



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

March 19, 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

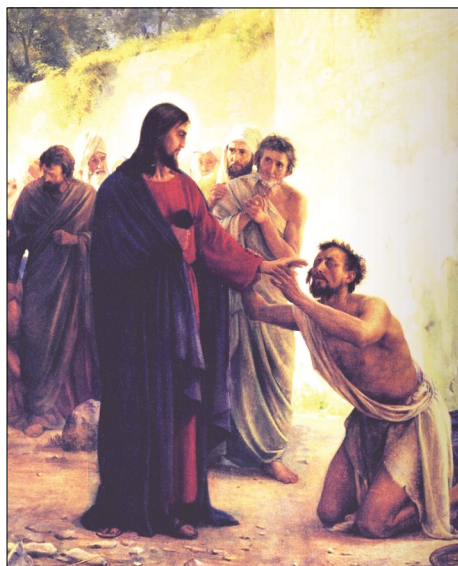
Pastor: Fr. David Belt

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.



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that
they had thrown him
out, he found him and
said, "Do you believe
in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

**"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he
was born blind?"**

This question comes to Jesus at the beginning of this weekend's Gospel passage. Jesus saw a man who had been blind from birth and His disciples wonder whose sins are being punished. At the time of Jesus, physical illness, personal tragedy, or a short life meant that a person was being punished for their sins. Health, a large family, wealth, and a long life were seen as gifts from God to people who lived faithful lives. Seen in this context, we understand why the disciples are asking the question, but Jesus gives a remarkable answer. He says that, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him."

How often do we hear someone ask, "What did I do to deserve this suffering?" Many times we feel like God is punishing us through the tragedies and setbacks of our lives. But the reality is that God uses those dark and difficult times to teach us that He is powerful and that He will love us through those tough times. God's love for us is so overwhelming—even in those days when life doesn't go our way. The question is, do we have enough faith to see God's hand holding us up in times of trouble, illness, and loss?

No one ever promised that following Jesus would be easy or always peaceful. We know very well that the journey of our lives involves suffering and death. But we can find hope in knowing that the glory of God will be made visible in our lives, especially in those days when we feel like we have been given a burden that is much too large for us to carry. Find peace in knowing that God will indeed help us carry the crosses of our lives.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Martin Luther King

First Communion

Congratulations to the young people of our parish who will be receiving their First Holy Communion this Sunday, March 19, and on Sunday, March 26. Please continue to pray for them and their families, that they may always know of the great love that Jesus has for them!

God Bless you,
Father Dave

Receive God's loving mercy as we prepare for Easter!

**Lenten
Reconciliation
Service**



**Tuesday,
March 21st
7 PM**

SOLD OUT!

Tickets may be gone,
but bidding is just
getting started! Our
Silent Auction opens
Monday and anyone
(whether you're attending
the event or not) may bid!
We have awesome items and our
signature sign-up parties that
you won't want to miss!



Scan the
QR code or visit
stephen.org/dinner.

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 3/7-3/13/2023:

Actual:	\$47,851
Budget:	\$49,894
FYTD Actual:	\$1,761,858
FYTD Budget:	\$1,860,326

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.



Second Collection for Catholic Relief Services

At all Masses this weekend, there will be a second collection supporting the lifesaving work of Catholic Relief Services. For 80 years, CRS has been providing expertise and compassion to the very poorest of our brothers and sisters in more than 100 countries. To contribute, place your gift in the collection basket this weekend, give online at stephen.org/give or scan the QR Code. Thank you for your generosity!



"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth. *#stewardshipreflection*

Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Beau Kayden Suhr
Justin & Alisha



Lucas Stephen Nie
Brent and Christina

Luka Francis Guinane
Mitchell & Rachel

Colette Jo-Ann Norquest
Lance and Stacey



Pray for those receiving First Holy Communion this weekend

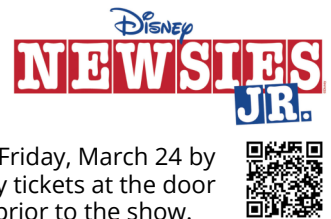
Our second graders will receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ for the first time this Sunday and next Sunday! Please pray for them as they take this very special step in their relationship with Jesus.

"Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me..."

School News

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

⇒ **Join Us for Newsies, Jr:** Join our students on the St. Stephen the Martyr stage as they present Newsies Jr. the musical! Performances will be held in the gym on Friday, March 31 at 7:30 PM and Saturday, April 1st at 7 PM. Tickets can be purchased in advance now until Friday, March 24 by scanning the QR code. You may also buy tickets at the door with cash or check beginning one hour prior to the show.



⇒ **Enrollment for 2023/2024 School Year:** We are accepting new student applications for the 23/24 school year. Acceptance letters and enrollment packets for new families will be sent out once your child's application has been approved. Apply at school.stephen.org/admissions.

Religious Education News

⇒ **Vacation Bible School Registration Now Open:** Get ready for a cosmic time at Totally Catholic Stellar VBS! Vacation Bible School is set for June 12-16, 9 AM—Noon. Registration is now open for children age 3 (must be potty-trained) through incoming 6th graders. Register at stephen.org/vbs2023 or scan the QR code below.

⇒ **Do you want to volunteer for Vacation Bible School?** Awesome! That means you love the Lord and children. We need:

⇒ **Adult Station Leaders:** 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. To sign up, visit stephen.org/vbs2023 or scan the QR code.

⇒ **Student Volunteers:** For students entering 7th Grade in the Fall. To sign up, visit stephen.org/vbs2023 or scan the QR code.



Scan to register or to sign up to volunteer

Youth Ministry News

⇒ **Lenten Bible Study for High Schoolers:** March 26th from 7-8 PM in the Parish Center. Please join us!

⇒ **Join us this summer for Totus Tuus:** Totus Tuus is a Catholic Summer Camp run by a collaborative effort between St. Wenceslaus and St. Stephen the Martyr leaders and young adult missionaries hired by the Archdiocese of Omaha (in compliance with Safe Environment Standards). The program is open to children entering 1st-6th grade. Scan the QR code to find out more and register! **More info coming soon on the 7-12th grade evening program.**

Registration is Now Open For

TOTUS TUUS
TOTALLY YOURS

July 10th - 14th
For children entering 1st-6th Grades
Location: St. Wenceslaus
Hosted in partnership by St. Stephen the Martyr & St. Wenceslaus



Scan to Register



SAVE THE DATE

Easter Egg Hunt

SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH
AFTER 10:30AM MASS



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Join us in the Dining Room after 10:30 AM Mass for donuts, coffee from "Sleepless from Seattle" and crafts. Egg hunt to start promptly at 12:15 PM and includes live bunnies to pet and hold! This event is co-sponsored by SSM RE & SSM Home & School Association.

We All Face Grief

**A Note from Deacon Denny Dethlefs,
Pastoral Associate and Chaplain,
Spiritual Care /Social Justice**

Grief is one of the most universal experiences we share as humans—and one of the most painful. Just as universal is the need for comfort and hope after losing a loved one. That's why we provide an ATERCARE process for the loved ones of those who have their funerals at our parish. Each family is provided with a set of four booklets titled "Journeying through Grief", a personal phone call and guidance to further grief support groups.

If you are experiencing a loss and the funeral was not at St. Stephen, please reach out to receive the set of booklets we provide titled "A Time to Grieve, Experiencing Grief, Finding Hope and Healing, Rebuilding and Remembering." These booklets offer ongoing comfort and hope while on the road of grief. Encounters with grief vary from person to person, but reaching out with care and concern can transcend those differences, bringing us together in the deeply human experience of caring for one another.

Please contact Deacon Denny at d.dethlefs@stephen.org for a set of booklets or further references for support.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What can I do to help our family practice our faith each day?

Answer:

Some families practice their religion together as just another event on their schedule: go to church, observe Lent, help at the parish picnic, go to a meeting, volunteer time, make your confession, use your envelope... But the focus needs to be on who we are—God's people, in relationship with him, loved, forgiven, and redeemed, and called to live and proclaim the Gospel. Our awareness of God's presence and our sense of mission are supported by the daily rituals, celebrations, and traditions that help us stay focused. Sharing our faith strengthens us and clarifies the beliefs and values of Christian living.

Daily family practices include time for prayer—before meals, before bed, before important meetings and activities. Attend Sunday Mass together and discuss the homily afterward. Create family celebrations for holy days and holidays. Make religion a regular part of your discussions. Include others, especially the elderly and the less fortunate, in your activities and charitable efforts. By applying the virtues of faith, hope, and love to each day, faith becomes part of who your family is. It influences how you act towards others, what you value, and how mindful of God you are. Faith is the leaven of life that helps all of us rise to our calling and dignity as God's people. ©LPi

Knights of Columbus 2023 Scholarship Application

This year the St. Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus are accepting applications for the 2023 Deacon Wesley Kreun Memorial Scholarship. This is not an academic scholarship, but instead the awards will be chosen based upon the applicant's service activities within the parish as well as any other charitable activities. There will be four, \$500, one-year scholarships awarded to individuals attending local Catholic High Schools, as well as four, \$1000, one-year scholarships awarded to individuals attending an accredited college or university. Applications can be picked up from the kiosk in the gathering space or in the parish office between now and April 30th. When you have completed your application, please submit it to the parish office. If you have any questions, please reach out to Hank Hardy at hhardy@janome-america.com. Thank you very much and God Bless!



MARCH Month of St. Joseph



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.



ST. STEPHEN/ST. WENCESLAUS PARISHES
PAROCHIAL ATHLETIC LEAGUE

PAL FOOTBALL REGISTRATION



**OPEN TO ALL
SCHOOL &
PARISH
YOUTH
5TH-8TH
GRADE BOYS**

FALL 2023
SEASON

Scan the QR code to register or for more information visit:
stephen.org/sports-club-football



**Questions?
Contact:
Coach Jeff Dahms**
402-699-3665 or
dahmssports@outlook.com

We're going



Show your support!

- Volunteer - we need help with decoration set-up, silent auction assembly, and registration.
- Buy a Raffle Ticket - this is a great way to donate, plus you can win some big bucks!
- Place bids & sign up for parties - our silent auction opens Monday, March 20th (need not attend to bid)!
- Give to *Raise the Paddle* - help to raise \$50,000 to install handicap-accessible doors around campus.

Scan the QR code or
visit stephen.org/dinner



Thank you to our
Gold Sponsors:
The H+H Group &
Village Pointe Pediatrics



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand,
anointed David in the presence of his brothers;
and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD
rushed upon David. (1 Sm 16:13)

Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
(Ps 23)

Second Reading:

"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you light." (Eph 5:14)

Gospel:

He spat on the ground
and made clay with the saliva,
and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him,
"Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means
Sent — .
So he went and washed, and came back able to
see. (Jn 9:6-7)

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
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The blind man showed great bravery by speaking of Christ's miracle in the face of the Pharisees' disdain. But then, how could he ignore the truth, once he had seen it? It would be a form of blindness worse than the absence of physical sight. To deny Christ would be a blindness he chose for himself.

Observances for the week of March 19, 2023

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
Saturday: The Annunciation of the Lord
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent

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!

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 18

8:15 am † Joe Tiesi (ZT)
5:00 pm † David O'Leary and Tim O'Leary (DB)

Sunday, March 19

7:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
9:00 am † Jerry Goldsberry (DB)
10:30 am † Ed Trout (ZT)
6:00 pm † Josephine Caliendo (DH)

Monday, March 20

6:30 am SI Heese Family (ZT)
8:15 am † Ali Tupper (ZT)

Tuesday, March 21

6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT)
8:15 am † James Brazda (DB)

Wednesday, March 22

6:30 am † Lyle Samuelson (ZT)
8:15 am † Tina Szalewski (DB)

Thursday, March 23

6:30 am SI Leonard Hassenstab (DB)
8:15 am † Bob Mathine (DB)

Friday, March 24

6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT)
8:15 am † Matthew Parsons (DB)

Saturday, March 25

8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT)
5:00 pm † Diane Ames (DB)

Sunday, March 26

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (ZT)
9:00 am † Tom Burkhard (ZT)
10:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
6:00 pm † Joanne Roiger (DH)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

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

Please note: Priest schedule subject to changes.

**If you'd like to reserve a Mass Intention, please
contact Melissa in the parish office at
m.kane@stephen.org or 402-896-9675.*



Pray For...

Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Anna Ropp
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
Jon Evans

Deceased souls of our parish family:

Carol Hoban, mother of Scott Ferrero

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.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

SPRING 2023 | FEB 22 - APR 2

JOIN ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY ON MARCH 30TH FOR 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The world's largest grassroots movement to end abortion is underway now through April 2nd. Can you join us for peaceful

prayer at Planned Parenthood, 3105 N. 93rd? Please join our Respect Life Ministry as we cover Thursday, March 30th from 8 AM to 5 PM. Sign up at stephen.org/respect-life. Please pray for this life saving mission!

News from the Community

MARRIAGE ANNULMENT SEMINAR

A marriage annulment seminar will be held on Thursday, March 30th at 6 PM in the auditorium of the Archdiocese of Omaha's Office (2222 N. 111th St. in Omaha). The marriage nullity case process will be explained and how to start it. You can attend in person or via Zoom. Registration is required. Please register at archomaha.org/annulments. Or if unable to register online, please call Tribunal Judge, Elizabeth Sondag, at 402-827-3737 to register.

GLOBAL OUTREACH SEEKING HOST FAMILIES

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. Thank you!!

CATHOLICS at the CAPITOL

SPEAK UP OR BE SPOKEN FOR!

12 APRIL
2023

8:00AM-
2:00PM

ST. MARY'S
LINCOLN

Our elected officials need to hear our voices!

You're needed for a day of advocacy at the Capitol at **Catholics at the Capitol**. Hear from Governor Pillen, NCC staff, and State Senators about advancing the cause for life, family, religious liberty, and more. Plus, meet your state senator, and learn how to advocate year-round.

Tickets are \$15 each, including lunch and refreshments.



NEBRASKA
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

Learn more & sign up at
NECATHOLIC.ORG



Pro-Life Living Rosary

Solemnity of the Annunciation

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Our Lady of Lourdes Church 2110 S 32 Ave, Omaha

8:00 am
Holy Mass

8:30 am
Pro-Life Living Rosary

9:30 am
Coffee and donuts reception

Please join us and represent
your parish as we pray for
life!

sponsored by



402-399-0299 engage@nebraskansembracinglife.org

Luke 1:28-42

And the angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. Who having heard, was troubled at his saying, and thought with herself what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said to her: Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the most High; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David his father; and he shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever. And of his kingdom there shall be no end. And Mary said to the angel: How shall this be done, because I know not man? And the angel answering, said to her: The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the most High shall overshadow thee. And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And behold thy cousin Elizabeth, she also hath conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month with her that is called barren: Because no word shall be impossible with God. And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. And Mary rising up in those days, went into the hill country with haste into a city of Juda. And she entered into the house of Zachary, and saluted Elizabeth. And it came to pass, that when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the infant leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. And she cried out with a loud voice, and said: Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS

St. Peter Catholic Church, 709 S. 28th Street in Omaha

Monday, March 20, 2023

6:30 PM - Welcome & Greetings in the Narthex

Meet our Serrans whose mission is to promote and support vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life in the Catholic Church.

7:00 PM - Holy Hour in the Sanctuary

As the Archdiocese of Omaha faces a shortage of priests amid a challenging time for our Catholic Church and our culture at large, now more than ever, we need to support our Priests and Seminarians with fervent and ongoing prayer. Please show your support and invite your family, friends, and guests to join us. All are welcome!

President: Rev. Frank Baumert, Chaplain of Serra Club
and Sr. Associate Pastor of St. Thomas More and St. Joan of Arc

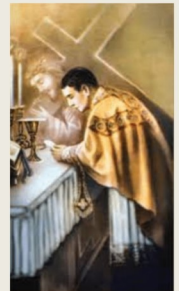
HOSTED BY THE SERRA CLUB
OF WEST OMAHA



Youth, parents, and all the faithful are invited.
Help build the church locally through vocations support.

Questions: Contact Bruce Jefferies, Serra VP
brucej@st171.org or 402-521-4922

Web: serrawestomaha.org Facebook: [serrawestomaha](https://www.facebook.com/serrawestomaha)



Every high priest is taken from among men
and made their representative before God,
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sin.

— Hebrews 5:1 —

THE SANCTUARY COURSE

FOR CATHOLICS

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF FAITH AND MENTAL HEALTH

WHEN

Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:00PM
May 10th - June 28th

WHERE

Cain Hall
(old church)

WHO

Adults
(ages 18+)

The Sanctuary Course is designed for use in small groups and explores the realities of mental health and illness, as well as the need for faith-based community conversations about the topics.

HOW TO SIGN UP

Contact Brian Corey
402-697-7514

coreyb@stwenceslaus.org
or
parishnurse@stwenceslaus.org



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m Wilde@4LPi.com
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