Dive into the day's bible verse with scientific gizmos and experiments)

Sing & Play Roar (Start/Finish the day with music, dance and stories to the days lesson)

Wild Bible Adventures (Hands on and interactive skits)

Spotlight Video Show (Taking photos of the days fun and compiling them into the video shown at the end of the day)



Prayer for Confirmation Candidates

Heavenly Father, We pray for all Confirmation students. Open their hearts to receive the Holy Spirit. Guide them as they face the many challenges of this world. Instill in them the desire to grow in their faith, and to give of their time and talents to those around them. Watch over and protect them. Continue to bless them in all things. With Mary, we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

David Akohin	Benjamin David	Andrew Higgins	Sean McNulty	Tyler Shalhoob
Matthew Anderson	Hannah Dertzo	Dawson Hike	Keira McShannon	Olivia Shaner
Linsey Anderson	Ethan Diesing	Alicia Hoffman	Hudson Meier	Zachary Shely
Wyatt Archer	Benjamin David	Elizabeth Hoffman	MaKenna Meraz	Rory Sinnett
Mia Augustine	Hannah Dertzo	Brett Hohenstein	Lily Meyer	Jolie Smith
Carson Ballard	Ethan Diesing	Olivia Horbach	Riley Meyersick	Connor Smith
Zachary Bargstadt	Ethan Ehrhart	Chase Houfek	Josanna Miklas	Spencer Somerville
Alyssa Barsoom	Aiden Ehrhart	Faith Howe	Aidan Miller	Aidia Sookram
Angelica Bartel	Jed Ekborg	Gianna Hruby	Allison Mohr	Anna Sorensen
Michael Baumert	Charles Estee	Emma Humpal	Peyton Moore	Luke Spidle
Lillian Bazis	Scottlynd Farmer	Regan Hyda	Milia Navin	Ellen Stiles
Jayna Beal	Justin Ferrin, Jr.	Jonathan Hynes	Avery Neneman	Emma Stock
Lauren Becker	Katherine Finger	Samuel Iwansky	Taylor Neumann	Jacob Stringer
Cecilia Beckerbauer	Kaitlin Foral	Megan Jackson	Angelina Nowak	Tyler Sudeta
Madison Beecham	Andrea Forman	Mitchell Jaeger	Haley Olderbak	Danika Sutej
Dominic Bentley	Ally Fortney	Lance Jarecki	Tyler Parolek	Mason Swaney
Mary Bias	David Freiburger	Shayna John	Adam Pepek	Randi Szemplenski
Dakota Bodner	Ashley Fritton	Blake Johnson	Taryn Petrik	Matthew Taylor
Kennadi Borngrebe	Ellie Fulcher	Gabrielle Johnston	Brandtley Pickrell	William Tobaben
Noelle Brannen	Jayden Fuxa	Elsa Jurens	Mary Pink	Aiden Trumm
William Brown	Brooke Gappa	Skye Kalisch	Yoselin Pogge	Turner Tupper
Turner Bryan	Lukas Gibbs	Maximilian Kalkowski	Ava Povondra	Jackson Urban
Anna Burton	Ellie Gilbreath	Thomas Kaplan	Patrick Ramaekers	Tucker Vandenberg
Scott Camero	Joshua Gorski	Molly Kimmey	Samantha Rase	Zachary Vanicek
William Cameron	Camryn Gove	Hailey Kiscoan	Lauren Rayner	Wilfrido Vargas, Jr.
Sebastian Carlson	Hannah Grachek	Rachel Knudsen	Haley Reichmuth	Ava Velinsky
Addyson Christensen	Zac Grandgenett	Hailey Korth	Jayci Reimers	Camryn Wallace
Emily Ciesielski	Carter Gress	Kelsey Krumsick	Dillon Reinders	Skylar Walters
Joseph Circo	Drew Grimm	Jakson Krumwiede	Diarmuid Reisbig	Spencer Ward
Jenae Clark	Joslyn Gunsolly	Kaden Larkin	Brady Rempel	Kendyll Ward
Elija Cole	Hailey Hall	Taylor Lewis	Colin Ribaya	Lydia Wee
Amanda Collette	Gabriel Hardisty	Beth Lilleskov	Alexander Rice	Bretton Wentz
Chayse Comer	Landon Harpenau	Brady Lyness	Abigayle Richards	Austin White
Gianna Comes	Olivia Hay	Morgan Maria	Michael Roddy	Kale Wiepen
Rory Connors	Reid Hazen	Robert Martin	Catelyn Rodenbiker	Brayden Wiesen
Elizabeth Cords	Luke Heck	Macy Martin	Thomas Ross, IV	Jacob Williams
Dominic Costanzo	Maloree Heiden	Cole Mazzio	Jacob Royal	Kassidy Windels
Zoey Crespo	Dru Henry	Lillian McCrae	Colton Schmaderer	Meghan Witt
Catelyn Cygan	Colin Herdzina	Ava McGargill	Alexia Schneiss	John Yardley
Isabelle Daly	Gabriel Hermanek		Collin Schneiss	
Cameron Daniels	Sean Higgins		Caitlin Schuette	

Please join the Confirmation Prayer Team in praying for these students.



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

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client site 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.

