



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

June 20th, 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 & 6:00 PM

*These Masses will be live-streamed on our Facebook
Facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/
StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha](https://www.facebook.com/StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha)) and our website
(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

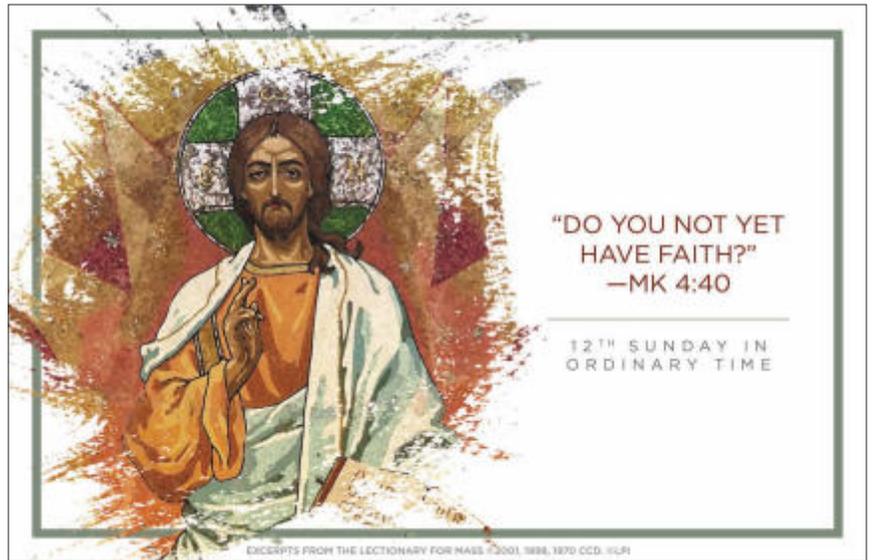
Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Padraic Stack

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline:

Submit requests to a.hartwig@stephen.org.



Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?'"



Ancient literature is filled with references to the power and danger of the sea. In the Old Testament, God is the Master of the sea, and all things obey God. Remember the parting of the Red Sea, so that Moses could lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt? That was done by God's hand. And so it is with the calming of the sea in our Gospel today. Saint Mark is showing that Jesus is God, because God is the only one who could bring peace to the chaos and wind of a terrible storm at sea. As the wind and the waves calm down, the disciples in the boat ask, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

Fear is such a common human emotion. Each of us has something that makes us afraid. The challenge is to turn to Jesus in those moments and days that we are gripped and paralyzed by fear and ask Him to calm the storm. Only Jesus, sent by God, has the power to calm the chaos and uncertainty of our hearts and lives.

"When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away your ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer."

- Corrie ten Boom

May God bless you!
Father Dave

Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Blaise Patrick Hoffmann, son of Austin & Allison
Ryann Jo Fonfara, daughter of Benjamin & Antonia



Wedding Congratulations!

Mark Newcomer and Kaylee Kane
married at St. Stephen the Martyr
on Saturday, June 12, 2021

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



**IT'S NOT GOODBYE,
BUT FAREWELL**



Father Padraic's time here at St. Stephen is ending soon as he begins his new assignment as Associate Pastor at St. Patrick in Elkhorn.

Join us in wishing him well:

- At the Tailgate on Sat, June 26th, 6-8 PM
- At Sunday Donuts after AM Mass on June 27th

*A box for cards is available on the table
in the Gathering Space.*



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

6/1-6/7/2021 Offertory & Online Giving:	\$55,967
6/8-6/14/2021 Offertory & Online Giving:	\$49,142
Fiscal Year-to-Date* Actual	\$2,321,552
FYTD Budget:	\$2,140,442
FY Total Budget:	\$2,240,000

*St. Stephen the Martyr operates on a Fiscal Year from July 1—June 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.

⇒ **Teacher, Support Staff & Volunteer of the Year!** Each year we honor three individuals for their hard work and dedication to our students. Special thanks to our School Advisory Board for organizing and having the difficult task of selecting honorees from all the worthy nominations. Congratulations to this year's honorees:

Teacher of the Year: Joanne Vamosi
Support Staff of the Year: Barb Hartz
Volunteer of the Year: Sara Venner

⇒ **Call for 2021 Corporate Sponsors!** Want to support St. Stephen the Martyr School all while generating marketing exposure for your business? Our Home & School Association will soon be sending out information for local businesses to become Corporate Sponsors for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. Funds raised help expand our school's resource offerings regarding technology, instructional materials and facility upgrades - all while providing generous sponsors with marketing exposure to more than 3,200 families in our SSM community! Online sponsorship registration is available at school.stephen.org/corporate-sponsors. Deadline for all sponsorships is July 31, 2021. For more information or to request sponsor materials, please contact Lori Havens, lorihavens80@gmail.com.

Religious Education News

⇒ VBS last week was so much fun! THANK YOU to all our volunteers!
⇒ We are excited to offer Totus Tuus this summer. A few spots remain—register today! Go to stephen.org/totus-tuus/ to learn more.

Youth Ministry News

⇒ **Life Teen (High School) and Edge (Middle School)** — Stay tuned for more fun opportunities throughout the summer, including 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! Sign-ups 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!
⇒ **Volunteers Needed: Hospitality for Donuts in July!** Youth Ministry is "adopting" Sunday Donuts for the month of July! Not only will this give us a chance to give back and help our parish, this will give us a chance to PROMOTE YOUTH MINISTRY. We are looking for a few smiley individuals (adults and youth!) to help with Hospitality for "Sunday Donuts" in the Dining Room following the Sunday morning Mass times throughout July. Find out more information or volunteer at stephen.org/youth-service.

SUMMER IS IN OUR MIDSTS.
GIVING MADE EASY WHILE YOU'RE ON THE GO.

Summer is in the air and it's time for beaches, sunshine, and travel. While you are on the go this summer, make giving easy and give online with Online Giving. Our church is a spiritual home for all of us which relies on our time, talent, and treasure in order to fulfill our mission. Online Giving is an easy way to support our continued mission. It is time to come together to keep our faith, so that we can offer hope and healing to those around us.

Online Giving allows you to make donations, payments, and pledges via your mobile phone, smart device, or computer to our church.

Donor Benefits

- Convenient anytime, anywhere access through the internet.
- Secure and Confidential. Adheres to banking security standards.
- Flexible. Start, stop and change your contributions at any time.
- Simple. No need to contact your bank or the church office.
- Contribute using direct withdrawal (ACH) or credit cards.

Church Benefits

- Stabilize Contributions. Regularly scheduled gifts occur automatically. Allows church to effectively manage monthly expenses.
- Secure and Confidential. No need to store member account information.
- Efficient. Participation saves time and expense in bookkeeping.
- Current. A tool for people who prefer to use electronic services.

Introduction to Icon Writing Workshop

We've encountered the large icons of Jesus and the Saints in our worship space and adoration chapel - but many of us do not understand or appreciate their style and sacredness. Sign up to learn more about the ancient tradition of icon writing and write your own simple icon in the process! No artistic ability needed. Presented by the Byzantine Catholic Mission of Nebraska.



⇒ Thursday, June 24th, 7:00 to 8:45 PM
⇒ Worship Space
⇒ 20 people limit
⇒ Please RSVP: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45A4AC22A3F5C70-icon>
⇒ Questions? China Weil at chinaweil@yahoo.com or Adam Ybarra at a.ybarra@stephen.org.



Caring for our Parish Home *Your stewardship dollars at work*

The Facility Committee is finalizing and prioritizing a comprehensive facility report that will help guide ongoing maintenance plans, improvements, and capital projects for our whole facility (building and grounds, mechanical, electrical, and operating system controls) in the coming years.

We often hear people say, "Now that summer's here and school is out until August... I'm guessing staff is looking forward to things slowing down a bit?" Well, the reality is just the opposite. The summer break is our time to address near-term capital improvement projects, deep clean the facilities, and play catch-up on numerous deferred maintenance items. Thanks to generous parishioner stewardship and many active volunteers and staff working in coordination with our Facilities Committee and Finance Council, here are a few of the approved projects scheduled to be completed this summer:

Window replacements: New energy-efficient windows, frames, and blinds are scheduled to be installed mid-July in the gathering space, dining room, and the atrium that borders the parish offices and hallway connecting the Church and School. Existing windows are original to the facility and are in extremely poor condition. The cost to replace these windows is approximately \$151,000.

Parking lot and sidewalk repairs: Sometime late June (weather and contractor pending) work is scheduled to replace broken concrete sections of the parking lot, curbs, and sidewalks. Please watch for minor detours and re-routing of parking lot traffic flow as some of this work will affect the main north and south entrance drives. Approximate cost: \$36,000.

Restroom upgrades: In addition to deep cleaning and painting, new partitions and fixtures are scheduled in four restrooms in the School and the restroom located in the dining room. Approximate cost: \$28,000.

Ceiling tile replacement: Due to water leaks, staining, damage, and aging over the years, ceiling tiles in the dining room, kitchen, and school commons area are scheduled to be replaced. Approximate cost: \$10,000.

Confessional updates: Repairs are in progress to improve sound-proofing in the two confessionals located adjacent to the Adoration Chapel. Approximate cost: \$10,000.

Chiller: Earlier this spring, the original 29-year-old chiller which cools the water and supplies air conditioning to the Church, parish offices, dining room, and the majority of the school was replaced at a cost of approximately \$100,000.

HVAC maintenance agreements: The parish has recently entered into an agreement with a mechanical contractor for ongoing inspection and preventive maintenance on our HVAC system. After the initial inspection earlier this spring, more than \$25,000 has been authorized to address leaking pumps, water filtration systems, control valves, fan motors, and management system issues.

Electrical improvements: To help reduce the effects of power surges and outages, a surge protection system will be installed for the entire building this summer. In addition, we will be adding new LED emergency exit signs, installing CO2 detectors and GFI receptacles required by code, and making needed repairs and upgrades to our life safety and fire projection systems. Approximate cost: \$10,000.

Technology upgrades: In an effort to replace and upgrade an aging and outdated computer network, the parish and school are leveraging a \$187,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) to offset more than \$280,000 of technology expenses. These technology upgrades include new servers, increasing network wireless capacity, new laptops, Apple MacBooks for teachers, and other classroom teaching aids such as smart boards, projectors, and Apple TV. These improvements will give our educators and staff access to the latest teaching technologies, an improved network, and increased wireless connections.

Caring for our parish home is a big responsibility. These improvements are made possible by your generous offertory contributions, specific restricted donor gifts, and funds raised through our Spring Appeal and Joy of Giving campaign. To learn more about contributing to these important projects, please visit stephen.org or contact the parish office at 402.861.4543. Thank you for your support.

PrimeTimers Fellowship

Join for Cards and Games!

⇒ Thurs, June 24th at 1 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)



Did you know? All confirmed catholic women are members of the Council of Catholic Women? The CCW offer support to our parish, community, and international affairs. Currently baking and selling desserts help support our mission. If you like to bake desserts and look forward to attending the upcoming tailgates on: 6/26, 7/31, 8/28, please consider donating your baked goods to the CCW table. The tailgate provides fellowship and an opportunity to share what your beautiful hands have made. Questions? Contact Gigi at gigistamp@cox.net



Seven Sisters Apostolate

Inviting all women of St. Stephen the Martyr. Are you looking for a way to help the priests at our parish? We are currently looking for women to join a seven sisters team for our two parish priests. These seven women are committed to making a weekly holy hour for one of our priests. Contact Katie Keller at 402.575.9216 if you are interested. More information about this apostolate can be found at: sevensistersapostolate.org.

"In strengthening the priest you strengthen the whole Church... Strengthen the priest and you strengthen the whole foundation, you strengthen everything in the Church."
— Fr. Gerald Fitzgerald, S.P.

Stewardship Reflection:

"He asked them, 'Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?'"
— MARK 4:40

Do you really trust God? Is God your first choice or last resort? Is your faith something you just do on Sunday or do you live the Gospel message every day of the week? Many of us know about God. How many of us have a personal relationship with Him? Start now, open your heart to receive our Lord. Talk and listen to Him throughout the day, in all circumstances.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 20, 2021

- SUN 6/20** Jb 38:1, 8-11/ Ps 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31 [1b]/2 Cor 5:14-17/Mk 4:35-41
- MON 6/21** Gn 12:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and 22 [12]/Mt 7:1-5
- TUES 6/22** Gn 13:2, 5-18/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 [1b]/Mt 7:6, 12-14
- WED 6/23** Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mt 7:15-20
- THR 6/24** *Vigil:* Jer 1:4-10/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15, 17 [6b]/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17
Day: Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 14-15 [14a]/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
- FRI 6/25** Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [4]/Mt 8:1-4
- SAT 6/26** Gn 18:1-15/Lk 1:46-47, 48-49, 50 and 53, 54-55 [cf. 54b]/Mt 8:5-17
- SUN 6/27** Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13 [2a]/2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

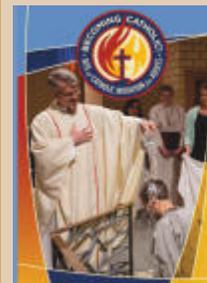
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 20, 2021

- Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Refugee Day; Father's Day
- Monday: St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious
- Tuesday: St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Sts. John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs
- Thursday: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- Saturday: BVM
- Next Sunday: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Do we trust that God will take care of us and has things under control? When life gets difficult, shaky or painful, we may find ourselves wondering what we may have done to deserve this fate. Often, we go to great lengths to explain suffering away, as if it has no purpose and ought not to exist. In an attempt to get God on our side in our battle against suffering, our prayer can mirror a question asked by the disciples: do you not care that we are perishing? As we are asking that question of God, God is asking of us: do you not yet have faith? It is for certain that God does not intentionally inflict pain upon us. God has no sinister plot to test our faith or trip us up. Rather, the unconditional, restorative and rejuvenating power of God's love can bring light out of the greatest darkness and gives hope in the midst of deep despair. We have to be patient and ride out the storm. It is our task to deepen our faith that God will calm the wind and draw meaning out of that which seems senseless.



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.



Tailgate

Join us Saturday, June 26th!
6 PM after Mass

It's June, it's summer, and we are thrilled to WELCOME EVERYONE BACK to campus! Let's get together! Join us for our first Summer Tailgate Party in front of the Parish Center on Saturday, June 26th, beginning at 6 PM after Mass.

Enjoy a summer evening with friends, family, and fellow parishioners. Bring your lawn chairs, or blanket, a game for the kids – or adults – to play, and bring your favorite beverages. Let the Knights of Columbus do the cooking, and delight in your choice of a Hamburger, Cheeseburger, or Brat, with Baked Beans, Chips, and a bottle of water for \$6.00 (Families of 5 or more - \$25.00). Then enjoy dessert from a selection at the Council of Catholic Women's famous dessert table! Kids will especially love the ParadICE Hawaiian Shaved Ice truck on hand to enjoy a refreshing cold treat after dinner.

This will be Father Padraic's last hurrah, so plan on attending and wishing him well before he moves to his next assignment.

Opportunities to Serve Your Parish



- ⇒ **Gardener** If you are interested in helping with gardening activities, we could use your help! One of our long-term gardeners is stepping back. Contact Steve Cinnamon via text or call 402-669-3441.
- ⇒ **EMHC and Lector** Are you interested in serving our parish at our liturgies by assisting as an EMHC or Lector? The Archdiocese's Fall formation process will take a hybrid online and in-person approach. This will be offered on two occasions via zoom: Sunday, August 8th, 2021 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. and Wednesday, August 18th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Once your online training has been completed, all individuals will meet with Karen 1:1 in person to go through our St. Stephen the Martyr processes and procedures. Please contact Karen Hardy at k.hardy@stephen.org to receive the signup link for the initial liturgical formation session.
- ⇒ **Photographers** If you enjoy photography, St. Stephen is looking for a volunteer photographer (or two) to help capture and record parish events for use in our bulletin, website, and social media. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone wanting to become more involved in parish life and help share all the exciting things happening here. If this opportunity interests you, we encourage you to contact Alecia Hartwig at 402-861-4515 or a.hartwig@stephen.org or Dan Koenig at 402861-4543 for more information.
- ⇒ **Totus Tuus Volunteers and Host Families** Can you help? Thank you for considering it! More and sign up links at stephen.org/totus-tuus/
- ⇒ **Funeral Lunch Ministry Coordinator** Our Funeral Lunch Ministry shows caring, kindness and hospitality to families who have lost a loved one by providing assistance with food and/or serving for funeral luncheons. We are looking for volunteers to help with this ministry and 1-2 individuals to serve as lead Coordinator. If interested in giving of your time and talent to this Ministry that is so very important to our families as they begin their journey toward healing, contact Deacon Denny at 402-861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org or Melissa Kane at 402-861-4501 or m.kane@stephen.org.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, June 19

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

Sunday, June 20

7:30 am † Warren Wills (PS)
9:00 am SI SSM parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Tom Sautter (DB)
6:00 pm † Dennis Palik (DH)

Monday, June 21

6:30 am SI Sharon Balis (PS)
8:15 am SI Nath & Rocek Family(PS)

Tuesday, June 22

6:30 am † Judy Klein (DB)
8:15 am † Joan Pearson (PS)

Wednesday, June 23

6:30 am † Fr. Doug Hall (DB)
8:15 am † Gene Jessen (PS)

Thursday, June 24

6:30 am † Anne Demyan (DB)
8:15 am † Russ Mitchell (DB)

Friday, June 25

6:30 am † Michele Cooper (DB)
8:15 am † Gilbert Benschoter (PS)

Saturday, June 26

8:15 am † Mary Benschoter (DB)
5:00 pm † George Isaac Gervase (PS)

Sunday, June 27

7:30 am † Paul & Dorothy Schneiders (PS)
9:00 am † Paul Maria Chanh Tran(PS)
10:30 am SI SSM parishioners (DB)
6:00 pm † Arthur Miller (DB)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul
DB=Fr. Dave Belt; PS=Fr. Padraic Stack; DH=Fr. Dennis Hanneman;
Note: Priest schedule subject to changes



Pray For...

Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Pete & Judy Bartman, parents of Trinetta Shamburg

Mary Ellen Johnson

Howard Ball

Father Craig Loecker

Jacob Legleiter, son of Mike and Sara

Hohenstein Family

Deceased members of our parish-family:

Matthew Stoll, husband of Angela

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.

News from the Greater Community:

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ESSENTIAL FESTIVAL

Join Catholic Charities of Omaha for a day of MUSIC, FUN, FOOD, and FAMILY FESTIVITIES during the Second Annual Essential Festival, Friday, July 2, 2021, at SumTur Amphitheater in Papillion. The event is benefitting Catholic Charities and celebrating the organization's essential programs and services that help feed the hungry, raise people out of poverty, strengthen communities, and protect human dignity. Music performances by The Emmett Bower Band, Finest Hour, Oye Como Va, The String Beans, and Omaha Street Percussion are scheduled. Other activities include Cirque Du Soleil clowns, food, face painting, cheerleaders, and fire trucks. Gates open at 3:00 pm, and the event finishes with a fireworks show, by Bellino Fireworks, at 10:15 pm. More details and individual (\$25) and couple/family (\$50) tickets are available at www.essentialfest.org. Facility COVID requirements will be followed.

EWTN'S DR. RAY IS COMING TO OMAHA!

Now is your chance to see Dr. Ray live! Clinical psychologist and EWTN radio show host, Dr. Ray Guarendi, is coming to Omaha June 29th and 30th to record four episodes of his EWTN TV show, Living Right with Dr. Ray. Taping will take place at the JPII Newman Center on the University of Nebraska at Omaha's campus located at 1221 S. 71st St. Omaha, NE 68106. Free tickets are available to attend the recordings! Visit spiritcatholicradio.com to reserve your seat. Questions? Contact 402-571-0200 or email kvss@kvss.com. Volunteers are needed! Email jackie@kvss.com for details about volunteering for this event.

DR. SCOTT HAHN COMING TO OMAHA ON JULY 24!

The Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology and Spirit Catholic Radio present Dr. Scott Hahn—The Riches of Our Catholic Faith—on Saturday, July 24 at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 11802 Pacific, Omaha. Be inspired and study Scripture from the heart of the Church with one of today's most respected scholars. Dr. Scott Hahn is a best-selling author, speaker, theologian, convert from Presbyterianism and professor at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Please join us on Saturday, July 24, from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. to hear Dr. Hahn's talk. Visit spiritcatholicradio.com/Hahn to purchase your \$20 tickets.

CONSIDER BEING A HOST FAMILY

Skutt Catholic High School, in partnership with Educat Group, welcomes international High School students to the school and community this fall 2021. Out students come from all over the world and take classes alongside their American peers, while living with loving host families. Educatius provides families with a monthly stipend. Educatius is currently looking for families to welcome an international student to share your heart and home! Host families come in all shapes and sizes- young couples with small children, single persons, one-parent families, empty nesters, etc. The one characteristic all host families share is a big heart with a lot of love and understanding for a new family member. This fall 2021, we have an amazing student opportunity. Dat a student from Vietnam will be studying in 11th grade. He loves to play soccer, he enjoys watching films and enjoys music. His dream is to study in an American school and to attend college in the U.S. His favorite subject is English and Computers. Would you consider become his American family? For more information about this amazing opportunity, contact Maribeth Arnone at (703)350-2802 or Marnone.Educatius@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus Scholarship Awards

After reviewing all of the applications that we received, the Knights of Columbus here at St Stephens would like to congratulate the following students who were awarded this years Dcn Wes Kreun Memorial Scholarships.

⇒High School: Grant Venner, Jack Carda, Benjamin Robinette, Joseph Kolega

⇒College: Hope Stratman, Madison Han, Joshua Royal, Rebeca Langel

All of these students, as well as the other individuals that received applications from, not only are showing themselves to qualify in the classroom, but also have done an excellent job of giving back to their communities, their schools, and continuing to grow in their Catholic faith. If you know these young men and women, please be sure to congratulate them! Thank you very much to all of our applicants.

2021 Senior Class and Parents

Senior Class of 2021 Mass & Reception—August 1st from 6-8 PM

All St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church High School graduates and their families are invited to share in the Mass at 6:00 PM, which will include a special blessing. A reception in the Dining Room will follow. Pictures (sized 3x5-5x8, please) labeled with graduate's name and high school can be dropped off or mailed to the Religious Ed./Youth Ministry Office. Pictures must be turned in by Sunday, July 11th to be included in the display.



Praying in a Crisis:

When was the last time you cried out to God about something other than personal issues? Sometimes we're so engrossed in our own life that we fail to see the crisis others face. Whether circumstances involve total strangers or hits close to home, if may feel as if such matters are too big for one person's prayer to make a difference.

Witness Story: One of our parish food pantry families confided in me that due to the kindness and generosity of the St. Stephen's Faith Family they received the food needed for their children which was a tremendous concern, they found employment to continue to pay their bills, and they were greeted after mass and invited for donuts in the cafeteria. We should NEVER doubt the kindness within our hearts and that we are able, with the Lord, to heal, bring peace and change circumstances for others. Our Parish Food Pantry has been a continued source for conversions through food items and a friendly smile. Pray for others often! We never know what our kindness may do for others. We are returning from a crisis in many people's lives with this pandemic. Many families have lost their jobs, lost loved one's, and have gone into a spiral of uncertainty... but, our God continues to bring out of this darkness the spirit of giving, kindness and hope. You can have an impact on the lives of others when you intercede on their behalf. So let news of a tragedy or problems—regardless of whether it affects you—become a catalyst to talk to God. St. Stephen's continues to feed the hungry, continues pray with those experiencing difficult times, and a sacred space to find peace and rest. Our parish food pantry remains open 5 days a week, staffed with volunteers who faithfully prepare sacks of food, transports food to the Juan Diego Center (weekly) as needed, and of course, you our faith family, who donates food to ensure families don't go hungry. We can't do this ministry without you! We have a food cart located inside the doors of the GPC for your donation. THANK YOU for feeding God's children. If you have any questions please contact Deacon Denny 402-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.

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.

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