



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

November 10, 2019



32nd

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"They can no longer die, for they are like angels;
and they are the children of God because they
are the ones who will rise." - Lk 20:36

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

Calendar of Events

For a full calendar of weekly happenings, visit our website at:
stephen.org/google-calendar

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!

Contact Cathy Ashton at 402-891-4507,
c.ashton@stephen.org and learn how we can support your faith journey.

Pastor's Message

"Those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead can no longer die, for they are like angels... God is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

Throughout His lifetime, Jesus taught a new way to God through faith. He consistently criticized the traditional ways of Israel, as tax collectors and sinners are given forgiveness, life, and hope. As His ministry draws to a close and He prepares for His death, the Sadducees have their chance to question the Messiah.

The Sadducees were the traditional priestly rulers of the temple and they did not believe in resurrection after death. They come to Jesus with an outrageous question that was asked to make Him look ridiculous. They pose a question about a woman who, in keeping with the law of Israel, which allows a childless woman to remarry the brothers of her husband, marries seven brothers in an attempt to raise a family. If there is a resurrection, "to whom will she be wife?" Jesus responds to the question by showing that they have completely misunderstood what the resurrection is. There will be a transformation of the sons of men into sons of God. The problem with the Sadducees was that they could only think in terms of the life on earth that they already knew. They were not open to the power of God, acting through the experience of a death that opens the door to new and abundant life.

This is a key element in our Christian faith. A God who only directs and cares for human life on this side of death can never be a part of the Christian faith. Death is not the end of our existence, and we are called to live our lives on earth with our vision focused on what is to come after death. If we are only concerned about our everyday lives and do not live with faith and hope in the power of the resurrection, we will be like the Sadducees, and our hope of eternal life will fade away. Death is not the end of the story and our faith as Christians guides us to live lives that are marked by the great joy and hope that only the promise of eternal life can provide for us.

"Hope is the first thing to take some sort of action." Vincent McHaff

God bless you!
Fr. Dave

Welcome Newly Baptized

Ethan Josue LaPorta, son of Craig and Heidi LaPorta

Ablaze Worship

Every month about 300 or more people come together to worship God at Ablaze -- Catholics, non-Catholics, teens, young adults, parents, and grandparents. Ablaze Ministries was founded by Fr. Michael Voithofer to build a stronger Culture of Pentecost. This is a great place for your whole family, young and old, to experience more of the Holy Spirit. Please JOIN US for any or all of the evening below:

⇒ Friday Nov 15th - St. Mary's Church, 2302 Crawford St., Bellevue, NE 6:30 p.m.

breakfast

sponsored by the Knights of Columbus



kofc10160.org



November 10 after the 7:30 a.m. Mass until Noon

Proceeds this Sunday benefit our Religious Education

New - THREE menu options!

Option #1: **Traditional Pancake Breakfast** with eggs, sausage & fruit cup

Option #2: **Eggs, Sausage & Hashbrowns**, with biscuit & fruit cup

Option #3: **Biscuits & Sausage Gravy** with eggs & fruit cup

Cost: \$7.00/adult, \$5.00/child, or \$25 max for family | The 2nd Sunday of each month - October 13 through February 9

Fair Trade Sale—November 10 During Breakfast

Our next Fair Trade sale is Sunday, November 10. This is a great opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping & support Fair Trade practices throughout the world. Chocolate will be available!

Martyr Jump Starter



What does it mean to be Catholic?

The Saints

Father Dave Belt

Sunday, November 17, 10 - 11 a.m., Dining Room

All are welcome!

Questions? Contact Cathy Ashton | (402) 861-4507 | c.ashton@stephen.org

Prime Timers Upcoming Events



Mass at 8:15 a.m. — TUESDAY, November 12, followed with coffee & donuts and a talk with Deacon Jerry in the GPC.

Christmas Party — Friday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the GPC. Main entrée & dessert provided. Bring a side dish to share. \$6.50 per person Jan, Pat or Moe; or drop off with Cathy Ashton. BYOB. Wear your PLAID matching or mismatched outfits (optional). All are welcome!

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).

Are you looking for a spiritual director, but don't have any idea how to go about finding one? Every first weekend of the month, the members of Regnum Christi bring in a Legionaries of Christ priest to give guidance, confession, mornings of reflection and spiritual direction to its members both in Lincoln and Omaha. Fr Peter is open to offering spiritual direction to anyone who would like to be accompanied. If you would like to schedule spiritual direction please go to www.rcheartland.org. Click on spiritual direction and then Omaha. Times are available on the first Friday and Saturday of the month. Pick your time and sign up. There is no cost.

Reservation Chapel Chair Project

We are excited to announce an improvement to the Reservation (Adoration) Chapel and Confessionals. In an effort to create a warm, welcoming, comfortable environment, all chairs have been replaced with (existing) restored ones of the same style. The existing kneelers are in the process of being stripped, sanded and stained to match. This work is being completed by a group of volunteers. In order to minimize any inconvenience, one kneeler will be restored at a time.

Questions? Please contact Trinette Shamburg at mandtshamburg@cox.net.

Vocations Corner

All the members of the Church are responsible for looking after vocations. "The duty of fostering vocations falls on the whole Christian community, and they should discharge it principally by living full Christian lives" (Vatican II). To live the Way of a full Christian life, open your ears and heart to the Word of God, participate in Eucharist, exercise charity and pray! As St. Paul encourages, remember that our Lord Jesus Christ strengthens our hearts in every good deed and word. Please join fellow parishioners in unity and prayer for Holy Vocations every Thursday evening in the daily Mass chapel from 8:00-900 pm.

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.ashton@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 class 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 by 4:30 p.m. on Fridays for more information and to make arrangements.

Adult Studies

Learn more about our faith through Scripture and Adult Study. Studies offered every day of the week. Find one that meets your needs.

For details and how to sign up visit our website at stephen.org/adult-studies.

Becoming Catholic! RCIA

Are considering becoming Catholic? Curious about our faith? Have you missed a sacrament or two along the way? Contact: Scott and Julie Tylski at 402-861-2209 or tylskisj@cox.net or Cathy at 402-861-4507 or c.ashton@stephen.org.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

— Matthew 19:14



School

Grades Preschool-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 Preschool-8

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

Website:
stephen.org/religious-education

Phone: 402-861-4512
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

School News

Did you know?... Students in K-8 are assessed throughout the year in core subjects. Fountas and Pinell shows reading growth, MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) show reading and math growth, and Terra Nova (grades 3-8) show growth in all core subjects. We utilize these test in conjunction with classroom activities/assessments to determine placement and assistance when needed.

Calendar

November 11: Veteran's Day Assembly
November 20: Home & School PEPtalk—Love & Logic

Religious Education News

Be sure to come enjoy Breakfast provided by the Knights of Columbus this Sunday! Proceeds are for Religious Education!

Calendar

November 10: Knights of Columbus Breakfast Proceeds for Religious Education
Nov. 19/20: RE Masses, families invited
Nov. 26/27: No RE Classes - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 1: No SS Classes - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2/3: First Reconciliation
Dec. 14 - Sunday School Christmas Program rehearsals
Dec. 15 - Sunday School Christmas Program

Hearts Open Wide: Youth Service Squad

- * Nov. 9: Angel Tree Set-Up, 3:30-4:30 PM
- * Nov. 10: Prepare Dinner for the Rainbow House, 2:30-5:30 PM

Family participation is always welcome and encouraged. Online registration is required.

Visit: stephen.org/youth-service.



Youth Ministry News

Youth Ministry Participant Registration — Registration is free, quick, and easy. Register online at waiver.smartwaiver.com/v/ssmym201920.

Life Teen (High School) — Nov. 10: 7-9 PM, GPC — We are continuing to help one another grow closer together and closer to Christ! Join the faith-filled fun this week, and help us look to the future.

Edge (Middle School) — Nov. 12: 6:30-8 PM, Dining Room — We've explored existence and creation from lots of different angles this semester, but now it's time to talk The Fall of Man. Yikes!

What About Wednesdays (Grades 8-12) — Nov. 13: 7-8:30 PM, School Library — 8th-12th grade teens are invited to join us for our Discipleship group where there will be a variety of teen-lead discussion, game nights, one night Bible or book studies, and more. It's come when you can, and we promise not to assign homework.

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

From November 9th through December 8th, we will again be collecting donated items for several area organizations. Listed below are the different charities and some information about them. *Thank you Youth Ministry for organizing this project!*

- ♦ **Essential Pregnancy Services**— All of their services are free and confidential. Every day, their programs provide pregnant women and mothers with the *medical, educational, material, financial and emotional support* they need to become healthy, knowledgeable, and caring parents
- ♦ **St. Augustine Indian Mission of Winnebago**— St. Augustine Indian Mission has served the Native American people of the Winnebago and Omaha Tribes since 1909. Through the years it has touched the lives of thousands of Native American children and impacted the lives of their families
- ♦ **Open Door Mission**— The Open Door Mission is a Gospel Rescue Mission providing basic needs and life-changing programs for the homeless and needy
- ♦ **St. Stephen the Martyr Parish Pantry**— Provides food and essential items to families in need



Help Needed to Deliver Donations— Over the years, our parish has been overwhelmingly generous with this project and for that we thank you! If you are interested in helping to sort, pack, and/or deliver donations to the various locations, please contact Laura at 402-861-4509 or l.bogue@stephen.org.

Time, Talent, Treasure – Volunteer Feature



Julie Tylski and husband Scott, of 25 years, have been parishioners for 19 years and have two children: Ashley (in PA school at UNMC) and Ethan (a Sophomore at UNL). Julie and Scott give of their time, talent and treasure to St. Stephen the Martyr in many capacities including: leading the RCIA Becoming Catholic! program, helping with Baptism Prep, and serving on the Evangelization Council and Parish Council. Julie also works with families as they prepare Weddings in our Church and has led many bible studies. Julie answered these question so we could share their story! Thank you, Julie and Scott for all you do!

How did you get started volunteering at St. Stephen the Martyr? I started volunteering at St. Stephen the Martyr when we moved to Omaha from Wichita. I missed my family and friends and I had two little kids. Our daughter was three and our son had just turned one a week or two

before we moved. I got involved in anything that would allow me to bring my kids. Everyone welcomed me and I quickly made friendships that have lasted.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering? I enjoy volunteering because I get to meet new people and hopefully make a difference in their spiritual journey.

What does St. Stephen the Martyr mean to you? St. Stephen the Martyr is my home away from home.

Do you have any advice to other parishioners looking to volunteer? You will gain more than you give.

Prayer Shawl—Meeting Nov. 13

Gather, pray and make Prayer Shawls/Blankets to be given to persons experiencing a crisis in their life. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:15 to 11:00 a.m. in the Gonderinger Parish Center.

Knights of Columbus—American Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, November 16 from 7 a.m. to noon in the Dining Room
Call or Text: 402-850-7369 or email omahajason@gmail.com to schedule appointment

Rosary Makers—Meeting Nov. 20

Gather to make rosaries. This group meets the third Wednesday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Gonderinger Parish Center.

Attention: Adult Volleyball Players

Please join us Saturday nights at 6 p.m. for a friendly game of volleyball. All adults are welcome! Please contact Ray Foran at rayforan@2000.usna.com or Andy Husein at a.husein0701@gmail.com for details.

St. Stephen the Martyr Family Christmas Project

We are adopting **Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Services (DVS) and The Shelter** for our Family Christmas project. This program serves women and children in The Shelter and as they transition out. This is an opportunity for you and your family to focus on “**Sheltering the Homeless**”, one of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy that gives us a model for how we should treat all others as if they were Christ in disguise. There are two ways you can help our neighbors:

1. Purchase and donate new sheet sets (sizes crib, twin, full or queen), blankets/comforters, mattress pads, pillows, towels or washcloths. Please place items in the baskets in the Gathering Space anytime between November 9 through December 15.
2. Participate in the Second Collection the weekend of November 16-17. Funds raised will be used to purchase additional bedding and other items on Catholic Charities Amazon Wish List or gift cards. If you are interested in reviewing the wish list, it is available at <http://bit.ly/DomesticViolenceWishList>.

If just ONE child and ONE mom goes to bed with new bedding, they can experience the comfort and warmth provided by our St. Stephen's faith community. Thank you for helping us spread the love of Jesus Christ this CHRISTmas!

Questions? Please contact Teresa Ziska at 402-960-8618, Linda Hendricks at 402-699-1911 or Loni Burger at 402-896-4446.

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? How are you sharing your unique gifts?

Visit: stephen.org/community

Weekly Offertory

10/29- 11/04/2019

Online/Checks/Cash: \$45,356.52

Children's Giving: \$284.00

All Saints' Day: \$2,299.00

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word."

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

There are two important lessons here. First, we are called to be generous with our encouragement and hope. As God shows us mercy, we must be merciful to others. Second, joy is contagious! The joy we receive from doing good works not only strengthens us, it encourages others as well. Share the joy of living your faith whenever you can.

Give online at stephen.org/give

TAGG

YTD raised: \$6,847.51

EXCITING NEWS! HyVee is now on TAGG and will donate 1% of all purchases back to our Religious Education and School! That's 1% off gas, groceries, everything!

Learn more:

www.togetheragreatergood.com/ssm

Stewardship of Treasure Appeal—Commitment Sunday!

You're invited! Commitment Sunday is next weekend, November 17th. Join in the dining room after all Sunday morning Masses. Enjoy a pastry, fellowship and an **attitude of gratitude**, as we celebrate you! Everyone is welcome. Your prayers and response to our Stewardship of Treasure Appeal is appreciated. Thank you for returning your pledge card and know that your offertory giving allows God's miracles to take place everyday in our church and school. See you next weekend!

SHELTERING THE HOMELESS

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital Looking for Volunteers..

.. to serve our patients and the Madonna mission. If you have outstanding communication skills, consider yourself a friendly and outgoing person, have basic computer and phone skills, and are willing to undergo a background check, we would love to chat with you about staffing our information desk and other volunteer opportunities at Madonna. Apply today! www.madonna.org/volunteer or give Celeste a call at 402-401-5338.

Funeral Liturgy Planning Seminar

The beauty of autumn is changing to the wonder of snowfall. As we prepare for the change from fall to winter we should also prepare for end of life issues. 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 November 16, 2019 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon, at Calvary Cemetery 7710 West Center Road. Space is limited so please RSVP to Deacon Jim Tardy at jtardy@catholiccem.com or 402/391-3711.

Young Catholic Professionals

Young Catholic Professionals serves young adults in their 20s and 30s in connecting with one another to grow in faith. Follow us on Facebook @ YCP Omaha, or contact Justin at justin.korth@ycpomaha.org. Our next event is an Executive Speaker Series at St. Cecilia Cathedral on Tues., Nov. 19th. Mass is at 6:15pm, social and free food starts at 7pm, and speaker begins at 7:45pm. Fr. Jeffery Lorig, Director of Pastoral Services for the Archdiocese, will be our featured speaker with a title of "Disengaged? Connecting the WE and ME in Your Organization."

NFP Wine and Cheese

Please join us for NFP Wine & Cheese, an event for engaged and married couples. Presenting couples will share their stories and explain what the Church teaches with regard to family planning. Creighton Model, Marquette and Couple to Couple League teachers will explain methods of natural family planning. The event will be Saturday, November 16th, 7pm at St. Robert's. There is no cost to attend. To learn more or to RSVP, email nfpwine@gmail.com.

Turkey Dinner

Holy Ghost Catholic Church

5219 South 53rd Street, Omaha, Ne.

Sunday - November 10, 2019

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

TURKEY, MASHED POTATOES/GRAVY DRESSING, VEGETABLE, CRANBERRIES, ROLL/BUTTER, BEVERAGE and...DESSERT

Adults \$ 10.00

Seniors \$ 9.00 (62+)

Children \$ 5.00 (12 & under)

TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE

MEAT WHEEL & RAFFLE BASKETS

SERVANTS OF MARY - HOLIDAY MINI CRAFT SALE

Location: 7400 Military Avenue

Times: Saturday, Nov. 16th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 21st, noon to 1:30 p.m.

A percentage of the sales go directly to support our Sisters in the Congo.

Chicken Dinner

Staley's Chicken Dinner being served at St. Pius X Parish 69th and Blondo in the Parish Center on Friday, November 15th from 5-7:30 PM. The meal also includes mashed potatoes and gravy, salads, coleslaw, vegetable, rolls and butter and beverage. Desserts, bakery and craft items will also be for sale. The cost is adults \$12 and children 10 and under \$6.

Regina Caeli Academy's Annual Fundraiser

You're Invited to Regina Caeli Academy's annual fundraiser, the Priest Talent Show, on November 15th! Join us for a fancy evening of dinner and auctions, as well as surprise performances from talented local priests! Purchase your tickets at www.rcahybrid.org. The event will be held at the Mainelli Center at St. Robert Bellarmine Church at 120th & Pacific in Omaha from 5:30-9:30pm on Nov. 15, 2019. Come support RCA and learn more about our growing community! We are a university-style homeschool hybrid in the Catholic and classical traditions, providing the best of both homeschooling and traditional classroom-based education to children from Pre-K through high school.

Mothers Supporting Mothers

If you are looking to make a difference in the life of a child, Catholic Charities is seeking mentors to be a supportive, friendly role model for pregnant and parenting mothers - a 1-on-1 opportunity to listen, encourage, and model parenting skills. Interested or want more information on how to make a difference? Contact Sierra Barrios (402) 829-9283 or mentoringmoms@ccomaha.org

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 9

8:00 am † Robert L Jones (PS)
3:30 pm Confessions (DS)
5:00 pm † George I. Gervase (DS)

Sunday, November 10

7:30 am † Jim Brazda (PS)
9:00 am SI Our Parishioners (PS)
10:30 am † Juanita Mutuc (GM)
12:00 pm SI Knights of Columbus (GM)
6:00 pm SI Jeff & Cindy Souba (CS)

Monday, November 11

6:30 am † John Maddock (PS)
8:15 am † Jack Circo (PS)

Tuesday, November 12

6:30 am SI Adeline Anderson (PS)
8:15 am † Jacob Ferguson (PS)
5:30 pm Confessions (CS)

Wednesday, November 13

6:30 am † Joyce Gaebel (PS)
8:15 am † Stanley Krupa (PS)

Thursday, November 14

6:30 am SI Paul & Jackie Zarachowicz (DB)
8:15 am † Stanley Krupa (DB)

Friday, November 15

6:30 am SI Stephenson Family (DB)
8:15 am † Russ Mitchell (PS)

Saturday, November 16

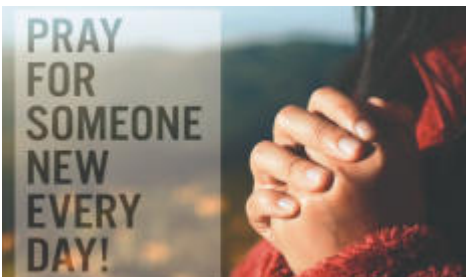
8:00 am † Joyce Current (PS)
3:30 pm Confessions (DB)
5:00 pm † Paul McDermott (DB)

Sunday, November 17

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (DB)
9:00 am SI Our Parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Ron Ingram (PS)
12:00 pm † Bill Bertch (PS)
6:00 pm † Lynn Colobong (PS)

****The Priest Schedules are subject to Change****
DB=Fr. Dave Belt, PS=Fr. Padriac Stack, PK=Fr. Peter Krezalek, OSB=Order of St. Benedict, CS=Fr. Chris Saenz, GM=Fr. Gerald Melchoir

SI = Special Intention
† = Repose of the Soul



Pastoral & Spiritual Care

Do you know of someone, including yourself, who is being admitted to the hospital, nursing home, hospice care or a rehabilitation facility and would appreciate a pastoral visit offering spiritual comfort and prayer? Contact Dcn Denny at 402-861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Parishioners,

I am pleased to share our fiscal 2019 Annual Report, which provides a financial summary and snapshot of our parish life and most recent year's accomplishments. As we pause to consider our achievements, it's humbling to reflect on our growth and exciting to visualize our future.

St. Stephen the Martyr is one of the largest Catholic parishes in Nebraska serving more than 600 students in our School, 900 youth in our Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs and 3,200 families, plus many more through our community care and outreach programs. Our community continues to grow, as we welcome new individuals and families weekly.

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all to encounter Christ, know Christ and proclaim Christ. We are here to serve and help you grow in relationship with Jesus, no matter where you are on your faith journey. As a body of Christians, we are called to share our unique gifts through Stewardship - an appreciation of the blessings that the Lord has bestowed and a desire to share them for the good of all. Your stewardship allows us to collectively carry out our mission.

I invite you to read through this report and reflect with gratitude on our accomplishments as a faith community. Thank you for your continued support, prayers and stewardship.

God Bless,

Father David Belt
Father Dave Belt, Pastor

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Numbers at a Glance:

3,200+ Registered Households
12,150+ Parishioners
2 Daily Weekday Masses plus Saturday Morning
6 Weekend Liturgies
24/7 Eucharistic Adoration
21 Marriages
14 Funerals
117 Baptisms
185 First Holy Communion
177 Confirmations
14 Adults Completed RCIA
44 Ministries
7,400 Volunteer Hours
1,601 Facebook Followers

Completed Pastoral Plan

With the help of the Pastoral Council, Finance Council and hundreds of Parishioners, a St. Stephen the Martyr Pastoral Plan was successfully developed. This five-year plan serves as a guide for our work and to help allocate Parish resources. Visions, goals and objectives were crafted for each dimension of parish life, including: Community, Worship, Leadership, Formation, Stewardship, Social Justice and Evangelization. Specific achievements from this plan will be reported in 2020.

Completed Critical Facilities and Maintenance Repairs

Critical repairs were made to our facilities, many of which were funded and completed by parishioners and internal ministries/organizations.

- Repaired and installed new protective glass in the Daily Mass Chapel
- Replaced carpet in the gathering space, hallways, offices and classrooms
- Built new ADA approved walkways at the South and North Church entrances, which removed the steps and replaced unsafe broken concrete; and installed new landscaping, irrigation and lighting
- Stabilized the Gonderinger Parish Center and made interior repairs
- Upgraded the School intercom, phone and security systems
- Completed insurance repairs to siding and roof, and replaced HVAC system and some appliances at the Parish Rectory
- Refurbished wood floors, re-painted walls, replaced wall mats and installed energy efficient LED lighting in the Gymnasium

Improved Communication

Through collaboration with staff and volunteers, communication, marketing, and brand awareness was improved. Specific accomplishments in this area included:

- Designed and launched new websites for both the Parish and School
- Refreshed Sunday bulletin
- Updated Religious Education, School and Evangelization/Catechist materials/templates
- Provided consistent weekly emails to parishioners and engagement with our online presence
- Implemented Ministry Pro Scheduler making Liturgical scheduling simple and efficient

Advocated Community Outreach

Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy serve as the guiding force for our community outreach and social justice work. We fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited the sick, buried the dead, and visited the imprisoned. This work was accomplished daily by volunteers, staff and clergy and in cooperation with community partners. Highlights include:

- Served more than 350 families through our food pantry
- Visited parishioners in hospitals and care facilities, averaging 3-4 visits per week
- Took Holy Eucharist to the Home Bound, averaging more than 100 per week
- Organized over 36 youth service community projects/events through our Hearts Wide Open Service Squad

"If you feel the tug in your heart to give of yourself, then just take the first step and START."

- Jen Kobza, EMHC, School Volunteer & Coach



Statement of Revenue / Expense Fiscal Year End June 2019 and 2018

	2019 Fiscal Year	2018 Fiscal Year
Revenue:		
Parish:		
General contributions (tithing)	\$ 2,684,727	\$ 2,823,560
Special year-end maintenance appeal	253,884	-
Other Parish Revenue	787,470	799,755
Subtotal	3,726,081	3,623,315
School:		
School tuition	1,898,053	2,122,231
Other school revenue	763,761	667,135
Subtotal	2,661,814	2,789,366
Religious Education	151,199	168,153
Total Revenue	\$ 6,539,094	\$ 6,580,834
Expenses:		
Parish Operations:		
Administrative services & supplies	\$ 1,047,201	\$ 954,694
Parish personnel	949,068	979,106
Other Parish Expense	296,055	243,789
Archdiocesan Assessment	339,554	340,932
Capital Outlay (1)	76,850	-
Subtotal Parish Operations	2,708,728	2,518,521
School Operations:		
School personnel	2,840,068	2,712,222
School operating expenses (2)	479,228	516,968
Subtotal school and related activities	3,319,296	3,229,190
Religious education	221,471	261,182
Total Expenses	6,249,495	6,008,893
Operating income	289,599	571,941
Unrealized Gain / Loss-Endowments	(9,136)	36,453
Mortgage Principal and Interest Payments (3)	(237,917)	(412,373)
Net Income	\$ 42,546	\$ 196,021

Budget Highlights

Through the generosity of our parish family we were able to boost our 2018 year-end giving by \$253,884. These funds helped with our operating shortfall as well as much needed deferred maintenance to our nearly 30-year-old facility. In addition to that financial support, volunteers organized and hosted several events, many of them with record-breaking results:

- Martyr Mission: \$188,000
- Martyr Marathon: \$108,000
- Parish Festival: \$60,000
- Trivia Night: \$11,000

These events were successful because of the generous support of our parishioners, corporate sponsors and local community. Should you have any questions regarding our financials, please do not hesitate to call the parish office at (402) 896-9675.

Footnotes:

- 1) Structural improvements to the Gonderinger Parish Center. This does not include the cost of new carpet or repairs to the Parish entrances which are expensed in the current fiscal year
- 2) The Parish covers the cost of utilities, maintenance repairs and custodial staffing to operate the School, and thus are not included in school operating expenses
- 3) 120 month, \$2.46m loan @ 3.4%. Remaining balance is \$164,067 scheduled to be paid in full by May 2020

Near Term Facility Assessment

St. Stephen's was constructed in 1991 and houses our worship space, parish and school offices, gymnasium and K-8 classrooms. In 1997 an addition was added to the school and in 2007 a neighboring child-care facility was purchased and converted for parish use.

While our buildings are structurally sound, at almost 30-years-old, many of our mechanical and HVAC systems are operating beyond their useful life-expectancy.

According to a recent parish facility assessment by BCDM Architects, near-term deferred maintenance will be required in the following areas:

Site:	\$37,700 - \$49,400
Exterior:	\$52,640 - \$58,700
Interior:	\$150,650 - \$179,900
Electrical:	\$113,800 - \$148,000
Mechanical:	\$562,700 - \$671,500
Total:	\$980,490 - \$1,177,500



Finance Council members left to right: Fr. Padraic Stack, Dianne Palik, Jim Spurgin, Roger Meyer, Tom Maddock, Ed Woll, Randy Wiese, Fr. Dave Belt. Not pictured, Joe Lad, Kali Robertson and Amber Rinehart.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

Boosted Faith Formation, Catechesis and Evangelization Programs

In accordance with our faith formation vision: to invite and equip all to become Disciples of Christ and provide opportunities for all to encounter Christ so they are inspired to proclaim Him, many new opportunities were offered. Highlights include:

- Launched Martyr Jump Starter, a series on our Catholic beliefs and an invitation for spiritual growth
- Seen an increase in participation in our existing Adult Formation classes
- Began to invite parishioners into a greater awareness of our universal call to discipleship through information sessions regarding the Archdiocesan vision for Evangelization
- Increased the use of technology to reach a broader audience. Examples included Word on Fire via Flocknote, strategic Facebook content, and Stephen.org website hub for recorded Mass homilies, Martyr Jump Starter sessions and Deepen Your Prayer Life series
- Revitalized small group study concept with 13 new groups added during Lent
- Taught Religious Education to 858 students through more than 140 volunteer Catechists and hired a new RE Director
- Worked with an average of 100 youth weekly through 3 core programs: Life Teen (High School), Edge (Middle School) and What About Wednesdays (High School)
- Attended Steubenville Youth Conference with 70 Teens & 12 Adults

Reenergized School

This fiscal year marked important change within our school as we transitioned leadership of our Principal and Vice Principal. Key accomplishments included:

- Enacted ongoing staff development to include Balanced Literacy, Gradual Release of Responsibility, Guided Instruction
- Aligned curriculum standards in accordance with Archdiocesan benchmarks and implemented MAP testing
- Evaluated instruction using AdvancedEd observation tools
- Incorporated service-related field trips and class projects into curriculum
- Developed and implemented Transitional-Kindergarten within our preschool offerings
- Revised school policies and safety protocols
- Improved STEM programming
- Enhanced communication through consistent principal updates, teacher training and new website
- Utilized marketing grant from Archdiocese of Omaha that was used for recruitment initiatives such as an Open House, school website, Facebook advertising, signage, and updated information brochures/mailings
- Continued engagement momentum of our volunteer parents through Home and School
- Began strategic planning with the guidance of our School Advisory Board



"We knew that we wanted to raise our kids with a religious foundation however we never felt like any church was the right fit until we were introduced to the Catholic Church. Within a few weeks of attending Mass and RCIA classes we knew we had found our home."

- Warren & Janie Miller, RCIA Participants

"There is a spot for everybody and you will be greatly rewarded."

- Dean Strehle, EMHC & Liturgical Trainer

"My son is now a Sophomore at Gross Catholic. One thing he has repeated over and over again, is how well he was prepared for high school. It's great to know the money we invested is having a great return."

- Karen Hiles, School Parent

"You just have to put yourself out there. When you do you, you feel good about yourself. Serving others is the right thing to do and what we are called to do."

- Debbie Blecha, Funeral Luncheon Ministry

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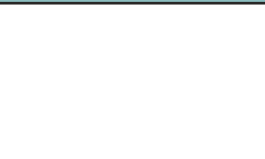


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