



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

February 5, 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](https://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](https://stephen.org/staff)

**Bulletin Deadline:** Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Leslie at [l.schulte@stephen.org](mailto:l.schulte@stephen.org).



## 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You are the light of  
the world. A city set  
on a mountain  
cannot be hidden."  
- Mt 5:14

### Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

**"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."**



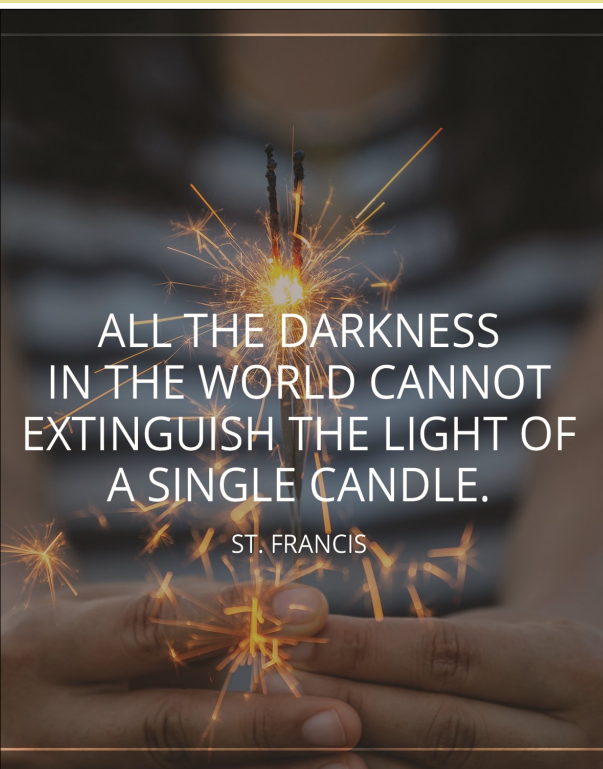
As I was writing this article, I noticed that Jesus doesn't say, "You will be the light..." Jesus tells us that we already are the light of the world. The problem is that most of us don't believe it or we are afraid to let the light of Christ shine in our hearts. Many times we wear the bushel basket of sin over the light and the darkness of evil tries to extinguish the presence of Christ within us. The good news is that the light can never be extinguished, no matter how seriously we have sinned or how far we have walked away from God. Because God chose us at our Baptism, that relationship, that light, will last forever.

The other point that I noticed this week is Jesus teaches us that when people see our good deeds, it should lead them to glorify God. I think that sometimes we think that our good deeds are about us and not so much God. If we are doing good things to get peoples' attention, then we are doing them for the wrong reason. Our good and faithful lives must be beacons that lead people to God.

As we go through this next week, pray about the "bushel basket" of sin that needs to be removed from your lives. Ask God to give you the gift of grace, so that you may see your sinfulness and have the desire to remove the darkness from your life. It is only through Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World, that the darkness of our own lives can be confronted and conquered.

**"A holy life will produce the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns; they only shine."** -D. L. Moody

God bless you,  
Father Dave



ALL THE DARKNESS  
IN THE WORLD CANNOT  
EXTINGUISH THE LIGHT OF  
A SINGLE CANDLE.

ST. FRANCIS



### Congratulations Newly Baptized!

**Jacob William Atkisson**  
son of William and Anne

**Madelynn Fae Atkisson**  
daughter of William and Anne

**Misomde' Johan Nare**  
son of Manfred and Gwladys Kiswendsid Nare

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | [stephen.org](https://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](http://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](mailto: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 1/24-1/30/2023:

Actual:	\$57,687
Budget:	\$49,894
FYTD Actual:	\$1,485,675
FYTD Budget:	\$1,539,580

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](http://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](mailto:a.maroney@stephen.org).

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

—Matthew 5:16

The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people and it is contagious! Good works encourages more good works. Generosity is a by-product of a grateful lifestyle. The more we recognize God's gifts, the more we want to share them. Good stewards recognize that God is working through them and they don't put themselves above the people they have been called to help.

*#stewardshipreflection*

# Now Accepting Applications for the 2023/2024 School Year

Apply Today At:

[school.stephen.org/admissions](http://school.stephen.org/admissions)

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

## School News

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

- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **Vote for our school in the Spirit Catholic Radio Catholic School Superstar Contest!** Vote for your favorite Catholic School, St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School, in Spirit Catholic Radio's Superstar Contest! Superstar voting competition ends February 10th. Visit [spiritcatholicradio.com/superstar2023](http://spiritcatholicradio.com/superstar2023) to vote!
- ⇒ **SSM School App:** Our new app is a one-stop shop for our families with any time, anywhere access to all the tools, content, and communications needed to stay connected and engaged. This app provides easy access to the Lunch Menu, Martyr Messenger, our Family Google Calendar, FACTS Family Portal features including student grades, homework, behavior, FACTS Financial, volunteer sign-ups, and so much more! It's available in the AppStore or GooglePlay! Search "SSM School" or scan this QR Code.



## Religious Education News

- ⇒ **Help RE Support our St. Stephen's Dinner & Auction!** We hope to donate some fun family yard games, such as Spike Ball, Yard Jenga, etc. to be auctioned off at this year's dinner. We are still collecting donations! If we are able to collect \$250 by next week (February 7/8), our lovely Chelsey will greet our RE kiddos in an inflatable dinosaur costume! Don't miss out on this great way to support our church & have a little fun while doing so!

## 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](mailto:e.collins@stephen.org).



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](mailto:c.urrutia@stephen.org).



» REGISTER NOW!

## Live Lent TOGETHER

SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING

# WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8TH

GPC 6:30PM-9:00PM

St. Stephen the Martyr  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Excelsior, Kans., Proclaim

### 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](mailto:a.ybarra@stephen.org) or (402) 861-4507.

## SPRING SPORTS CLUB REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

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 PM, Friday, March 10th

Register & more information at [stephen.org/sports-club](http://stephen.org/sports-club)



Sports Club

### 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

### PrimeTimers Events

**Back by Popular Demand: WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO RETURNS!**

Thurs., April 13 at 6 PM, 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](http://stephen.org/primetimers).

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
YOU GAVE ME COMFORT



**Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
**Feb. 8th 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) 669-7409.

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.



### WHY DO WE DO THAT?

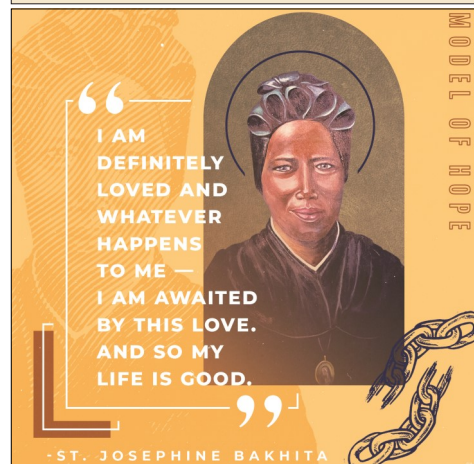
Catholic Life Explained:

#### Question:

What is the "Miraculous Medal" and why is it called that?

#### Answer:

The medal of the Immaculate Conception that has come to be called simply the "Miraculous Medal" dates back to an apparition of Mary to Saint Catherine Laboure, who was then a novice sister with the Daughters of Charity. On November 27, 1830, Our Lady appeared to her standing on a globe, with shafts of light streaming from her hands and the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee," surrounding the image. In the same vision, Catherine saw a capital "M" with a cross above it and below two hearts. Catherine seemed to hear a voice telling her to have what she saw struck as a medal and a promise that those who wore the medal would have the protection and intercession of the Mother of God. The first 1,500 of medals were distributed in 1832. Many miraculous favors were attributed to the use of the medal. Saint Catherine's "Miraculous Medal" is among the recognizable and popular symbols of modern Catholicism. Reflecting on its widespread use, the 2001 Vatican document, "Directory on Popular Piety and Liturgy," observes that the medal "recalls the mystery of Redemption, the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Sorrowful Heart of Mary. It signifies the mediatory role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mystery of the Church, the relationship between Heaven and earth, this life and eternal life." ©LPi





# TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Reserve your seats today!

**\$100  
Ticket**

**Saturday, March 25, 2023**

**6-11 PM**

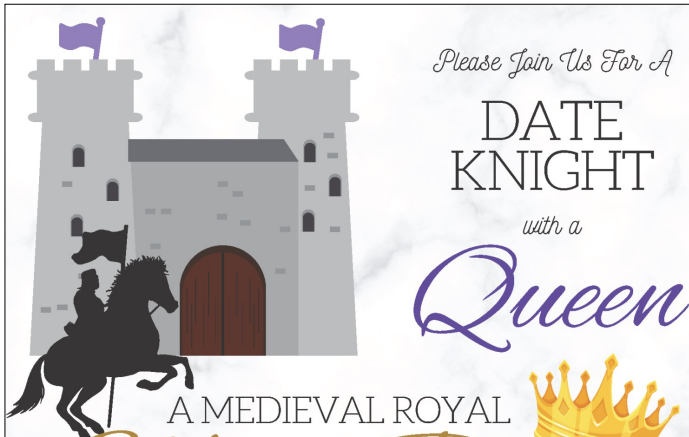
**St. Stephen the Martyr**

Purchase your tickets before they sell out! Scan the QR code or go to [stephen.org/dinner](http://stephen.org/dinner)



Cocktail Reception | Catered Plated Dinner | DJ Music | Dancing  
Full Bar | Silent & Live Auction | Raise the Paddle | Raffles

Event Proceeds benefit St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church and School



A MEDIEVAL ROYAL

**Mom Prom**

Hosted by SSM Cub Scouts Pack 494

**February 25, 2023**

**7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

**SSM Cafeteria**

**\$25 per Queen and Knight(s)**

\*Registration Info Coming Soon\*

Interested in learning more about Cub Scouts? Find more info here



SCAN ME

## Italian Feast

**FEBRUARY 11, 2023 5-9PM**  
**ST. STEPHENS CAFETERIA**  
16701 S St

**Kids - \$5**  
**Adults - \$10 in Advance**  
**\$12 at the Door**

**Pasta with Marinara Sauce with Meatball**  
**Meatball Sandwiches • Salad & Garlic Bread**  
**Cannoli & Desserts available for a small donation**  
**Dine-In & Take Out available**



**Eighth Grade  
Fundraiser**



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your wound shall quickly be healed. (Is 58:8)

### Psalm:

The just man is a light in darkness to the upright. (Ps 112)  
Or Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

When I came to you, brothers and sisters,  
proclaiming the mystery of God,  
I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom.  
For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you  
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (1 Cor 2:1-2)

### Gospel:

"You are the light of the world.  
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.  
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket."  
(Mt 5:14-15)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We can't be afraid to season our lives with the truth,  
even if we face a world of picky eaters. Christians,  
don't be afraid of flavor!

Or

It's hard to shine the light of truth in a world that so  
often prefers darkness. But God has built his city on  
a hill, not a valley. His glory, by definition, exists to be  
proclaimed, as salt exists to give flavor.

## Observances for the week of February 5, 2023

**Sunday:** 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Monday:** St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs  
**Wednesday:** St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin  
**Friday:** St. Scholastica, Virgin  
**Saturday:** Our Lady of Lourdes  
**Next Sunday:** 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day

## Join our Parish Family!

Welcome visitors and newcomers! If you would like to register as a parishioner, please visit [stephen.org](http://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](mailto:a.ybarra@stephen.org) with any questions and to chat about ways we can help you grow closer to Christ!

## Mass Intentions

### 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)

### Monday, February 6

6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr (ZT)  
8:15 am † Albert & Marian Berning (ZT)

### Tuesday, February 7

6:30 am † Terry & Marie Zrust (DB)  
8:15 am † Bonnie Bratcher (ZT)

### Wednesday, February 8

6:30 am † Linda DeHart (DB)  
8:15 am † Bob Mathine (DB)

### Thursday, February 9

6:30 am † Stephan Marek (DB)  
8:15 am † Sharon Rupprecht (DB)

### Friday, February 10

6:30 am SI Heese Family (DB)  
8:15 am † JoAnne M. Besch (DB)

### Saturday, February 11

8:15 am † Matthew J Stoll (DB)  
5:00 pm † Donald Schwarte (DB)

### Sunday, February 12

7:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)  
9:00 am SI Knights of Columbus (DB)  
10:30 am † Joseph (SS)  
6:00 pm SI Heese Family (NH)

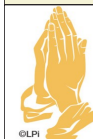
SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB=Fr. Dave Belt; ZT=Fr. Zach Tucker;

SS = Fr. Scott Schilmoeller; NH = Fr. Norm Hunke

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](mailto: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 Paulsen, wife of Robert

Joe Sautter, brother of Juli Han



## 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](http://stephen.org/prayer-line) or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

## News from the Community

### MAGNIFICAT OMAHA LENTEN BRUNCH MARCH 11

All women are invited to the Magnificat-Omaha Lenten Brunch on Saturday, March 11, 2023, 9:30 AM – 1 PM, at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church. Therese Cirner, licensed clinical counselor and inspirational speaker for Renewal Ministries, will share how to find the "Six Keys to A Deeper Spiritual Life for Lent." For Reservations, go to [www.MagnificatOmaha.org](http://www.MagnificatOmaha.org). Magnificat-Omaha is an archdiocesan-wide Catholic women's organization focused on evangelization.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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!

### HOST A CATHOLIC EXCHANGE STUDENT

Global Outreach is a Catholic exchange program matching excellent students (male and female) from Eastern Europe with Catholic American families. These students spend one academic year in an Omaha archdiocesan high school, living with a Catholic family, learning to be servant leaders for their communities in former Communist countries. Host families are still needed for the 2023-2024 academic year. Please contact Monsignor James Gilg at 402-618-0607, Dee Drozd at 402-440-0817, or Allison Drozd at 402-580-1369. Thank you!

### Holy Hour for Priests and Vocations

#### Fr Harry Buse

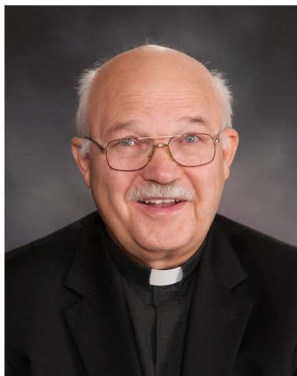
February 9 at 7 pm Our Lady of Lourdes Church

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.



### American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church  
Sponsored By: St. Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus

Saturday, February 11, 2023  
7:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
St. Stephen the Martyr  
16701 S Street

To schedule your appointment:

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



Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) (or scan the QR code) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



FROM THE MAKERS OF APPARITION HILL

# CROSS MOUNTAIN

AMC WESTROADS 14 THEATRE

FEB 2 - 7PM

FEB 5 - 5:30PM

FEB 7 - 7PM



FOR TICKETS, VISIT: [STELLAMARFILMS.COM](http://STELLAMARFILMS.COM)

STELLA MAR FILMS PRESENTS CROSS MOUNTAIN A FILM BY CIMELA KIDONAKIS JESSI HANNAPEL SEAN BLOOMFIELD  
PRODUCED BY SEAN BLOOMFIELD CO-PRODUCED BY GARRET MCCALL JESSI HANNAPEL DIRECTED BY CIMELA KIDONAKIS  
FILMED ON LOCATION IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, SCOTLAND, ITALY, UGANDA, USA

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:l.schulte@stephen.org).



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391-2171

Southwest Chapel  
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Both Chapels Offering Caring Services  
at Affordable Costs for Omaha Families

**Patera Landscaping**  
402-706-5679

**Mission Village Animal Clinic**

KATHERINE KNAKE, DVM  
BETH SOULLIERE, DVM

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Kyle Schlautman, C.P.A. Parishioner  
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Agent & Parishioner | tschmitz@farmersagent.com

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