



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

May 9, 2021

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, 9:00 AM* & 10:30 AM (6 PM will begin May 23)

*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
- 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.

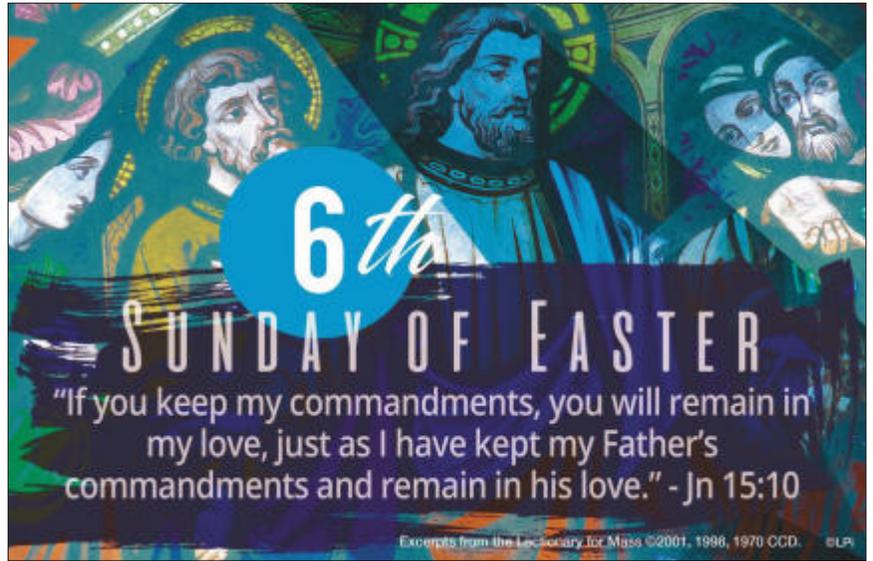
COVID-19

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.



Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."

How can we find complete joy in loving as Jesus loved? That would mean that every word, every thought, every act would bring people closer to God. That would mean that we would have to suffer and sacrifice what we wanted from life to embrace what God wants for our life. How could such love, where one's life would be poured out for another person, be joyful?

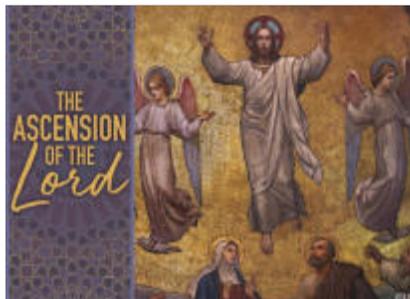
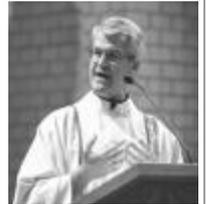
We have been taught by society that happiness and fulfillment come in having lots of material possessions, money, and people around us. What the Gospel teaches us is that true happiness and joy can only come if we are willing to reject the values of society and embrace a life of service and sacrifice. This is tough work, a life-long task that can only be accomplished with the grace and strength of God.

Would we rather experience an empty, temporary happiness or a deep-down joy and peace that only God can give? If we want the deep-down joy, then that means that we must be willing to love one another as Jesus loves us.

**"It has the hands to help others.
It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.
It has the eyes to see misery and want.
It has the ears to hear the sorrows and sighs of men.
That is what love looks like."**

--St. Augustine

May God bless you!
Father Dave



Ascension Thursday Mass Times:

Wed, May 12 Vigil at 5:30 PM;
May 13 at 6:30 AM, 8:15 AM,
12:05 PM, and 5:30 PM



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.



Financial Stewardship

4/27-5/3/2021

Offertory & Online Giving	\$41,961
Fiscal Year-to-Date* Actual	\$2,057,646
FYTD Budget:	\$1,844,735
FY Total Budget:	\$2,240,000
FYTD Actual to Total Percentage:	92%
J.P. II Newman Center collection:	\$1,828.30

Thank you for continuing to support us through your Sunday Offerings and Financial Giving. 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

School News

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

- ⇒ We are in the home stretch for the 2020-2021 school year, and it feels so good to know that we have been in school and in the building all year! A great big "thank you" to all our staff, parents and families for ensuring the health and safety of our community.
- ⇒ May brings many exciting days. We look forward to May Crowning on May 7th, 8th Grade Graduation, Kindergarten Picnic, Field Day, and other end-of-the-year celebrations.
- ⇒ Every year brings about some staffing changes. This year Mrs. Kathy Jones, Mrs. Margie Crowe, and Mrs. Connie Bredemeyer will be retiring. They will all be missed tremendously. Home & School will host a retirement open house for them on **Tuesday, May 25, 3:30 to 5 PM**
- ⇒ Mrs. Sunni Potach (7th grade language arts/literature) is moving to New Hampshire with her family. She will be greatly missed as well. Karen Kneifl, 7th and 8th grade math teacher, will be going back into retirement so she can spend more time with her grandbabies. We are so thankful for her stepping in mid-year to teach our middle school.
- ⇒ Last, but certainly not least, Dr. Joe Greco will be leaving his position as assistant principal. We are so appreciative of all the hard work he has done here at SSM. He definitely has made a difference. Joe will be taking a position with the Elkhorn Athletic Association beginning July 1.



Religious Education News

- ⇒ Thank you so much to the incredible staff and volunteers who have made this program happen during a crazy year.
- ⇒ To stay involved over the summer, don't forget to check out Vacation Bible School and Totus Tuus on the St. Stephen's website. We're still looking for volunteers too! Visit Stephen.org for more!
- ⇒ If you're interested in volunteering for a Montessori-style faith formation program for preschool-age children called Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, please reach out to the RE office.

Youth Ministry News

- ⇒ **Life Teen (High School) and Edge (Middle School)** — Our Life Teen and Edge nights may be over for the school year but stay tuned! We are planning all sorts of fun opportunities to stay engaged in our faith and connected to our community throughout the summer, including our time-honored tradition of Faith Factor (messy game night and water fight), Movie Night, one day retreats, service opportunities, Totus Tuus, and more.
- ⇒ **Hearts Open Wide: Youth Service Ministry** — A great way to live out our faith is to serve God by serving others! We will continue to seek volunteers to provide sandwiches for our ongoing sack lunch program for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul throughout the summer. We will also be in need of volunteers to help us prepare a meal for the residents of The Rainbow House on Sunday, May 16th. Sign-ups for these opportunities will be coming soon and will be posted at stephen.org/youth-service. Are you an adult that has a great idea for a service opportunity for our youth, and would like to help coordinate an event? Contact Laura at l.bogue@stephen.org and we'll get started!
- ⇒ **Rainbow House Dinner Help** — We will once again be preparing a dinner for the residents of the Rainbow House on Sunday, May 16, 2021. Volunteers will be needed to make a portion of the meal (entrée, side item, or dessert) from the safety of their own home, to be delivered to the home of a parishioner to be taken to the Rainbow House. Let us know how you can help at stephen.org/youth-service.

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

A pink and purple poster for a Spring Appeal. At the top right, it says "Goal: \$200,000". A diagonal banner on the left says "Reminder". The main text reads "ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR Spring Appeal Our Parish. Our Home. Learn more and DONATE TODAY @ Stephen.org or scan QR Code via phone camera:". Below this are six boxes listing fundraising goals: Parish & School Technology Modernization, Parish & School Building Improvements, School Curriculum Upgrades, School Tuition Assistance, Religious Education & Youth Program Funding, and a box with a cross icon. At the bottom, it says "Encounter, Know, Proclaim".

Message from the PrimeTimers Group:



WE HAVE MISSED EACH OTHER!

Are you ready to get together again?

How about beginning with a rousing game of Pinochle - a round of Dominoes - Tripoley anyone? We hear there are a few Bridge players that would love to deal the cards again. *There is something for everyone to enjoy!* We invite you to bring your cards, board games - bring a friend or partner - and join us as we begin meeting once again on the second and fourth Thursdays each month. We are anxious to see "old" faces and particularly anxious to welcome new ones to these casual and fun afternoons. Bring a snack to share and an item for the food pantry.

THURSDAY, MAY 13th at 1:00 pm in the GPC

RSVP or for more information, email stephens.primetimers@gmail.com
Or call Jan (402-592-1298), Moe (402-670-5723) or Pat (402-201-7945)

Mission Coop - May 15/16

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary will be giving a Mission Appeal at St. Stephen the Martyr on May 15/16 .

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary began a mission in the Philippines in the mid-1990's conducting retreats based around the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. As the popularity and demand for these retreats increased the Oblates set about having a permanent foundation there. Today the Oblates run a Retreat Center in Cebu and a Novitiate House of Theology and Retreat Center in Antipolo.

In coming to the Philippines, it was an Oblate goal to train young Filipino men to become Oblate priests. In late 1999, work began on building a house of formation and by late 2001, construction was completed. The opening of school year 2002 saw the admission of the first Filipino seminarians to the priestly formation program. Today, we currently have nine seminarians at different levels of formation and we have ordained 3 priests since opening our seminary.

In spite of these successes, there are many challenges. The Philippines is a very poor country and the majority of Filipino families are poor and live on very modest means. Our seminarians are no exception. The Oblates, therefore, shoulder the full cost of training a young man for the priesthood. Presently, it costs approximately \$10,000 a year to educate, feed and cloth a seminarian.

Thank you for your generosity to our Mission Church.

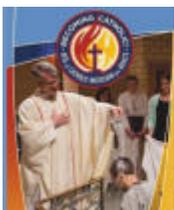
Mass Intentions

One of the traditional practices of the Catholic Church is to have Masses offered for specific intentions. While we know that everyone who participates in the Mass has their own personal intentions that they bring to the Lord in prayer, the Church also believes that there is great value in having a Mass celebrated for a particular intention. Here at Saint Stephen, the Mass intentions are listed in the weekly bulletin, and are mentioned in the Prayers at Mass.

Along with the request by a person to have a Mass offered for their intention, it is a common practice that a financial offering be made. This offering becomes a part of the parish's direct financial support of the priest. The suggested amount, as given in the policy of the Archdiocese of Omaha, is \$10.00 per Mass, although any amount is accepted.

Currently, we are running low on Mass intentions. If you would like to have a Mass offered for a deceased loved one, or would like to remember a special event like a birthday or anniversary, please contact Melissa Kane at the Parish Office (m.kane@stephen.org or 402-896-9675).

Become Catholic!



**Do you desire to deepen your relationship with Jesus?
Is your spouse Catholic and you want to learn more?**

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.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 8

8:15 am † Jean Henderson (PS)
5:00 pm † James & JoAnn Stachura (DB)

Sunday, May 9—Mother's Day

7:30 am SI SSM parishioners (DB)
9:00 am † Beatriz Gutierrez Puentes (PS)
10:30 am † Rita Sautter (PS)

Monday, May 10

6:30 am † John JF Keenan (PS)
8:15 am † Doris Synowicki (PS)

Tuesday, May 11

6:30 am † Sam Mazzuca (DB)
8:15 am † Denny Swanstrom (PS)

Wednesday, May 12

6:30 am † Curtis Young (DB)
8:15 am † Richard Ahlberg (PS)
5:30 pm † Ray Bruneteau (PS) - Vigil

Thursday, May 13—Ascension

6:30 am SI SSM parishioners (DB)
8:15 am SI Mike Dallan (DB)
12:05 pm † Judy Klein (GO)
5:30 pm † Dale Harris (NH)

Friday, May 14

6:30 am SI Jean Peterson (PS)
8:15 am † John J Keenan (PS)

Saturday, May 15

8:15 am † Rev. Francis Kocik (JG)
5:00 pm † Judy Bosiljevac (JL)

Sunday, May 16

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (PS)
9:00 am † Laurie Major-Riggs (JL)
10:30 am † Bob Menard (JL)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul
DB = Fr. Dave Belt; PS = Fr. Padraic Stack; GO = Fr. Gary Ostrander;
NH = Fr. Norman Hunke; JG = Msgr James Gilg; JL = Fr. John Luong

Note: Priest schedule subject to changes



Pray For...

Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Ben Robinette, son of Jamie Robinette

Robert (RJ) Vescio, husband of Diana

Bill Wills, father of Wendy Synowicki

Randy Figura, husband of Trish

Cynthia Jones, wife of Fred

Gene & Kathy, adult children of Jan Mitchell

Ashley Nielsen

Jacob Legleiter

Deceased souls of our parish-family:

Jerry Morris, father of Alecia Hartwig

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.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9, 2021

- SUN 5/09** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17
- MON 5/10** Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a
- TUE 5/11** Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11
- WED 5/12** Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
- THR 5/13** Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20 Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
- FRI 5/14** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8]/Jn 15:9-17
- SAT 5/15** Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-10, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28
- SUN 5/16** *Ascension:* Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20
Seventh Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 [19a]/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9, 2021

- Sunday:** 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day
- Monday:** St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
- Wednesday:** Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
- Thursday:** The Ascension of the Lord [holy day in some U.S. dioceses]; Our Lady of Fatima
- Friday:** St. Matthias, Apostle
- Saturday:** St. Isidore; Armed Forces Day
- Next Sunday:** The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

God is love. These three simple words deserve a great deal of attention. They have the power to transform our relationship with God from something that is static and distant to one that is personal and real. We all know the power of love and how important it is to completing all of the human and divine circuits of our lives. But we do not often consider the awesome fact that it is given to us as a gift and is not simply part and parcel of the human package. God is the author of love and love itself. When we truly love another human being, it is really God being God in and through us. The love to which we are called and the love of which the Gospel speaks is a selfless love that seeks the wellbeing of not only our significant others but of all of our brothers and sisters. This love, which is of God, is a love that will endure all things and bring immeasurable joy when experienced. It is the most sincere form of friendship.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is the difference between a "Saint" and a "Blessed"?

Answer:

The process of proclaiming someone as a saint in the Catholic Church has evolved over the course of many centuries. In the beginning, those honored as saints were almost exclusively biblical figures or martyrs. However, after the legalization of Christianity in the fourth century, new holy women and men came to be honored as saints, and this was often done by popular acclaim or by the local bishop or abbot.

It was Pope Gregory IX (who was pope from 1227 to 1241) who officially proclaimed that only the pope had the authority to add someone to the official list (the "canon") of saints. This is the meaning of the word "canonization."

Today, the saint-making process includes several steps, including detailed studies of the person's life and a recognition that they died as a martyr or lived a life of "heroic virtue." Once someone is recognized as a martyr or if a miracle is attributed to their intercession, they will be beatified and honored as "Blessed." This means that they can be celebrated by Catholics in a particular country or region or by the members of certain religious community. If another miracle occurs and is approved, then the "Blessed" is canonized and honored with the title "Saint," meaning that they are now officially recognized as a universal model of holiness and an intercessor.

CELEBRATE
Mother's Day



The Parish 2 Parish Relay: August 14, 2021

Mary Our Queen has hosted this event for the past several years and has turned into a yearly reunion of catholic school kids of the '80's and 90's. We also do some running as well. If you have not taken part in the event before.... The Parish 2 Parish relay is a multi-person relay race through the streets of four west Omaha parishes. The race begins and ends at Mary Our Queen with stops at St Stephens, St Wenceslaus and St Roberts along the way. Each team is comprised of 6 members (a minimum of 3 females per team), with each member running one leg of the 19 mile course (each member ends up running about 3 miles).

Get the word out and get your teams together! Registration is open and is limited to the first 50 teams that sign up.

Register at: <https://www.active.com/omaha-ne/running/distance-running-races/parish-2-parish-2021?int=19N-PB304-S6-T1-PL7-L1120>

Visit Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/parish2parish/>

Send any questions to threeputt@hotmail.com



ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR &
THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA PRESENTS

TOTUS TUUS

TOTALLY YOURS

JULY 2021

GRADES 1-6
JULY 12-16 (MON-FRI)
9 AM-2:30 PM
\$50 PER CHILD
LIMITED TO 60 CHILDREN

GRADES 7-12
JULY 11-15 (SUN-THURS)
7-9 PM
NO COST



St. John Paul the Great's motto: 'Totus Tuus', meaning 'Totally Yours' signifies the desire to give oneself entirely to Jesus through Mary. This week-long program, led by trained college students inspires in children a true longing for holiness, a deep desire for daily conversion, and openness to vocation.

REGISTER ONLINE AT STEPHEN.ORG/TOTUS-TUUS

Knights of Columbus Rosary Devotions

Our Knights of Columbus invite you to upcoming opportunities to pray the Rosary together as a community:

⇒ **Rosary Rally in Honor of Our Lady of Fatima, May 15, 10:00 am**

at the Bellevue Health Clinic, 1002 W. Mission Ave, Bellevue, NE



KOC Mother's Day Rose Drive

Essential Pregnancy Service's Mother's Day Rose Drive will take place Mother's Day weekend, May 8 and May 9. Volunteers from the Knights of Columbus will be handing out roses after all masses in exchange for a suggested \$5 donation per rose in support of EPS. Please consider supporting EPS in their efforts to provide life-affirming pregnancy options and free services for women facing unplanned and under-supported pregnancies. Thank you for your support!

Now is a Great Time for a Cloisters Weekend Retreat

We experience God through truth, beauty, and goodness. All three can be found in abundance on a Cloisters on the Platte retreat.

The Cloisters, located near Gretna, NE offers 3-day silent Ignatian retreats for men and women ages 18 and older. The retreats begin Thursday evening a 6 p.m. and conclude Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. There is no cost to attend, however a generous, goodwill donation by retreatants is asked to sustain this important work. There are currently more opportunities for people seeking to experience the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola for the first time. Since the Cloisters was closed for nearly seven months in 2020 due to the pandemic, spots have opened on retreats that were cancelled last year. Standby lists are rotating fast, so please do not be deterred to sign-up for the retreat you wish to attend. If you are prepared to come, have faith that God will provide you the opportunity.

For questions contact the Cloisters Ambassador for our parish, Nancy Wiederholt at wiederholtncancy@hotmail.com or Amy Dickas at amydickas@cloistersontheplatte.com. To register, go to cloistersontheplatte.com.

Encounter, Know, Proclaim

“ —
St. Stephen the Martyr has given our kids an incredible foundation. You have such a short time to form them, and having the help of this community has been priceless. — ”

Dwight and Karen Hiles, Parishioners

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR
Spring Appeal
Our Parish, Our Home



Wedding Congratulations!

Madeline Sullivan and Taylor Young

Married at St. Stephen the Martyr on May 1, 2021

Our parish wishes you a life-time of many blessings!

Landscape Opportunities Available!

Share your time and talent with your children to help with landscape tasks: water plants at the entrance to the church, adopt an entire or portion of a mulched bed or give a bed lilacs some TLC. If interested contact Steve Cinnamon via call/text 402 669 3441.

Stewardship Reflection:

“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.”

- 1 JOHN 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you “walk the talk?” Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start!

News from the Greater Community:

CATHOLIC BUSINESS GROUP OMAHA - MAY 20TH LUNCH SPEAKER

You are invited to attend the Catholic Business Group-Omaha (CBGO) MAY Lunch Mtg on May 20th, 2021 at 11:30 am at The Champions Club, 13800 Eagle Run Dr. SPKR: Tony Espejo TOPIC: HOW GOD GUIDES OUR PATH IN LIFE... Come and hear Mr. Espejo share how he listened to God's providence & how he was led through a life of service - with personal, business, military, and community involvement. God's direction will Amaze! *Be early, there is always Networking, Conversation and Growing in our Catholic Faith. Reservations are required by Members and Non-Members for all lunch meetings. The cost is \$20 for Non-Members. RSVP at <http://cpbcomaha.org/reservations/> to make your reservation. Any questions contact yochumja@yahoo.com

SPECIAL MASS FOR VOCATIONS AT JP II NEWMAN CENTER

The Serra Club of West Omaha invites you to join us for Holy Mass on Monday, May 17, at 5:30 PM at the JP II Newman Center, 1221 S. 71st Street in Omaha to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life within the Archdiocese of Omaha. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Frank Baumert. Immediately following Mass, we invite you to attend our brief *Meeting & Mixer*. Rev. Patrick Moser, Associate Pastor at St. Patrick in Elkhorn, will speak to us about *The Beauty of Serving "in Persona Christi": My First Three Years as a Priest*. Youth discerning a religious vocation are encouraged to attend. Parents and all the faithful are welcome to attend. Find out how you can engage in helping to build the Church locally. Meet our dedicated Serra members and enjoy light refreshments with us. For questions, contact John Lingo, Serra VP, 402-290-4670 or john@LingoLaw.com.

GRIEVING WITH GREAT HOPE IS A JOURNEY FOR THOSE WHO ARE MOURNING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE.

We recognize there are no stages to grief. This journey, firmly grounded in our Catholic Faith is a six-week workshop/support group for those who have lost a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild or friend. This workshop will be held May 25th, June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th 2021 from 6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM in the Parish Center Dining Room at St. Cecilia Cathedral 701 N. 40th street, Omaha, Ne. Attendance is necessary for each session and seating is limited. Please contact Deacon Jim Tardy at jtardy@catholiccem.com or 402/391-3711 and 402/551-2313.

REGINA CAELI ACADEMY IS HIRING FOR THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR!

No formal teaching experience is necessary, but a love for the Catholic faith is required! Submit resume and apply here: rcahybrid.isolvedhire.com/jobs/ Regina Caeli is a private, independent, *University-Style Hybrid®* operating in the Catholic tradition. Preschool - 12th grade students attend classical academic and extracurricular classes two days a week, and homeschool the remaining days following the plans provided by RCA. To learn more, contact Mrs. Diane Anderson at danderson@rcahybrid.org. www.rcahybrid.org

ALL SHALL BE WELL CONFERENCE! JULY 9th and 10th, 2021

Homeschooling for your family, learning from each other. All interested welcome. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Omaha Equip yourself to build up your Domestic Church! Visit www.chaohome.org to register!

Join us for Ablaze at the Cathedral

Tuesday, May 25, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Saint Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N 40th Street
View live streamed at ablazeworship.org.
Priest presenter: Fr. Michael Voithofer
Ablaze merchandise will be available
Open to all age groups!



Pray the Stations of the Cross at the Cloisters on the Platte

This summer, find comfort and strength by meditating on the Passion of Jesus Christ with a visit to the beautiful and touching statues at the Cloisters on the Platte located near Gretna, NE.

To help maintain the statues and support the mission of the Cloisters on the Platte, you are asked to consider a goodwill donation. Days and hours of operation (visitors may remain for up to an hour after closing time):

Monday - Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. to noon
Sunday: 2:30 to 4 p.m.

For the first time, The Cloisters on the Platte is offering visitors the opportunity to become Patron Supporters. As a Patron Supporter, you will be able to walk and pray the Stations of the Cross with unlimited visits now through the end of year along with these other great benefits:

- Early bird notice to events
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The Patron Supporter Program makes a great gift for Mother's or Father's Day!

For more information, please visit cloistersontheplatte.com.

Please note, precautions will be taken to implement social distancing along The Stations of the Cross walking path and to sanitize audio equipment and indoor areas. Please plan to wear a mask for your shuttle ride and gift shop visit.



Anxiety-Sharing with God

"Cast all of your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

The weight of anxiety can feel overwhelming at times. Leading us to overthink or be stalled with indecision. Anxiety creates an energy in our body that we need to actively process. We often experience anxiety through spiraling thoughts or fears. One way to stop this anxiety spiral, is to name them. Often, when we speak our thoughts out loud, or write them down, we realize they are not rooted in reality and we have more control than we thought. Below is an exercise that will guide you through one way to process anxious thoughts, with God at your side. You will need paper and a pen.

Begin in Prayer, asking God to be with you and His Holy Spirit to guide you.

You Writing to God In the space below, write about what is stressful to you. Share any fears that you have. Write down any anxious thoughts running through your mind. Often there is an experience that brought on these thoughts, share that with God. Focus on how you are feeling, what emotions have you experienced? Are you angry, sad, frustrated, or lonely? Let it all out, God loves us in all of our emotions.

God Writing Back to You Imagine God looking at you with kindness and compassion. What would He write back to you? How would He respond to what you just shared? What encouragement would He give you? What strengths would He point out that you may not give yourself credit for?

Action Step Action dissolves anxiety. Was the anxiety preventing you from making a decision, having a conversation, or taking care of yourself? If so, make a plan to do that thing.

Take a deep breath, and thank God for being with you.

*These steps can be applied to nearly every activity. Art, exercise, music, cooking, etc. Once you have the steps down, begin to go through them in mental prayer with God, while doing an activity that helps you relieve stress.

Kylie Keisling is a licensed Mental Health Counselor and works at The Core in Omaha. You can contact her at kylielik@kingofkings.org.

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