



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

December 11, 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—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

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Leslie at l.schulte@stephen.org.



THIRD WEEK OF
ADVENT

*"The blind now see...the deaf hear, the
dead are raised..."*

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday"
which is marked by a rose colored candle (rose
symbolizes joy) on the Advent Wreath. Joy permeated
creation at the birth of its savior, and Jesus' healing
work began on earth. Let us be joyful! He is coming!



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about
whom it is written: Behold,
I am sending my
messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way
before you." - Mt 11:10

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

©LUP

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

***"See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the
earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and
the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts
firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."***



This quote, taken from the letter of St. James, reminds us that the grace of
God comes to us gradually. Many times, we want to experience the
goodness and abundance of God yesterday, and when life is difficult or it
hands us some tough situations, we might grumble and complain. We live
in a society where everything is fast and immediate—it's a "fast-food"
mentality, where we expect instant gratification and satisfaction. But St.
James reminds us that we must always be patient, with ourselves, with
others, and most especially, with God. Only God knows what is best for us
and in His own time, in His own way, He will share His blessings with us.

Are you patient enough to wait for God to reveal Himself and His goodness
to you? Or are you going in search for satisfaction in places where it cannot
be found? Many times, we turn to worldly things like vehicles, homes,
possessions, and food and drink, and we expect that these will fill the
emptiness that we have. The reality is that only God will fill the void.

Be patient and search for what will really bring peace and satisfaction to
your lives. Only God can bring these gifts to you. Only God.

"Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another."
- Walter Elliott

May God bless you,
Father Dave



Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Gabriella Popek,
daughter of Justin and Katie

Henry Sempeck,
son of Alex and Kayla



Congratulations!

LaRissa McKean & Dan Knowlton
Married at St. Stephen on Saturday,
December 3rd

*Our faith community wishes you
many blessings!*

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 PM & Saturday: 3:30-4:45 PM

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays. Parents are required to attend a preparation class. Contact the parish office for information or visit: stephen.org/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 11/29 — 12/5/2022:

Actual:	\$62,101
Budget:	\$50,369
FYTD Actual:	\$1,038,628
FYTD Budget:	\$1,140,430

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.



"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."

James 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

#stewardshipreflection

Join our Parish Family!

Welcome visitors and newcomers! If you would like to register as a parishioner, please visit 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 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.

- ⇒ **K-2 Christmas Music Program:** Our Kindergarten-2nd music program is Thursday, December 15th at 2 PM and 6 PM. Students have been preparing for the last several weeks and are excited and ready to share their hard work with our school community and their families!
- ⇒ **2023 Musical Registration Now Open:** We are excited to announce that this year's musical will be Disney's Newsies Jr. The musical is open to all 1st through 8th graders! Registration is open. Get all the details & register at school.stephen.org/musical.
- ⇒ **Winter Book Fair is Dec. 12th-16th:** Get ready! This winter's Book Fair is going to be epic! We've turned up the volume with more fun, more choices and more excitement, so kids will arrive curious and leave more excited about reading than ever before. You do not need to have a child at our school to shop our Book Fair! Books make great gifts and can be shipped straight to your home. Every purchase helps our school! Shop our Book Fair here: scholastic.com/bf/ssmwinter2022.
- ⇒ **Santa Shoppe Volunteers Needed Dec. 12th & 13th:** Santa Shoppe is back and we're so excited to welcome you again! We can't make this event happen without your help. Volunteers will be helping students shop, wrapping presents, facilitating activities for non-shoppers and helping set up and tear down the event. For more information and to sign up to volunteer, visit school.stephen.org/santa-shoppe.

Religious Education News

- ⇒ **Catechists Needed for RE:** We still need volunteers for:
 - ⇒ Co-Catechist—Grade 2: Wednesday at 5:30 PMAll 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

- ⇒ **Stewardship Opportunities:** 'Tis the season to give back! Register for opportunities at stephen.org/youth-service.
- ⇒ **Sign up to make sandwiches for St. Vincent de Paul:** Next Drop-off will be Monday, Dec. 19th. Help is needed to provide sandwiches for the sack lunches for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul! Sandwiches can be made from home, and then dropped off in the Gonderinger Parish Center. This is a GREAT opportunity to volunteer as a family, and would count towards stewardship hours for our Confirmation candidates. Sign up at stephen.org/youth-service.
- ⇒ **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 Adam Ybarra at a.ybarra@stephen.org.



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



Advent Parish Mission - The Eucharistic Revival

*Night 1 - My Story: Mercy and
the Eucharist*

*Night 2 - Your Story: Living
Relationship with Jesus*

*Night 3 - Our Story:
Eucharistic Amazement*

DECEMBER 18TH-20TH
7 to 9 PM
in the Worship Space

Please join us!

For more info on Fr. Vasek:
www.fathervasek.com



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Encounter, Know, Proclaim



Fr. Craig Vasek

USCCB Secretariat of
Evangelization and
Catechesis



Listen to a recorded
interview here!



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Parish-Wide Reconciliation Service
December 13 at 7 PM

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. One of the best ways to prepare is to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to confess our sins and to receive the graces to live holier lives. Join us Tuesday, December 13th at 7 PM for a Parish-Wide Reconciliation Service. Come, experience God's loving mercy!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Our prayer group is discussing ways we can change and strengthen our faith. What one thing could we change that would have the greatest impact on our faith?

Answer:

A famous coach once said that when the team is in trouble and things aren't going well, go back to the basics; when the team is winning and things are going well, go back to the basics! Any renewal program, faith development, or spiritual growth effort has to start with the basic core of what it means to believe. If the foundation is not strong, the house will not stand.

So if you work on one thing, begin with the idea that God is love, who loves us and calls us to love one another. If we really take that belief to heart, it changes how we see God, ourselves, and one another. It would change how we pray, how we treat others, and how we understand and live our own life.

Our sense of mission and purpose will be more focused on God's plan and our role in it. Love is the core of faith, the goal of life, and the hope of heaven. Whatever we do to strengthen and deepen our faith will begin and end with love. ©LPI

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR ADVENT FAMILY HOLY HOUR

"...Let the children come to me..."

MT 19:14



Family Holy hour led
by the Knights of the
Holy Eucharist



MONDAY DEC 12TH
6-7 PM



Honor our Blessed
Mother on the Feast of
Our Lady of Guadalupe

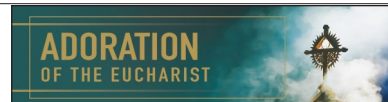
Advent Family Holy Hour Monday, December 12 from 6-7 PM

Join us for a family friendly holy hour on Monday, December 12th from 6-7 PM in the Worship Space. We will adore Jesus on the altar and honor Mary for The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The holy hour will be led by the Knights of the Holy Eucharist from Waverly, NE. The Knights of the Holy Eucharist are a Franciscan community founded by Mother Angelica in 1998. Their mission is to promote reverent devotion to Our Lord in the Eucharist.

This will be an amazing opportunity for children and parents to learn and pray together. Whether you take your kids to adoration often or have never taken them, this hour is for you! Come for the full hour or stop in when you can. We will have kids journal aids, coloring pages and holy cards available.

It may not be silent, but it will be an encounter with Jesus who desperately wants to pour out his love and grace upon you and your children.



Advent Eucharistic Adoration

Join us to quiet yourself and come to know Our Lord as His birth draws near. You are welcome to come and go as needed.

Saturday, Dec. 17th
after the 8:15 Mass from 9 -10 AM
in the Worship Space

Reminder: There is no Weekly Adoration on Monday, Dec. 19th because of the Advent Parish Mission. Please consider attending the Mission in lieu of Weekly Adoration!

Christmas Flower Memorials



We are collecting donations for Christmas Flowers for our worship space. This opportunity is a beautiful 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. 25th bulletin.** Contact the parish office with questions at 402-896-9675.



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 2022

- Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
- Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday:** Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday:** Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30
- Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36
- Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
- Next Sunday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 2022

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent; St. Damasus I, Pope
- Monday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Tuesday:** St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
- Wednesday:** St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

We can often feel parched, desolate, lifeless, and dark. Even though we still engage in the business and demands of life, we find ourselves somewhat detached, disengaged, and removed. We lack joy, wonder, awe, and zest. Rather than being an experience of freedom and excitement, life holds us captive. We are tethered to systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, and expectations that go against the grain of what it means to be God's child. We find ourselves in a desert. Jesus came to release us from all of this negativity and desolation. John the Baptist announced the arrival of the One who embodies healing, reconciliation, freedom, and life. Stop complaining about what you don't have. Prepare for the arrival of the remedy to life's despair. Be strong, fear not! Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Be patient. With proper time and care, all will be well.

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 or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 10

- 8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT)
5:00 pm † Ben Mannino (DB)

Sunday, December 11

- 7:30 am † Rodger Fawcett (DB)
9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Kathy Stover (ZT)
6:00 pm † Mary Pfeifer (ZT)

Monday, December 12

- 6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT)
8:15 am † Vicky Welch (ZT)

Tuesday, December 13

- 6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT)
8:15 am † Pat & Gloria Gottsch (DB)

Wednesday, December 14

- 6:30 am SI Terry & Marie Zrust (ZT)
8:15 am SI SSM 3rd, 4th & 5th Graders (DB)

Thursday, December 15

- 6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (DB)
8:15 am † Warren Wills (DB)

Friday, December 16

- 6:30 am † Rod Ruppert (ZT)
8:15 am † Jesse Cardenas (DB)

Saturday, December 17

- 8:15 am † Ambrose Schaefer (DB)
5:00 pm † Erin Doll (ZT)

Sunday, December 18

- 7:30 am † Byron Barber (ZT)
9:00 am † Joe Tiesi (ZT)
10:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
6:00 pm † Holy Souls in Purgatory (DB)

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

Please 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:

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:

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, grandmother of Max and Nate

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

OUR LADY

OF Guadalupe

PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS

PRAY FOR US
DECEMBER 12



REGISTER NOW



TRIVIA NIGHT

JANUARY 28, 2023

Registration now open for
our 2023 Trivia Night!

Test your knowledge and make friends
at the annual St. Stephen the Martyr
Trivia Night! Tables fill fast so be sure to
register your team of eight soon.

Registration includes two drink tickets
and tables are welcome to bring
appetizers and snacks. Cash bar
available.

Register, sign up to volunteer and get
more details at: [stephen.org/trivia-
night](http://stephen.org/trivia-night).

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!



ELI COLE
Family Fundraiser

PASTA DINNER

December 11, 2022 · 5-8 pm

St. Stephen the Martyr Dining Room

Please join us in supporting fellow
parishioners Tiffany and Jim Cole
during their son Eli's battle against
a life-threatening immune system
disorder. On August 26, 18-year-old
Eli received a stem cell transplant.
While the success of the transplant
is yet to be determined, young Eli
continues to battle infections as
his new immune system attempts
to rebuild. Follow Eli's progress at:
www.caringbridge.org/visit/elicole

Additional donations may be made
to: [www.gofundme.com/f/eli-coles-
bone-marrow-transplant](http://www.gofundme.com/f/eli-coles-bone-marrow-transplant)

**Tickets \$10/person, includes
Dinner, drink & dessert!**

Purchase Tickets following each
Mass in the SSM Dining Room!

-OR-

Scan QR to purchase
tickets via Venmo &
provide Family name
at ticket table to check
in at Pasta Dinner!



venmo

Join us in the church at 4:30 to pray the Rosary for the Cole family

100% of proceeds go to the Eli Cole Medical Fund! Special thanks to Beyond Print Inc, Restaurants Inc,
SSM Knights of Columbus, SSM Iron Sharpens Iron, SSM Council of Catholic Women, & friends of the Cole family!

**"As iron sharpens iron, so
one man sharpens another."**
PROVERBS 27:17

**IRON SHARPENS IRON
MEN'S GROUP**
FRIDAY MORNINGS AT 6 AM
IN THE PARISH CENTER

Friday Men's Group

Join us Friday mornings for coffee and
rolls as we delve into the catechism,
deepen our faith and fellowship.
Advent is the perfect time to spend
some time building up your faith.
Contact Adam Ybarra with questions at
a.ybarra@stephen.org.



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