St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Encounter, Know, Proclaim

October 9, 2022

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

Mondays from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space
First Friday of the Month 9 AM—Noon

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. Zach Tucker

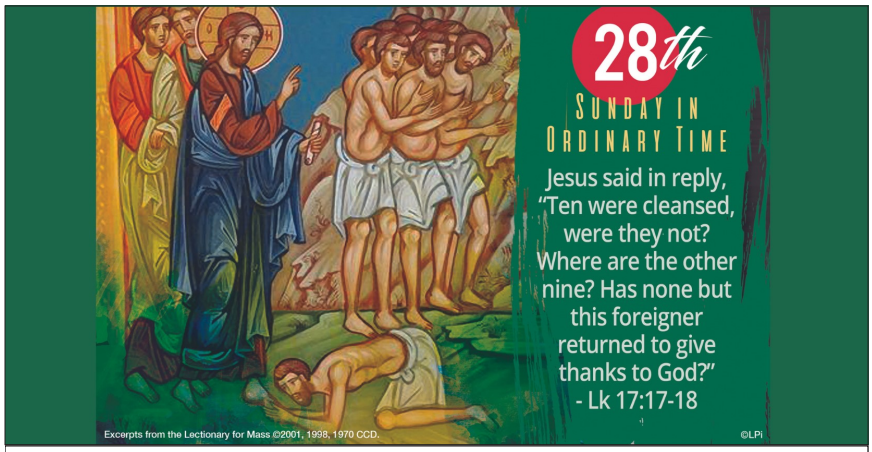
Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM
Submit requests to Leslie at l.schulte@stephen.org.

SAVE THE DATE

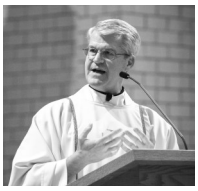
March 25th, 2023

Learn more: stephen.org/dinner



Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"One of them, realizing that he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, 'Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine?'"



The ten lepers approached Jesus and asked for the gift of healing and wholeness. Jesus did what they asked: He healed them. Nine of the newly-healed men continued on their journey, while one of them—an outsider—came back to give thanks to Jesus. Hadn't all been touched by Jesus? Why is it that only one gave thanks?

We can all relate to the nine men who kept walking away from Jesus. We take our blessings and our gifts for granted. Sometimes we even think that we deserve the blessings and the abundance that are a part of our lives. The reality is that we don't deserve anything. We are sinners. We turn away from God, even when He continues to share His blessings with us. Like the nine lepers, we continue with our journey of life, ignoring God and forgetting to give Him thanks and praise.

How appropriate it is that we hear this Gospel in the midst of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal and our own Parish Annual Appeal. Every parish in the Archdiocese of Omaha takes this month to focus upon our blessings and our Baptismal obligation to live as responsible stewards of God's gifts. The first step living stewardship is thanksgiving. We must see everything as a gift from God, from the money we have to the time that has been given to us to the very breath that fills our lungs. We must give thanks and then we must share. As we have received from God, so must we share with others.

I strongly encourage all of you to spend some time in prayerful reflection, to discern how God is calling you to live as stewards of His gifts. We need the generosity of every member of this parish, if we are going to fulfill our mission of helping souls make it to heaven. We need your prayers and participation in Sunday Mass; we need your time and talents in the many groups, ministries, and organizations of the parish; we rely on your financial contributions to pay salaries and to keep our buildings in good order.

We also must realize that we are a part of a larger community. As a parish, we have an obligation to provide support for the many ministries that are provided by the Archdiocese of Omaha. We must support the work of the Office of Evangelization and Family Life, the Vocations Office, the Catholic Schools Office, and all the other necessary ministries of the archdiocese. They provide valuable services to the people of this parish and all of the parishes of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

We have received so much from God. We give thanks, and then we must imitate God's generosity by sharing our own time, talent, and treasure with His people.

"Let me never day or night unhallowed pass but still remember what the Lord hath done."

–William Shakespeare

May God bless you!
Father Dave

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/sacraments.

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

Financial Stewardship

Offertory & Online Giving 9/27 — 10/3/2022:

Actual:	$42,014
Budget:	$50,844
FYTD Actual:	$589,955
FYTD Budget:	$684,258

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. To make a gift 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.

Second Collection—Oct. 8th & 9th

This weekend there is a second collection supporting the October Diaper Drive that is being hosted in partnership with St. Stephen the Martyr Council of Catholic Women & St. Stephen the Martyr Respect Life Ministry. All donations will be used to purchase diapers to be distributed to EPS, Mater Filius, Bethlehem House and Catholic Charities.

Place your donation in the Offertory Basket or give online at stephen.org/give or scan the QR code.

For more information visit: stephen.org/respect-life.

"Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"

(Luke 17:18)

Most of us live relatively "easy" lives. We have food, shelter, clothing and money. We go on vacation every year and own a car or two. Most of us take this all for granted. Did you ever notice that people with the least amount of possessions are usually the most grateful? Shouldn't this be the other way around? Take time every day and thank God for all He has given you and discern how He is calling you to share your gifts.

#stewardshipreflection

Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Luna Jean Lawson,
daughter of Adrian and Jessica

Beckham Joseph Johanek,
son of Matthew and Jenna

School News

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

⇒ **Fall Family Frolic**: Oct. 10th—Join us at Vala's Monday from 11 AM to 4 PM. S'mores will be provided by Home & School from 1-3 PM.

⇒ **Smart Gen Society Presentation**—Parents/guardians are invited to join us for a presentation by Smart Gen Society on Oct. 13th at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center. Smart Gen Society is an Omaha-based company specializing in digital wellness, safety and privacy. This presentation will discuss how to protect your family's well-being, safety, and privacy in our fast-paced and ever-changing digital world. From early access to technology and increasing digital-based anxieties, the presentation will inform parents/guardians on the long-term impacts of our digital choices and guidance on how to set healthy boundaries towards screen time limitations and account restrictions.

⇒ **Adult Night Out:** Oct. 21st, 7-10 PM, Thunderhead Brewery, Appetizers provided, cash bar. This event is free to attend & no RSVP needed. Come meet up with other school parents & guardians and enjoy a night out! Any questions email Malori at maloritiman@gmail.com.

Religious Education News

⇒ **Catechists Needed**—RE classes are underway! We still need volunteers in the following roles:

⇒ Catechist—Grade 2: Wednesday at 5:30 PM & 7 PM (2 people)

⇒ Child Care: Tuesday at 5:30 PM

All the lessons are planned, and materials are provided. RE tuition is waived for the immediate children of adult volunteers. If you are interested, please call the RE office at 402-896-5683.

Youth Ministry News

⇒ **Youth Ministry Participation Waiver for 2022-23**—Parents, please be sure to fill out our annual participation waiver: smartwaiver.com/v/ssmyouthministry. Do you receive our Life Teen and Edge emails? Our newsletters are a great way to stay up to date on opportunities for our youth to be involved! Connect by going to: stephen.flocknote.com/Edge and/or stephen.flocknote.com/LifeTeen.

⇒ **Life Teen (High School): Sun. Oct. 9, 7-9 PM in Parish Center**—What can whip cream, sprinkles, and chocolate candies teach us about St. Paul and sharing the Gospel? Join us this Sunday to find out!

⇒ **Edge (Middle School): Tue. Oct. 18, 6:30-8 PM in Dining Room**—There will be NO EDGE this week, Middle School Teens! Join us next Tuesday as we answer the question: What's Purgatory? Prepare yourselves for a large group game, a brief teaching, and plenty of time for questions and answers during small group discussion.

⇒ **VENTURE Bible Study (High School Teens)**—Save the Date! Beginning Wednesday, November 2nd, teens are invited to join us in the School Library on Wednesdays at 7 PM as we unlock the mysteries of the Bible. Hear from dynamic speakers such as Mark "The Bible Geek" Hart, Mari Pablo, Paul J. Kim, Bob Rice, and more! Register at: osvhub.com/stephen/forms/venture-teen-bible-study.

Safe Environment Training—Oct. 17th, 6:30-9 PM

Training will be held in the St. Stephen the Martyr Dining Room.
Will you be volunteering with the youth of our parish in some way? Whether you are a sacristan, EMHC, staff member, coach, catechist, or a parent hoping to help in the classroom or with school events, our Diocese requires that you be Safe Environment Certified! **Training is free of charge, but registration is required.** Register at omaha.cmgconnect.org.

Questions? Contact Melissa Kane at m.kane@stephen.org or 402-896-9675.

October is: Respect Life Month

Proclaim Christ this October with these Respect Life Activities!

Join Us in Prayer:

Saturdays in October

Join the Knights of Columbus every Saturday in October to pray the Rosary together as a community before 8:15 AM Mass in the Worship Space. We will follow the USCCB's meditations on the mysteries offered as a prayer for all life, from conception to natural death.

Oct. 13th: *40 Days for Life* Prayer Day

Join St. Stephen the Martyr Respect Life Ministry to pray and fast for an end to abortion. We will be taking part in the *40 Days for Life* campaign on October 13th outside Bellevue Health Center, 1002 W. Mission Ave., Bellevue.

Oct. 15th: Rosary Rally

Join us at Noon on Oct. 15th for a Rosary Rally for Life, a public demonstration of our prayer and support of life from conception to natural death. Join us on the west lawn, along 168th street.

Diaper Drive

Support Women & Families In Need

Please join us in collecting diapers and wipes for local women and families in need. Your donation will support women who have chosen not to have an abortion and now need our help providing for their babies.

Most Needed Items:
Wipes & diapers (sizes: Newborn, 4, 5 and 6)

This week's Drop-off Locations:

- Gathering Space or School Commons October 3rd-30th (place donations in cribs)
- Stuff the Bus in front of the Parish Center after Masses this weekend
- Donate monetarily through QR Code

Diapers will be distributed to: EPS, Mater Filius, Bethlehem House and Catholic Charities.

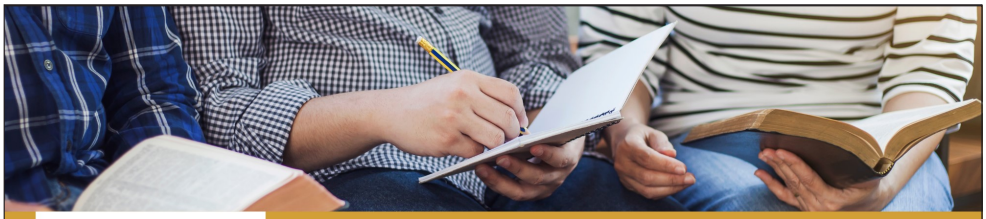
For more details on all Respect Life Month activities, visit stephen.org/respect-life.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Wednesday, Oct. 12th 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 October 12th. 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.

Eucharistic Adoration

The miracle of the Eucharist is one we can all experience! Please join us. You are welcome to come and go as needed.
Weekly Eucharistic Adoration:
Mondays from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space



St. Stephen the Martyr
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Adult Faith Formation
Bible & Book Studies

Our Bible & Book Studies are underway but you can still join! All groups meet in the Parish Center on the days/times listed below. More information about each of the studies, including contact information for the group leader, can be found on our website at stephen.org/bible-and-book-studies. We hope you will join us to grow closer to Christ together!

⇒ **The Art of Living: The Cardinal Virtues and the Freedom to Love—Book Study, Friday Mornings in the Parish Center, 9:30-11AM**

⇒ **My Peace I Give You—Book Study, 2nd Saturday Mornings in the Parish Center, 8-10 AM**

⇒ **Seeking Truth Bible Study—Tuesday Mornings in the Parish Center, 9:15-10:45 AM**

⇒ **The Complete Sayings of Jesus—Wednesday Mornings in the Parish Center, 9:30-10:30 AM**

⇒ **Lectio Divina—First Thursdays in GPC, 9:15-10:30 AM**

For more information on all Adult Faith Formation opportunities, visit: stephen.org/adult-faith-formation.

BENEFIT ST. STEPHEN WITH YOUR

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

IRA Charitable Rollover Gift

The IRA Charitable Rollover allows you to transfer any amount (up to $100,000) directly to St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church by instructing your retirement account custodian.

This transfer will be considered tax exempt. If you are 70 ½ or older, you can use your individual retirement account (IRA) to support St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church.

PrimeTimers Cards & Games: Every second and fourth Thursday at 1 PM in the Parish Center—Everyone is welcome! Bring your favorite board game or join a group for pitch, pinochle, bridge, dominos, or tripoli. Bring a snack to share and an item for the St. Stephen food pantry. Bring a friend or partner! *If you know of anyone 55+ who would like to receive PrimeTimers notifications of upcoming events, please send contact info to stephens.primetimers@gmail.com or sign up at: stephen.flocknote.com/PrimeTimers.*

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." - Rev 3:20

Jesus Christ invites each of us into a more perfect union with Him. All we must do is allow His grace to transform us.

- Are you seeking full communion with the Catholic Church?
- Are you a baptized Catholic needing First Communion or Confirmation?
- Do you have loved ones falling into any of these descriptions?

The Becoming Catholic! Program at St. Stephen the Martyr will help you deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ through a more intimate knowledge of His Church and Holy Scripture.

For more information, please contact Scott and Julie Tylski at tylskisj@cox.net, (402) 861-2209; or Adam Ybarra at a.ybarra@stephen.org, (402) 861-4507. ***Are you ready to open the door?***

WHY DO WE DO THAT?
Catholic Life Explained:

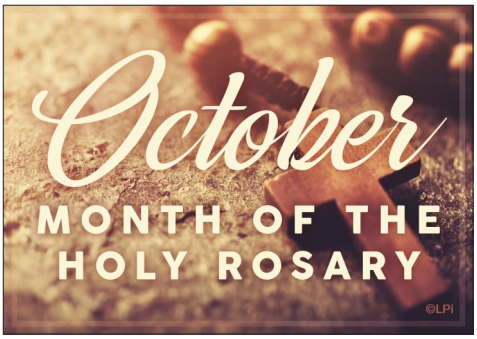
Question:
What are the servant songs of Isaiah? How do they relate to Jesus' life and ministry?

Answer:
The four servant songs (Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, and 52:13—53:12) are strategically placed in Second Isaiah to offer hope and consolation to a suffering Israel during its Babylonian Exile.

Israel had been defeated by the Babylonians, who destroyed their temple, killed the last of the kings in David's lineage, exiled them from their land, and transported them to Babylon. This is the context in which Second Isaiah composes his powerfully poetic book of hope and consolation. A significant part of that message is the portrait of God's servant, who is called to be a source of hope and encouragement for the people.

Each of the four poems emphasizes God's choice and election of the servant. The last poem stresses the suffering and rejection of God's servant, along with his eventual death. Isaiah is certain that God will use the servant's innocent suffering as a way to redeem and remove the guilt and sin of others. Thus, the servant becomes a source of salvation for himself and for others.

Who is this servant? Many suggest that Isaiah was referring to Israel herself, as she underwent exilic suffering which would ultimately prove to be redemptive. Jesus' followers, including those for whom Mark wrote his Gospel, understood Jesus' ministry in terms of Isaiah's suffering servant whose innocent suffering and death became the means of salvation for all. ©LPi



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9, 2022

Sunday:	2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4/2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19
Monday:	Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday:	Gal 5:1-6/Ps 119:41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48/Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday:	Gal 5:18-25/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 11:42-46
Thursday:	Eph 1:1-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 11:47-54
Friday:	Eph 1:11-14/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13/Lk 12:1-7
Saturday:	Eph 1:15-23/Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 12:8-12
Next Sunday:	Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/2 Tm 3:14—4:2/Lk 18:1-8

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9, 2022

Sunday:	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time; St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest
Monday:	Columbus Day
Tuesday:	St. John XXIII, Pope
Friday:	St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr
Saturday:	St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday:	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time; St. Hedwig, Religious; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Expressing gratitude is a sign of a loving heart. When we have received a gracious gesture, the appreciation experienced forms a bond between the giver and receiver. This can only happen when abundance and kind gestures are seen as gifts and not something to which we are entitled. The power of gratitude is more profound when we realize all that we are and all we are given do not have a human source but are of God. Walking around believing that our glass is only half full leaves us always wanting more. We are never satisfied. We become nothing more than entitled pursuers of whatever we can get. Instead, the one who is eager to count their blessings and appreciate the wonder and beauty of the gift of life itself is at peace. Before they take another step or venture off on another journey, they bow in gratitude to the presence of God himself. They are most keenly aware that all would cease to be without God.

Not Yet a Parishioner?

Register at **stephen.org**.
Click on "Become a Parishioner" in the footer.
Contact Adam Ybarra at (402) 861-4507 or a.ybarra@stephen.org with any questions and to chat about ways we can help you grow closer to Christ!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 8
8:15 am SI Noah & Levi Ryan (DB)
5:00 pm † Ben Mannino (ZT)

Sunday, October 9
7:30 am † Judy Bosiljavec (ZT)
9:00 am † Cy Promes (DB)
10:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
6:00 pm † Steven Williams (DH)

Monday, October 10
6:30 am † Mike Hupka (ZT)
8:15 am † Joan Fenton (ZT)

Tuesday, October 11
6:30 am † James & JoAnn Stachura (DB)
8:15 am † Jeannette Kucirek (ZT)

Wednesday, October 12
6:30 am SI Terry & Marie Zrust (DB)
8:15 am † Warren Wills (ZT)

Thursday, October 13
6:30 am † Holy Souls in Purgatory (DB)
8:15 am SI Daniel DiGiacinto (DB)

Friday, October 14
6:30 am † Renee Kreun (DB)
8:15 am † Donald and Olive Blair (ZT)

Saturday, October 15
8:15 am † Mary Miller (ZT)
5:00 pm † Rodger Fawcett (DB)

Sunday, October 16
7:30 am † Byron Barber (DB)
9:00 am † Gerrie Dethlefs (DB)
10:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (ZT)
6:00 pm † Rob Kuchta (ZT)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul
DB=Fr. Dave Belt; ZT=Fr. Zach Tucker;
DH=Fr. Dennis Hanneman

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.*

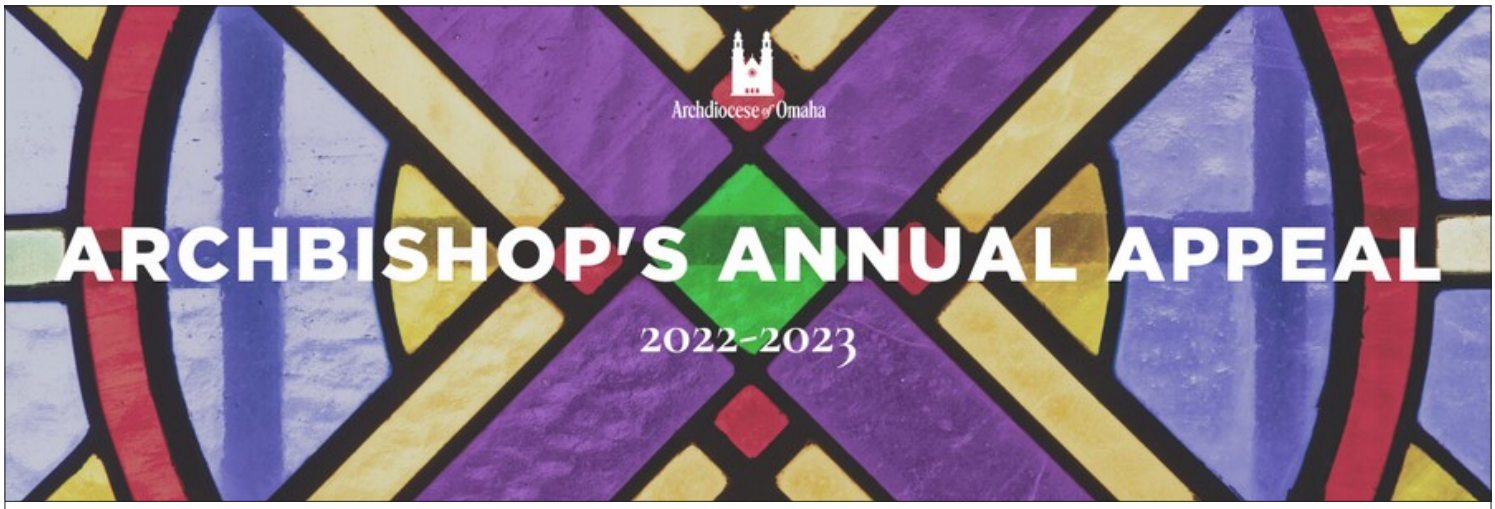
Pray For...

Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:
Ryan Huebner, son of Marty and Cheryl
Daniel DiGiacinto, brother of Rebecca Berry
Bill Rahm
Kathy Hahn
Jerry & Florence Moseke
Virginia Barnes, sister of Tom Johnson

Deceased souls of our parish family:
Jim Baumert, father of Dee Ernesti
Joe Roh, brother of Jenifer Milone

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.



In today's second reading, St. Paul reminds us what a beautiful gift it is to be in union with Christ. Let us pray for one another, that we all might persevere in faith and unity with Christ and His Church.

Next weekend, October 15th - 16th, is Commitment Weekend. The goal of Commitment Weekend is for each parish to make a coordinated push for support of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. **Our parish has currently committed $57,028.96 from 79 donors towards our goal of $199,761.90 and six percent participation.** Please prayerfully consider a contribution to help us reach our goal, especially as we approach Commitment Weekend! We are one through our baptism into Christ, and the Archbishop's Annual Appeal invites us to recognize that we are truly one Church. Give online at archomaha.org/appeal.

News from the Community

PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE
Please join us at St. Robert's for the 2022 Public Square Rosary Crusade on Saturday, October 15 at 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 call Robin at 402-616-5620.

A TEACHING MASS: PRESENTING OURSELVES TO THE KING: Join us at 6:30 PM, Oct. 17 at St. Cecilia Cathedral
Rev. Frank Baumert, Serra Chaplain, will guide participants through the parts of the Mass, its setting in the church building, and the meaning behind those things as they relate specifically to the KINGDOM of Heaven. This is not just a generic look at the parts of the Mass, but a detailed look at why Jesus referred to his home as the KINGDOM of Heaven rather than just Heaven. Assisted by Rev. Eliot Schwer, Associate Pastor of St. Cecilia Cathedral, the evening will kick off at 6:30 PM with registration in the Narthex. This 90-minute Teaching Mass will begin at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. Going forward, be prepared to present yourself to the King at every Mass. Please invite your family, friends, and guests to join us. All are welcome! There is no cost to attend. RSVP to help us plan for success: https://serrawestomaha.org/event/a-teaching-mass-presenting-ourselves-to-the-king.
The JPII Newman Center in Omaha welcomes current and prospective college students and their families to attend an open house on Saturday, October 15th from 11:00am to 2:00pm. The open house will feature tours of our three main spaces: community areas, the Oratory, and Newman Hall, and will also include time for questions and student testimonials.

ANNUAL WHITE MASS, BANQUET, AND ETHICS CONFERENCE: October 21st and Saturday, October 22nd
Theme: A Sacred Trust: Protecting the Doctor-Patient Relationship
Location: Christ The King Catholic Church/Parish Center 654 So. 86th St. Omaha
White Mass & Banquet: Friday, October 21, 2022 6:00 p.m. - Bishop James Conley Celebrant/Homilist/Key-note Speaker
Ethics Conference: Saturday, October 22, 2022 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
RSVP: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/white-mass-banquet-ethics-conference-tickets-419661216997

The Faith and Reason series, or F.A.R., is an opportunity for high school age students to learn about and discuss the Catholic teaching around tough cultural issues today. Join us on October 8 in the St. Stephen the Martyr Dining Room from 7 to 8 PM to hear Dcn. Omar Gutiérrez address what the overturning of Roe means for us going forward. Cost is $10/ student. Parents attend free with registered student.

Learn more at: eicatholic.org/upcoming-events.

JPII NEWMAN OPEN HOUSE—OCTOBER 15TH

The JPII Newman Center in Omaha welcomes current and prospective college students and their families to attend an open house on Saturday, October 15th from 11AM to 2PM. The open house will feature tours of our three main spaces: community areas, the Oratory, and Newman Hall, and will also include time for questions and student testimonials.

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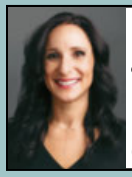
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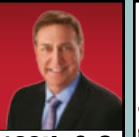
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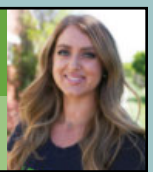

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