



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/

March 17, 2019

- Mar. 17-23: MPS Spring Break; No Classes
- Mar. 26/28: First Communion Rehearsals
- Mar. 31: No Sunday School.
- Mar. 31: First Holy Communion; 9 am, 12 pm and 3 pm
- April 21: No Sunday School; Easter
- April 23/24: Confirmation Reflections, all class times.

Please Return All Bottles Filled or Unfilled



First Communion-March 31



First Holy Communion- March 31, 2019. First Holy Communion will be celebrated at special Masses at 9 am, 12 noon and 3 pm on March 31st. If you will be attending one of the Masses and would like to serve as an EMHC for the community, usher or altar server, please use the on-line liturgical scheduling program on our website at www.stephen.org. Please contact Mary Maguire, DRE, at m.maguire@stephen.org or 402-896-5683 with any questions. Please keep our communicants and their families in your prayers as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

Class Assignments For First Communion Day

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

Parish High School Graduation Breakfast

Those who will be graduating from high school and their parents are invited to share in the 9 am Mass on May 5th, followed by breakfast at 10:00 am in the Dining Room. RSVP by completing the form listed at <https://goo.gl/forms/QW75iT1Xou5DsHN52> or visit Stephen.org and click on the link High School Senior Breakfast.



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

Serra Club Awards Winners

Congratulations to the Following Students on Achieving the Serra Club Awards for St. Stephen the Martyr Parish.



Zachary Vanicek
Charlie Estee
Katherine Finger
Lukas Gibbs
Maximilian Kalkonski
Caitlin Schuette

These Master Servers meet the requirements of performing as an Outstanding Server here in our Parish. We have many wonderful servers in our parish, but these six were deemed to be reliable, cooperative, reverent, graceful and always show initiative by cooperating with the Liturgy Team during Mass. We are thankful for these six students who serve as Master Servers in our Parish.

KOC 2019 SCHOLARSHIP

The Knights of Columbus here at St Stephen the Martyr are again happy to announce that we are taking applications for our annual scholarship program, which will now be known as the Dcn Wesley Kreun Memorial Scholarship. As we have over the last few years, we will be awarding 4 - \$250 scholarships to student parishioners that will be attending any of the local Catholic High Schools. In addition, there will also be 4 - \$500 scholarships for students attending any accredited college or university. All applications must be completed and turned in by April 30, 2019. You can either drop them off in the parish office or email them to hhardy@janome-america.com. Applications can be found on the kiosk in the gathering space or in the parish office. Thank you and God bless.

Youth Group

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



Life Teen-It's party time, High School Teens! Join us in the Parish Center this Sunday, March 17th from 7-9 PM, when we'll enjoy birthday cake in honor of our belated and beloved Deacon Wes's birthday. It will also be Stump the Core Team Night, so bring those faithful questions!

Edge-There will be NO EDGE this week, Middle School Kiddos! Join us next Tuesday, March 26th for our monthly gym night. We'll meet in the dining room from 6:30-8 PM.

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: Return of the Early Bird Discount for Steubenville! The Steubenville Conference REALLY wants us to fill Bus Two. So if you missed out on our initial deadline to register for Steubenville, now's your chance! Partnership for Youth has offered to offer discounted/early bird pricing for this summer's Steubenville Youth Conference in Rochester, MN. 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 \$325 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.

Passion Play Volunteers-It's that time again, Thespians! We will soon begin rehearsals for our much-loved Passion Play, and are looking for volunteers aged 4th-12th grade to participate. This live performance portraying Christ's final moments will be on Good Friday, April 19th at 5 PM in our Worship Space. If interested in volunteering, join us in the Worship Space from 3-5 PM on Sundays. Our first rehearsal was March 10th. Following rehearsals will also be held on Sunday afternoons throughout Lent. Volunteers can sign-up and find more information on our Forms & Events page.

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.



Olivia Goedeker Grade 3

Ashton Jones Grade 3

Riley Kelley Grade 4

Fish Fry Information

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>

K of C Fish Fries at St. Stephen the Martyr

Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus invite you to join us for this year's Lenten Fish Fry season every Friday during Lent from March 8 through April 12. Menu items include baked salmon (\$11), fried shrimp (\$11), fried shrimp and fish combo (\$11), fried fish (\$9), cheese pizza (\$6) and mac & cheese (\$5). Desserts prepared by the Council of Catholic Women will also be available.



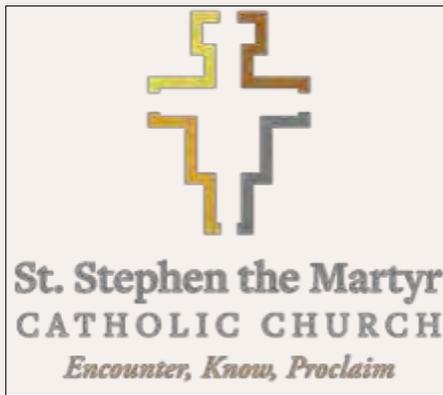
Parish Project For Lent-Hope Totes

We will be preparing HOPE TOTES for Open Door Mission. These totes are given to homeless men, women and children when they come to the mission to spend the night. In a gallon Ziploc bag put the following items only:



TOOTH BRUSH AND TOOTHPASTE
SHAMPOO AND LOTION
DISPOSABLE RAZORS
DEODERANT AND LIP BALM
NO PERISHABLE ITEMS, e.g. WATER
AND SNACKS

Beginning Sunday, March 17, there will be labeled boxes in the Gathering Space in which to place your donations. The boxes will be there until Sunday, April 7. Questions - contact Sister Clarice - 402-861-4508 or c.faltus@stephen.org.



Director of Religious Education - St. Stephen the Martyr

We are excited to hire a dynamic leader for this impactful position of our parish community! We are searching for an innovative leader with excellent people and relationship building skills to help form a solid foundation for our parish children and their families in their relationship with Jesus and our Catholic faith.

- Collaborate with our Leadership Team and Advisory Councils to ensure that our faith formation program aligns with the overall parish mission.
- Work as part of an innovative team to continuously evaluate and grow the scope of our parish religious education efforts.
- Recruit and support the work of our volunteer catechists and support staff by providing them with training and resources while facilitating their own personal faith growth and development as a Catholic Christian Community.
- Inspire parishioners to step up and make a lasting impact on the growth of our Catholic community!

The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic with a zeal for passing on the faith. He or she will have a bachelor's degree in education, theology, pastoral ministry or related field with a minimum of three years of leadership experience. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are a must.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting position, please contact Annette Otteman at a.otteman@stephen.org or call the parish office at 402-896-9675.

Referrals are appreciated! Please spread the word to friends, family and your network! We are actively recruiting and networking for this position, so please send us names of people who you believe would excel in this role and we will contact them directly on a confidential basis to discuss the position!

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 402-896-9675 stephen.org
St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

The “*Mane*” Event!



The best week of the summer!

New friends • Amazing experiments • Creative games
Super-fun snacks • Surprising adventures • Incredible music

Come join the herd at St
Stephen the Martyr
Vacation Bible School
for a **Roaring**
good time!



St. Stephen the Martyr Totally Catholic
Vacation Bible School 2019

June 10-14 9am-Noon

Registration is March 6 to May 1 or until full
\$50 per child

(Adult Volunteers receive one child's tuition free)

3 years olds (potty-trained) thru
current 5th graders (6th in fall)
are welcome to attend.

7th graders & up may be volunteers
Registration forms online and in Religious Ed Office

<https://stephen.org/education/religious-education/vacation-bible-school/>



FC



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DINE TOGETHER NIGHT

BENEFITING THE SSM RE PROGRAM



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Wed. March 20th, 5-8pm



Newman's Pasta Cafe
2559 S 171st St
Omaha, NE 68130

Newman's will match your 5% TAGG by donating an additional 5% to the RE program.

Simply download the free 'TAGG' app (Together A Greater Good), submit a photo of your receipt, and choose SSM. It's that easy!



TAGG year round at hundreds of businesses!

Soup Supper Thank You!

We are so very thankful for all who were able to join us for our annual Soup Supper this year! A special thanks, of course, goes to parishioner Jeff Souba and Taste Traditions for providing all of the delicious soups and mac-n-cheese, as well as helping to take care of things in the kitchen. We'd also like to thank Dennis and Marian Cihacek, owners of Great Harvest Bread Co., for donating all of the wonderful bread to round out the meal. Proceeds from the Soup Supper will benefit our parish youth ministry programs, and we are grateful for your generosity. We should have final numbers next week on how much we were able to raise for our youth.

Registration For Next Year

Registration for fall R.E. classes has begun! 2019-20 registration forms were 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 (page 6) 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.

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