



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

January 1, 2023

## 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](http://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—2:30 PM

## 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](http://stephen.org/staff)

**Bulletin Deadline:** Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Leslie at [l.schulte@stephen.org](mailto:l.schulte@stephen.org).



## MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

When they saw this, they  
made known the message that  
had been told them about this  
child. All who heard it were  
amazed by what had been told  
them by the shepherds. And  
Mary kept all these things,  
reflecting on them in her heart.  
- Lk 2:17-19

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPH

## Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

***"The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds."***



On this Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, our attention is turned to the Holy Family, resting in a stable, and the shepherds who "found" them. After the shepherds had a personal experience of the presence of God; after they saw that the promise made by God through the prophets was now fulfilled, they "made known the message" and "all were amazed!"

The experience of the shepherds is our experience as well. As we receive the presence of Jesus through the Sacraments, the life of the Church, and deeds of compassion and mercy, we cannot keep the love of God to ourselves. Transformed by God's presence, which is made flesh through the infant Jesus, we are called to be ambassadors of God's love and mercy in our world.

***"Withhold no part of the precious truth, but speak what you know and declare what you have seen. Do not allow the toil or darkness or possible unbelief of your friends to dissuade you. Let us rise and march to the place of duty, and there declare what great things God has shown to our soul."*** -Alistair Begg

May God bless you,  
Father Dave



## Installation of Holy Family Statue

This past week, a new statue of the Holy Family was installed on the southeast wall of the Worship Space. The statue was blessed following 8:15 AM Mass on December 30th, The Feast of the Holy Family.

Fr. Dave selected the Holy Family as an image for our parish because Father Gerry Gonderinger, our founding pastor, wanted to establish our parish as a "family-friendly" community. The Holy Family, in their love for one another and their desire to be faithful to the will of God, is a model for all families to follow.

***May the Holy Family inspire all of our families to grow in love and unity.***



16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | [stephen.org](http://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/sacraments](http://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](mailto: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 12/13 — 12/19/2022:

Actual:	\$55,337
Budget:	\$49,894

FYTD Actual:	\$1,144,120
FYTD Budget:	\$1,240,217

Christmas to Date:	\$5,505
Christmas Budget:	\$70,000

Financial data from 12/20—12/26 was not available at time of print. These numbers will be reported in next weekend's bulletin.

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](http://stephen.org/give).



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

*“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”*

*Luke 2:19*

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. She heard God's message, and immediately said “yes.” Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity.

*#stewardshipreflection*

### Join our Parish Family!

Welcome visitors and newcomers! If you would like to register as a parishioner, please visit [stephen.org](http://stephen.org). Click on “Become a Parishioner” in the footer of our website. Contact Adam Ybarra at (402) 861-4507 or [a.ybarra@stephen.org](mailto:a.ybarra@stephen.org) with any questions and to chat about ways we can help you grow closer to Christ!

## School News

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

- ⇒ **Happy New Year!** We would like to wish our students, families, teachers and staff a very Happy New Year! Our school is on break through January 4th and the school office is closed. Classes resume Thursday, January 5th. Have a wonderful break!
- ⇒ **Save the Date:** Our Open House for the 2023/2024 school year will be January 29th from 9 AM—Noon. More details coming soon!

## Religious Education News

- ⇒ **Merry Christmas from the Religious Education Team!** Religious Education classes will resume on January 10/11, 2023. We pray you enjoy your time off with family and friends. New to the area and need to register your children? We accept registrations all year. Please contact us for more information at 402-896-5683.
- ⇒ **Calling all Catechists, Coordinators, and Volunteers!** Please join us at our annual potluck and meeting, Sunday, January 8, 2023; Noon—3 PM in the dining room. Come to eat, socialize, discuss classroom management techniques, and receive important second semester information and updates. Check your email for RSVP and potluck sign-up.
- ⇒ **Catechist needs:** Kindergarten (4 students) Tuesday at 4:15 PM, Grade 1 (8 Students) Wednesday at 4 PM, Grade 2 (14 students) Wednesday at 5:30 PM needs a co-catechist. Contact us at 402-896-5683 if interested in volunteering.
- ⇒ **Weather Reminder:** Should icy or snowy weather occur; the Religious Education program observes the school closing policies of the Millard School District. If Millard Public Schools cancel classes or evening activities due to inclement weather, we will not hold Religious Education classes that evening.

## Youth Ministry News

- ⇒ **Life Teen (High School) and Edge (Middle School):** Hello, Tweens and Teens! Our weekly youth nights will be on a bit of a “Holy Hiatus” during this transition period. Questions may be directed to Evan Collins at [e.collins@stephen.org](mailto:e.collins@stephen.org).
- ⇒ **Calling all 8th-12th graders! Join us at Steubenville of the Rockies 2023 in Aurora, CO from June 23-25, 2023:** In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. This summer, join hundreds of Catholic teens to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is our refuge and never wearies of loving us. **All rising freshmen in high school through rising freshmen in college** are invited to attend this weekend retreat with our group. Learn more and register at [stephen.org/steubenville](http://stephen.org/steubenville). For more information or if you have questions, contact Evan Collins, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, at [e.collins@stephen.org](mailto:e.collins@stephen.org).

*Refuge*  
MT 11:28

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” -Matthew 11:28

**Steubenville of the Rockies 2023**

**Aurora, CO**

**June 23-25, 2023**

**Registration Now Open!**

Calling all high schoolers!

Join us at Steubenville this summer to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who tells us, “Be not afraid.”

To learn more, visit [stephen.org/steubenville](http://stephen.org/steubenville).



Is God inviting you to know him more in the New Year?  
Join our Men's & Women's Groups!



**Friday Men's Group**  
Join us at our first meeting of the new year, January 13th. Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Group meets Friday mornings from 6-7 AM. Through shared experience and small group discussion, we build a brotherhood strengthening us in our mission as disciples. Join us as we study the catechism and deepen our faith. Contact Adam with questions at [a.ybarra@stephen.org](mailto:a.ybarra@stephen.org).

## Beloved:

A WOMEN'S GROUP



**Join Us January 12th!**  
This group meets in the Parish Center and is for women of all ages.  
5:45 AM Coffee & light snacks provided  
6:00 AM Watch Video  
6:30- 7:00 AM Small Group Discussion  
We hope you can join us!

## Liturgical Ministry & Hospitality Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers to serve in the following roles:

- Altar Server
- Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC)
- EMHC Homebound
- Lector
- Usher
- Greeter
- Hospitality

Interested? Sign up at:  
[stephen.org/liturgical-volunteers](http://stephen.org/liturgical-volunteers).



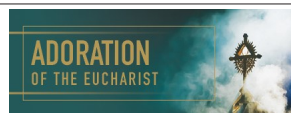
## Is God calling you to serve your fellow parishioners?

New EMHCs, Lectors, & Servers are required to attend formal training. Training sessions will be held in January. Ushers, Greeters, & Hospitality volunteers will be trained as well, but sessions will be brief and occur with a staff member after a Mass of your choice. Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve your brothers and sisters at St. Stephen the Martyr. For more information and to sign up, visit our website at [stephen.org/liturgical-volunteers](http://stephen.org/liturgical-volunteers) or scan this QR code.



Scan to see ways you  
can get involved or visit  
[stephen.org/dinner](http://stephen.org/dinner)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CATIANA URRUTIA  
402-861-4541/C.URRUTIA@STEPHEN.ORG



## 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

### First Friday Adoration:

January 6th  
9 AM—2:30 PM



## Rosary Devotion

The Knights of Columbus invite you to pray the Rosary together as a community before the 8:15 AM Mass in the Worship Space.

⇒ **First Saturday Devotion to Mother Mary — Jan. 7th**



## Prayer Shawl Ministry: Jan. 11th 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 AM in the Parish Center. 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.

## PrimeTimers Cards & Games



**Every 2nd and 4th 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!

To sign up for our emails visit  
[stephen.org/primetimers](http://stephen.org/primetimers).

Be on the lookout for more fun gatherings for our PrimeTimers (Ages 65+) in 2023!



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CONTEST

All boys & girls ages 9-14 are invited to participate



Sunday, January 8 at 1 PM  
(check-in at 12:45 PM)  
St. Stephen the Martyr Gym  
Free & No Pre-Registration Required

Questions?  
Contact Matt Kreber at kreber4@yahoo.com



## WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

**Question:** What is the history of the rosary? Where did this prayer come from?

**Answer:** Although a longstanding tradition attributed the rosary to Saint Dominic and the Dominican Order, the practice of using beads to count prayers predates the Dominicans by a few hundred years.

In fact, it seems that what we now think of as the rosary (which means "garland of roses") was first developed by illiterate peasants and religious brothers and sisters as a way of offering 150 "Our Fathers" to replace the praying of the 150 psalms in the Divine Office.

The practice of reciting 150 Hail Marys (which was later subdivided into 15 decades of 10 Hail Marys) arose during the late Middle Ages. Devotion to the rosary began to flourish in the nineteenth century, especially as new devotions to Mary began to spread throughout Europe and the New World. An annual liturgical celebration of Our Lady of the Rosary was introduced into the Church calendar in 1573 and it has been observed on the date of October 7 since 1913.

In the apostolic letter On the Most Holy Rosary, Pope Saint John Paul II not only added five new mysteries to the traditional fifteen, but he also reminded Catholics that the rosary is, at its core, an opportunity to go deeper into the life of Jesus: "The rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer ... It has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium.

It is an echo of Mary's prayer, her perennial Magnificat ... With the rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love" (no. 1).

©LPi



CCW  
Council of Catholic Women

### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Omaha Urban Area of Catholic Women (OUCCW) is offering a \$250 scholarship to a High School Senior Catholic young woman. There is also a \$150 Honorable Mention award.

The winning application will be forwarded to compete for the \$500 scholarship offered by the Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (OACCW).

Application forms are available on the OACCW website at OACCW.org (click on "About") and have been sent to the guidance counselors of area high schools. All High School Senior Catholic young women are encouraged to apply. If you have any questions about the application or the process, please call Cathy Vak at 402-391-0484.

Applications for the OUCCW Scholarship must be submitted by January 15, 2023. Completed applications are to be sent to: Cathy Vak, 3255 S. 77th Street, Omaha, NE 68124.

Ladies  
BUNCO  
NIGHT



Bunco is hosted by the Council of Catholic Women every third **Thursday** of every month in the Parish Center from 7-9 PM. Our next gathering will be Jan. 19th. 21+; \$10/person. Questions? Contact Brenda Kreber at 402-203-5196.

# Breakfast at St. Stephen the Martyr



kofc10160.org

Sunday, January 8th  
after the 7:30 AM Mass until 12 PM  
*Proceeds this week support the*  
**St. Stephen Youth Ministry**

Three menu options:  
Pancake Breakfast, Eggs Breakfast, or Biscuits & Gravy  
Cost: \$8.00/adult, \$6.00/child, or \$30 max for family





# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1, 2023

- Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Monday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51
- Friday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a, and 9b/Jn 2:1-11
- Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1, 2023

- Sunday:** Mary, The Holy Mother of God, National Migration Week, New Year's Day
- Monday:** Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
- Tuesday:** The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Wednesday:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
- Thursday:** St. John Neumann, Bishop
- Friday:** St. André Bessette, Religious
- Saturday:** St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
- Next Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

The shepherds returned from Bethlehem "glorifying and praising God." They were affected deeply by the sight of the infant Messiah and the message of the angels. What would the world look like, if we allowed ourselves to be likewise impacted by the word of God?

## How Can We Pray for YOU?

You are not alone! St. Stephen 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 at [stephen.org/prayer-line](http://stephen.org/prayer-line) or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, December 31

- 8:15 am † Dolores Knier (DB)  
5:00 pm † Bob Mannino (ZT)

### Sunday, January 1—New Years Day

- 7:30 am † Jackie Boryca Davis (ZT)  
9:00 am † Frank & Maxine Thome (ZT)  
10:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)  
6:00 pm † William Hart (DB)

### Monday, January 2

- 8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (DS)

### Tuesday, January 3

- 6:30 am SI Craig & Barb Ohnoutka Family (DB)  
8:15 am † Ann Marie Prismantas (DB)

### Wednesday, January 4

- 6:30 am SI Eli Cole (DB)  
8:15 am † JoAnne M Besch (DB)

### Thursday, January 5

- 6:30 am SI Fr. Mark McKercher (DB)  
8:15 am † Jake Dunwoody (DB)

### Friday, January 6

- 6:30 am † Gladys Mandel (DB)  
8:15 am † Bob Jaeck (DB)

### Saturday, January 7

- 8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr (ZT)  
5:00 pm † Erin Doll (DB)

### Sunday, January 8

- 7:30 am † James Brazda (DB)  
9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)  
10:30 am † Bob Menard (ZT)  
6:00 pm † Albin Venner (ZT)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB=Fr. Dave Belt; ZT=Fr. Zach Tucker;

DS = Fr. Dan Soltys

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](mailto:m.kane@stephen.org) or 402-896-9675.*



## Pray For...

### Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

**Nancy Major Jaeck**

**Bill Utecht**, brother-in-law of Ron and Bonnie Skartvedt

**Ryan Huebner**, son of Marty and Cheryl

**Daniel DiGiacinto**, brother of Rebecca Berry

**Berniece Adams**

**John F. Johnson**, brother of Tom

**Fr. Nick Baker**, Diocese of Lincoln

### Deceased souls of our parish family:

**Mark Drazic**, husband of Jone

**Vi Ramaekers**, mother of Donna Murphy,  
grandmother of Sean & Zach Murphy

**Adele Hassenstab**, mother of Tom Hassenstab  
and Jane Craig

**Jim Willette**, father of Brad

**Connie Bogue**, mother of Andrew

**Bob Gentrup**, father of Brenda Urrutia

**Robert "Bob" Jaeck**, husband of Nancy Major

**Jeffrey Kane, Jr.**, son of Jeff & Melissa

**Jim Baumert**, father of Dee Ernesti

**Mary Pfeifer**, wife of Greg

**Diane Ames**, sister of Rose Mary Braun

**Tina Szalewski**, sister of Ed and Debby Synowicki



# TRIVA NIGHT

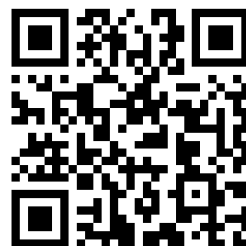
## JANUARY 28, 2023

THERE ARE SO MANY  
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED  
IN TRIVIA NIGHT!

REGISTER A TEAM

VOLUNTEER TO HELP

DONATE PRIZES



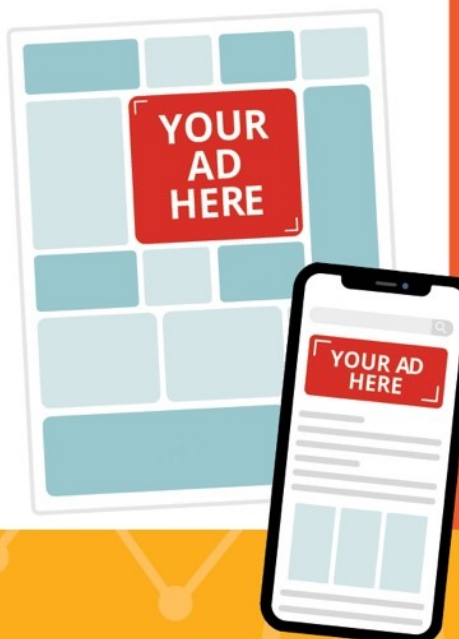
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QUESTIONS? CONTACT CATIANA URRUTIA  
402-861-4541/C.URRUTIA@STEPHEN.ORG

## AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

**Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!**

**Michael Wilde** from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on [ParishesOnline.com](http://ParishesOnline.com).



Michael Wilde  
612-961-8890  
[mwilde@4lpi.com](mailto:mwilde@4lpi.com)

### *News from the Community:*

#### **CALLED TO THE SILENCE: 3 DAY IGNATIAN RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES**

God speaks to you in the silence. Are you ready for some quiet time away after the holidays? Steep yourself in our sacred space, to be still and open yourself up to the graces God has for you. You will meet with an Ignatian-trained spiritual director daily to reflect on what's stirring in your heart. Opportunity for mass daily and confession. Retreat cost including room and meals is \$350. Choose one of the 4 opportunities to attend.

- January 19-22, 2023
- February 23-26, 2023
- April 13-16, 2023
- May 4-7, 2023

Retreats begin at 6:00 p.m. Thursday evening, following your check-in, and ending Sunday by 3:00 PM. Register at: [creighton.edu/curc](http://creighton.edu/curc).

#### **CATHOLIC BUSINESS GROUP - OMAHA** The Catholic Business Group of Omaha is looking for nominations for our **2023 "LEADING with FAITH" Business Recognition Award**.

Submit a Nomination Form to honor a friend, coworker, relative who "Lives their Faith" through their business and work environment. Go directly to our website to submit your nomination online: [cpbcomaha.org/nomination](http://cpbcomaha.org/nomination). The Luncheon Event (Lunch, Speaker & Awards) will be on Thursday, April 20, 2023.



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