

St. Stephen the Martyr CATHOLIC CHURCH

Encounter, Know, Proclaim

January 8, 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 Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/ StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha) and our website (stephen.org/live-stream)

Private Prayer

Daily Mass Chapel and Worship Space are open from 9 AM to 9 PM Monday-Friday and from 10:00 AM to 6 PM on Saturday-Sunday. The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7; door access code: 9675*

Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hours

Mondays from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space First Friday of the Month 9 AM—2:30 PM

Contact Us

Parish Office:

Phone: (402) 896-9675

Emergency: (402) 896-9675 ext 2 Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, M-F

Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Zach Tucker Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Leslie at <a href="list-step-le-step-les-step-l

Second Collection on Jan. 7th & 8th



There will be a second collection for the Archdiocese of Omaha Seminarians this weekend. Funding for the Seminary collection provides a substantial percentage of the cost of educating seminarians, which include tuition, room, board, books, travel costs and health insurance.

St. Stephen the Martyr currently has two men in the seminary: Logan Hepp and Michael Figura. Additionally, this year we are hosting Thomas Matya for his Pastoral Internship year.

To support these men and all Archdiocese Seminarians, place your contribution in the offertory basket during the second collection, give online at stephen.org/give or scan this QR code.





THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother."

The Gospel on this Feast of the Epiphany is a dramatic story of a journey begun in faith. Three astrologers travel from a foreign land, led by a star. They had no idea what they would find or where they would find it. All they knew was that they were searching for a newborn King. When they arrived at the place where Jesus was, they knelt down before Him and offered their rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. After experiencing the presence of the Lord, they return to their homeland.

The journey of the Magi is our journey too. Every step in our life we take in faith. We don't know what we are going to find on this journey, and we don't know for sure how God will reveal Himself to us. What we do know is that God will certainly lead us, if only we let Him. Many times we are reluctant to entrust ourselves completely to God. We would rather find our own way instead of following the path that God has prepared for us. But when we try to find our own way, we are going to get lost and discouraged. When we try to go on our own, we do not experience the Light of Jesus

The Magi teach us today that we must walk by faith. When we experience the presence of Jesus Christ, we must then go back out into the world to share His light and love with the people around us. Let us pray that we may be like the Magi, who made their journey in faith, experienced the newborn King, offered their gifts, and returned to their homeland, changed by their journey.

"God hides nothing. His very work from the beginning is revelation—a casting aside of veil after veil, a showing unto men of truth after truth. On and on from fact divine He advances, until at length in His Son Jesus He unveils His very face." - George MacDonald

> May God bless you, Father Dave



Home Blessing on Epiphany

Traditionally on the feast of Epiphany. Catholics bless their homes and write the letters C, M and B and the numbers of the 20 + C + M + B + 23 year at the top of their doors. The letters stand for the names of the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also

represent the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house." For a guide to blessing your home this Epiphany, visit <u>usccb.org/prayers/blessing-home-and-household-epiphany</u>.

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 12/20— 12/26/2022:Actual:\$22,719Budget:\$49,894FYTD Actual:\$1,182,502FYTD Budget:\$1,290,112

Offertory & Online Giving 12/27/22— 1/2/2023:

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Actual:	\$70,045
Budget:	\$49,894
FYTD Actual:	\$1,252,546
FYTD Budget:	\$1,340,005
Christmas to Date:	\$50,109
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

Join our Parish Family!

Welcome visitors and newcomers! If you would like to register as a parishioner, please visit stephen.org. Click on "Become a Parishioner" in the footer of our website. Contact Adam Ybarra at (402) 861-4507 or a.ybarra@stephen.org with any questions and to chat about ways we can help you grow closer to Christ!

School News

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

- ⇒ **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 will open soon! Visit school.stephen.org/openhouse for more details.
- ⇒ **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.

Religious Education News

- ⇒ Happy New Year from the Religious Education Team! Religious Education classes will resume on January 10/11, 2023. We pray you enjoy your time off with family and friends. 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 (as indicated) 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.
- ⇒ 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 stephen.org/steubenville. For more information or if you have questions, contact Evan Collins, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, at e.collins@stephen.org.



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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.

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



Friday Men's Group

Join us at our first meeting of the new year, January 13th. Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Group meets Friday mornings from 6-7 AM. Through shared experience and small group discussion, we build a brotherhood strengthening us in our mission as disciples. Join us as we study the catechism and deepen our faith. Contact Adam with questions at a.ybarra@stephen.org.





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!



Eucharistic Adorati

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

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.



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.



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 OR code.







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

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



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 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.

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!



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

REGISTER A TEAM

VOLUNTEER TO HELP

DONATE PRIZES



THERE ARE ONLY 10
TABLES LEFT!

SCAN TO REGISTER OR VISIT STEPHEN.ORG/TRIVIA-NIGHT

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



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.



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.



Contact Matt Kreber at kreber4@vahoo.com

WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

Answer:

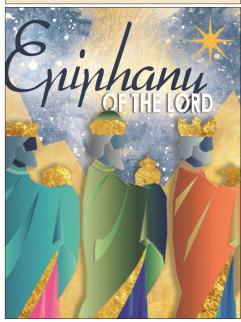
The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

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WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2023

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-**Sunday:**

3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 Monday:

(11b)/Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28 or Heb

1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9//Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2023

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord

Monday: The Baptism of the Lord

St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Friday:

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

The offerings of gold, frankincense and myrrh were carried by the magi over many miles of hard travel to be laid at the feet of Jesus. What gifts do we bear through the journey of life to lay at the feet of the King? Do we protect them as we should?

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.

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 7

8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr (ZT) 5:00 pm † Erin Doll (DB)

Sunday, January 8

7:30 am † James Brazda (DB) 9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)

10:30 am † Bob Menard (ZT) 6:00 pm † Albin Venner (ZT)

Monday, January 9

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

Tuesday, January 10

6:30 am † Rosina Gonzalez (ZT) 8:15 am † Jesse Cardenas (DB)

Wednesday, January 11

6:30 am † James & JoAnn Stachura (ZT) 8:15 am † Arturo Valls, Jr (DB)

Thursday, January 12

6:30 am † Matthew J Stoll (DB) 8:15 am † lan Dobson (DB)

Friday, January 13

6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr (ZT) 8:15 am † Pope Benedict XVI (DB)

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 † Chandler & Gabby Sorensen (DH)

SI = Special Intention t = 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.



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

News from the Community

HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS AND VOCATIONS WITH FR RALPH O'DONNELL

January12 at 7 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Pray for priests and vocations before our Eucharistic Lord, receive benediction and hear Fr Ralph O'Donnell's vocation journey. Pope St John Paul II said, "The world looks to the priest, because it looks to Jesus. No one can see Christ, but everyone sees the priest, and through him, they wish to catch a glimpse of the Lord. Immense is the grandeur of the Lord. Immense is the grandeur and dignity of the priest."

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.



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: creighton.edu/curc.

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.

Upcoming Respect Life Activities

PRO-LIFE MEDICINE IN A CULTURE OF DEATH", MEDICAL PANEL WITH SR 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 NebraskansEmbracingLife.org.

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 mm@wallir.com.

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 NebraskansEmbracingLife.org

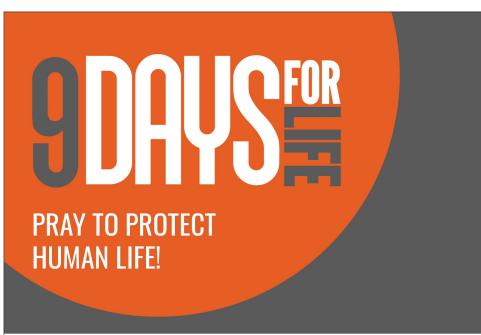
MEMORIAL OF THE USA UNBORN, NEVER AGAIN!

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>.



JANUARY 19-27

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join today at www.9daysforlife.com!







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