



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 24, 2019

- Feb. 25: R.E. Registration Begins
- Mar. 2/3: Grade 8 Parish Commitment Masses
- Mar. 5/6: No Rel. Ed. Classes
- Mar. 6: Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 10: Parish Commitment Mass; 9 am
- Mar. 17-23: MPS Spring Break; No Classes
- Mar. 26/28: First Communion Rehearsals
- Mar. 31: No Sunday School; First Communion Sunday

Register for Classes Next Year! 2019-2020

Registration for fall R.E. classes has begun! 2019-20 registration forms will be emailed to the parents of currently enrolled students and are available on our website. Hard copies of the registration forms are available at the R.E. Office. Please contact the R.E. office for additional information.
<https://stephen.org/education/religious-education/re-registration/>

Save on Tuition by using the TAGG App (see page 7)
www.togetheragreatergood.com/ssmtuition

TAGG: If you are planning on using your TAGG account to credit your tuition for 2019-2020, you must sign up for the EFT option on the registration. All TAGG accounts will be rectified on May 31, 2019 and deducted from your tuition total. The balance will than be divided among your children on the EFT or you may choose to pay in full at that time and cancel the EFT.

All your TAGG purchases after June 1, 2019 may be used for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

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. 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.

Class Assignments For First Communion Day

- Sunday, March 31; 9 a.m.**
- 2AT4 N. Shoemaker/J. Lozier
 - 2BT4 R. Turner/B. Skartvedt
 - 2AT5 A. Havranek/C. Meraz
 - 2A Mary Gill
- Sunday, March 31; 12 p.m.**
- 2BW5 Jason & Sherri Castor
 - 2AW7 K. Cameron/S. Parks
 - 2AW4 Amanda Rachow
 - 2B Marlene Roduner
- Sunday, March 31; 3 p.m.**
- 2AW5 D. Timmerman/C. Busskohl
 - 2BW4 L. Baker/K. Hraban
 - 2BW7 Carissa & Tim Nath
 - RCIC Mary Maguire
 - 2C Angie Lowry

Want to add something to the newsletter?
Contact Eileen at: 402-861-4513,
e.smith@stephen.org

Youth Group

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



Life Teen-It sure has been cold, High School Teens. So who is ready for some SON? Join us in the Parish Center this Sunday, February 24th from 7-9 PM for dinner followed by a night of praise & worship with the Blessed Sacrament.

Edge-It's Gym Night, Middle School Teens! Join us in the dining room this Tuesday, February 26th from 6:30-8 PM. We'll begin with prayer and pizza, and will then head to the gym for some faith-filled fun.

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.

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.

Fish Fry Stewardship Hours

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>



Our [Forms & Events](#) page is also up-to-date with links to volunteer for many more events. Print out page 4 of this newsletter for more opportunities.

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.

Make A Blanket Day-Saturday, March 2

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 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

EPS Baby Bottle Campaign



Please Return All Bottles Filled or Unfilled to classes on Feb. 26/27

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 returning it to the R. E. Office.

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/>

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. Check out the sign-up genius 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.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4bada823a31-vbsstation>



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)





Upcoming Service Opportunities - Jan. to June 2019

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday, Feb. 24th, 1:30-2:30 pm | Sundae Sunday & Game Time | Country House Residence Home |
| Sunday, Feb. 24th, 2:30-7:00 pm | Prepare & Cook Dinner | Children's Hosp. Rainbow House |
| Wed., Mar. 6th, Multiple Shifts | Ash Wednesday Soup Supper | St. Stephen's Dining Room |
| Saturday, Mar. 9th, 9:00-Noon | Cheer-Up Our Chairs | St. Stephen's Dining Room |
| Sunday, Mar. 10th, 3:00-5:00 pm | Rosaries for Hope | St. Stephen's GPC |
| Sundays During Lent, 3:00-5:00 pm | Passion Play Rehearsals | St. Stephen the Martyr |
| April (Date TBA) | Paint the Education Room | Essential Pregnancy Services |
| Saturday, Mar. 30th, 3:45-7:00 pm | Prepare & Serve Dinner | Stephen Center |
| Sunday, Mar. 31st, 1:30-2:30 pm | Sundae Sunday & Game Time | Country House Residence Home |
| April (Date TBA) | Sort & Process Donations | Open Door Mission - Elkhorn, NE |
| April (Date TBA) | Pre-Easter Church Cleaning | St. Stephen the Martyr |
| Sunday, April 28th, 1:30-2:30 pm | Sundae Sunday & Game Time | Country House Residence Home |
| Sunday, May 26th, 1:30-2:30 pm | Sundae Sunday & Game Time | Country House Residence Home |
| Saturday, June 29th, 3:45-7:00 pm | Prepare & Serve Dinner | Stephen Center |
| Sunday, June 30th, 1:30-2:30 pm | Sundae Sunday & Game Time | Country House Residence Home |

** More info. on events & sign-up forms found on SSM Website: Education/Youth Ministry/Forms & Events

Scan here for St. Stephen's Forms and Events webpage
to see a complete list of events and volunteer forms



Organized through St. Stephen the Martyr Youth Ministry
Open to youth & their families; parent/family participation welcome
Our mission is to serve our community one **heart** at a time
Contact Laura Bogue, Youth Minister, at l.bogue@stephen.org



Martyr Jump Starter

Enrich your faith journey



Are you seeking more out of this Lenten season than "giving up chocolate"?
Are you looking for ways to grow in faith?

Come and discover how our Lenten practices can deepen your relationship with Christ

Featured speaker: **Fr. Dave Belt**

Sunday, March 10, 10 a.m., Dining Room

Coffee and donuts available

All Are Welcome to Attend



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

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

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|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 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.

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.

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.

Have questions about the SSM RE program? Email ssmtagg@stephen.org
 Have questions about TAGG? Email hello@togetheragreatergood.com