St. Stephen the Martyr CATHOLIC CHURCH

Encounter, Know, Proclaim

December 5th, 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) 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

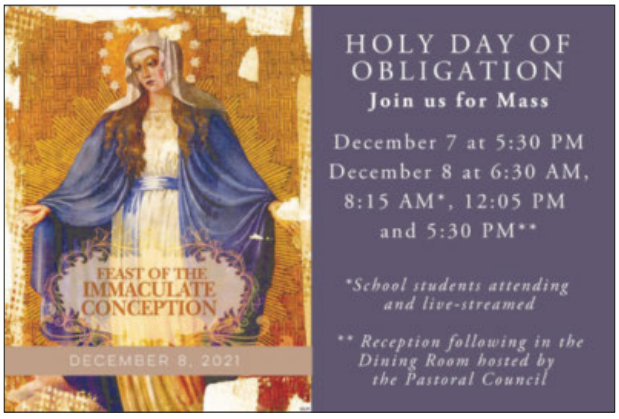
Parish Office:
Phone: 402-896-9675
Emergency: 402-896-9675 ext 2
Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, M-F

Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Ben Boyd

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline:
Submit requests to a.hartwig@stephen.org.



Prayers and Congratulations!

Second graders of our parish and school will be receiving their First Reconciliation this week! Please keep them and their families in your prayers during this special time !

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the miter that displays the glory of the eternal name."

In our first reading this weekend, Baruch is speaking to a people who, because of their sinfulness and hardness of heart, have lost everything and are living in a foreign land. He is calling them to look forward to the day when their days of mourning are turned to glory and joy. Instead of being punished for their sinfulness, they will be rewarded for their faithfulness and will be brought back home to the Promised Land of their ancestors.

As we continue our journey into Christmas, we realize that we have put on a robe of sinfulness and misery too. In the midst of the happiness and success of the past year, we have turned our backs on God. We carry our own generous share of hurts and pains, failures and sins. But in this Season of Advent, we are called to cast down those dark and heavy robes and put on the cloak of justice and glory, which is a gift from God.

One of the best ways for us to let go of the robe of sinfulness is by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When we sin, we not only hurt our relationship with God—we harm our relationship with other individuals and the Church. When we gather as God's people to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we affirm the truth that we are weak and our community is in need of God's healing forgiveness. We also celebrate that God's love and grace will always be more powerful than our weakness and sinfulness. On Monday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m., we will celebrate the gift of forgiveness at our parish's Reconciliation Service. There will be additional priests here that evening to hear individual Confessions. The entire liturgy will take about an hour.

Now is the time to cast off the robes of sinfulness and misery and put on the cloak of justice and glory. Please make every effort to take advantage of this opportunity to experience God's forgiveness and love. Let us pray for ourselves and for one another, that we may have the courage and the grace to confront our sinfulness and ask God to heal us.

"Salvation is free for you because someone else paid." –Anonymous

May God bless you!
Father Dave

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Experience God's Loving Mercy

Monday, Dec 13th at 7 PM

The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with music, a reading, and a short homily followed by an opportunity for individual Confession. We will have the help of visiting priests.

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.

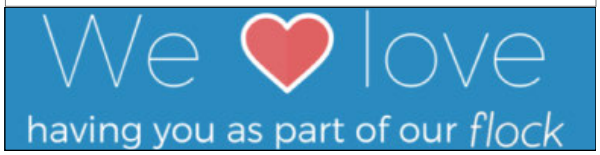
Anointing of the Sick
Contact Deacon Denny at (402) 861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org.

Homebound Eucharist
Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Church 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

Offertory & Online Giving 11/16—11/22/2021:

Actual:	$59,697
Budget:	$46,693
FYTD Actual:	$973,646
FYTD Budget:	$1,046,525

St. Stephen the Martyr operates on a Fiscal Year from July 1—June 30

Thank you for your generous giving!
Your financial support is vital to the well-being of our church and school.

Thank you also to everyone who has completed a pledge for the coming year!

To make a gift or complete a pledge for 2022, simply scan the QR code or go to stephen.org/give.

Offertory envelopes may also be mailed to our office: 16701 S Street, Omaha NE 68135.

Stewardship Reflection

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (Philippians 1:9-10)

During the Christmas shopping season, it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

School News

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

⇒ **There is still time to contribute to our Christmas Gift Program** — Our St. Stephen Home & School Association invites families to participate in our annual Teacher/Staff Christmas Gift Program. This program ensures that every staff member that interacts with our students receives some Christmas love! Learn how you can contribute at school.stephen.org/christmas-gift.

⇒ **Musical Registration is Open** — Our 2022 school musical will be The Lion King Jr. Registration is now open on our website and auditions for middle school actors are on December 6th and 7th! Hosted by Home & School and partially funded through a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council, our school musical introduces 1st-8th grade students to everything that goes into the production of a musical! From acting, singing, and dancing to lighting, sound, set design, our students learn and grow together with instruction from professional musicians, directors, and choreographers. Learn more and register at school.stephen.org/musical.

⇒ **Santa Shoppe Dec. 13 & 14** — Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Shoppe is almost here! This annual event allows our K-8th grade students the opportunity to shop for their families and friends at school. Learn more at school.stephen.org/santa-shoppe

Religious Education News

⇒ **First Reconciliation is December 6/7 at 7 PM** — All second graders and those receiving First Communion in the Spring will celebrate First Reconciliation during Reconciliation services in Advent on December 6th and 7th. Family and friends are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament together. Please arrive between 6:45 and 6:55 pm.

- Monday, Dec. 6th: Tuesday RE students, SSM School sections 2A and 2B and Homeschool families.
- Tuesday, Dec. 7th: Wednesday RE students and SSM School section 2C.

Youth Ministry News

⇒ **Life Teen (High School)** — Sunday, December 5th, 7-9 PM in GPC — Join us this Sunday for our Sort and Pack Party for our Angel Tree Project, followed by an in-depth look at the Miracles of Jesus. It's going to be a night full of giving back and miracles!

⇒ **Edge (Middle School)** — Tuesday, December 7th, 6:30-8 PM in Dining Room — It's Gym Night once again, Middle School! We will begin and end in the dining room. In between we will be enjoying large group games and free time in the gym.

⇒ **Card Games & Catechesis (High School)** — Wednesday, December 8th, 7-8 PM in School Library—High school teens are invited to come together weekly for some "Card Games and Catechesis." These are low-pressure, low-key evenings where we pray together (and learn how to pray with and for one another in the process), play card games or board games, and enjoy teen-led discussions on our faith! There are no set agendas; teens can bring the games they want to play and choose the topics they'd like to discuss throughout the evening. Contact Laura at l.bogue@stephen.org with questions.

⇒ **Steubenville Save-the-Date** — Friday, July 15-Sunday, July 17, 2022— Steubenville is a weekend conference that evangelizes, equips and empowers 8th-12th grade youth to become radical, joyful disciples. Enjoy keynote speakers, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, and much more. We will be attending the Steubenville Conference held in Rochester, MN. More information coming soon!

Christmas Flowers Memorials

We are collecting donations for Christmas Flowers for our worship space. This opportunity is a great way to remember loved ones who have gone before us.

Donations can be made online through OSV (scan this QR code) or placed in the Offertory Basket using your Offertory Envelopes received in the mail. Please be sure to add your loved one's name in the special intention field. Please make your donation by Dec. 15th to be included in the Dec. 26th bulletin. Contact the parish office with questions.

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

TRIVIA NIGHT

JANUARY 22ND, 2022

Registration Now Open at stephen.org/trivia-night

Don't delay in getting your table Reserved for this highly anticipated event!

- Check-In, Setup & Social Hour: 6-7 PM
- Trivia begins at 7 PM
- Must be 21 years or older
- 10 Rounds of Questions
- $224 per Table (8 players per table)
- 2 Drink Tickets per Player Included
- Buy 4 Mulligans (Free Answers) for $20
- Payment Reserves Table; First Come, First Serve
- Heads & Tails Game and Raffle
- Team Theme, Costumes & Table Decorations Encouraged
- Best Team Costume Recognition and Award
- Bring Your Own Snacks
- Cash Bar: Wine, Beer, Margaritas and Sodas
- No outside alcohol

COATS FOR KIDS WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

The Coats for Kids program is part of the Knights of Columbus Neighbor Helping Neighbors initiative that was launched in 2009 that allows councils across the United States and Canada to purchase new winter coats for children at a discount and to distribute them to children in need in their local communities. St. Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus has extended our program to include collecting gently-used coats of all sizes to help those in need. This is the second year that we have accepted donations of both cash and gently-used coats from the parish community and your generosity has been amazing. With your help, our council was able to order eleven cases of new coats and in total, provide over 220 new and used coats.

Thank you and may God bless you!
St. Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus Council #10160
Kofc10160.org

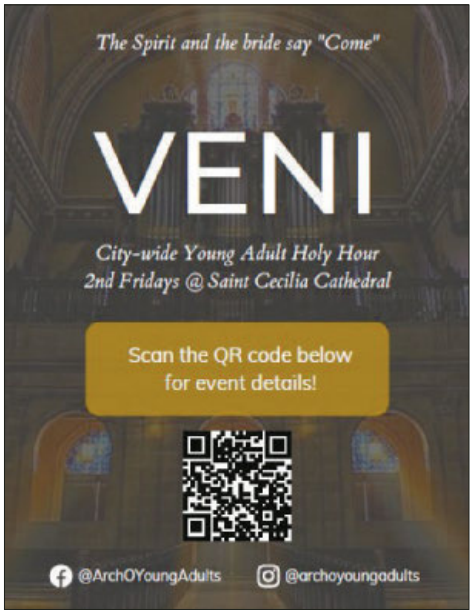
PrimeTimers fellowship

Cards & Games every 2nd & 4th Thursday at 1 PM in the GPC. Invite a friend. Bring a snack to share and an item for the food pantry.

⇒ Join on December 9th

⇒ No cards/games on December 23rd

This Men's and Women's group (age 55+) gathers for fun social events, special projects, and support. More information at stephen.org/primetimers. Email questions to Stephens.PrimeTimers@gmail.com



Ladies BUNCO NIGHT

THURSDAY, DEC. 9TH AT 7 PM

It's Bunco time again! Our next ladies Bunco will take place on Thursday, December 9th at 7-9 PM in the Parish Center. This event is sponsored by the SSM Council of Catholic Women. Ladies must be 21+ to play, cost $10.00, with a chance to win cash prizes. BYOB (yes, you may bring your own alcohol). Snacks will be provided. Donations to our food pantry will be greatly appreciated. Please come and bring a friend. Questions, contact Brenda Kreber 402-203-5196.

Newly Baptized

Congratulations!

Eleanor Mae Long,
daughter of Lucas and Cheri

Rowan Cecilia Boggs,
daughter of Joshua and Elly

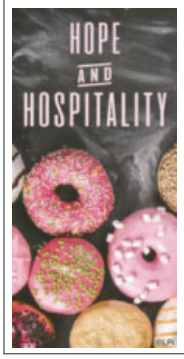
Maren Adeline Mae Sindelar,
daughter of Ryan and Taylor

Prayer Shawl Ministry

YOU GAVE ME COMFORT

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8TH AT 9:15 AM

Gather, pray and make Prayer Shawls/ Blankets to be given to persons experiencing a crisis in their life. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:15 to 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Center. Join us for our next gathering on December 8th. Questions? Contact: Jan Mitchell at (402) 895-3215. Also, if you would like to help but can't knit, tie or crochet—this group is seeking donations of yarn, fleece, or JoAnns or Walmart gift cards. Donations can be dropped off to Deacon Denny in the Parish Center.



Our Hospitality Ministry is looking for volunteers to help with **Sunday Donuts and Coffee** through the month of March. The time commitment is minimal and entails serving donuts, coffee, wiping down tables, greeting parishioners and guests. Families welcome to sign up.

Sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45A4AC22A3F5C70-host
or find the link at stephen.org/connect

More information/instructions will be provided upon signup confirmation.

Christmas Mass Schedule 2021

Christmas Eve—Friday, December 24

- 4:00 PM
- 4:15 PM (Gymnasium)
- 6:00 PM
- 12 AM Midnight

Christmas Day—Saturday, December 25

- 9:00 AM
- 10:30 AM
- 5:00 PM*

*Please note: because Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, we have an obligation to go to Mass twice that weekend: once for Christmas Day and another for Sunday. *The Saturday 5 PM Mass can fulfill Sunday obligation only if you've already gone to another Christmas Mass. Sunday Mass schedule remains our normal times: Sunday, December 26th at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, and 6:00 PM.*

Christmas Decorating

Help is needed to decorate our Worship Spaces for Christmas. This is an excellent service opportunity for Youth preparing for Confirmation. Everyone is welcome to help. All youth under the age of 19 must sign up and a parent must attend with their child (ren). We have two opportunities:

- Christmas Decorating on Sunday, December 19th at 7 PM
- Poinsettias Assistance on Thursday, December 23rd at 12 PM

⇒ Sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45a4ac22a3f5c70-christmas3

⇒ or find the link at stephen.org/youth-service

Questions? Please email or call Logan Hepp, Liturgy Coordinator, at 402-861-4502 or l.hepp@stephen.org. Thank you in advance!

Saint Nicholas Feast Day

Parents—don't forget Monday, December 6th is Saint Nicholas Feast Day! Have your children set out their shoes the night before. Traditions including filling their shoes with treats: gold coins, candy canes, and oranges. Saint Nicholas may also make an appearance after Mass this weekend! :)

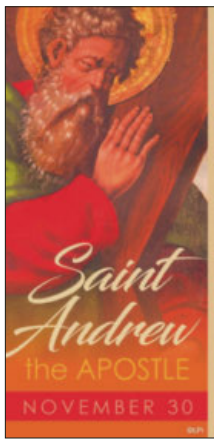
St. Nicholas of Bari (March 15, 270 – December 6, 343), the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution.
According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys. Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.

Honoring our Deceased Loved Ones at Christmas:

As we enter this holiday season for some there is an emptiness as we remember our prior traditions as a family. This is not an uncommon or unfamiliar experience during the holidays. This remembering, although painful, in one of the beautifully God-designed plans. We can do more than remember; we can "honor" our deceased loved ones at this special time of year. To "honor" means to make the lives of others somehow better, fuller, and more meaningful in the name of the deceased loved one. Here are a few ideas to consider:

1) Give a gift to a special cause in the name of your loved one.
2) Make a simple holiday ornament that represents your loved one and give to the family or friend.
3) Hang a holiday welcome wreath on your front door and keep plants or flowers in your home.
4) Lay a place setting for your loved one at the main holiday meal.
5) Honor your loved one in your faith community by lighting a candle or contributing to the holiday floral arrangements that adorn the worship space.
6) Share an inspiring story about your loved one.
7) Send thank-you notes to those who were special to your loved one.
8) Give to someone an item that belonged to your loved one.
9) Make a new year's resolution that will honor your loved one throughout the coming year.
10) Share your honoring activity with others.

Honoring our deceased loved one at Christmas helps us to keep them and what we loved about them always in our hearts, and to see and touch the power of life beyond death. Always know that your faith family and our clergy at St. Stephen are here for support, to listen and to pray with you. Blessings, Deacon Denny/Pastoral and Spiritual Care, (402) 861-4538.



St. Andrew
Christmas Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen

Memorials & Tributes
Gifts in memory or honor of a loved one are truly meaningful and unique

Looking for a way to acknowledge someone who has touched your life this Christmas?

Gifts to St. Stephen the Martyr in memory or honor of a loved one are truly meaningful and unique.

Learn more at stephen.org/memorial-gifts

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2021

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 5, 2021

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Monday: St. Nicholas, Bishop

Tuesday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Friday: Our Lady of Loreto

Saturday: St. Damasus I, Pope

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Sometimes, especially when life gets overwhelming and difficult, we can find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable. Wallowing in this uncomfortable darkness seems to be our norm and it's difficult to see a way out of, or through, this experience. If we listen carefully enough, we will hear God's voice calling out deep within, beckoning us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Faith tells us that God has already begun the creation of a good work in us and is with us, bringing it to completion, until Christ Jesus comes again. It is this light of God's glory for which we are asked to pave the way and straighten the paths of our lives so that it can shine. With all that life can ask of us and bring to us, it is our task to constantly discern what is of value. So that we do not get so weighed down by things that we no longer see, or feel, God's salvation.

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 at stephen.org/prayer-line or call Beth Wetgen at (402) 669-4793.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 4
8:15 am † Bill Clark's mother (DB)
5:00 pm † Judy Bosiljevac (BB)

Sunday, December 5
7:30 am † Jim Brazda (BB)
9:00 am † Kay Roberts (TBD from St. Thomas More)
10:30 am † Bill Lutz (TBD from St. Thomas More)
6:00 pm † Nester Diaz (BB)

Monday, December 6
6:30 am † Nestor Diaz (BB)
8:15 am † Matthew Stoll (BB)

Tuesday, December 7
6:30 am † Nestor Diaz (DB)
8:15 am † Wendell Wills (BB)
5:30 pm † Mick Beacom (DB) - ***Vigil***

Wednesday, December 8—*Immaculate Conception*
6:30 am † Shirley Blessing (DB)
8:15 am † Marie Sempek (BB)
12:05 pm SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
5:30 pm † Bill Wills (BB)

Thursday, December 9
6:30 am † Maria Senior (DB)
8:15 am † Hermie Belt (DB)

Friday, December 10
6:30 am † Nestor Diaz (DB)
8:15 am † Chase Patrick Logsdon (BB)

Saturday, December 11
8:15 am † Rosina de Gonzalez (DB)
5:00 pm † Ben Mannino (GO)

Sunday, December 12
7:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
9:00 am † Patricia Knerl (BB)
10:30 am † Victoria Gomez-Welch (DB)
6:00 pm † Nestor Diaz (DH)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul
DB=Fr.Dave Belt; BB=Fr.Ben Boyd; DH=Fr.Dennis Hanneman; GO=Fr.Gary Ostrander
Pease note: Priest schedule subject to changes

**If you'd like to reserve a Mass Intention, please contact Melissa in the parish office at m.kane@stephen.org or 402-896-9675.*

Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Cate Durrett, daughter of Rob and Carolyn
Frank Kankousky, husband of Patti
Stephen Reestman, brother of Pam Roberts
Gerry Moseke, husband of Florence
Bob Jaeck, husband of Nancy Major-Jaeck
Mary Ann McGrath, mother of Kathy Wawers
Tom Turgeon
Patty Daniel, sister of Kathy Riley
Eli Cole, son of Jim and Tiffany
Norman Timm, father of Deanna Mullen
Aisa Bosnjak, wife of our afternoon / evening custodian Mel Bosnjak
Larry Schmitz

Deceased members of our parish-family:

JoAnne Rice, sister of Dean Strehle
Byron Barber, husband of Judy
Mary Finken, mother of Ann King
Sharon Sklenar

News from the Community:

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COULD USE A LITTLE HELP THESE DAYS... Our SVdP Thrift Stores serve our our community by providing low cost, gently used merchandise for people who need to save or are those who find it wise or just plain fun! Prior to COVID, we relied heavily on volunteers. With the pandemic, of course many volunteers needed to stay home. We still need folks who can help out. Might you feel the call to help? If so, we'd be ever so grateful! To inquire, please call 402-779-8499 and talk to Austin. Check SVdPomaha.com to see our five locations to choose from! P.S. We are also hiring FT and PT employees, so if you or someone you know is in the market for a job, please check INDEED or call us at 402.779.8499.

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE
Please join us at St. Robert Bellarmine Church for the 2021 Public Square Christmas Rosary on Saturday, December 18th at 12:00 noon near the southwest entrance. Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance and conversion. We ask God to save America through the Rosary of His Most Holy Mother. More info all - Robin 402-616-5620

STORY SLAM AT HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER
Many of us have a GREAT story to share and would love the opportunity. Others of us love to HEAR a great story. Giving people a chance to tell their story is one of the charisms of the SVdP home visit. On December 4, we take that to a slightly different angle, by holding a STORY SLAM at our Holy Family Community Center. Holy Family will host our first Story Slam at 7 pm Saturday, December 4 at Holy Family, 1715 Izard Street. Similar to the Moth Radio Hour series on National Public Radio, participants will tell a five-minute personal, true story from our stage on the theme of Beginnings. Audience members will vote on the best by their applause. It's a free, family-friendly event. So practice your story to tell or just come to enjoy the show!

VISIT NATIVITY SCENES IN SCHUYLER, NE
Now through Dec. 15, 2021; Jan. 2 – 7, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Center. Everybody is invited to make a pilgrimage to St. Benedict Center, view God's Love made visible in nativity scenes from the Holy Land, from Africa, Asia, South & North America and Europe and pray for the peace which our world so urgently needs. No admission fee. For more information visit www.StBenedictCenter.com or call (402) 352-8819.

"A LONG EXPOSURE TO THE LIGHT"
Join the Institute for Priestly Formation for an Advent Morning of Reflection, Saturday, December 11th at Christ the King Church. The morning begins with the 8:15 parish Mass, includes a continental breakfast, presentations by the IPF Staff, time for silent reflection, and concludes at noon. There is no charge for the event. For planning purposes, please register on-line at PriestlyFormation.org or call Linda at 402-280-3901.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAY – GRIEF SUPPORT
Surviving the Holidays is difficult after the loss of a loved one. The holiday season is flooded with memories of happier, past celebrations. This seminar will provide practical holiday coping strategies and hope for brighter days ahead. Please join us on Tuesday, December 7, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Mainelli Center. To register email Debbie at dmarcil@stroberts.com or call 402-333-8989 – each participant will receive a Survival Guide book.

Ixim: Spirit of Solidarity – Mission in Guatemala

Since 2004, parishioners from across the Archdiocese of Omaha have gone to our sister diocese in Huehuetenango, Guatemala to work alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ. Ixim missionaries build bridges of understanding and solidarity by learning about the lives and realities of those in Huehuetenango. Over the years, Ixim missionaries have staffed medical clinics, taught lessons at local schools, applied fluoride treatments to children, assisted with reforestation projects, painted parish and school buildings, and helped implement clean water projects. Our 17th trip will be June 16–June 27, 2022. Learn more about our mission trip at an upcoming information meeting:

- Sunday, December 12, 4:30 PM - St. Frances Cabrini - Cabrini Center Library

Contact Charlie for Zoom links or to reserve a spot at an in-person information meeting at cpetro@archomaha.org or 531-218-6354.

Have You Considered Making a Gift to St. Stephen the Martyr Through Your IRA?

With the new year fast approaching and as you review your year-end charitable donations, we would like to share beneficial ways to complete your giving to St. Stephen the Martyr. If you have any questions please contact Dan Koenig at 402-861-4543.

GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA
The IRA Charitable Transfer is an excellent way to make gifts to St. Stephen the Martyr. By transferring your donation directly from your IRA you can avoid being taxed on your required withdrawal. Annual withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts are required after age 70 1/2, and the penalty for skipping a required minimum distribution is 50 percent of the amount that should have been withdrawn. Most importantly, by donating through your IRA you avoid the income tax penalty on your distributions. 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 to St. Stephens by the IRA trustee in order to qualify for the tax break. If you withdraw the money from your IRA, have it payable to yourself and then donate the proceeds, it will not qualify as a tax-free qualified charitable distribution.

St. Stephen the Martyr encourages all parishioners to consult with their tax advisor when considering their 2021 year-end giving options. To qualify for a deduction in 2021, gifts must be received in the parish office no later than Tuesday, December 31st.

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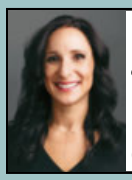
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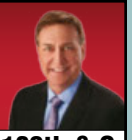
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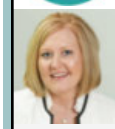
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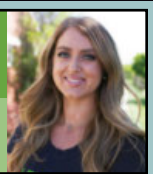

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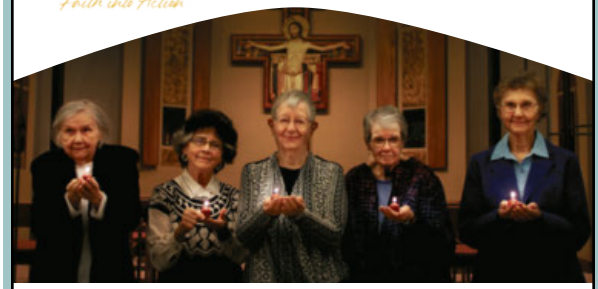

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