



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

January 29, 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>) 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

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.



Congratulations!

**Maria Stamp and
Charles Wakeman**

Our faith community wishes you many blessings!



Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Owen Allen Jurgensmeier
son of Nathan & Dana Jurgensmeier

Emily Jo Bailey
daughter of Lee & Kimberly Bailey

Levi Matthew Pottebaum
son of Steven & Mallory Pottebaum



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are they who are
persecuted for the sake of
righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult
you and persecute you and utter
every kind of evil against you
falsely because of me. Rejoice and
be glad, for your reward will be
great in heaven." - Mt 5:10-12a

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

©LPL

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"



On Sunday, January 29, the Catholic Church in the United States begins its celebration of Catholic Schools Week. It is an opportunity for all Catholic schools nationwide to celebrate their many achievements and the fact that we bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our students and the families we serve. This year's theme is Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.

Here at Saint Stephen the Martyr, we have had a Catholic school as a part of our mission for 30 years! We know very well that having a Catholic school in the parish means many sacrifices and challenges, but we also know the benefits of having a school as a part of our mission and ministry. The Church has been very clear in her teachings that Catholic schools in our parishes are a necessary component to the mission of proclaiming the Good News to all.

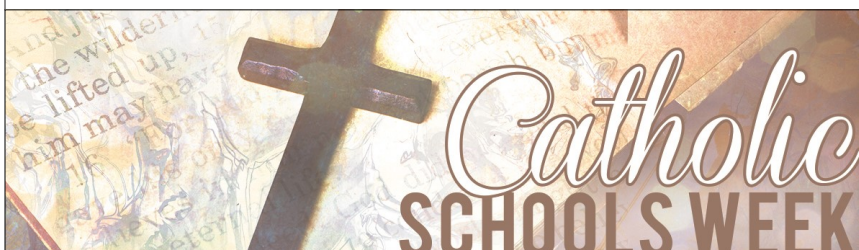
I am very grateful to all who work together to make our school a place where our young people can grow in their faith and come to a greater understanding of how they can change the world by putting their faith into action. We owe a debt of gratitude to our faculty and staff, to our students, volunteers, and countless benefactors in our community who recognize the importance of having a Catholic school in our parish and community. Your commitment makes a difference!

With great faith, let us step into a very bright future, for God is preparing the next generation of faithful adult Catholics through our work and commitment to Catholic education today.

"Catholic education is an expression of the mission entrusted by Jesus to the Church He founded. Through education the Church seeks to prepare its members to proclaim the Good News and to translate this proclamation into action." - "To teach as Jesus did,"

— United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1972

God bless you,
Father Dave



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 1/17-1/23/2023:

Actual:	\$53,518
Budget:	\$42,766
FYTD Actual:	\$1,426,398
FYTD Budget:	\$1,489,687

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.



Year-End Tax Statements

Year-end tax statements went out electronically and via mail to parishioners who have financially contributed to our parish this year. Thank you for your generosity! We humbly ask you to continue to prioritize the mission of St. Stephen the Martyr as you plan your finances this year.

Please direct questions to Amy Maroney at a.maroney@stephen.org.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

—Matthew 5:3

The phrase "poor in spirit" can be confusing. Think of it in this sense – poor in spirit means depending on God's providence and not depending on our own self-reliance. Being detached from earthly things (power, money, and comfort) and being attached to heavenly things (charity, sacrifice, and mercy). Denying ourselves from satisfying our desires and helping others obtain their basic needs.

#stewardshipreflection

Vote for our school in the Spirit Catholic Radio Catholic School Superstar Contest!



Who's ready for Catholic Schools Week? We are! Vote for your favorite Catholic School, **St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School**, in Spirit Catholic Radio's Superstar Contest! For 11 years, Spirit Catholic Radio has been shining a spotlight on Catholic high schools and elementary schools in their listening area with the Superstar Contest.

Let's get our community talking about the importance of Catholic education by encouraging others in our community to vote! Superstar voting competition begins January 30th and lasts through February 10th. Visit spiritcatholicradio.com/superstar2023 to vote!

School News

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



Catholic Schools Week 2023 January 29–February 4

Learn how St. Stephen the Martyr is celebrating Catholic Schools Week at: school.stephen.org/csw

- ⇒ **Enrollment for 2023/2024 School Year:** We are now accepting new student applications for the 23/24 school year and re-enrollment is open for our current families. 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.

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.



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 Exposition

First Friday Adoration that was scheduled for Feb. 3rd will be cancelled due to Catholic Schools Week All School Mass and early dismissal. We will resume our normal schedule next month. Thank you for understanding!



First Saturday Devotions

Join the Knights of Columbus on February 4th for First Saturday Devotions to Mother Mary. We will pray the Rosary prior to the 8:15 AM Mass in the Worship Space.



CCW
Council of Catholic Women

Submit your nominations for "Woman of the Year"

The Council of Catholic Women will award one outstanding woman with "Woman of the Year". Please send written submissions to gigistamp@cox.net by midnight on March 12. Submissions should include the reason for nomination and a brief bio. Thank you!

Thank You for your generosity to the One Rose, One Life Collection Last Week!



The Knights of Columbus wish to thank the parishioners of St. Stephen the Martyr for their support of the annual One Rose One Life 2nd Collection last weekend. Your generosity raised nearly \$2,400 that will be used to support various Pro-Life causes, events and Organizations in Nebraska. You make a difference!

Live Lent TOGETHER

SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING

WEDNESDAY, FEB 8TH

GPC 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

REGISTER NOW!

St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
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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.

Is God calling you to serve your fellow parishioners?

Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve your brothers and sisters at St. Stephen the Martyr. There are many different roles to choose from.

For more information and to sign up, visit our website at stephen.org/liturgical-volunteers. Direct questions to Kris McGregor, Liturgy Director at k.mcgregor@stephen.org.

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.



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is the difference between a "Saint" and a "Blessed"?

Answer:

The process of proclaiming someone as a saint in the Catholic Church has evolved over the course of many centuries. In the beginning, those honored as saints were almost exclusively biblical figures or martyrs. However, after the legalization of Christianity in the fourth century, new holy women and men came to be honored as saints, and this was often done by popular acclaim or by the local bishop or abbot.

It was Pope Gregory IX (who was pope from 1227 to 1241) who officially proclaimed that only the pope had the authority to add someone to the official list (the "canon") of saints. This is the meaning of the word "canonization." Today, the saint-making process includes several steps, including detailed studies of the person's life and a recognition that they died as a martyr or lived a life of "heroic virtue." Once someone is recognized as a martyr or if a miracle is attributed to their intercession, they will be beatified and honored as "Blessed." This means that they can be celebrated by Catholics in a particular country or region or by the members of certain religious community. If another miracle occurs and is approved, then the "Blessed" is canonized and honored with the title "Saint," meaning that they are now officially recognized as a universal model of holiness and an intercessor. ©LPi



RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE

1st Prize: \$5000

2nd Prize: \$3000

3rd Prize: \$2000

1 for \$100, 6 for \$500, 15 for \$1000



Scan to buy raffle tickets online or for more information visit stephen.org/dinner.



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
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BENEFIT ST. STEPHEN WITH YOUR IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

IRA Charitable Rollover Gift

If you are 70 ½ or older and own an IRA, you can transfer funds directly to St. Stephen the Martyr Church as a qualified non-profit to potentially fulfill your required minimum distribution this year and avoid paying excess income taxes.

This is a great way to continue the mission of St. Stephen the Martyr! For assistance, please contact Catiana Urrutia, Development Associate, at 402-861-4541 or c.urrutia@stephen.org.

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



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



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.



Upcoming Events

Back by Popular Demand: WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO RETURNS!

Thursday, 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, pinochle, 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.

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School

2023 Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello and welcome!

It is both a blessing and a privilege to accompany the students, families and staff of St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School. Our school has earned a reputation for academic excellence and a strong Catholic identity through the hard work and support of our staff, families, and parish community. It is truly a joy to walk through the school and see passionate teachers and enthusiastic students engaged in the learning process. This is my fifth year as principal, and I am grateful every day for the opportunity to serve St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School. I can truly say that our students, staff, and families can feel the joy of Christ in all that we do.

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School lives its mission by being *United in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning*. I am especially confident in our priorities: providing a safe and nurturing Catholic environment, continuous improvement, ongoing intentional teacher development, service to others, social-emotional well-being, and relationship-building.

If you are seeking to provide a strong faith foundation for your children, and if you are looking for a spiritual community to call home, we'd love to meet you! Give us a call, we'll schedule a tour!

Experience the love of Christ shared at our school.



Julie Perrault
Mrs. Julie Perrault



OUR MISSION

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



MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all to encounter Christ, know Christ and proclaim Christ. Our school is an important extension of this mission. With this understanding, through financial stewardship and fundraising efforts, all parishioners help fund more than 50% of the per-pupil tuition cost. This generosity allows all children in our community the opportunity to establish a strong Catholic faith foundation while receiving a first-class education. Our school is truly blessed by this financial support.

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of our school. When the school opened in 1992, I was serving as the Associate Pastor and was even the school's first music teacher! While much has changed since those early years, our commitment to providing a solid Catholic education to our students has never wavered. Our incredible teachers, staff and parents continue to collaborate to ensure our tradition continues. We look forward to sharing the love of Christ with you and your family! On behalf of our parish and school, thank you for taking the time to read through this report. God bless you!

Rev. David D. Belt
Father Dave Belt

FAITH

St. Stephen the Martyr is proud of its unique identity as a faith-based Catholic school. Our education develops knowledgeable Christian servant leaders to impact the world. We invoke God's name in prayer first thing in the morning, throughout the day and upon dismissal. Each class attends Mass and assists in the liturgies. Students are active in Catholic devotions including praying the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, and The Stations of the Cross. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to students throughout the school year. Our priests regularly visit classrooms and help with faith formation. Our preschool programs participate in Montessori-based approach to faith formation through the "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd" curriculum and the "Theology of the Body" curriculum is used for faith formation in grades K-8. Our Catholic Identity Committee meets quarterly to review Catholic Identity goals. In 2022, the committee planned and facilitated our first school-wide Advent prayer service as a way for our school community to begin the season of preparation together. Additionally, the committee plans and facilitates 24 hours of faith formation for our teachers every year.

COMMUNITY

A sense of community is fostered between grade levels with our buddy reading program and mixed-grade Mass celebrations. Students have the opportunity to participate in a range of athletics, from micro-soccer to 8th grade football, through the Parochial Athletic League (PAL). We also offer an array of extracurricular opportunities including robotics, musicals, show choir, math clubs, Bible bowl, and more.

As part of the curriculum, students grow in virtue by participating in community outreach, starting in preschool. Students feed the hungry with canned food drives; make cards and gifts for the homebound, elderly, and sick; provide warmth to the homeless and low-income by making blankets and hosting clothing drives.

Parents are encouraged to play an active role in their child's education by collaborating with teachers, volunteering in the classroom and getting to know other parents. A vibrant and active Home & School Association plans many events for parents to interact and create lasting friendships.

ST. STEPHEN BY THE NUMBERS

- 628** K-8th grade students
- 87** early childhood students
- 468** school families
- 353** school families are parishioners of St. Stephen
- 131** students in KidZone (before/after school care)
- 13** average Early Childhood class size
- 24** average K-8 class size
- 18:1** student to staff ratio
- 80%** of 8th-grade graduates attend Catholic high school (past 3-year average)
- 30%** of 8th-graders taking the Catholic high school entrance exams earned scholarships for the 2022/2023 school year
- 85%** of our alums earn high school academic honors, regardless of whether they attend public or Catholic high schools

OUR STORY

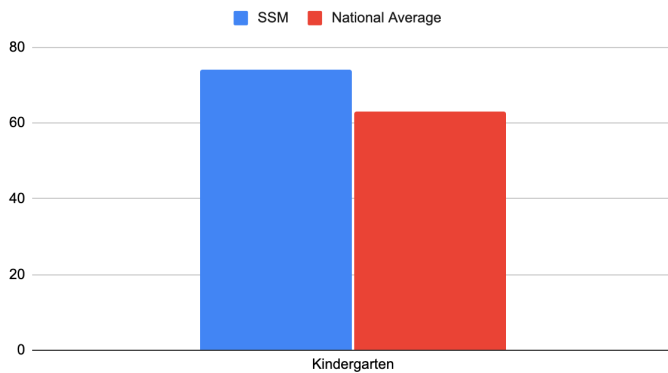
St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School was established in 1992 and named after the first martyr of the Catholic Church. The school started with grades K-5. Fr. Gerry Gonderinger was the founding pastor and Sister Regina Wagner was the first principal. Our own Fr. Dave Belt was the first music teacher in addition to being the associate pastor. Within four years of opening the school, it had grown to K-8th grade. Two years later a new structure was added providing 19 more classrooms, a computer lab, a library, and a full-size, state-of-the-art gym. The enrollment grew quickly and by 2002, there were three classes in every grade including preschool.

In 2008, the school earned the title of being a National Blue Ribbon School. That same year, St. Stephen the Martyr became an accredited school. Both awards acknowledge excellence in administration, curriculum, and instructional staff. The school continues to exceed accreditation standards attributable to the hard work and commitment of students, staff, and families. St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School is truly a place where students, staff, and families feel safe and loved.

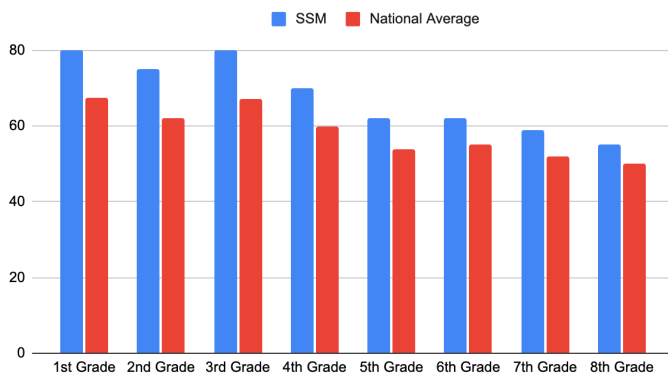
Today St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School has 715 students enrolled in preschool through 8th grade and consistently remains a top-five populated Catholic Elementary School in Nebraska. Since its inception, St. Stephen the Martyr has graduated almost 2,000 students. This year we proudly celebrate 30 years!

We are so grateful to our families for their outpouring of support and confidence in our school leadership. Everything we do together, and we will continue to provide students with an exceptional faith-filled education.

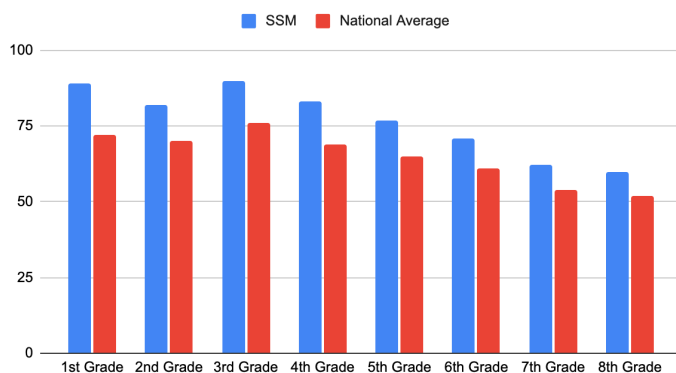
STAR Early Literacy Winter 2022-23



STAR Reading Comparisons Winter 22-23



STAR Math Comparisons Winter 2022-23



SSM = St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School compared to the National Average

LEARNING

St. Stephen follows the State of Nebraska curriculum standards while adding additional Archdiocesan curriculum standards, including religion and more robust core expectations. Our academic programs are measured against performance objectives and are aligned with The National Standards and Benchmarks For Effective Catholic Elementary Schools. Our students are assessed three times during the school year in both reading and math using Renaissance® STAR™ Assessments. These assessments allow teachers to pinpoint exactly where a student's abilities are at a given time, while also charting their progress and allowing teachers to tailor learning and standards to their students' level and abilities. Additionally, teachers are able to collaborate with their colleagues to understand incoming and outgoing students' abilities and together help students not only meet required standards but exceed standards when possible. The charts on the left show comparative information from winter 2022-23 data based on the national average and St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School.

St. Stephen the Martyr offers a Blended Learning approach to education. Students in a Blended Learning classroom rotate through small group stations to better understand specific concepts within a core subject (i.e. multiplication). Examples of small groups would include manipulatives, teacher (small group), reading/writing (cross-curricular), and iPad/computer work. This also allows teachers to differentiate learning by placing students into groups based on their level of understanding.

We are a Google-based educational facility and utilize Google Classroom Suite for posting assignments, calendars and email communications. Our technology lab includes Google Chromebooks, iPads, 3D printers, robots and a STEM maker space. Additionally, each of 6-8th grade students has their own Chromebook through our rent-to-own program. TK-5th grade classrooms have a shared set of iPads. Teachers have access to their own iPad and laptop to use with either an interactive board or an Apple TV for projection or board work. The school received over \$100,000 through the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) grant which allowed for technology upgrades and improvements throughout the school and campus. The school also uses many digital learning opportunities through RAZ Kids, SeeSaw, Mystery Science, Freckle Math, Flocabulary, IXL, guided readers, BrainPop, and other grade-specific subscriptions. The school currently uses FACTS School Information System, and Home & School recently funded a customized family app that allows our families to easily access their FACTS Family Portal and several other school resources from their mobile devices.

At St. Stephen, learning extends beyond our students. Throughout the year, our teachers and staff are encouraged and given the opportunity to grow and develop within their instructional areas, their own faith and student behavior management. We continue to use the Gradual Release of Responsibility Framework, an "I do, We do, You do" approach to learning. Our staff established a Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) team with the goal of achieving the best behavioral and academic outcomes for all students. This aligns with MTSS (multi-tiered system of supports) and Restorative Practices. Restorative Practices promotes inclusiveness, relationship-building and problem-solving. Instead of punishing students, restorative practices encourage students to reflect on and take responsibility for their actions and then build plans to repair any harm they may have caused. The way students are treated, and the way students treat others is just as important in a Catholic school as the formal, written curriculum.

"I love the amazing culture that the administration, teachers, and staff have created at St. Stephen. We get frequent, clear communication from our principal and teachers. Any time I visit the school, I see our principal and assistant principal interacting with students and helping wherever they can."

— Brittany L., Parent of 1st and 4th Grade Students



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- K-8 enrollment grew to 715, welcoming 39 new students and 32 new school families.
- Our Kindergarten—3rd grade teachers were trained in and began using a Spalding-based phonics program that complements our reading curriculum with added emphasis on decoding and fluency.
- In August, we added two interventionists to our student support team. These dedicated teachers work with small groups, individual students, and within the classrooms. They join a strong support system for our students' needs which also includes two counselors and two resource teachers. Our support team works directly with Millard Public Schools to schedule testing, participate in consultation conferences, and create learning plans that address individual needs.
- Digital curriculum subscriptions including RAZ Kids, SeeSaw, Mystery Science, Freckle Math, and other grade-specific subscriptions were renewed to supplement in-school instruction and learning assessments.
- Facility upgrades to the school include new lighting, upgraded wireless access points, upgrades to student restrooms, new desks for six classrooms.
- Home & School Association raised over \$100,000 through Martyr Marathon. They purchased new desk and seating for classrooms, awarded teacher grants, presented six scholarships to 8th grade students, funded our Simple Solutions curriculum and our new FACTS Family App.
- Our students supported our community through whole-school and class-level service projects, including food drives, collections (socks, diapers, etc.), thank-you notes to community helpers (health care workers, police, firemen and service members), EPS Penny Wars, donations to Lola's Angels, and more.

REASONS TO LOVE SSM

1

Academic Excellence

Recognized by the Nebraska Department of Education as a distinguished Cognia Accredited elementary school. This accreditation ensures that all learners realize their full potential and that the administration is committed to continuous improvement. Our school is also recognized as a Blue Ribbon School based on high standards and student achievement.

2

Individualized and Holistic Approach

Dedicated, passionate & qualified teachers and staff empower students to recognize their unique gifts and inspire them to reach their greatest potential.

3

United in Christ, Faith Formation

Students, united in Christ, participate in school Mass liturgies, daily prayer and Catholic catechetical instruction.

4

Care for Our Community

Students develop lifelong skills, virtues, and habits of heart and mind through service projects and caring for others in our community.

5

Needs-Based Instruction

Blended Learning environments allow teachers to differentiate learning by placing students into groups based on their level of understanding.

6

Welcoming, Thriving Environment

Rooted in faith; our vibrant student life, active Home & School Association, thriving sports club and supportive parish community ensure a positive; safe and joy-filled academic experience.

"We are fortunate to live in the middle of many fantastic public school districts.

However, after visiting St. Stephen, there wasn't much of a question about where we would be sending our kids.

We love that from the preschool on up, our kids are held to high expectations both in the classroom and in how they treat and interact with others. SSM actively reinforces the expectations that we have in our home. There are many schools that could have given our kids the ability to read, write, do math, etc. However, the expectation to be a good human and a good Christian is invaluable."

— Michaela J., Parent of Kinder, 2nd, 4th & 6th Grade Students



"The curriculum at St. Stephen is academically engaging for our kids, and the staff has built a community that helps to meet their social and emotional needs as well. I'm impressed by the way SSM develops a well-rounded student."

— Brett L., Parent of 1st & 3rd Grade Students

"St. Stephen provides our children the opportunity to receive an excellent education while also being immersed in a Christ-centered community that not only supports our children but for us as parents, too!"

— Annie S., Parent of Kinder & 2nd Grader



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



Archdiocese of Omaha
Catholic Schools

Schedule Your Tour Today!
(402) 896-0754
school.stephen.org/tour

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 29, 2023

- 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
- Monday:** Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20
- Tuesday:** Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43
- Wednesday:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6
- Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
- Friday:** Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29
- Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34
- Next Sunday:** Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 29, 2023

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Celebrate Catholic Schools Week
- Tuesday:** St. John Bosco, Priest
- Thursday:** The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life
- Friday:** St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
- Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Every day, God offers each of us countless opportunities to embody the Beatitudes. Blink and you might miss them. Where is God inviting you to poverty of spirit? Where does he beg you to hunger for righteousness? How does he ask you to make peace?



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 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)

Monday, January 30

- 6:30 am SI Susan Burbach (ZT)
8:15 am † Albert & Marian Berning (ZT)

Tuesday, January 31

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

Wednesday, February 1

- 6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr (DB)
8:15 am † Mick Keane (ZT)

Thursday, February 2

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

Friday, February 3

- 6:30 am † Marilu Bautista (DB)
8:15 am † Ali & Joe Tupper (ZT)
10:00 am SI Students of St. Stephen the Martyr
All School Special Friends Mass (DB)

Saturday, February 4

- 8:15 am † Rosina Gonzalez (DB)
5:00 pm † Erin Doll (ZT)

Sunday, February 5

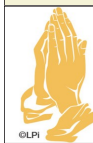
- 7:30 am † James Brazda (DB)
9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Bob Menard (ZT)
6:00 pm † Josephine Caliendo (ZT)

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 m.kane@stephen.org or 402-896-9675.*



Pray For...

Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Jo Ann Spurgin, wife of Jim
Nancy Major Jaeck
Bill Utecht, brother-in-law of Ron and Bonnie Skartvedt
Ryan Huebner, son of Marty and Cheryl

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

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.

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.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING: WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT ST. PATRICKS/FREMONT

Find your identity by being immersed in the life of the King! Join us February 24 and 25 at St. Patrick Catholic Church - Fremont with special guest speakers: Dr. Mary Healy and Sarah Kaczmarek!

Answer the call to discover the identity you have in Christ's love with women all over the area! Open to women ages 14 and up. Doors open at 6 PM on Friday, 24th and again at 9 AM on Saturday, Feb. 25th.

It is recommended that 14-17 year olds be with a parent). Register using this QR Code. Let's fill the church...spread the word!



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- Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
- Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: StStephenOMA, or
- Scan the QR code to schedule an appointment.



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Holy Hour for Priests and Vocations

Fr Harry Buse

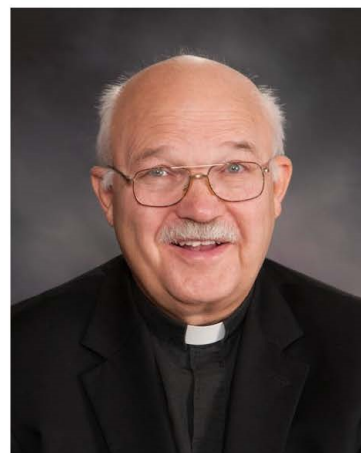
February 9 at 7 pm Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Pray for priests and vocations before our Eucharistic Lord, receive benediction and hear Fr Harry Buse's vocation journey.

"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.
When you see a priest, think of Jesus Christ."

St John Vianney

Please join in praying for them at the monthly Holy Hour for Priests and Vocations the second Thursday of each month at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.



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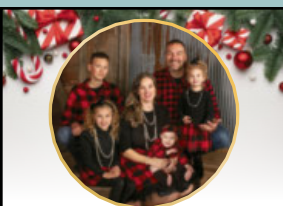
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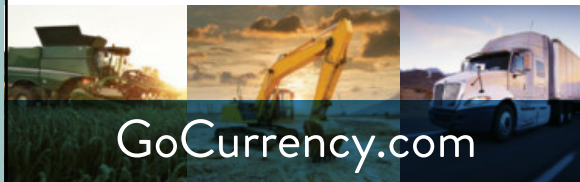
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