



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Encounter, Know, Proclaim

September 1, 2019

22nd

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited." - Lk 14:8bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

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.

ENCOUNTER

Pray & Worship

Join us! All are welcome!

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am
10:30 am, 12:00 pm,
6:00 pm

Daily Mass

Mon-Fri: 6:30 am, 8:15 am
Saturday: 8:00 am

Confession

Saturday: 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm
Tuesday: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Morning Prayer

Mon-Sat: 6:10 am

Rosary

Mon-Fri: 7:50 am
Saturday: 7:50 am

Adoration

Perpetual in the Reservation Chapel

Contact Us:

Parish Office:

Phone: 402-896-9675
Emergency: 402-896-9675 ext 2
Office Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, M-F

Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Padraic Stack

Deacons:

Dcn. Ernie Abbott
Dcn. Chuck Botdorf
Dcn. Denny Dethlefs
Dcn. Jerry Kozney
Dcn. Marty Warwick

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Facility Reservations:

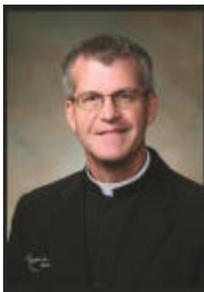
Contact Angie at 402-861-4502 or
a.carnazzo@stephen.org

Bulletin Deadline:

Submit requests to
a.hartwig@stephen.org by
3 pm on the Thursday one week (10
days) prior to the bulletin publication.

Welcome New Parishioners!

Please stop by the Welcome Table in
the Gathering Space after Mass to
introduce yourself and learn how we
can support your faith journey.
Questions? Contact Cathy Ashton at
402-896-4507, c.ashton@stephen.org.



Pastor's Message

"When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

In our Gospel reading for this weekend's liturgy, we hear Jesus continue to teach as he makes his way to Jerusalem, where he will give His life on the cross. He was invited to a meal at an important person's home, and he noticed that there were some people who were pushing their way to be seated at places of honor around the banquet table. Jesus tells them that they should take the lowest place at the table, so that the host will see the person's humility and invite them to a higher position. Jesus goes on to teach that when a person hosts a lunch or dinner, they shouldn't invite friends or relatives or those who have the means to return the favor. Instead, they should invite "the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind." Even though these people cannot repay the host, he will be repaid at the resurrection of the dead.

Jesus is teaching us today that the virtues of humility and generosity go hand in hand. He challenges each of us who have been blessed with so much to consider how well we reach out to those who are struggling with life. Generosity and gift-giving take on new significance if we share who we are and what we have with people who do not have the means to return our gifts and favors. Only by acting with a spirit of humility and generosity can we hope to be given a place of honor at the heavenly banquet.

We must remember that there is more to life than the days we spend on earth. We have eternity waiting ahead of us, and it is up to us whether or not we will spend eternity around the banquet table of heaven. It is only in our desire to love God and to generously serve his people—especially the poor—that we will know the fullness of life and joy in the kingdom to come.

"True humility makes no pretense of being humble, and scarcely ever utters words of humility." – Saint Francis de Sales

May God bless you,
Father Dave

Welcome Newly Baptized

Shawnaya Joanne Irudiaraj, daughter of Jarald Irudiaraj Henry and Shanthi Vincent
Kirby Elizabeth Gill, daughter of Daniel and Emily Gill
Aaron Michael Ebert, son of Carl and Rosenda Ebert

Labor Day Mass

Join us for Mass on Labor Day, Monday, September 2 at 9:00 a.m.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Eucharistic Exposition & Benediction

Come, adore Jesus and spend time in prayer on **Friday, September 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Exposition begins around 9 a.m. after the 8:15 a.m. Mass and concludes with Benediction at 2:30 p.m. Feel free to come any time, for any length of time.

Holy Hour

Come join us for an hour of Eucharistic Adoration on **Monday, September 9** in the Church. The hour will include the Rosary, scripture and contemplation. Holy Hour is one week later in September because of Labor Day.

Learn more: stephen.org/exposition-benediction

Knights of Columbus—American Red Cross Blood Drive

⇒ Saturday, September 14 from 7 a.m. to noon in the Dining Room

⇒ Contact Jason Castor to schedule an appointment

⇒ Call or Text: 402-850-7369 or email omahajason@gmail.com



Children's Liturgy Volunteers Needed!

Do you love children? Would you like to share the Word of God with our youth? If the answer is yes, come join this ministry! Volunteers are needed to teach the lessons each week as well as to assist with the supervision of the children. This is a great opportunity for adults and high school youth. Please contact Beth Becham at bethbeecham62@gmail.com for more information.

Marian Prayer Program—Saturday, September 7

Come join the Knights of Columbus to take part in a Marian Prayer Program September 7 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Church. We honor the Martyrs over the centuries as we call particular attention to the suffering of today's Christian in the Middle East.



Invitation to Deepen Your Prayer Life

We are excited to offer you a variety of options for your personal spiritual growth. On **Wednesday, September 4th**, we invite you to attend an information session to learn more about the opportunities available and to help you discern what would be the best fit for you. Please join us in the GPC Community Room from 7-8pm. Fr. Andy Alexander, the director of the Creighton Online Retreat option will be with us, as well as, Fr. Padraic, Deacon Denny and Gladyce Janky, Chaplain of Creighton Graduate School, Heider College of Business and the Law School. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Ashton.

"That Man is You" Begins September 6

Please Join us for the Fall Semester of TMIY- "Fight of Faith". All new material.



That Man is You is an interactive men's program focused on the development of men in the modern world. It combines the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith and the wisdom of the saints to develop the vision of authentic men capable of transforming themselves, their families and greater society.

Friday mornings in the Gonderinger Parish Center from 5:30 to 6:55 a.m. Contact: Buz Fleissner at (402) 306-0265 or bfleissner1@gmail.com.

Do you want to strengthen your faith life? Would you like to build stronger connections with others in our parish? Do you want to become more involved in our parish community?

Welcome.
There is **More to Life**

You're Invited! Come to the next Weekend Experience!

Men's Weekend:

September 14-15, 2019 / 8 AM Saturday – 4 PM Sunday

Women's Weekend:

September 28-29, 2019 / 8 AM Saturday – 4 PM Sunday

For more information and to sign up visit www.ssmwelcomeweekend.org
Email any questions to ssm.welcome.weekend@gmail.com

Adult Studies

Learn, grow and form your faith. One great way is come to a bible or book study. 2019-2020 studies are forming now. Morning and evening classes and every day of the week are available. More info at stephen.org/adult-studies

Life of St. Paul—Young Adult Bible Study

Every other Sunday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. August 18 through December 15

Seeking Truth: Study the Book of Genesis

Sundays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. October 6 through March

Study of Ephesians

Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. September 23 through November 18

Seeking Truth: Study of the Book of Isaiah

Tuesdays from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. September 10 through March 2020

How to Pray Like Mary

Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. September 17 through November 19

Lectio Divina

The first Wednesday of each month from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. in Sept. through May

Sacred Scripture Study: Entertaining Angels

Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. September 12 through November 14

The Bible Timeline – Martyr Moms

Fridays from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. September 6 through May

Breaking Open the Word

Fridays from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. September 6 through May

Living the Power of the Holy Spirit – Women's Bible Study

Second Saturday of the month from 8 to 10:00 a.m. September 14 through May

Men's Regnum Christi

Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m.

Women's Regnum Christi

Various dates & times

KNOW

Formation

Learn. Grow. Form your faith.

Adult Faith Formation

Are you seeking opportunities to learn and grow in the Catholic faith? We're here to support you!

Explore opportunities:

stephen.org/adult-faith-formation

Contact: Cathy Ashton at 402-861-4507 or c.ashston@stephen.org

Sacraments

Getting married? Having a baby? Needing an anointing?

Baptisms:

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 1:30 pm. Parents are required to attend a preparation classes prior to their child's Baptism. Contact parish office to schedule and to register for a class.

Weddings:

Preparation for Marriage begins at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Contact parish office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that He may raise them up and save them. Contact Dcn Denny at 402-861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.

Homebound Eucharist

Are you homebound and need Holy Communion brought to you? Contact the parish office for more information and to arrange.

Becoming Catholic! RCIA

Are considering becoming Catholic? Curious about our faith? Have you missed a sacrament or two along the way? The Becoming Catholic! program will help you deepen your relationship with Jesus by increasing your knowledge of the Catholic Church and Holy Scripture. This program will prepare you for full communion into His Church.

Contact: Scott and Julie Tylski at 402-861-2209 or tylskisj@cox.net or Cathy Ashton at 402-861-4507 or c.ashston@stephen.org.

KNOW

Formation

Learn. Grow. Form your faith.

School

Grades PreK-8

Considering a Catholic Education for your children? St. Stephen the Martyr School is united in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning.

Website:
school.stephen.org

Phone: 402-896-0754
Email: school@stephen.org
Principal: Julie Perrault
Assistant Principal: Dr. Joe Greco

Religious Education

Grades PreK-8

Do you want to build a strong Catholic faith foundation in your children? We can help! St. Stephen's offers religious education for children 3 years old through 8th grade.

Website:
stephen.org/religious-education

Phone: 402-896-5683
Contact: China Weil
Email: c.weil@stephen.org

Youth Ministry

Grades 6-12

Did you know that 13 year's old is the average age that youth leave the Church? We're here to help! Our Youth Ministry programs are designed to keep youth actively Catholic and to provide real answers to real questions.

Website:
stephen.org/youth-ministry

Phone: 402-861-4509
Contact: Laura Bogue
Email: l.bogue@stephen.org

Children's Liturgy

Ages 4-8

During the school year, children are welcome to gather for an age-appropriate bible lesson during 5 PM, 9 AM and 10:30 AM Masses. Children will be dismissed from Mass after the welcome and return prior to the Eucharist.

School News

St. Stephen the Martyr School serves students in preschool through 8th grade. It's never too early or too late to make a decision about your child's education. Call to set up your tour today! Learn more at school.stephen.org.

Calendar:

August 28: Home and School Social, 6:30-8 p.m.
September 5: Curriculum Night, 6-8 p.m.
September 26: Martyr Marathon

Ways to Support

- ⇒ TAGG your purchases and a percentage of your bill will be donated to our school!
- ⇒ Save HyVee receipts from any Omaha or surrounding area HyVee store dated September 1 through December 31, 2019. Cash 4 Students is EASY!
 - * The program runs September 1 – December 31
 - * Save your receipts from any Omaha HyVee store
 - * Ask your grandparents, your neighbors, co-workers
 - * Gas, diner, coffee shop and pharmacy receipts are accepted
 - * HyVee donates \$1 for every \$200 in receipts collected!
 - * Bring your receipts and place them in the HyVee box outside the school office or turn in receipts to your teachers

Religious Education News

It's not too late to register! Visit our website or stop by the RE office for registration forms and information.

Calendar

September: Cookie Dough Fundraiser
Sept. 1: No Sunday School
Sept. 7/8: Masses of Enrollment
Sept. 8: Confirmation Parent Meetings
Sept. 15: Catechetical Sunday
Sept. 29: Reconciliation Parent Meeting

Confirmation Preparation

Save the Dates:

- ⇒ **Sept. 7/8:** All 7th graders beginning their preparation for Confirmation will be recognized at the Masses of Enrollment (all weekend Masses) and then will be invited to enter their names in the Enrollment Book.
- ⇒ **Sept 8:** 7th & 8th grade Confirmation Parent Meetings
- ⇒ Confirmation will be **April 27, 28 & 29 2020**

Youth Ministry News

Kick-Off Parties: We are gearing up for a new year of Youth Ministry, and boy, are we excited! Life Teen, for our high school youth, will resume meeting weekly on Sunday, September 8. Edge, for our middle school youth, will resume on Tuesday, September 10. Stay tuned to learn what this year's launch party theme will be, and for more on what's to come!

Calendar

Sep. 8: Life Teen Kick-Off, 7-9 pm, GPC
Sep. 10: Edge Kick-Off, 6:30-8 pm, Dining Room

Calling all Grade School Singers!

The SSM Children's Choir will be starting up once again in September! If your child loves to sing, give us a try! Rehearsals begin on Thursday night, September 19th at 6 p.m. Each rehearsal lasts 45 minutes long and there are no tryouts! Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there! For more information, contact either Linda Liesner at Liesner_linda@hotmail.com or Paula Bonkiewicz at p.bonkiewicz@stephen.org

Safe Environment Training Sessions at SSM

Will you be or are you considering volunteering with the youth of our parish? Whether you're a sacristan, staff member, coach, catechist, or parent helping in the classroom, be Safe Environment certified! Come learn and be empowered to be an ambassador of our Church and advocate for our families and youth!

- ⇒ Monday, September 23 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the GPC
- ⇒ Other training sessions are offered throughout the Archdiocese

Register at archomaha.org/safe-environment/#training

Questions? Contact Angie at 402-861-4502 or a.carnazzo@stephen.org.



Prime Timers Upcoming Events



2nd and 4th Thursdays — Monthly Cards, Games and Conversation at 1 PM in the GPC. Please bring an item for the food pantry and a snack to share.

Prime Timers activities are open to anyone who would like to attend. Questions? Contact Moe (402-896-2577), Jan (402-592-1298), Pat (402-201-7945).

Parishioners Giving Back!



Since October 2017, a crew of about 14 men from St. Stephen the Martyr has been working weekly at our Habitat for Humanity home in Bellevue. The new construction is adjacent to a second home they also worked on. The project is almost complete and the family will take occupancy the first week of September.. This photo shows the re-purposing of the brick planters from the South entrance of our church now at the Habitat for Humanity home. Thanks to Sister Clarice for the Bake Sales to raise funds and awareness of the Church Build effort. This "crew" will continue giving back by helping our maintenance staff and parishioners on parish projects. Sincere thanks especially to Steve Simonsen, Paul Kamphaus, Bill Novak, John Carda, Rick Thiesen, Gail Klein, Rick McIllese, Jim Spurgin, Jim Doll, Tom Martin, Dick Fisher and Steve Cinnamon for all your hard work!

If you'd like to help with future projects or share your story, please email a.hartwig@stephen.org.

Young Adult Softball and BBQ Night

Saturday 9/7/19 @ 4:00

All young adults are invited (19-35)! We will be meeting at a member's apartment (please join our facebook page: St. Stephen the Martyr Young Adults Group, to find out the address). Please come out for fellowship, food, and a fun game of softball. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Nicole Rugg at (847)946-4376 or NicoleRugg18@gmail.com

Looking for ways to get your kids helping out at Mass?

Two easy and simple ways to help and get your younger kids involved is be **Greeters**, entrusted with promoting a sense of welcoming and belonging or assist in serving coffee and donuts through **Hospitality**. Both ministries are great to do together as a family! Email Karen at k.hardy@stephen.org to sign up or for more information.

Concrete Project Update

Thank you for your patience as we complete the concrete project at our Church entrances. The aging and deteriorating concrete was replaced with a new ADA compliant walkway, eliminating the steps, making it safer and easier to maintain, especially during Winter. Both entrances are now open! Over the next few weeks, crews will be installing new lighting, landscaping and finishing the irrigation system. This project is being funded by your generous tithing and donations earmarked during last year's fall appeal, along with many in-kind contributions.

Volunteer Opportunity—Driver

Can you help one of our parishioners? A senior citizen is looking for a volunteer driver to get her to appointments. She is at Heritage at Legacy Assisted Living. If you are interested please call the Patty in the Parish Office at 402-896-9675.

Attention 4th-8th grade volleyball players!

SPIKEFEST 2019 Volleyball Tournament: October 4th-6th. Registration coming soon! The Courts: 8930 S 137th Cr. #1, Omaha, NE. Entry Deadline: September 27th Questions: spikefest2019@gmail.com

Tip from Create Care Team

Save those used pens, pen caps, mechanical pencils, markers, marker caps, permanent markers and permanent marker caps. The Creation Care Team will be collecting them to recycle—stay tuned for more information.

PROCLAIM

Community

Get involved. Belong. Serve.

Do you want to get more involved in our parish community? Are you looking for ways to serve others? Are you being called to participate in the Liturgy?

Visit: stephen.org/community

Stewardship

Sunday Stewardship

Weekend of 8/25/2019

Online/Checks/Cash:

\$47,327.00

Children's Giving:

\$244.00

“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.” Luke 14:13 -14

We have a difficult time with the concept of giving without expecting something in return. Even when we give to charity we often want something in return – a raffle ticket, a dinner, a chance to play golf or our name in print. Yet, as Christian stewards, we need to remember that the true reward for our giving awaits us in heaven.

Give online at stephen.org/give

TAGG

YTD raised:

\$5,553

YOUR BUSINESS NAME HERE!

Do you own or work for a business that is looking for marketing opportunities and loves to give back to the community? TAGG could be the perfect option for you! Email to learn more: hello@togetheragreatergood.com

Learn more:

www.togetheragreatergood.com/ssm

To register your RE or School family in the TAGG for Tuition program, go to www.togetheragreatergood.com/SSMTuition



42nd Archbishop's Dinner for Education--A Celebration of Education

It's back to school, so you know what that means – early mornings, busy days and overall longer to-do list. With so many daily activities it is easy to lose sight of the bigger role we are all playing as champions of Catholic education. But did you know there is one night dedicated to celebrating all that makes Catholic education incredible? At the Archbishop's Dinner for Education we honor 8 outstanding educators and raise vital scholarships dollars, making our schools more accessible.

This year we are honoring: Mike Dempsey, Gross Catholic High School, Bellevue; Jennifer Fiscus, St. Rose of Lima School, Crofton; Cindy Menzel, St. Mary School, Bellevue; Nancy Hochstein, Holy Trinity School, Hartington; Marsha Kalkowski, Marian High School, Omaha; Karen Schmeichel, St. Mary High School, O'Neill; Suzanne Seyler, St. Bernard School, Omaha; Diane Vaiskunas, Madonna School & Community Based Services, Omaha

We hope you'll join us in celebrating! The dinner is Thursday, September 12 at 6:00 pm at Embassy Suite La Vista. To make reservations visit give.archomaha.org/dinner2019. See you there!

Catholic Cemeteries Seminar

School is back in full swing, and our schedules seem to returning to normal...until the death of a loved one occurs. Planning ahead reduces stress and burdens for the surviving family. You are invited to learn more about the healing powers of the funeral liturgy as well as the emotional and financial benefits of preplanning one's end of life arrangements. This Seminar is September 21, 2019 10:30 AM to 12 Noon. Space is limited so please RSVP to Deacon Jim Tardy at jtardy@catholiccem.com or 402/391-3711.

Young Catholic Professionals Events

Young Catholic Professionals serves young adults in their 20s and 30s in connecting with one another to grow in faith. Join us for our events, follow us on Facebook @ YCP Omaha, or contact Justin at justin.korth@ycpomaha.org.

- ⇒ Our next Networking Happy Hour is Tues., Sept. 3rd at Brickway Brewery (1116 Jackson Street) at 6pm.
- ⇒ Matt Boever, Government Affairs Director at Home Instead, will be our featured speaker on Tues., Sept. 17th at Duchesne Academy for an inaugural YCP homecoming event. Mass is at 6pm and the social hour and talk start at 6:45pm.

Grieving with Great Hope Workshop/Support Group

A journey for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one, firmly grounded in our Catholic Faith and is a 5-week walk with those who have lost a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild or a friend. This workshop will be held September 3, 10, 17, 24th and October 1, 2019 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Parish Conference Center at St. Cecilia Cathedral 701 N 40th street. Attendance is necessary for each session and seating is limited. Please contact Deacon Jim Tardy at jtardy@catholiccem.com or (402) 391-3711 or (402) 551-2313.

TaiChi for Better Balance is Starting Again at St. Stephen's

The 8 form beginner class will be on Monday and Wednesday from 9:15-10:00 and the Advanced class will be on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:15 to 11:00 am. The classes will start September 9th and will be for 12 weeks. Another class will follow for another 12 weeks. If you are interested please contact Colleen Simonsen at colleensimonsen1@gmail.com or 402-689-5420.

St. Gerald Parish Festival: 60th Anniversary Parish Festival

Sunday, September 22 from 11:30am - 6:00pm at 9602 Q St. Food, Fun, and Prizes.

Candlelight Service with Mary, Undoer of Knots

All women please join us September 19th at 6:30 pm at St. Wenceslaus Church. If you or someone you know has been hurt in any way by the church or someone in the church, perhaps are struggling with the scandals in the Church and remain unsettled with the Church's response to these scandals or have been offended by lack of compassion following a loss, financial need or divorce, please join us. Come pray with us as we intercede to Mary, Undoer of Knots for us and our Church. Personal testimony, Eucharist Adoration and music will be part of this evening planned to bring hope and healing to women. Wine and Cheese reception to follow. Thank you, St. Wenc Parish Nurse Team.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 31

8:00 am † Joseph P. Watson (PS)
Confessions (DB)
5:00 pm † Evelyn Williams (DB)

Sunday, September 1

7:30 am SI Our Parishioners (DB)
9:00 am † Walt & Jean Stover (DB)
10:30 am † Juanita Mutuc (PS)
12:00 pm † Sharon Welch (PS)
6:00 pm SI Jeanette Hauptman (PS)

Monday, September 2

9:00 am † Jack Circo (PS)

Tuesday, September 3

6:30 am † John Maddock (PS)
8:15 am † Ivan Lange (DB)
5:30 pm Confessions (PS)

Wednesday, September 4

6:30 am † Vinh Nguyen (PS)
8:15 am † Amelia Garlot (DB)

Thursday, September 5

6:30 am SI Leonard & Adele
Hassenstab (DB)
8:15 am † Pat Smith (DB)

Friday, September 6

6:30 am † John Demyan (PS)
8:15 am † Theresa Ramold (PS)

Saturday, September 7

8:00 am SI Leonard & Adele
Hassenstab (PK)
Confessions (PK)
5:00 pm † George I. Gervase (PK)

Sunday, September 8

7:30 am † Jim Brazda (PK)
9:00 am † Bonnie & Charlie Huff (PK)
10:30 am † Juanita Mutuc (PS)
12:00 pm SI Our Parishioners (PS)
6:00 pm † Stanley Krupa (ME)

The Priest Schedules are subject to Change
DB=Fr. Dave Belt, PS=Fr. Padriac Stack,
PK=Fr. Peter Krezalek, ME=Fr. Mike Eckley

SI = Special Intention
† = Repose of the Soul

Prayers

Please pray for these members of our parish family who are sick:

Sister Clarice Faltus

Russ Mitchell, husband of Jan

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