



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

December 6, 2020

Pray & Worship

Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday-Friday at 6:30 AM & 8:15 AM*;
Saturday at 8:15 AM*

Weekend: Saturday at 5:00 PM*; Sunday at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM* & 11:30 AM

*These Masses will be live-streamed on our Facebook page and website.

- Our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha/>
- Our website page: stephen.org/live-stream

Private Prayer

Daily Mass Chapel and Worship Space are open from 9 AM to 9 PM Monday-Friday and from 10:00 AM to 6 PM on Saturday-Sunday. The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7; door access code: 9675*

Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hours

- ⇒ Sundays with Solemn Vespers from 4 to 5 PM
- ⇒ First Friday of the Month from 9 AM to Noon
- ⇒ First Monday of the Month at 7 PM

No sign up required. Come as you are to spend time with Jesus. In the Worship Space or Facebook Live.

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, (402) 506-2239
Dcn. Chuck Botdorf, (402) 681-4701
Dcn. Denny Dethlefs, (402) 861-4538
Dcn. Jerry Kozney, (402) 659-9219
Dcn. Marty Warwick, (402) 926-1253

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline:

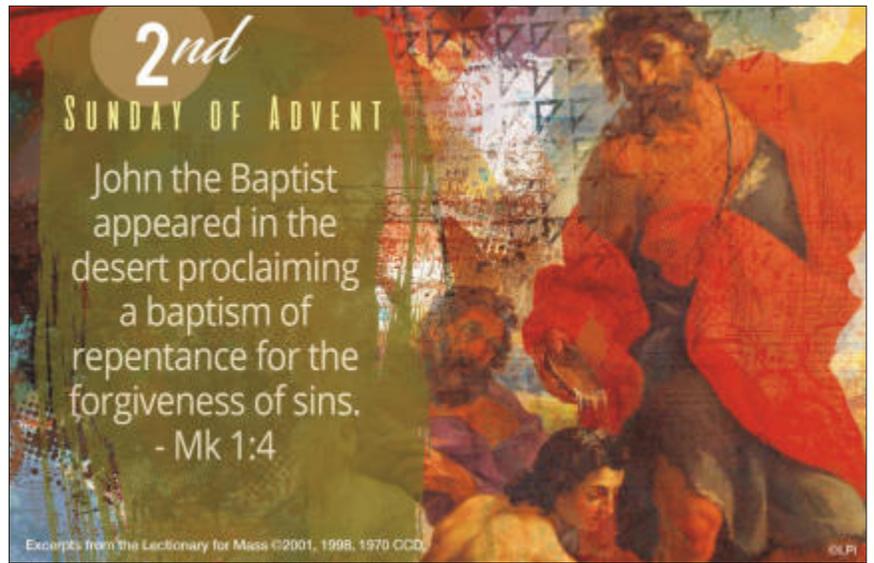
Submit requests to a.hartwig@stephen.org.

COVID-19

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass continues to be suspended. Masks are required to be worn at all times during daily and weekend Masses, and when inside our buildings. Thank you.

Not yet a Parishioner?

Register as a Parishioner on our website stephen.org. Click on "Become a Parishioner" in the footer or call the Parish office for more information. For more information about how we can support you in your faith journey, Contact Adam Ybarra, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis at 402-861-4507 or a.ybarra@stephen.org.



"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"



In all three readings this weekend, we hear a very strong call to "make straight the paths" of our lives. If we are coming into the days of Advent without sensing the presence of God, perhaps it is time to put our hearts through some major housecleaning. Just as we are preparing our homes for the celebration of Christmas, it is time for us to prepare our hearts for His coming.

There's a good chance, though, that we would try to argue that this call to preparation and repentance doesn't apply to us. We are basically good people, aren't we? We are trying to live a decent life, live during a pandemic, do our work, pay our bills, and deal with people fairly. We do have our faults and we aren't perfect, but from our point of view our spiritual house is pretty clean. But is it?

Just like a house that is in good shape but has been abandoned for a long period of time, a layer of dust can settle into the nooks and crannies of our lives. The sins of "good people" are small sins that cannot be seen without closer scrutiny and reflection: apathy, procrastination, taking people for granted, self-centeredness, complaining, pettiness, envy, laziness, never reaching out to help others, lack of gratitude. These are the dusty sins that seep into the corners of our lives. Advent is an opportunity for us to make time for repentance, so that we will be ready when the Lord comes, not only at Christmas, but at the end of time.

An important element of repentance is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please make time in the next few weeks to celebrate this great Sacrament of healing.

Now is the time for us to "clean house." Now is the time to repent and to prepare for the coming of Emmanuel—"God with us!"

"It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach as we walk."

—St. Francis of Assisi

God bless you! Father Dave Belt

Christmas Mass Schedule

Our Liturgy Team continues to plan for Christmas. As you can anticipate, things will look and feel different this year as we work to maintain a safe and welcoming liturgy experience for all our parishioners and guests. Here is our Mass Schedule. We will be sharing more information about what you can expect in the next few weeks.

Christmas Eve—Thursday, Dec. 24

3:00 PM in the Worship Space
3:15 PM in the Gym
5:00 PM in the Worship Space*
5:15 PM in the Gym
10:00 PM in the Worship Space

Christmas Day—Friday, Dec. 25

7:30 AM in the Worship Space
9:30 AM in the Worship Space*

*These Masses will be Live-Streamed on our Facebook page and website.

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.

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 PM & Saturday: 3:30-4:45 PM

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays. Parents are required to attend a preparation class. Contact the parish office for information or visit: stephen.org/baptism-class.

Matrimony

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

Anointing of the Sick

Contact Deacon Denny at (402) 861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.

Homebound Eucharist

Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Parish office phone number: (402) 896-9675

Stay in Communication with Us!

Our primary communication tool is email using Flocknote. If you are not receiving our emails please follow the steps at stephen.org/flocknote or call the parish office to give us your email.

We  love
having you as part of our flock

Financial Stewardship

11/17/2020—11/23/2020

Offertory & Online Giving:	\$43,321
Fiscal* Year-to-Date (FYTD) Actual:	\$913,444
Budget:	\$889,780
FY Total Budget:	\$2,240,000
FYTD to Total Budget Percentage:	40.78%

11/24/2020—11/30/2020

Offertory & Online Giving:	\$40,815
Fiscal* Year-to-Date (FYTD) Actual:	\$957,938
Budget:	\$933,335
FY Total Budget:	\$2,240,000
FYTD to Total Budget Percentage:	42.76%

*SSM Parish operates on a Fiscal Year from July 1 - June 30

Thank you for continuing to support us through your Sunday Offerings and Financial Stewardship. Conveniently give through OSV Online Giving or envelopes may be mailed to our office: 16701 S Street, Omaha NE 68135.

Give online at stephen.org/give

Stewardship is a Way of Life

“Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come.” - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our time, our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.

School News

United in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning.

- ⇒ Thank you to our students and families for your donations through our Thanksgiving Pantry Collection! Your donations provided much needed items to help feed the struggling families in our parish and those in our greater Omaha community. Close to 1,000 pounds of food and 15 turkeys were donated!
- ⇒ No School on Monday, December 7th; Christmas break begins with noon dismissal on December 16th

Religious Education News

- ⇒ We're having a food drive! This week, we'd like to invite our students to bring non-perishable food pantry donations with them to drop off before class on the 8th and 9th.
- ⇒ Our students in grades 3-8 will be attending Mass this week! Parents are most welcome to practice good Mass practices with their children at home so they're prepared.
- ⇒ If your child attends in-person RE and you haven't filled out our survey for our remote backup plan, please complete that or reach out to us to receive it again. Thank you!

Youth Ministry News

- ⇒ **Life Teen (High School)** — Dec. 6: 6-8 PM, GPC- It's time to put our faith into action and give back! Join us this Sunday for our annual Angel Tree Packing Party, when we feast on pizza and then sort, pack, and clean up the evidence from our Angel Tree Project. Extra cardboard boxes, packing tape, and Sharpies would be appreciated! Afterwards, we'll have some time for some questions and answers as we wrap up our series on death/the final things.
- ⇒ **Edge (Middle School)** — Dec. 08: 6:30-8 PM, Dining Room— Who's ready for some Face Time? No, we're not talking about going remote. We're talking about how we can be fully present to others, and how our actions on social media speaks louder than emojis.

There is no cost to attend our weekly gatherings. Dinner is included. Come when and as often as you can! Annual parent waiver is required. Complete today at: www.smartwaiver.com/v/ssmym2020.

For more information contact Laura Bogue, Youth Ministry Director, at l.bogue@stephen or (402) 861-4509.

Youth Service Opportunities

Be the hands and feet of Christ! Get involved, and put your faith into action with these family-friendly service opportunities.

- ⇒ **Angel Tree Sorting, Packing, and Delivery:** Now through Sunday, December 6th
- ⇒ **Ring the Bell! For Salvation Army:** December 4th or December 12th
- ⇒ **Angel Tree Donation Delivery to the St. Augustine Indian Mission of Winnebago, NE:** Saturday, December 19th from 8:30 AM-3 PM

Sign up at stephen.org/youth-service

Advent Family Holy Hour

Join us for a family-friendly holy hour on Sunday, December 6th from 4-5 PM in the worship space. It will not be silent, but Jesus will be there, and He said to let the little children come. There will be plenty of room in the church to spread out and stay socially distant from one another.

Kids will also have the option to leave their shoes at the door to be filled with goodies from St. Nick, who will be stopping by at the end of the hour to visit with the kids.

Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Cash Carter Pryor, son of Quincy and Melanie
Kade Christopher Decker, son of Jason and Bobbie
Wyatt Michael Elman, son of Taylor and Brenna



Financial Stewardship & Year-end Giving

2021 Financial Giving Commitment

Thank you for your pledges to our Annual Financial Stewardship Appeal! There is still time to turn in your annual pledge. Your pledge helps staff budget for the upcoming year and greatly assists in meeting operational needs. Return forms to the box in the Gathering Space, place in the offertory basket, mail to our office, or complete online. More info at stephen.org/give

Year-end Giving

With December upon us and as you review your calendar year-end charitable donations, we would like to share that there are several beneficial ways to complete your gifts to St. Stephen the Martyr.

Does your employer match gifts?

Many area employers will match charitable contributions made by their employees and retirees. We encourage you to check with your employer to see if you are eligible for a matching gifts program. Please note many employers will match gifts to schools, but religious organizations. St Stephen the Martyr Catholic School is an eligible entity.

Gifts of appreciated stock

There are many advantages to donating stocks and mutual funds as a method gifting to St. Stephen the Martyr. If you have owned publicly traded or closely-held stocks for "more than one year," they are considered appreciated assets and may be transferred directly to the parish. In return, you as the donor receive an income tax deduction for the current fair market value of the stock regardless of what you originally paid for it. In addition, you avoid paying capital gains tax on the gift. To complete the transfer of a gift of stock to the parish, the stock must be transferred (not sold) to St. Stephen's brokerage account. To insure proper posting and crediting of the stock transfer gift, it is very important for donors to contact the parish office at 402.861.4543 in advance.

Giving Through Your IRA

The IRA Charitable Transfer is an excellent way to make gifts to St. Stephen the Martyr. By transferring a donation directly from your IRA you can avoid being taxed on your required withdrawal. Qualified charitable contributions must be made by December 31 order to exclude that amount from taxable income. Funds must also be transferred directly from the IRA and made payable to St. Stephens by the IRA trustee in order to qualify for the tax break. If you withdraw the money from your IRA and later donate it, it won't qualify as a tax-free qualified charitable distribution.

St. Stephen the Martyr encourages all parishioners to consult with their tax advisor when considering their 2019 year-end giving options. For more information please contact Dan Koenig, Director of Operations at 402.861.4543 or d.koenig@stephen.org

Lastly, **THANK YOU for your pledges to the 2020-2021 Archbishop's Annual Appeal!** We are pleased to announce that so far St. Stephen has reached 83 percent of our fund-raising goal having secured more than \$143,000 in pledges toward our \$173,000 goal. We invite and encourage all parishioners to prayerfully consider helping reach our Archdiocese goal by visiting archomaha.org/appeal.

Pearl Harbor

December 7, as stated by President Franklin D Roosevelt, is "a date that will live in infamy". The date commemorates the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese army in 1941. The surprise attack culminated decades of issues between other nations and aggressive actions that had been taken by the Japanese since the 1920's. The need for oil by the island nation was the 'final straw' in peace negotiations. Homes, businesses, and government offices are requested to display the American Flag at **half mast** from sunrise to sunset on Monday December 7 to honor the sacrifice of those who lost their lives that day and in subsequent action that continued until 1945. For information and images of Pearl Harbor you can visit Pearl Harbor National Memorial website (www.nps.gov/valr). Pearl Harbor is a unit of the National Park Service.

This note is brought to you by the 4th Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus. For information about the Knights of Columbus go to Adult Groups on the St. Stephen the Martyr web page (Stephen.org)

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 5

8:15 am † John O'Gara (PS)
5:00 pm † James & JoAnn Stachura (DB)

Sunday, December 6

7:30 am † Patricia Smith (DB)
9:30 am SI Our parishioners (DB)
11:30am † John Maddock (PS)

Monday, December 7

6:30 am † Christopher Brewster (PS)
8:15 pm † Wendell Wills (PS)

Tuesday, December 8

6:30 am † Judy Klein (PS)
8:15 am SI Our Parishioners (DB)
4:15 pm SI Jeanette Hauptman (DB) - RE Mass*
5:30 pm † Russ Mitchell (PS) - RE Mass*

Wednesday, December 9

6:30 am † William Ehret (PS)
8:15 am † Bernadette Kuczynski (DB)
4:00 pm † Deacon Paul Tomaso (PS)- RE Mass*
5:30 pm † Dennis Bielawski (DB) - RE Mass*
7:00 pm † Frank Roh (PS) - RE Mass*

Thursday, December 10

6:30 am SI Jacob Baumert (DB)
8:15 am † Gabriele Scalise (DB)

Friday, December 11

6:30 am SI Thomas Baumert (PS)
8:15 am † Judy Casey (DB)

Saturday, December 12

8:15 am SI Maria LaSala (DB)
5:00 pm † Ben Mannino (PS)

Sunday, December 13

7:30 am † Juanita Mutuc (PS)
9:30 am † Elizabeth Grota (PS)
11:30am SI Our parishioners (DB)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul
DB = Fr. Dave Belt; PS = Fr. Padraic Stack;

Note: Priest schedule subject to changes

* Special Mass for our Religious Education students and families



Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Sister Clarice Faltus
Rosemarie King

Deceased souls of our parish-family:

John Finken, nephew of Ann King
Madonna Gorackowski
Dave Mandel, father of Deann Grovijohn

How Can We Pray for YOU?

You are not alone! St. Stephen the Martyr has prayer warriors who are ready to pray for YOUR intention! God has given us this incredible gift to intercede on behalf of others through prayer and thanksgiving! Submit your prayer request to be shared with our Prayer Line Ministry and/or with our Parish Family at: stephen.org/prayer-line or call Beth Wetgen at (402) 669-4793.

Christmas Giving Projects

Thank you for supporting our Christmas Giving projects!

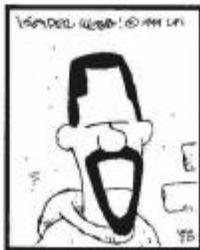
- This is the last weekend to drop off donations for Angel Tree. Please place items under the designated organization's tree by noon on Sunday, December 6th.
- Donations for Family CHRISTmas "Closet Door" at Holy Family Ministries can be dropped off in the Gathering Space or Parish Center through December 13th.
- More information, including list of requested items can be found on our website at stephen.org or call the parish office for more info.



From Our Liturgy Team

- ⇒ As we prepare for Mass on Christmas Eve, we are in the need of additional greeters and ushers. Please prayerfully consider serving your parish-community on this very important day and reach out to Karen Hardy.
- ⇒ We are hoping to expand our Liturgy schedule in 2021 but we need 4-5 new Sacristan Team members that would be interested in helping with those liturgies and have the ability to be flexible with Mass times. Please email or call Karen Hardy, worship coordinator at 402-681-4537 or k.hardy@stephen.org Thank you in advance!
- ⇒ Congratulations to our new EMHCs and Lectors who recently completed training We are grateful of your service!

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Seeking Sunday School Coordinator

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church has an immediate part-time opening for a Sunday School/Summer Programming Coordinator. This position provides catechesis for children ages 3 through 6 by directing our Sunday School program and for children ages 3 through 12 by organizing and directing our summer RE programming (Vacation Bible School and Totus Tuus). Primary responsibilities include the following:

- Oversee the Sunday School program by planning, developing, and implementing the curriculum as well as performing necessary administrative tasks (e.g., Sunday School attendance, communication with families)
- Provide summer catechesis to children by planning and implementing Vacation Bible School and Totus Tuus
- Prepare preliminary budgets for Sunday School and summer RE programming and submit them to the Director
- Make sure Safe Environment regulations are followed during Sunday School and summer RE programming
- Assist in the front office with attendance and answering questions during Tuesday and Wednesday RE class times
- Recruit, train, assign, and monitor the work of volunteer catechists
- Provide information and assistance to catechists
- Work with volunteers to determine needs for supplies and books
- Work with church staff to coordinate implementation

The position requires a practicing Catholic with experience working with children in a religious environment. Required hours during the school year are Tuesday evenings from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday evenings from 2:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., and Sunday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., in addition to a weekly staff meeting on Mondays at 1:00 p.m.

Interested applicants should contact Ally ZimmerMas at a.zimmermas@stephen.org or by calling 402-861-4512.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Can a divorced Catholic receive holy Communion?

Answer:

Unfortunately, too many people today — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have "endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life." (*Amoris Laetitia*, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, "The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty." (*AL*, no 242)

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is "not a prize for the perfect," but "a powerful medicine and nourishment" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.

Become Catholic!

Do you desire to deepen your relationship with Jesus? Consider our *Becoming Catholic! Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults* (RCIA) program. Open to non-Catholics and Catholics looking to grow in faith.

More information at: stephen.org/becoming-catholic or contact Adam Ybarra at 402.861.4507 or a.ybarra@stephen.org.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2020

SUN 12/6	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
MON 12/7	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
TUE 12/8	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
WED 12/9	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
THR 12/10	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
FRI 12/11	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
SAT 12/12	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/
SUN 12/13	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6, 2020

Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday:	St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday:	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Friday:	St. Damasus I, Pope
Saturday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Advent

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

Prepare the way of the Lord! The message of John the Baptist becomes the calling of every baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is asked to prepare the way of the Lord. Given the humble means of our lives, how can we do this? It certainly does not require that we stand on street corners announcing God's future coming! We can more readily take up the task of our lifework by clearing our lives of unnecessary, distracting clutter. By creating solid and deep spiritual lives, we can heighten our awareness of God's presence and help people point to and discover God's presence around them. By conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, we can speak volumes to those we meet. Not by preaching actual words, but by living lives that communicate the comfort God wants His people to know. As the world sometimes frantically unfolds around us, we can be people of patience who show others that it's okay to wait for God's gift to come. Conducting our lives in this manner, we will know the peace that comes from doing what we have been asked to do.



Quiet
your
heart.

News from the Greater Community:

"FULL OF GRACE"

Join the Institute for Priestly Formation for an Advent Morning of Reflection, Saturday, December 12th at St. Vincent de Paul Church (Note: New Location). The morning begins with Mass at 10:00 followed by presentations by the IPF Staff, time for silent reflection, and concludes at noon. CDC guidelines will be observed. This event will also be livestreamed from IPF's website and Facebook pages. There is no charge for the event. For more information, go to PriestlyFormation.org or call Linda at 402-280-3901.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CONNECT FORUM - LIVING LONGER AND THE CONNECTION OF FAITH AND MENTAL HEALTH

People are living longer. For healthy aging, it is important to understand both the biological changes and the significance of Faith life on longevity and mental health. Please join us virtually for the next Catholic Charities The Parish *CONNECT* Forum **via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15, Noon – 1:00 p.m.** featuring Dr. Roberto Cervantes, a psychiatrist for CHI Health, and a contributing author of *The Wiley Handbook on the Aging Mind and Brain*. For more information and **to RSVP for this free forum, go to ccomaha.org.**

THE MARCH FOR LIFE CHICAGO IS COMING TO OMAHA!

Come to a pro-life event in Omaha on January 10, 2021, sponsored by the March for Life Chicago, and co-hosted by the Archdiocese of Omaha. This is an incredible opportunity to make a stand for life in our region! Mark your calendars plan to join us solo or with your family or in a group. Together we can advocate for the right to life for the unborn, especially as we approach the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. To register and to receive more details, visit marchforlifechicago.org/tour or contact wabradley@archomaha.org.

News from Council of Catholic Women

High School Senior Scholarship Opportunity

The Omaha Urban Deanery is again offering a \$250 scholarship to a Senior Catholic girl. The winner of the deanery scholarship will be eligible to compete for the \$500 scholarship offered by the OACCW. Application forms have been sent to the guidance counselors of the high schools and the president of the Catholic women organization within the OU Deanery. High school senior girls who are catholic are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. This includes all the deaneries in the Archdiocese. The applications for the Omaha Urban Deanery Scholarship are due January 15, 2020 and need to be sent to:

Cathy Vak
3255 S. 77th Street
Omaha NE 68124
Questions, call Cathy Vak at 402-391-0484

Note from The Creation Care Team

Need to dispose of used Christmas lights as you put them up or take them down? Again this holiday season, the St. Stephen Creation Care Team will be collecting used Christmas lights for recycling. There will be a container for this collection in the gathering space starting Sunday, November 29th through Sunday, January 3rd. Christmas lights can also be taken to Scrap Central, 2728 N. 85th Street. Thank you for caring for our Common Home

Adult Volleyball

All parishioners & friends (18 and older) are invited to play Volleyball, Saturday's from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM in the gym. This time is for community fun and a chance to meet new people. Skill levels vary from brand new to many years of experience. Come anytime.

Contact Adam at a.ybarra@stephen.org or 402.861.4507 with questions or for more info.

Have you Lost a Loved One and Wanting Some Peace, Hope and Support?

Firmly grounded in the Catholic faith, **Grieving with Great Hope** is a five-week grief workshop/support group for adults who have experienced the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, friend or other loved ones. There are no stages to grief. Everyone experiences loss in their own way. It is through prayerful reflection, practical learning and personal fellowship that we mourn. And in mourning, we begin to build our bridge to a new and different life. PROGRAM: Grieving with Great Hope
LOCATION: St. Cecilia's/Monsignor Graham Building/701 North 40th Street
DATES: January 12th-February 16th /Tuesday Evenings
TIMES: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
CONTACT: Deacon Denny / d.dethlefs@stephen.org / Deacon Jim Tardy / 402-551-2313 / JTardy@CatholicCem.com / Deacon Kevin Joyce / DeaconKevin@HolyNameOmaha.org

Never Deny Your Grief: By sharing your thoughts, feelings and memories of the deceased, you will be taking healthy first steps on your path to recovery. Losing a loved one is one of the most devastating things a person can experience. It doesn't matter whether the death was expected or sudden—the feelings of grief are still just as profound. It's normal to feel anxious about your new future. The memory of someone lives on, but you're not sure what to do with yourself in the present. Rationally, you recognize it's possible to pick up and resume living again. How do you take that first step towards recovering from grief? **Grieving with Great Hope** provides support, prayer, practical ideas, sharing of stories and a positive environment as you move forward.



Stay up-to-date with Martyr Moms on our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/161991407828766>



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Braman Mortuary & Cremation Services
72nd Street Chapel 1702 N. 72nd St. 391-2171
Southwest Chapel 6505 S. 144th St. 895-3400
Both Chapels Offering Caring Services at Affordable Costs for Omaha Families

Patera Landscaping
402-706-5679

Mission Village Animal Clinic
KATHERINE KNAKE, DVM
BETH SOULLIERE, DVM
894-5550
16843 "Q" St.

Free Medicare Review & Quotes
Virtual or In Person
CALL KRISTIN EHLERS
(402) 630-0033
UnitedHealthcare



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Certified Public Accountants
Kyle Schlautman, C.P.A. Parishioner
11905 P St., Ste 101 • 345-4311 • kyle@grandsoncpa.com

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