



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

January 22, 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 ([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.



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

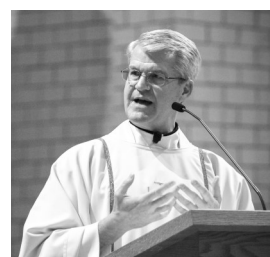
"Come after me,
and I will make you
fishers of men."
- Mt 4:19

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

OLP

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him."



The well-known story of Jesus calling the first apostles is told in our Gospel this weekend.

When Jesus calls Peter and his brother Andrew, they were casting their fishing nets into the sea. As Jesus called them to come after Him, the Gospel says, "At once they left their nets and followed Him." As He continued, He saw two other brothers, James and John. Again, He calls them and the Gospel says, "Immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him."

In using the words "at once" and "immediately," St. Matthew is helping us to understand that there is an urgency in following Christ. The first apostles left their family and their normal way of life to begin a new way of living in the light of Christ. Earlier in the Gospel passage, Jesus quotes the words of the Prophet Isaiah when He said, "the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen."

Through His own ministry and the ministry of His disciples, the people living in the darkness of sin and death can experience the light that can only come from God. Peter, Andrew, James, and John have left their old way of life and have taken up the vital work of bringing the light of peace, reconciliation, and healing to a world that is waiting for a taste of hope.

We too have been called to make a change in our lives, to let go of our old ways, to let go of our sins, and begin again, walking in the light of Christ. We still live in a sometimes-dark world, and we are the modern-day disciples, called by Christ, to bring His light into the world. The gifts of reconciliation, peace, and healing will come to the world today by the way that we are faithful to our call to follow Him.

"It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal." -Pope Saint John Paul II

God bless you,
Father Dave

"As the family goes,
so goes the nation,
and so goes the
whole world
in which
we live."

ST. JOHN PAUL II

Day of Prayer
for the Legal
Protection of
Unborn Children

OLP

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 1/10-1/16/2023:

Actual:	\$45,177
Budget:	\$49,894
FYTD Actual:	\$1,353,023
FYTD Budget:	\$1,439,793

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.



“He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him.” Matthew 4:22

Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave their business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. In gratitude to God, we should give our first and best of everything to Him: our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.

#stewardshipreflection

Do you receive our weekly Parish News emails?

Our primary communication tool is email via Flocknote. If you are not receiving emails, check your junk folder! Please add mail@flocknote.com to your address book or safe sender list. If the emails are in your junk folder, be sure to mark them as 'Not Spam'. Questions or need to update your email? Contact Leslie at l.schulte@stephen.org.



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

School News

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

- ⇒ **Open House Next Sunday:** 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.
- ⇒ **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 for new families will be sent out beginning Feb. 22nd.
- ⇒ **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: school.stephen.org/tour.
- ⇒ **Fasting Wednesdays:** Throughout the school year, a group of parents and family members commit to fasting and praying for our school on Wednesdays. Individuals are encouraged to fast in the form that works best for them. For example, Food fasting (2 smaller meals, 1 regular meal), no eating between meals, fasting from social media, music, etc. If you are interested, you can join the Flocknote Fasting group at stephen.flocknote.com/Fasting. You'll receive a weekly text on Wednesday mornings as a reminder. Questions? Contact Jamie Harr at jamieharr@hotmail.com.

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 e.collins@stephen.org.



One Rose, One Life Second Collection

One Rose, One Life is an annual fundraising campaign conducted by the Nebraska Knights of Columbus for the Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska. Over 96% of funds raised by the Foundation are used to support various pro-life causes, events and organizations. A portion of these funds last year were also used to aid in the purchase and installation of sixteen Ultrasound machines throughout the State of Nebraska, through the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Ultrasound Initiative.

St. Stephen the Martyr Knights will be at all Masses to hand out One Rose One Life Prayer Cards before each Mass. To contribute, place your donation in the second collection basket this weekend at Mass or mail a check donation to: Knights of Columbus, Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska, 4770 Jean Marie Lane, Fort Calhoun, NE 68023. Please notate "KOC-10160" in the Memo Line. Thank you for your support!

Here is a list of some of the recipients of One Rose, One Life Culture of Life Foundation funds:

- Assure Women's Center
- Beginnings - O'Neill
- Bethlehem House / Omaha
- Bishops Pastoral Plan For Pro-Life Activities
- Catholic Charities
- Catholic Conference - Nebraska
- Collage Center / Kearney, NE
- Collage Center / Grand Island, NE
- Creighton Students for Life
- Diocese of Grand Island
- Diocese Of Lincoln Family Life Office
- Essential Pregnancy Services / Omaha
- Lincoln Right To Life
- March For Life Sponsorship of Pilgrims
- MavCatholics - Students For Life - UNO
- Nebraskans Embracing Life
- Pope Paul VI Institute / Omaha
- Pregnancy Resource Center / Beatrice, NE
- Respect Life Apostolate - Omaha Archdiocese
- Sancta Familia Medical Apostolate
- St Thomas Aquinas Newman Center - UNL
- Thomas More Society
- Wellspring Pregnancy Resource Center - Hastings
- Women's Resource Center / North Platte, NE
- Pro-Life Billboards throughout Nebraska
- Pro-Life Art & Essay Contest Winners
- Pro-life Special Events & Speakers
- Pro-Life Radio (KVSS)



Pray the Novena for Life

It's not too late to jump in and join the Knights of Columbus and St. Stephens 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 human life at all stages. Visit 9DaysforLife.com for more information or to receive the prayers via email or text.



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

SSM Knights of Columbus - Knight and Family of the Year 2022



Knight of the year is Mike Macholan for his support to our Parish, Profile ministries, Catholic Charities and Boys Town.



The Venner family have been selected as our family of the year for their support to our Parish, families in need, Prolife ministries and family life.

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.



ROSARY MAKERS

Rosary Makers

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 SOCCER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

For SSM Parishioners ages 3-14
Athletes of all abilities and in multi-sports welcome

Micro (Ages 3-6) Deadline: 11:59 PM, Monday, March 6th
CYSL (K-8th) Deadline: 11:59 PM, Friday, February 10th

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



Sports Club



Track & Field
Registration

NOW OPEN!

- Open to SSM parishioners in 5-8th grade
- Multi-sport athletes welcome
- Registration Deadline: March 10th

Register & more info at:
stephen.org/sports-club



Sports Club

Live Lent Together Small Group Leader Training

Please join us on February 8th from 6:30—8:30 PM in the Parish Center. This evening will be geared towards equipping parishioners to lead small groups as we "Live Lent Together" in conjunction with the entire Archdiocese of Omaha. Those that are new to leading small groups and those who are veterans are encouraged to attend the training. Questions? Contact Adam Ybarra at a.ybarra@stephen.org or (402) 861-4507.

Live Lent TOGETHER

SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING

HOLY
BIBLE
NEW
REVISED
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VERSION

WEDNESDAY, FEB 8TH

GPC 6:30PM-9:00PM

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NOW!



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

WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is the difference between a chastisement and a punishment?

Answer:

The distinction between chastisement and punishment is, in many ways, a subtle one, but which is still relevant in our Catholic tradition. First, chastisement is a concept that is grounded in Sacred Scripture. Here, we see chastisement as a response by God to people's actions that is intended to teach a lesson. As St. John Paul II observed, "chastisement appears to be ... a kind of divine pedagogy, in which the last word is reserved to mercy: He scourges and then shows mercy, casts down to the depths of the nether world, and he brings up from the great abyss" (Tobit 13:2). The idea here is that in order to capture our attention or to highlight how we have not lived out our covenant-relationship with God as we should, there are times when God uses events in life to draw us back to the quality of relationship or faith that we should have.

The concept of punishment, however, has a different sense. The Catechism of the Church observes that punishment is the consequence of a damaging action that "has the primary aim of redressing the disorder" and to protect the community and the common good from further damage or harm (see no. 2266). Although we always hope that someone who is being punished for a crime or some other harmful action will learn from their actions, punishment isn't necessarily intended to teach a lesson in the same way that a chastisement is. Ultimately, how we make the distinction between chastisement and punishment is a matter of discernment. As with almost everything in life, our experiences can be an opportunity for grace — or for something less — depending on how open we are to recognizing the movement of God's Spirit within them. ©LPI

PrimeTimers Events

Back by Popular Demand: WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO RETURNS!

Thurs., April 13 at 6 pm at the GPC
Join the fun! Bring a wrapped gift (we encourage something comical or "useless"), a hearty appetizer to share and BYOB. It's a fun, social evening where we play Bingo to win a laugh or two!

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, pinocle, bridge, dominos, or tripoli. Bring a snack to share, an item for the St. Stephen food pantry & a friend or partner! Sign up for our emails at stephen.org/primetimers.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 22, 2023

- 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
- Monday:** Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Mk 3:22-30
- Tuesday:** Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 708a, 10, 11/Mk 3:31-35
- Wednesday:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18
- Thursday:** 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Tit 1:1-5/12/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25
- Friday:** Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40/Mk 4:26-34
- Saturday:** Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Mk 4:35-41
- Next Sunday:** Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (Matthew 5:3)/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 22, 2023

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- Tuesday:** St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday:** The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
- Thursday:** Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
- Friday:** St. Angela Merici, Virgin
- Saturday:** St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

When Jesus called Simon and Andrew, they left "at once" to follow him; when he called James and John, they did likewise. St. Peter, St. Andrew, St. James and St. John, pray for us, that God will grant us similar courage and clarity when called by Christ.



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, 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)

Monday, January 23

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

Tuesday, January 24

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

Wednesday, January 25

- 6:30 am † Charley Bacon (DB)
8:15 am † Kimberly Bellus (DB)

Thursday, January 26

- 6:30 am † Mike Hupka (DB)
8:15 am † John Gutmann (DB)

Friday, January 27

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

Saturday, January 28

- 8:15 am † JoAnne M. Besch (DB)
5:00 pm † Beth Devitt (ZT)

Sunday, January 29

- 7:30 am † Bill Welch (ZT)
9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Karen Macasaet (DB)
6:00 pm SI The Wakeman Family (DH)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB=Fr. Dave Belt; ZT=Fr. Zach Tucker;
DH = Fr. Denny Hanneman

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

Fr. Nick Baker, Diocese of Lincoln

Deceased souls of our parish family:

Patricia (Pat) Fields, wife of Randy Fields

Terrence (Terry) Velasquez, father of Tyrell and Theresa Bennett

Julie Anciaux, mother of Jenny Whitcomb

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

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

Upcoming Respect Life Activities

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: lincolnrighttolife.org/walkforlife.

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 tammy.rivera@commonspirit.org.

ST. PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

Join us for prayer in Thanksgiving, Blessings & Healing on January 28 at 11 am at the Dowd Chapel at Boys Town. Please contact cbazis@cox.net with questions.

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. 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 3 opportunities to attend.

- 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: creighton.edu/curc.

Join us before the annual Nebraska Walk for Life *Pro-Life Mass* to be celebrated by Archbishop Lucas

January 28th, 2023 | 9:00 am

St. Mary's Catholic Church
1420 K St, Lincoln



FEBRUARY
24
25
2023

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KING

Women's Conference

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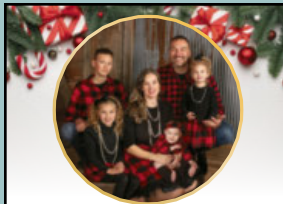
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