



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

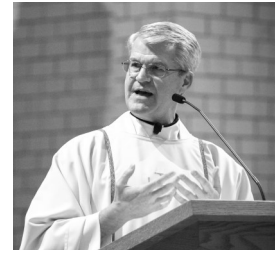
Annual Report 2022

Fiscal Year
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Dear Saint Stephen the Martyr parishioners,

Over the last few months, I've shared with you Archbishop Lucas' *Big Goal*: By the fall of 2026, each parish in the Archdiocese of Omaha will be a missional community.

Archbishop Lucas has set this goal with the knowledge and recognition that the way we've been "doing church" isn't effective. We see this as more and more people walk away from the faith, and we know we have empty places in our church. Because of this, Archbishop is calling us to discern a new way of "being church". A new way of drawing people into our family of faith, while equipping us with what is needed to live our faith out loud, wherever we go. He often shares a quote from *Evangelii Gaudium*, a document written by Pope Francis.



"I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation. [...] As John Paul II once said: "All renewal in the Church must have mission as its goal if it is not to fall prey to a kind of ecclesial introversion".

—Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

Parishes have become these ecclesial introverts that Pope John Paul II warned us of. We are turned in on ourselves. We come to church to receive the sacraments, study the bible and share faith and then we go out into the world, and we keep that to ourselves. But this is not the vocation of our baptism. We are created, baptized, and sent out into the world to live our faith in a bold and public way. We are called to proclaim His good news so that the people around us can see how our lives are affected by Jesus Christ and they too can be drawn into relationship with Him.

This is our work as Christians, and it really is difficult work. It would be much easier for us to continue to treat St. Stephen the Martyr as an exclusive club, a place only for those who belong. That isn't the church Jesus established though, and that is not the intention of God. When God created us, His will was for each and every one of us to be saved. Salvation isn't only for a chosen few, salvation is possible for everyone and anyone. Whether there are many souls saved or only a few, in part, depends on us. Our mission as baptized Christians isn't just to get ourselves or our spouses or our children into heaven. Our mission is to help *all* get into heaven. We do this as a family of faith. We do this as the Body of Christ. We do this work together. Christ is counting on each one of us to be His messengers in the world today. To go out into the world and share His good news. This begins in our homes; it continues into our neighborhoods and then into our community.

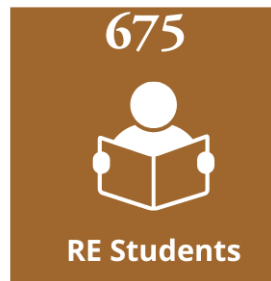
As we reflect now on the past fiscal year, we do so through this new perspective. Financial well-being is essential to our continued success, but the work to save more souls, our primary mission, will only be achieved if we turn our gaze outward. We must focus less on self-preservation and more on sharing His love and promise of salvation.

May God Bless You,

Father David Belt
Father David Belt

St. Stephen Numbers At A Glance

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022



2021-2022 Development Year in Review

Gross proceeds raised through the following activities:

Fall Festival: \$44,662

Martyr Marathon: \$113,861

Trivia Night: \$14,353

Martyr Mission: \$118,781

Joy of Giving: \$18,225

Offertory Giving: \$2,583,743



2022-2023 Development Goals

Below are dates and fundraising goals for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year:

Martyr Marathon (Sept. 23): \$116,000

Trivia Night (Jan. 28): \$17,000

Martyr Mission (Mar. 25): \$225,000

Joy of Giving (May 2023): \$40,000

Offertory Giving (Annual Appeal launches October 2023):

Increase offertory giving 10% annually, per parishioner/parish family

Becoming A Missional Community

A missional community is made up of individuals that not only encounter and know His love but actively proclaim His love to the greater community. We must look beyond ourselves and discover how we can bring mercy, strength, and forgiveness to all of God's people. Missional communities share three characteristics: *Collaborative Leadership*, a *Clear Path of Discipleship* and a *Culture of Generosity*. Below are examples from the past fiscal year highlighting our work in each of these areas.



Collaborative Leadership

Collaborative Leadership is a way of exercising authority in which the pastor invites and equips certain of the faithful to use their gifts in the service of leadership.

Pastoral Council: The Pastoral Council continued its work with Fr. Dave to analyze and refine the remaining two years of the five-year Pastoral Plan through the lens of the "Three Characteristics of a Missional Community", ensuring efforts and activities at St. Stephen align with the Archbishop's *Big Goal*.

Leadership Cenacles: In 2022, parish leadership began semi-annual gatherings for evenings of prayer and discussion focused on aligning ourselves with the *Big Goal*.

Witness to Love: Our new marriage formation program relies on parishioners to be the hands, feet, and voice of marriage. Over the past year, we've gathered a group of mentor couples who will accompany engaged couples towards their wedding day. This shift in sacrament preparation engages parishioners to be leaders in the parish while also providing the mentors the opportunity to invest their lives into the couples they are preparing. While Fr. Dave & Fr. Tucker will continue to be part of marriage formation, the addition of mentor couples enhances the formation experience and takes a great deal of the formation off the plates of the pastors.

Clear Path of Discipleship

A *Clear Path of Discipleship* is "a simple, step-by-step strategy for a parish to make disciples and lead people toward full maturity in Christ." This path must meet people exactly where they are in their walk with Jesus, and lead them to a fuller encounter, knowledge, and relationship with Him.

Witness to Love: At the same time *Witness to Love* is empowering the faithful lay people to be leaders within the parish, it is also evangelizing, or re-evangelizing, the mentor couples. As they guide new couples, they not only strengthen their relationship with Christ, but they help the engaged couple to identify where they are together in their path to becoming disciples of Christ.

Living Lent Together: In our second year of *Living Lent Together*, an Archdiocesan-wide Lenten initiative, we doubled our previous year's engagement, reaching a total of 47 small groups.

RE, Youth Ministry, School & RCIA: Through youth and adult faith formation we guided 458 students through preparation and receipt of the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and/or Confirmation. Faith formation often begins with sacraments, but that isn't the only path to discipleship. Through their studies, service and fellowship, all 1,391 students grew in relationship with Christ. In leading our youth and RCIA participants, over 258 volunteers deepened their own faith.



Culture of Generosity

Culture of Generosity is a way of Christian living where we come to know that all we have is a gift from God and we are invited to return those gifts with love to our Lord, our parish, and our community.

Facility & Landscape Updates: Perhaps the most evident symbols of generosity at St. Stephen are the beautiful new statues that adorn our entrances. These statues, along with facility upgrades to windows, roofing, flooring, and HVAC units are possible because of parishioner stewardship. Nearly all our landscaping and ground improvements are done by a group of dedicated volunteers. This group spends countless hours maintaining our 11 acres and their gift of service to our parish is invaluable.

Latino Scholarship Fund: This past fiscal year, we contributed our annual \$40,000 donation to the Latino Scholarship Fund (LSF), a program that alleviates financial barriers for Latino families seeking Catholic Education. St. Stephen the Martyr has a 20-year tradition of supporting LSF. This past fiscal year, ten St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School students were recipients of LSF tuition assistance.

Serving Our Community: Over the last fiscal year, 144 families were served through our Parish Food Pantry. Additionally, parishioners donated 8,831 pounds of food to Catholic Charities and organized over 20 social justice service activities.

Statement of Revenue / Expenses

	<u>Jul '21 - Jun '22</u>	<u>Jul '20 - Jun '21</u>
ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE		
Income		
Activity & Entertainment (1)	525,763	432,643
General Contributions (2)	3,022,768	2,837,289
Governmental Sources (3)	397,018	978,395
Other Operating Income (4)	24,759	25,059
Other Operating Revenue (5)	58,634	160,232
School Income (6)	702,529	707,061
School Tuition & Fees (7)	2,365,891	1,992,972
Total Income	7,097,362	7,133,651
Gross Profit	7,097,362	7,133,651
Expense		
Activity & Entertainment	200,583	234,749
Admin. Services & Supplies (8)	1,914,141	1,539,762
Lay Personnel Costs	3,805,369	3,631,493
Other Operation Expenses (9)	393,723	328,505
Religious Personnel Costs	115,663	106,106
School Expenses	31,300	6,854
Total Expense	6,460,779	5,847,469
Net Ordinary Income	636,583	1,286,182
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Unrealized Gains/Losses on Endowment	(166,650)	253,326
Total Other Income	(166,650)	253,326
Net Other Income	(166,650)	253,326
	469,933	1,539,508
Less 60 days of operating reserve per Archdiocese	950,000.00	950,000.00
	(480,067)	589,508.00

Balance Sheet

	<u>June 30, 2022</u>	<u>June 30, 2021</u>
ASSETS		
Operating Income	1,442,242	1,355,262
Non-Operating Income	157,904	100,340
Total Cash in Bank - Checking	1,597,054	1,455,602
Total CASH	1,600,146	1,455,602
Total Checking/Savings	1,600,146	1,455,602
Total Current Assets	1,600,146	1,455,602
Fixed Assets		
Plant and equipment	19,126,297	19,126,297
Total Fixed Assets	19,126,297	19,126,297
Other Assets		
Investments		
Life Insurance Policy	11,827	0
Stock Transfer Account	1,522	1,672
Archdiocese Deposit and Loan	1,671,926	1,139,426
Endowments	1,176,960	1,396,967
Total Investments	2,862,235	2,538,065
Total Other Assets	2,862,235	2,538,065
TOTAL ASSETS	23,588,678	23,119,964
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Special Collections	72,596	47,700
Chancery Payments	(70,203)	(43,925)
Payroll	52,515	53,549
Total Other Current Liabilities	54,908	57,324
Total Current Liabilities	54,908	57,324
Total Current Liabilities	54,908	57,324
Equity	23,533,770	23,062,641
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	23,588,678	23,119,965

Footnotes:

- 1) Includes Martyr Mission, Trivia Night, tailgates/festival, School and RE fundraisers
- 2) Includes anonymous \$200,000 donation for maintenance per BCDM report
- 3) Government payments to school lunch program; Kidzone and Home/School grants
- 4) Cell tower rental income
- 5) Matching gifts; D&L interest income of \$32,500
- 6) Includes School, Kitchen, and Kidzone
- 7) Includes School, Kitchen, Kidzone, and RE
- 8) Includes \$239,661 in cafeteria food (see government reimbursement above)
- 9) Capital Outlay: concrete repair, restroom partitions, windows (gathering area, dining room, atrium, school), carpet (gathering area), tile in dining room and school, HVAC control upgrades