

February 12, 2023

Pray & Worship

Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday-Friday at 6:30 AM & 8:15 AM*; Saturday at 8:15 AM*

Weekend: Saturday at 5:00 PM; Sunday at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM* & 6:00 PM

*These Masses will be live-streamed on our Facebook page (<u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha</u>) and our website (<u>stephen.org/live-stream</u>)

Private Prayer

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

Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hours

Mondays from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space

Contact Us

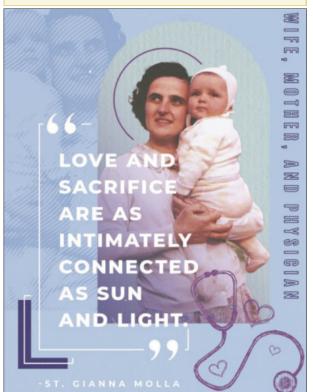
Parish Office:

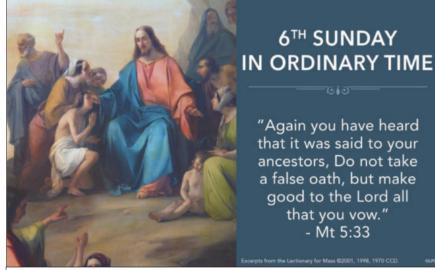
Phone: (402) 896-9675 Emergency: (402) 896-9675 ext 2 Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, M-F

Pastor: Fr. David Belt Associate Pastor: Fr. Zach Tucker

Staff Contact Info: <u>stephen.org/staff</u> Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Leslie at <u>l.schulte@stephen.org</u>.





Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment."



This weekend, Jesus is responding to critics who believe that he is trying to do away with the Law. Since Jews believe that fidelity to every detail of the Law is an expression of a person's fidelity to God, Our Lord's enemies are accusing him of not being faithful to God. Jesus tells his audience that he didn't come to do away with the Law but to complete or fulfill the Law. He then moves on to quote portions of the Law, which would have been memorized when they were children. Jesus says, "You have heard it said... But I say to you..." In this teaching, Jesus makes it very clear that the basic and general teaching of the Law isn't enough to guide his followers. For example, Jesus quotes the Commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," and then he adds that a person who is angry with another person is liable to the same judgment.

As a result of the original sin of Adam and Eve, our lives are filled with faults, shortcomings, and sins. There are things that we have said or done that we would like to take back because they have hurt someone else. We know that anger, lust, greed, lying, and so many other sins permeate our lives. As we see the sins in our lives, we should also see how much we need the grace and mercy of God. Only God can complete what is broken and empty in ourselves and in our human relationships.

This week, I ask that we all examine how Jesus "completes" us, and how he calls us to more faithful lives. I also ask that we take some time to pray about the people in our lives who have hurt us or that we have hurt by our words and actions. We can't pray and hope for unity in the Body of Christ unless we are willing to do our part.

"The most important ingredient we put into any relationship is not what we say or what we do, but what we are." – Steven R. Covey

> God bless you, Father Dave

Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr. Dave Belt October 9-20, 2023



Please join us an informational meeting, Wednesday, March 1st at 7 PM in the Gonderinger Parish Center to learn more from a representative of Magi Travel about this special pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. 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 Chri

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 PM & Saturday: 3:30-4:45 PM

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays. Parents are required to attend a preparation class. Contact the parish office for information or visit: <u>stephen.org/sacraments</u>.

Matrimony

Preparation for Marriage begins at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Contact parish office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick

Contact Deacon Denny at (402) 861-4538 or <u>d.dethlefs@stephen.org</u>.

Homebound Eucharist

Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Parish office phone number: (402) 896-9675

Financial Stewardship

Offertory & Online Giving 1/31-2/6/2023:

Actual:	\$42,991
Budget:	\$54,476
FYTD Actual:	\$1,512,471
FYTD Budget:	\$1,594,056

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 <u>stephen.org/give</u>.



Offertory envelopes may also be mailed to our office: 16701 S Street, Omaha, NE 68135.



"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5:20

The Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart, for God and others, that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules to the letter and not out of love, does not necessarily put you on the path to heaven. Attending Sunday Mass and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of being a modern day Pharisee.



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.
- ⇒ **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



Religious Education News

⇒ Get Ready For a Cosmic Time at Totally Catholic Stellar VBS! Adult Station Leaders (19 & up) are the core of our Stellar VBS. Leaders must be enthusiastic about working with children, excited about serving, patient, kind and Safe Environment Trained. Adult volunteers may waive the tuition of ONE child participating in VBS. There will be a

meeting for all station leaders on June 5, at 6 PM in the school library. Use the QR code to sign up. Registration and Youth Volunteer sign up opens later in March. For more information, contact Eileen at <u>e.smith@stephen.org</u> or the Religious Education Office at 402-896-5683.



$\Rightarrow~$ A Message From our RE Director, Chelsey Young

Dear Families, I am very excited to share that I will be getting married this summer! While I can't wait to enter my married vocation, this also means that I will be moving to Atchison, KS this June where my fiancé, Jacob Connealy, works at Benedictine College. St. Stephen the Martyr has become a

Now Hiring



family to me and I couldn't be more grateful for all of you. I will be sad to leave at the end of May, but I also know the Lord will answer my prayer to send you someone perfect for the job. God bless you all and thank you for being a wonderful parish family! With Joy in Christ, Chelsey

St. Stephen Mystery of Faith Seminar Series In honor of the 2023 Eucharistic Revival



The Eucharist, A Mystery to Be Believed

Six Sessions Presented By:



Join us this Lent to *Encounter, Know, and Proclaim Christ.* Free to attend|Registration requested More info & register at stephen.org St. Stephen the Martyr



ARE DUST

Ash Wednesday Mass Times February 22, 2023

> 6:30 AM, 8:15 AM*, 12:05 PM, 4 PM, 5:30 PM, 7 PM

*Live-streamed and school mass so seating will be limited



March 4th-26th

Lenten Family Service Project

Drive for Christian Outreach Program - Elkhorn

Sponsored by St. Stephen the Martyr Social Justice Ministry Donations can be placed in/near the purple box in the Gathering Space

Needed items include: canned chicken, pancake mix & syrup, laundry soap, personal hygiene products and feminine hygiene products. Cash donations also accepted.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What do the colors of the priest's and deacon's vestments mean? Answer:

In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the colors of the vestments evolved over the course of several centuries and there was wide variation both in the colors used, and in the feasts and seasons associated with particular colors. It was Pope Innocent III (d. 1216) who gave us the basic outline that was later prescribed by Pope Saint Pius V in 1570. The various colors remind us of the dominant themes of a particular season or celebration.

- White: Used for the seasons of Christmas and Easter and in celebrations of the Lord, of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs. This color is also used in Masses for the dead, at baptisms, weddings and other festive celebrations.
- **Red**: As the color of both blood and fire, red is used on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, as well as Pentecost and special celebrations of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, red is used on the feasts and memorials of the Apostles and those saints who died as martyrs.
- Violet: The color for Advent and Lent. Violet may also be used in Masses for the dead and on All Souls Day (November 2).
- **Green**: A color of life and hope, green is used throughout Ordinary Time.
- Ordinary Time. Other colors: Rose may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent, black may be used in Masses of the dead and on All Souls Day, gold or silver may be used on solemn occasions in place of white, red, or green. ©LPi

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



Upcoming Patriotic Days:

50th Anniversary of the Return to Freedom of the Vietnam POWs—Feb. 12th: Operation Homecoming began on February 12, 1973, and continued through April 1973, fifty years ago, with 591 American prisoners of war (POW) returning from horrific conditions in the prison camps. The first of the POWs released arrived via C-141 & C-9 med evac planes at Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

President's Day— **Feb. 20th:** Presidents' Day is celebrated on the 3rd Monday in Feb in the USA. It is recognized as honoring George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and is sometimes understood as a celebration of the birthdays and lives of all U.S. presidents.

We thank our Knights of Columbus for providing this information. The 4th Degree of Knights of Columbus is a Patriotic Degree. If you're interested in joining the Knights you can contact Recruitment Chair, Paul Kamphaus at (531) 484-6852.



Upcoming PrimeTimers Events

Due to event conflicts, the date for our White Elephant Bingo will now be: Thursday, April 27th, 6 PM in 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!

Cards & Games: Every 2nd & 4th Thursday at 1 PM in the GPC: 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 <u>stephen.org/primetimers</u>.



Ladies Bunco Night

Bunco is hosted by the Council of Catholic Women every third **Thursday** of every month in the Parish Center from 7-9 PM. Our next gathering will be Feb. 16th. 21+; \$10/person. Questions? Contact Brenda Kreber at 402-203-5196

Thank you to Landon Rief, who built & donated outdoor benches for his parish to complete his Eagle Scout Project!



St. Stephen parishioner Landon Rief built and donated five benches to St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School as part of a project to earn his Eagle Scout. Our students are loving having an extra outdoor seating option! Landon is a Millard North junior who was baptized, confirmed, and completed his Religious Education through St. Stephen the Martyr Religious Education! His hard work and craftsmanship will be enjoyed for years to come by our students and families. The benches have been placed at the north, south, and east entrances of our school. Thank you, Landon, for your generous gift to St. Stephen the Martyr!

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

No one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin. (Sir 15:20)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord! (Ps 119)

Second Reading:

Rather, we speak of God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory. (1 Cor 2:7)

Gospel:

"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:20)

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

The heart with which we offer our good deeds matters as much as the deeds themselves. For Christ, the law is more than a code of conduct. It's a mindset.

Observances for the week of February 12, 2023

Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day

Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop; Tuesday: Valentine's Day

Friday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Next Sunday: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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 <u>a.ybarra@stephen.org</u> with any questions and to chat about ways we can help you grow closer to Christ!

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, February 13

6:30 am † Robert Gentrup (ZT) 8:15 am † Mike Dallan (ZT)

Tuesday, February 14

Communion Service 6:30 am 8:15 am † Pat & Gloria Gottsch (DS)

Wednesday, February 15 6:30 am SI Heese Family (ZT) 8:15 am SI Mancilla Family (DB)

Thursday, February 16 6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (DB) 8:15 am † Fr. Barry Bentz (DB)

Friday, February 17

6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT) 8:15 am SI Vamosi Family (DB)

Saturday, February 18

8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (DB) 5:00 pm † John Edward "Pete" Hill (ZT)

Sunday, February 19

- 7:30 am † Lewis Storm (DB)
- 9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
- 10:30 am † John "Pete" & LaRue Hill (ZT) 6:00 pm † Gladys Mandel (ZT)

SI = Special Intention **†** = Repose of the Soul

DB=Fr. Dave Belt; ZT=Fr. Zach Tucker; DS=Fr. Dan Soltys; SS = Fr. Scott Schilmoeller; NH= Fr. Norm Hunke

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: **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 Father Ed Stander, brother of Rosie McGuire

Deceased souls of our parish family:

Patricia Paulsen, wife of Robert Joe Sautter, brother of Juli Han **Joseph Bellus**, brother of Jack Bellus Margaret Sacco, mother of Debra Rizzi

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.

News from the Community

GRIEVING WITH GREAT HOPE

Firmly grounded in the Catholic faith, Grieving with Great Hope is a 6-week grief workshop/support group for adults who have experienced the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, or fiend or other loved one.

DATES: February 25th—March 25th, 2023 (Saturdays) TIME: 10:30 AM—12:30 PM

LOCATION: Calvary Cemetery Office (space is limited) REGISTRATION: Contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-551-2313, 402-391-3711 or at <u>JTardy@CatholicCem.com</u> QUESTIONS: Contact Deacon Denny at 402-861-4538 or d.dethlefs@stephen.org

SHARE YOUR LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE - GET THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME! IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS IS RECRUITING!

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps is an organization of retired men and women who want to use their time and experience to help others. IVC service corps members commit 1 or 2 days per week to work directly with organizations that address the issues of poverty. IVC service corps members gather monthly to prayerfully reflect on their apostolic work and discover the deeper meaning of the service they do. For additional information, please contact Joanne Fisher at <u>ifisher@ivcusa.org</u> or (402) 215-1651 or visit <u>www.ivcusa.org</u>.

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 <u>www.MagnificatOmaha.org</u>. Magnificat-Omaha is an archdiocesan-wide Catholic women's organization focused on evangelization.

REGINA CAELI ACADEMY FUNDRAISER—MARCH 25TH

Please consider supporting the Regina Caeli Academy fundraiser on March 25th from 6-10PM at St. Robert Bellarmine! The night will feature Jonathan and Amanda Teixeira from WalletWin as well as The Church Keys band. Besides our amazing speakers and band, we will have a live and silent auction, plated meal, drinks, vacation raffle drawing, and dancing. Please come join us for a night of fun, food, and fellowship. Tickets are on sale at <u>https://app.arts-people.com/</u> <u>index.php?show=154206</u> Priests and Religious are free. Contact Sarah Weiss at <u>sweiss.oma@rcahybrid.org</u> for more information. Tickets will only be sold until March 3rd.

LEADING WITH FAITH BUSINESS RECOGNITION AWARDS-NOMINATIONS DUE FEB. 15TH

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. Submit your nomination online at <u>cpbcomaha.org/nomination</u>. The Luncheon Event will be on Thurs. April 20th.



'A PATH TO HEALING' Grief Group

An 8-week session for those grieving the death of a loved one using Alan Wolfelt's book Understanding Your Grief

Join us for the Information Meeting

- · Hear about all our resources offered and receive your book
- Saturday, February 25, 2023 from 9:00 to 10:00 am
- · St. Vincent de Paul Parish in the St. Vincent room

A Path to Healing Sessions

- · Saturdays, March 4 through April 29 (no session on Holy Saturday)
- 9:00 to 10:30 am
- · St. Vincent de Paul Parish in the St. Vincent room

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, CONTACT PASTORAL MINISTER, NICOLE FLOREZ AT FLOREZN@SVDPOMAHA.ORG OR CALL 402-496-7988 EXT. 221

> St. Vincent de Paul Parish Bereavement Ministry 14330 Eagle Run Drive | Omaha NE 68164

SPRING OPEN HOUSE AT JPII NEWMAN

Saturday, February 25th

11 am - 2 pm

Come see what college can be like for you!

1221 S. 71st St. Omaha, NE 68106 402.557.5575



LENTEN MISSION RETREAT

LED BY

25 9AM - 4PM St. Gerald 96th & Q





For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Stephen Martyr, Omaha, NE

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