

January 15, 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 page (<u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha</u>) and our website (<u>stephen.org/live-stream</u>)

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

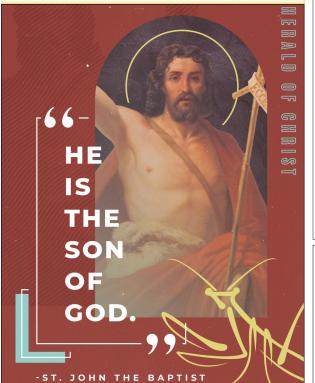
Parish Office:

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: staff

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





2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." - Jn 1:34

Gospel Meditation— Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture



When I was a kid, I remember the priest at Mass announcing, "The Lamb of God!" Frankly, it struck me as nonsense. I thought: Why in the world does God have a lamb? And where is this lamb?

John the Baptist sees Jesus coming toward him and announces, **"Behold the lamb of God."** His Jewish listeners knew what he meant. God's lamb is the thing that is sacrificed at the Jewish Passover and consumed by the participants. For almost a thousand years, lambs were ritually slaughtered and eaten in Jerusalem at Passover. The lamb meant sacrifice, freedom from sin, and communion with God. The Baptist is saying in effect, "This man will be ritually sacrificed and consumed so that God's people may be free from sin and united to God."

It's crucial to relate to Jesus as a friend, brother, teacher, and Lord of our lives. But we should also learn to interact with Him as our lamb of God. That means we intentionally place on him our sins, sadnesses, and hopes, and offer him to God. Then we consume him to make us free. This is what we do at every Mass. That's why he is the Lamb of God.

— Father John Muir

Baptism

Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Knox John Niver son of Erik John Niver and Katie Rae (Margritz) Niver



Congratulations!

Rachel Segobia & Patrick Fetter

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: <u>stephen.org/sacraments</u>.

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 1/3-1/9/2023:

Actual:	\$62,330
Budget:	\$49,894
FYTD Actual:	\$1,314,876
FYTD Budget:	\$1,389,899
Christmas Actual:	\$55,249
Christmas Budget:	\$70,000

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.





"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." -Matthew 2:11

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share <u>all</u> of our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

#stewardshipreflection

School News

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

- ⇒ Enrollment for 2023/2024 School Year: We will begin accepting new student applications for the 23/24 school year on Jan. 29th. Acceptance letters and enrollment packets will be sent out beginning Feb. 20th.
- ⇒ Open House for Early Childhood (age 3-5) & Incoming Kindergarten Students: Our Open House for the 23/24 school year will be Jan. 29th from 9 AM—Noon. Registration is required and is now open! Visit school.stephen.org/openhouse to register.
- ⇒ Tours for Incoming 1st-8th Grade Students: We encourage 1st-8th grade students interested in enrolling at St. Stephen to tour on a day school is in session. Request a tour here: <u>school.stephen.org/tour</u>.

Religious Education News

- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ Catechist Needs: We need your help! We are seeking Catechists & co-catechists for the following evenings:
 - ⇒ Kindergarten (4 students) Tuesday at 4:15 PM (Catechist)
 - ⇒ Grade 1 (8 Students) Wednesday at 4 PM (Catechist)
 - ⇒ Grade 2 (14 students) Wednesday at 5:30 PM (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 <u>e.collins@stephen.org</u>.
- 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 <u>stephen.org/steubenville</u>. For more information or if you have questions, contact Evan Collins, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, at <u>e.collins@stephen.org</u>. Registration due by Monday, January 16th!



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.



Reserve Your **Tour!**



Sunday, January 29, 9 AM-Noon

- Meet students. parents,
 - teachers & staff
- Tour our school
- Complete your student's application



Reservation required: school.stephen.org/openhouse

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-voluntee

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.



Christ at Work in our Parish Family

Thank you from the Cole Family Thank you so much to our St Stephen the Martyr Church

Family for the overwhelming love and support we felt and observed at the Rosary and Pasta Supper and Raffle Fundraiser that was held for our family this past month. We cannot put into words how much all the love , support and prayers have meant to our family during this journey. Thank you to the church for allowing us to hold it at the church and for all the organizers of this event! - **Love, Eli Cole and Family**

Thank you for your generosity toward Ukrainian Refugees this Christmas

The St. Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus participated in a global effort to support Ukrainian Refugee families living in Poland this Christmas. The goal was to provide each family with a Christmas dinner. St. Stephen the Martyr parishioners were more than generous, raising \$1,400. Thank you for keeping all refugees in your prayers and thank you for your generosity.

Thank you for bringing the Eucharist to the Homebound and the Sick

Dear Friends, Eucharistic minister, and members of the St. Stephen the Martyr Prayer Shawl Ministry,

When I was at Brookestone Assisted Living, I very much appreciated the opportunity to receive the Eucharistic Minister's visit. It was a privilege to receive the Body of Christ in Eucharistic form. Then one day she brought with her a lovely prayer shawl. That is a very meaningful gift and as I read the message again today, I wonder what part you folks had in my ability to go home this week. We never know what part prayers and well wishes have in healing, but we don't need to know.

I just wanted you to know how I appreciated the visits and the prayers. I moved to Crown Pointe for a month and as I said it is time to leave. My hands and body are moving quite well now so I'll be home for Christmas. May the peach of Christ find space in our hearts and homes and our troubled world. Thanks again!

Sender Name withheld for Parishioner Privacy



9DAYSFORLIFE.COM

Pray the Novena for Life

Join the Knights of Columbus and the St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry in praying the annual 9 Days for Life Novena as a community January 19-27 with Rosary Devotion prior to 8:15 AM Mass. This Novena will be said by Catholics nationwide for the protection of life at all stages. Visit <u>9DaysforLife.com</u> to get the devotion delivered to your email inbox.



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 has a group of parishioners that gather monthly (Sept-May) to make a variety of rosaries and pray for those in need. The rosaries are given to various groups/organizations within our parish and the Omaha area. If you or someone you know would like to join the group or know someone in need of a rosary, please contact Sara Klein at 402-690-3526 or Deacon Denny Dethlefs at 402-861-4538.

SPRING SPORTS CLUB REGISTRATIONS **NOW OPEN!**

Sports Club

For SSM Parishioners Athletes of all abilities and in multi-sports welcome

- CYSL Soccer (K-8th) Deadline: 11:59 PM, Wednesday, February 15th
- Micro Soccer (Ages 3-6) Deadline: 11:59 PM, Monday, March 6th
- Track & Field (5th-8th) Deadline: 11:59, Friday, March 10th

Register & more information at stephen.org/sports-club



TRIVA NIGHT JANUARY 28, 2023 THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN TRIVIA NIGHT! **REGISTER A TEAM** THERE ARE ONLY A FEW TABLES LEFT! SCAN TO REGISTER OR





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

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

Question:

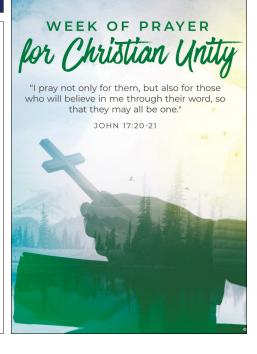
What is unique or different about the way Catholics read and are exposed to the Bible?

Answer:

Catholics are exposed to Scripture primarily through the Sunday readings from a book known as the Lectionary. The Lectionary is a book of selected passages from the Bible set in the context of a liturgical season, such as Advent, Lent, or ordinary time. There are four readings assigned to any Sunday: the first reading (usually from the Old Testament), the responsorial psalm, the second reading (usually from a New Testament letter), and the Gospel reading.

These readings together give them a new context. The selected readings relate to one another in a unique manner that is not present in the Bible text itself. In close proximity to each other, these readings now have the opportunity to converse with each other in a way that would have not been possible before. A homilist pays attention to all four readings, preparing a reflection that speaks of this conversation among the readings, enabling us to zero in on what this unique combination of God's word has to say to us this particular Sunday.

Next time you attend Sunday liturgy, try reading the Scripture ahead of time and see how this new relationship among the readings addresses and challenges you to be a better Christian here and now. ©LPi



WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 15, 2023

Sunday:	ls 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
Monday:	Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 NS 10c/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 3:20-21

Next Sunday: Is 8:23—9:3/Ps 27:1,4, 13-14 (1a)/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 15, 2023

Sunday:	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
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Monday: Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday: St. Anthony, Abbot

Wednesday: January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Friday: St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr

Saturday: St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

John the Baptist had been told that he would see the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. He listened, he believed, and he kept his eyes open. He was ready when God revealed the truth. Let's ask ourselves: are our eyes open? Are we ready?

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 <u>stephen.org/prayer-line</u> or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 14 8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr (DB) 5:00 pm † George Isaac Gervase (ZT) Sunday, January 15 7:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr (ZT) 9:00 am † Bill Welch (DB)

10:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB) 6:00 pm SI Chandler & Gabby Sorensen (DH) Monday, January 16

6:30 am † Judy Klein (ZT) 8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane Jr. (ZT)

Tuesday, January 17

6:30 am † Josephine Caliendo (DB) 8:15 am † Mike Hupka (ZT)

Wednesday, January 18 6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (DB) 8:15 am † Tina Szalewski (ZT)

Thursday, January 19

6:30 am † George & Sharon Fleming (DB) 8:15 am † Howard Hustedt (DB)

Friday, January 20

6:30 am † Lyle Samuelson (DB) 8:15 am † Howard Ball (ZT)

Saturday, January 21 8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr (ZT) 5:00 pm † George Isaac Gervase (DB)

Sunday, January 22

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (DB) 9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB) 10:30 am † Frank & Maxine Thome (ZT) 6:00 pm † Mark Mannino (ZT)

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 <u>m.kane@stephen.org</u> 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:

Salvatore (Sam) DiMari, husband of Nancy 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

Upcoming Respect Life Activities

"PRO-LIFE MEDICINE IN A CULTURE OF DEATH", MEDICAL PANEL WITH SISTER DEIDRE BYRNE, MD, POSC

January 18 at Christ the King Parish Center, 654 S 86 St, Omaha. 7 PM, medical panel discussion, all are welcome, free will offering for Sister Deidre's community, Little Workers of the Two Hearts. Sponsored by <u>NebraskansEmbracingLife.org</u>.

ONE HEART ONE MIND MORNING RETREAT WITH SR DEIDRE BYRNE, MD, POSC January 19 at John XXIII Center, 3700 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, Nebraska, 8:30 AM Latin Mass followed by morning retreat. Noon Luncheon with Q & A, RSVP to <u>mm@walljr.com</u>.

NEBRASKANS EMBRACING LIFE 49TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE BANQUET

January 19 at St Vincent de Paul Church, 14330 Eagle Run Drive, Omaha, 5:30 PM Social, 7 PM Program, with keynote speaker Sr Deidre Byrne, MD, POSC: "Sister, Soldier, Surgeon", Reservations, sponsorship and advertising at <u>NebraskansEmbracingLife.org</u>

MEMORIAL OF THE USA UNBORN, NEVER AGAIN!

On January 22nd, please take one minute of silence to "Remember the Unborn" along with your daily prayer, Angelus, or Rosary; remembering the person in the womb, formed from conception in the image and likeness of God, and all those lost to abortion and associated devastation, in this culture of death. Please pray for progress in defending every human life from conception to natural death.

NEBRASKA RIGHT TO LIFE: WALK FOR LIFE

January 28th in Lincoln, Nebraska. 9 AM Holy Mass at St Mary's 1420 K St, 10 AM Rally at the Capitol and Walk to the UNL Student Union with speaker Dr John Bruchalski, abortionist to pro-life doctor! Learn more at: <u>lincolnrighttolife.org/walkforlife</u>.

News from the Community

VOLUNTEER EMHC'S NEEDED AT CHI HEALTH CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER BERGAN MERCY

CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center Bergan Mercy Volunteer Services is in need of volunteers to fill positions of Eucharistic Ministers, Welcome Desks, Dessert Cart, Mailroom, Gift Shop, Teen Volunteers, and much more. If you are interested, please call the Volunteer Office at (402) 398-6199 or email <u>tammy.rivera@commonspirit.org</u>.

CATHOLIC BUSINESS GROUP OMAHA



• Attend our January 2023 Social/Networking Event on Thursday, Jan. 19th from 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM at Beyond Print Inc. located at 13315 Centennial Rd. (Ste. 125). Thank You to our Event Partner Johnstone Supply 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. The Luncheon Event (Lunch, Speaker & Awards) will be on Thursday, April 20, 2023.

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 PM Thursday evening, following your check-in, and end Sunday by 3 PM. Register at: <u>creighton.edu/curc</u>.



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.

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.



Saturday, January 21 8:45 - 11:30 am Parish Center Hall

LIGHT BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED - FREE WILL DONATION

Make plans to join us for this Morning of Reflection for women and men of all ages!

Grace enables us to see the holy in every person – no matter what they believe or what they've done. Grace and friendship go hand in hand. Through prayer, talks, music and discussions, we'll reflect on the aspects of grace and friendship – the joys and challenges. Start the new year with peace in knowing how GRACE is truly given to us freely by God.

Facilitated by *Vicki Smith*. Vicki served as Religious Education director at SVdP for 16 years. She holds a Masters in Ministry from CU and orchestrated numerous formation events during her 31 years of ministry. Sharing the love and wisdom of life and faith keeps her busy with her husband Mike, their 4 adult children and 6 grandchildren.



Childcare is available upon request. Please add "Childcare Needed" to the Public Comment when signing up and you will be contacted with the details. Contact Bonnie Frics at <u>fricsb@svdpomaha.org</u> or 402-496-7988 if you have any questions. Sponsored by the St. Anne Guild Circle.



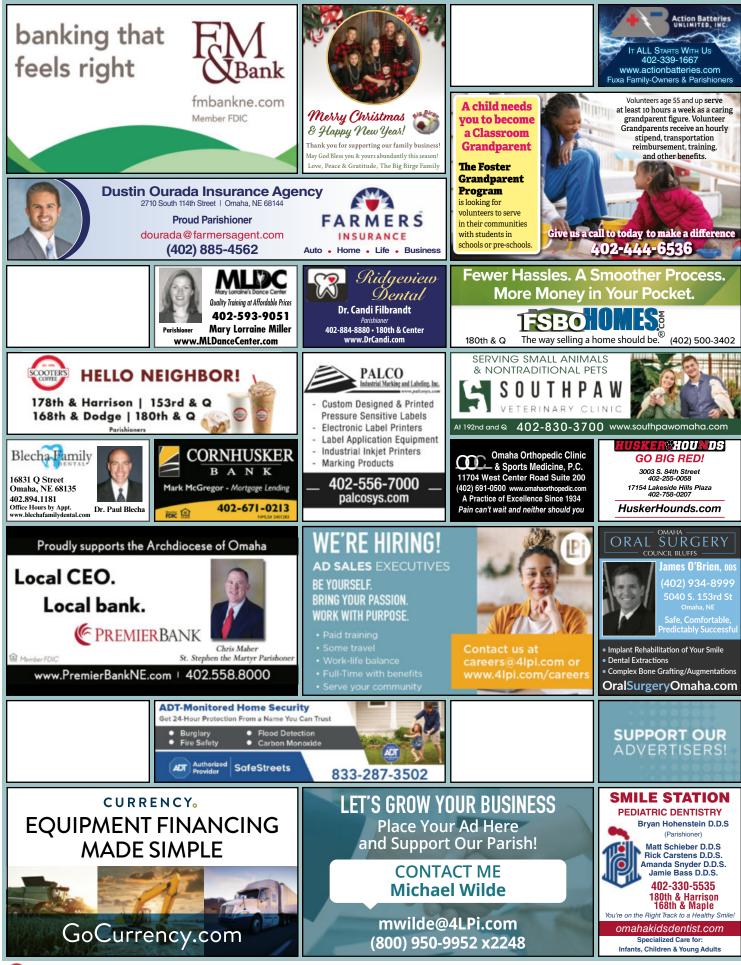
Sign up now at https://tinyurl.com/GraceandFriendship or scan the QR code!



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St. Stephen Martyr, Omaha, NE

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