



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

December 25, 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](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.



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." - Lk 2:10-11

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

6LPL

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.'"



The Season of Christmas has certainly become a time for Americans to become obsessed with "getting Christmas right." What I mean is that we have very high expectations of others and ourselves in this holy season. We think that Christmas should be a picture-perfect time, where everyone gets along, we all give and receive the perfect gifts, our homes look like something from a decorator's showroom, and our hearts are filled with great joy. When we set these high expectations and we do not feel happy, or we have to return gifts or we burn the cookies or the tree keeps falling over, we are setting ourselves up for disappointment and despair. Why should Christmas Day be more perfect than any other day in our lives?

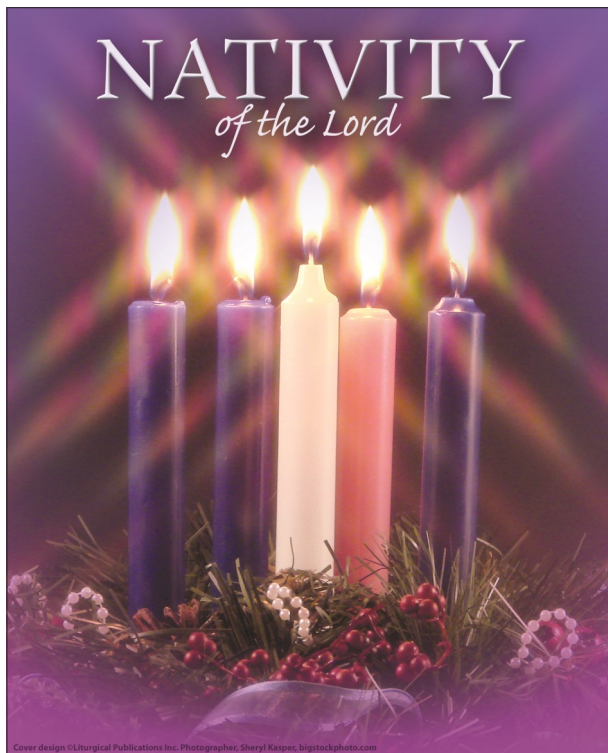
The reality is that life—even Christmas Day—can get pretty messy. People get hurt, relationships get bruised and broken, and people feel like alienated from family, friends, and even their Church. But we also must remember that God became flesh in the midst of the messiness of life. God the Father sent His Only-Begotten Son into human history to transform our dark and sinful world by the light of His love. Every day of the year is a Holy Day because the abiding presence of God in our lives and in our world makes it so. Instead of spending so much time and effort on making this the best Christmas we've ever had, maybe we should use the time that God has given us to just live in the present and to graciously receive whatever blessings—great and small—He chooses to share with us.

"Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."

—Oren Arnold

On behalf of Father Zach, the entire parish staff, and myself, I would like to wish you and yours a very blessed and joy-filled holiday season. We have so many reasons to celebrate and to be thankful in these holy days, because we know that the light of God's love will continue to shine through the darkness of evil and sin. It is with this great hope that we look toward tomorrow, and we know that whatever happens in the future, God is already there waiting for us. Please continue to pray for your priests, deacons, and the many members of our parish family who are working to bring the hope and peace of Christmas to the world.

May God continue to bless you,
Father Dave



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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 12/13 — 12/19/2022:

Due to holiday printing schedules, financials for 12/13 — 12/19/2022 were not available for inclusion in this weekend's bulletin. We will run these numbers in the January 1st 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.



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



“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...”

John 1:14

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

#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!



Congratulations!

Gabrielle Hustedt and Chandler Sorensen
Married at St. Stephen on Friday, December 16th
Your faith community wishes you many blessings!



Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Krew Steven Heberly, son of Kyle & Sarah
Nora Kay Heberly, daughter of Kyle & Sarah
Layne Marie Heberly, daughter of Kyle & Sarah

School News

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

- ⇒ **Christmas Break:** We would like to wish our students, families, teachers and staff a very Merry Christmas! Our school is on Christmas 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

- ⇒ **RE Christmas Break:** Merry Christmas to all of our students, families & catechists! As a reminder, there will be no RE classes Dec. 27/28 or Jan. 3/4. Classes resume Jan. 10/11. Have a wonderful break!
- ⇒ **Catechist Meeting:** Reminder, we will have a catechist meeting Sunday, January 8th at Noon in the Dining Room.
- ⇒ **Catechists Needed for RE:** We still need volunteers for a Co-Catechist in Grade 2: Wednesday 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

- ⇒ **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.

Breakfast at

St. Stephen the Martyr



koft0160.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

Christmas Flower Memorials

In Memory of:	Donor:
Emil & Jeanette Adam	Larry & Carol Adam
Emil & Jeanette Adam	Mike & Missy Adam
Adam Family	Larry & Carol Adam
Anne Aitken	Steve & Colleen Simonsen
Colin Aitken	Steve & Colleen Simonsen
Fred Aliano	Tim Wood
Jim All	Mike & Missy Adam
Bruce Appleby	Mike & Linda Verzal
Chuck Appleby	Mike & Linda Verzal
Fred Appleby	Mike & Linda Verzal
Kelly Appleby	Mike & Linda Verzal
Howard Ball	Sharleen Ball
Tray Barnes	Helen & Lloyd Barnes
Tom & Helen Baye	Mike & Virginia Baye
Stephen & Eleanor Benes	Alice & Lee Van Hoosen
Werner Berger	Scott & Diana Rogers
Cyril Berthiaume	Jeffrey & Karen Berthiaume
Sylvan & Virginia Bissen	Marty Fawcett
Blazek Family	Larry & Carol Adam
Stan & Clara Bojan	Renee & Brian Leners
Charles & Lois Botdorf	Chuck & Ann Botdorf
John & Mary Bridston	Pam & Gary Davis
Bridston Grandparents	Pam & Gary Davis
Irene Buckley	David & Sara Klein
Buras Family	Ron & Jean Buras
Maurice and Kathy Burns	Patti White
Elizabeth Chitsey	Jeffrey & Karen Berthiaume
Eugene & Doris Christiansen	John & Julie Christiansen
Ann Copeland	Brian & Trisha Gappa
John Cortinas	Carol Cortinas
Charles & Sof D'Abate	Gary & Sandra Heer
Mike Dallan	Suzie Dallan
Les & Dona Leigh Davis	Jo & Tom Davis
Terry & David Davis	Pam & Gary Davis
Thaxter & Ella Davis	Pam & Gary Davis
Davis Grandparents	Pam & Gary Davis
Richard Delaney	Steve & Cathy Lorenz
August & Thelma Dethlefs	Denny & Janice Dethlefs
Duane & Gerrie Dethlefs	Denny & Janice Dethlefs
Margaret Dix	Gary & Sandra Heer
Jack Dobrinska	Diane Dobrinska
Joseph Dougherty	Pat Dougherty
Terry Doukas	Nancy & Dick Larson
Mary Duncan	Mike Vodicka

In Memory of:	Donor:
Alice Earley	Dan & Barbara Petersen
Jim Earley	Dan & Barbara Petersen
William & Mary Ehret	Jeff & Melissa Kane
Greg & Mary Elwer	Liz & Brandon Souba
Rodger Fawcett	Marty Fawcett
Ryan Fawcett	Marty Fawcett
Warren & Alice Fawcett	Marty Fawcett
Charles & Isabel Feld	Norb Muhlbauer
Joe & Marie Ferrara	Jeff Risavi
JoAnn Fike	Patti White
Michael Flowers	John & Shari Flowers
John Flowers, Sr.	John & Shari Flowers
Alan Fochek	Amanda Ruh
Conrad Gall	Deann Grovijohn
Dorothy Gappa	Brian & Trisha Gappa
Amy Gentry	Tim Wood
Shirley Gillespie	Eileen Smith & Sheryl Lenagh
Dale Greimann	Leslie & Adam Schulte
Rudy & Mary Grovijohn	Deann Grovijohn
Marjean Gulizia	Deb Gulizia
Phillip J. Gulizia	Deb Gulizia
Bob Gyhra	Teresa Pfister
Kim Hacker	Bob & Rene Hacker
Kimberly Hacker	Tom Hacker
Barney Hallett	Tim & Michelle Hallett
Aline Harrington	Ruth McDermott
Ruth & Don Harris	Pat Miller
William E. Hart	Bill & Diane Hart
Eileen Hartmann	Bruce, Sue & Mike Sharp
Mary Jane Harvey	Patrick Egan
Ed, Louise & Norbie Heer	Gary & Sandra Heer
Harold & Albie Helgenberger	Marty & Rita Warwick
Leonard & Dorothy Hiemer	Bob Treadway
Hoffman Family	Ron & Jean Buras
James Huffman	Rose Huffman
Mike Hupka	Anne Hupka
Jacob Hurd	Norm Thomas
Lawrence & Helen Huslig	Jim Stumpf
Richard Hytrek	Kevin & Jacqueline Hytrek
Ron Ingram	Sharon Ingram
Bob Jacek	Jeff Risavi
Santhosh Jacob	Sajan & Shigi Jacob
Mavis & John Jenkins	Gary & Sandra Heer

Christmas Flower Memorials

In Memory of:	Donor:
Johnson Family	Ron & Jean Buras
Robert & Shirley Kane	Jeff & Melissa Kane
Jeffrey Kane, Jr.	Jeff & Melissa Kane
Jeffrey Kane, Jr.	Jane Ehret
James J. Kasun	Chris Kasun
Wm. Kathol	Troy & Jane Brannen
Michelle Klabunde	Marty Fawcett
Dean Klein	David & Sara Klein
Otto Klein	David & Sara Klein
Bertha & Harold Kleinjan	Mike & Missy Adam
Donna Knust	Phil & Deb Knust
Melvin Knust	Phil & Deb Knust
Joe Koley	Tim & Michelle Hallett
Fr. Clarence Korgie	Helen & Lloyd Barnes
Joe & Helen Korgie	Helen & Lloyd Barnes
Joann Krumwied	Kevin & Jacqueline Hytrek
Dan Kuchta	Sandy Kuchta
Mrs. & Mrs. William R. Lanning	Scott & Karen Stevens
Larson Family	Nancy & Dick Larson
Patrick & Shirley Lasauskas	Anton Lasauskas
Richard & Margaret Lauritsen	John & Barb Secora
Harvey Leners	Renee & Brian Leners
Marvin & Viola Limbeck	Joyce & Randy Limbeck
James Long & Family	Carole Stickels
Dave & Gladys Mandel	Deann Grovijohn
Elmer & Adella Mandel	Deann Grovijohn
Jacob Mathews	Sajan & Shigi Jacob
Bob & Sue Mathine	Theresa Samuelson
Ray & Alice McDermott	Ruth McDermott
Joe & Dolores McGill	Roland Wedige
Mary Ann McGrath	Kathleen Wawers
Craig McVea	Steve & Colleen Simonsen
Joe & Frances Mickells	Nancy & Dick Larson
Miller Family	Patrick Rogers
Mills Family	Larry & Carol Adam
Lorin Mills	Larry & Carol Adam
Mary Mills	Larry & Carol Adam
Ernie & Cora Mitchell	Jan Mitchell
Russell Mitchell	Jan Mitchell
Elanor & Walter Mondor	Mike & Missy Adam
Gary Mongar	Carol Mongar
Michael Mongar	Carol Mongar
Jerry Morris	Alecia & Jason Hartwig
Don Moss	Tim & Michelle Hallett

In Memory of:	Donor:
Mick Mott	Dan & Nora Chesire
Charles & Ann Muhlbauer	Norb Muhlbauer
Thomas Mullen	Brian Mullen
Dorothy Murphy	Jim Murphy
Jim Murphy	Jim Murphy
Nicholas & Elizabeth Neesen	Deann Grovijohn
Don Newbold	Angela Newbold
Grant Newbold	Angela Newbold
Debra Newmaster	Pat Dougherty
Joseph Ostrowski	Mike & Missy Adam
Allen & Hannah Perdue	Bill & Cheri Perdue
Eddie & Elda Pfister	Teresa Pfister
Jim & Gerri Phillips	Tim Wood
Arnold & Maxine Pivonka	Denny & Janice Dethlefs
Don Popp	Cindy Popp
Bob Prendergast	Brian & Trisha Gappa
Dietlinde Priest	Scott & Diana Rogers
David Pykiet	Sandy Pykiet
Bill Ramaekers	Jim Murphy
Vi Ramaekers	Jim Murphy
Gordon Reefer	Mike Vodicka
June Reefer	Mike Vodicka
Ione Riesselman	Dennis Riesselman
Ray Riesselman	Dennis Riesselman
Mary & Louie Riha	Mike & Virginia Baye
Robert & Andrea Rodman	Anton Lasauskas
Jindra Rinker	Dean & Tina Schmidt
William Rogers	Scott & Diana Rogers
Zachary Rogers	Scott & Diana Rogers
Rogers Family	Patrick Rogers
Herb & May Ruhr	Joyce & Randy Limbeck
Lyle Samuelson	Theresa Samuelson
Morgan Sanderson	Scott & Annie Sanderson
Sam Sanderson	Scott & Annie Sanderson
Elizabeth & Mathias Schaack	Robert & Barbara Zielinski
Norma Schlegel	Tim Wood
Larry Schmeckpeper	Catherine Schmeckpeper
Irvin Schroeder	Phil & Deb Knust
Mary Schroeder	Phil & Deb Knust
Tony & Nellie Secora	John & Barb Secora
George Sedlak	Jeffrey & Karen Berthiaume
Helen Sedlak	Jeffrey & Karen Berthiaume

Christmas Flower Memorials

In Memory of:	Donor:	In Memory of:	Donor:
Fr. Kenneth Sedlak, CSsR	Jeffrey & Karen Berthiaume	Sandy Troia	Jeff Risavi
Maria Senior	Rose Huffman	Ali Tupper & Joe Tupper	Kami Shalhoob
Setlak Family	Larry & Carol Adam	Randy VanderWal	George & Marilyn Paulchak
Laura & Ray Shumway	Robert & Barbara Zielinski	J. Vandewege	Troy & Jane Brannen
Matilda & Marshall Shumway	Robert & Barbara Zielinski	Ed & Myrl Verzal	Mike & Linda Verzal
Alice Simonsen	Steve & Colleen Simonsen	Jim & Mary Visca	Tim & Michelle Hallett
Egon Simonsen	Steve & Colleen Simonsen	Louis Vodicka	Mike Vodicka
Neil Simonsen	Steve & Colleen Simonsen	Ruth Vodicka	Mike Vodicka
Joesph L. Siracuse	Lucy Siracuse	Maynard Wanetka	Lisa Wanetka
Lawrence & Bernadine Spieker	Shirley Spieker	Charles & Lorrain Warwick	Marty & Rita Warwick
Nikki Sprague	Scott & Annie Sanderson	Watkins Family	Ron & Jean Buras
Jim & JoAnn Stachura	Bill & Cheri Perdue	Eugene & Angela Wedige	Roland Wedige
Bill Starbuck	Cindy Popp	Joe Wermers	Gary & Sandra Heer
Jean Starbuck	Cindy Popp	Lawrence & Leona Wiehn	Jan Mitchell
Hilda Steffen	Dennis Riesselman	Pam Wieseler	Jim & Jan Goodhard
Ike Steffen	Dennis Riesselman	Steve Williams	Marcia Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Stevens	Scott & Karen Stevens	Garry & Marge Wittwer	Jo & Tom Davis
Don Stickels & Family	Carole Stickels	Ron & Mardeen Wood	Tim Wood
Carlos Stimson	Jean Stimson	Curtis Young	Doris Young
Matthew J. Stoll	Angela Stoll	Mary & Ben Zielinski	Robert & Barbara Zielinski
Bernie Stopak	Deb Gulizia	Emil & Irene Zoucha	Helen & Lloyd Barnes
Rick Stout	Marty Fawcett	Joe & Cecelia Zoucha	Helen & Lloyd Barnes
Rudy & Marie Stumpf	Jim Stumpf	Chuck & Norma	Len & Alice Kruse
Denny Swanstrom	Lynn Swanstrom	Donna & Melvin	Len & Alice Kruse
Norman Timm	Brian Mullen	Ed & Ann	Len & Alice Kruse
Gene & Irene Treadway	Bob Treadway	Eddie & Deanie	Len & Alice Kruse
Dick Triba	Tim & Michelle Hallett	Joe & Frances	Len & Alice Kruse

Merry
Christmas!

FROM ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR





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.



**Join us for Mass for the Solemnity
of Mary, Mother of God
Jan. 1st**

**Saturday, Dec. 31st
5 PM**

**Sunday, Jan. 1st
7:30 AM, 9 AM, 10:30 AM, 6 PM**

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 or scan this QR code.



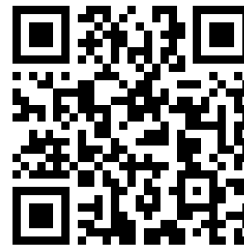
TRIVA NIGHT JANUARY 28, 2023

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

REGISTER A TEAM

VOLUNTEER TO HELP

DONATE PRIZES



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT GETTING
INVOLVED OR VISIT
[STEPHEN.ORG/
TRIVIA-NIGHT](http://STEPHEN.ORG/TRIVIA-NIGHT)**

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




KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FREE THROW CONTEST
 All boys & girls ages 9-14 are invited to participate

K of C
 Council of Catholic Women

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



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.



WHY DO WE DO THAT?
 Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer:
 Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

©LPi



BACK TO THE 90s
 ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR
 DINNER & AUCTION
 MARCH 25TH, 2023



Scan to see ways you can get involved or visit stephen.org/dinner

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

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2022

- Sunday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
- Friday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
- Next Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2022

- Sunday:** The Nativity of the Lord
- Monday:** St. Stephen, First Martyr
- Tuesday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Wednesday:** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- Thursday:** St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
- Friday:** Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Saturday:** St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
- Next Sunday:** Mary, The Holy Mother of God, National Migration Week, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

The true meaning of Christmas is not found in the twinkling lights, the beautifully adorned trees, or the exchanged gifts. It is revealed when we find God along the way of our lives, especially when we feel displaced, desperate, and alone. Fleeing from their home, Joseph and Mary cautiously made their way through the uncertain, complex, and dark paths to a longed-for place of safety and welcome. Not sure where to lay their heads, they created makeshift preparations for the birth of their child, the Son of God. God, who always was, is, and will be, without beginning or end is the one constant in life who sees us through difficult and scary times. Jesus is the light, which enlightens everyone, and comes into the world to show us the truth. It is joyful good news that calms our fears and allows us to go forth into the nighttime of our lives, courageously. This is the meaning of Christmas. We are never lost or alone. God is with us, loving us and leading us where we need to be.

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 24 — Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm † Lewis Storm (DB)
4:15 pm † Mike Dallan (ZT)
6:00 pm † Greg Elwer (ZT)

Sunday, December 25 — Christmas Day

- 12:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
9:00 am † Kathy Stover (ZT)
10:30 am † Bruce Allacher (DB)
6:00 pm † Arlene Anstett (DH)

Monday, December 26

- 8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT)

Tuesday, December 27

- 6:30 am † JoAnne M Besch (ZT)
8:15 am † Kathy Stover (DB)

Wednesday, December 28

- 6:30 am † Greg & Mary Elwer (ZT)
8:15 am SI James Gninefou and Esther Adaku Gninefou (DB)

Thursday, December 29

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

Friday, December 30

- 6:30 am † Kathy Stover (ZT)
8:15 am † Jack Pierce (DB)

Saturday, December 31

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

Sunday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary

- 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)

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

Please 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

John F. Johnson, brother of Tom

Fr. Nick Baker, Diocese of Lincoln

Deceased souls of our parish family:

Donald Schaecher, husband of Dorothy

Thomas Kisicki, husband of Mary

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

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



"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

PROVERBS 27:17

Friday Men's Group

Iron Sharpens Iron is on Christmas Break! Join us at our first meeting of the new year, January 13th.

Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Group meets Friday mornings for coffee and rolls as we delve into the catechism, deepen our faith and fellowship.

Contact Adam Ybarra with questions at 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! Contact Adam Ybarra with questions or sign up for the Flocknote group at:

stephen.flocknote.com/Beloved.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT OUR PARISH



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

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.

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

Prayer
Shawl
Ministry



YOU GAVE ME COMFORT

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.

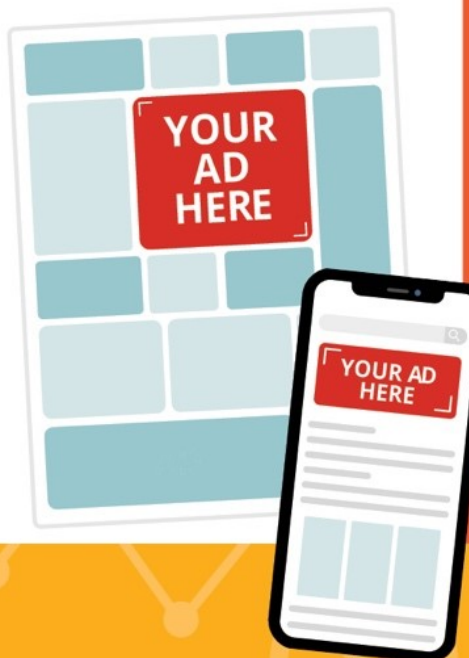
The group meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:15 to 11:00 AM in the Parish Center. Questions? Contact: Jan Mitchell at (402) 895-3215.

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.

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. He will be visiting St. Stephen the first week of January. 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.



Michael Wilde
612-961-8890
mwilde@4lpi.com

“THE WORLD MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED THE SON OF GOD TO BE BORN — IF HE WAS TO BE BORN AT ALL — IN AN INN. A STABLE WOULD BE THE LAST PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE ONE WOULD HAVE LOOKED FOR HIM. DIVINITY IS ALWAYS WHERE ONE LEAST EXPECTS TO FIND IT.”

— VENERABLE FULTON SHEEN

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Kids Corner

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Imagine how the Christmas story may have happened today: Joseph drove Mary in their jeep through sleet and snow to the city of his birth to be counted. No motels had rooms. A homeless shelter attendant said, "We have no beds, but you can sleep in the broom closet." Jesus was born the next day in a sleeping bag in a closet with three mice, a couple of cats and a dog. God and his angels were happy.

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for my bed. Give others a place to sleep.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will give canned food, sheets, blankets, or money to help a homeless shelter.

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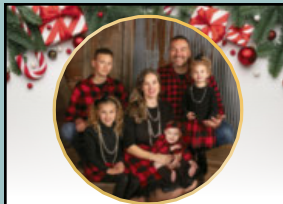
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