

St. Stephen the Martyr

Encounter, Know, Proclaim

March 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) 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:

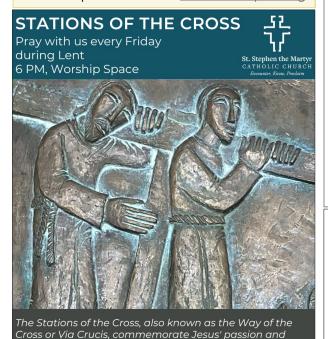
Phone: (402) 896-9675

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

Pastor: Fr. David Belt

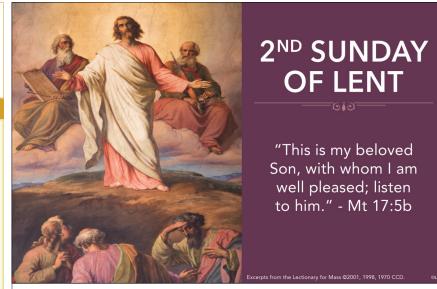
Associate Pastor: Fr. Zach Tucker Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Leslie at lschulte@stephen.org.



death on the cross. There are 14 stations that each depict

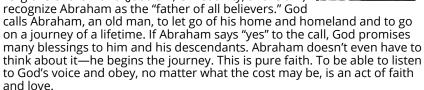
a moment on his journey to Calvary.



Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"The Lord said to Abram: 'Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you...' Abram did as the Lord directed him."

The story of Abraham's call is the beginning of humanity's story of salvation. All three primary religions of the world (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) recognize Abraham as the "father of all believers." God



Abraham's journey took place almost three thousand years ago, and we recognize that we are also on a pilgrimage of faith. God calls us to make the sacred journey home to heaven, and as He calls us on the pilgrimage, He promises many, many blessings if we are faithful. The problem is that we get so caught up in disagreements and arguments; we seek the comforts of this world instead of seeking first the kingdom of God; we can become greedy, selfish, and prideful, and we take our eyes off the destination of heaven. Perhaps Lent is a time for us to let go of all of the daily distractions that prevent us from "walking the walk" of faith. God promises that there are so many new discoveries, accomplishments, and rewards that are waiting for us as we step forth in faith. Let us respond in faith, as did Abraham, and continue to live the calling that God has sent to each of us—to make the sacred pilgrimage home to heaven, our eternal home.

"I do not think that all who choose wrong roads perish; but their rescue consists in being put back on the right road." -C.S. Lewis

God Bless you, Father Dave



Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Charlotte Marie Richardson daughter of Phillip and Ashley

Whitley John McKewon son of Bradley and Mallory

Penelope Pearl Arens daughter of Dillon and Morgan



We are so grateful to have a Worship Space overflowing with

our parishioners again! What a blessing it is to celebrate Mass together as a parish family. As a gentle reminder, please help us accommodate as many parishioners as possible in the Worship Space by freeing up space between you and the next family in your pew. Thank you for helping us ensure all feel welcome and comfortable at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church!

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 2/21-2/27/2023:

Actual: \$53,055 Budget: \$55,240 FYTD Actual: \$1,661,259 FYTD Budget: \$1,759,775

Black & Indian Mission: \$2,892.30

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.



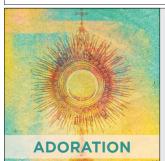
Offertory envelopes may also be mailed to our office: 16701 S Street, Omaha, NE 68135.

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you."

Genesis 12:1

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness and greed. Yet, God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful."

#stewardshipreflection



Adoration of the Eucharist

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space

School News

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

- ⇒ **Spring Break—March 6-10:** We wish our students, families, teachers and staff a safe and fun spring break! Classes resume on Monday, March 13th. Our school office will be closed during break.
- Stations of the Cross: Join us for Stations of the Cross at 2:30 PM in the Worship Space on March 17th (Grades 5-8) and March 24th (K-4th).
- ⇒ Lenten Activities for Families: Our Home & School Association has put together a list of Family Lenten Activities. View the list at school.stephen.org/family-lent-activities and help your whole family grow closer to Christ this Lent through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- ⇒ 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

- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **Retreat for 8th Graders:** On March 5th from 1-5:30 PM, join our Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Evan Collins, at St. Stephen for a "Day of Prayer" focusing on what we can learn from Jesus' Passion and how that affects our lives as ambassadors of Christ. Contact Evan at e.collins@stephen.org for more information or to volunteer.

Youth Ministry News

⇒ Lenten Bible Study for parish high schoolers: March 5, 12, & 26: Join us Sunday evenings after 6 PM Mass in the Parish Center to discuss and pray with the Gospel readings this Lent. We will be doing a Lenten Bible Study together! This is a great opportunity to meet Evan Collins, our new Director of Youth Ministry. This opportunity was created to come together in prayer to encounter the Father's love and to grow in community with each other. For more info, contact Evan at e.collins@stephen.org.



Now Accepting Applications

Now Hiring



Director of Religious Education

View details online at: stephen.org/careers

The Director of Religious Education (DRE) is a parish minister who has acquired specialized training in religious studies, theology, and related areas. He/ She provides leadership in the design and implementation of programs for adults, youth, and children to assist in building a solid foundation for adult spirituality, Christian living, and ministry. The DRE will empower parishioners to respond more fully to their baptismal

call to word, worship, and service, mainly through reflection upon life experiences in the light of Jesus' Gospel and message. Learn more at stephen.org/careers.

JOIN US FOR THE **ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!** 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR! St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School is united in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning.

Reasons to Love St. Stephen the Martyr!

- Academic Excellence
- Individualized & Holistic Approach
- United in Christ, Faith Formation
- · Care for Our Community
- Welcoming, Thriving Community
- Openings in Preschool 8th Grade

APPLY TODAY!





MICRO SOCCER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 6

Micro Soccer is for SSM Parishioners ages 3-6

Registration Deadline: Monday, March 6th

More information & register at stephen.org/sports-club or scan this 回路線 🗷 QR Code



Please note: CYSL (K-8) Soccer Registration is Closed.



About St. Stephen Micro Soccer:

ST. STEPHEN BY THE NUMBERS:

This program is designed as a fun introduction to soccer for younger players. If your player has experience or exhibits aggressiveness for the ball, we recommend advancing to our CYSL Level when appropriate.

Schedule:

Games will be played on April 2, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, &

Teams and schedules will be emailed out by March 20th.

Field Location:

All games will be played at Mission Park this Spring (6110 S. 168th St.)

WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Ouestion:

Lent always seems to help me renew my relationship with God and strengthen my religious practice. Do you have any suggestions as to what I could do to achieve that the rest of the year?

Answer:

The obvious answer may seem to be to do whatever you do during Lent all year round. But part of the power of Lent is that we focus as a community on renewing our faith and preparing for Easter. Our Lenten practices have a purpose and a goal. Therein lies the secret. When we focus our efforts on one virtue, or try to change one bad habit, or seek to deepen our understanding of one aspect of faith, we focus our efforts and give our full attention to what we are trying to accomplish. We tend to be more successful achieving our goals. More importantly, it has a ripple effect in our lives: one thing changes or is added to the spiritual mix of our lives and many aspects are changed.

All too often we leave our spiritual growth to chance and the practice of faith to habit, and then wonder why we have no sense of growth or progress. Think of it in terms of exercise. We walk, lift weights, bend and stretch to attain the maximum benefit from what we do. In addition, to keep those benefits, we eat healthful food and get enough vitamins and rest. Spirituality requires the same kind of attention: we pray, fast, read the Bible, receive sacraments, and do charitable work to maximize the benefits of practicing faith. Keeping Lent year round keeps us in spiritual shape!

©LPi

Track & Field Registration

LAST CALL!

- Open to SSM parishioners in 5-8th grade
- Multi-sport athletes welcome
- Registration Deadline: March 10th

Register & more info at: stephen.org/sports-club or scan this QR Code:



Season Dates: March 13th through May 8th

Practices: First practice is Mar. 13. Practices are on Mon./Wed./Thurs., 6 - 7:15 PM at the Millard West High School track.

Meets: First meet is March 25th. We have 5 regular season meets with a Super Meet of all PAL schools on May 6th.

Field Events Include: shot put, discus, long jump, high jump & triple jump

Running Events Include: 100 meters (m), 200 m, 400 m, 800 m, 1600 m, 110 m hurdles, 4x100 m relay, 4x200 m relay & 4 x400 m relay

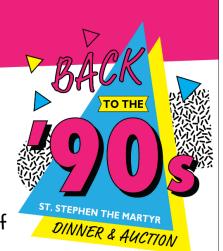


Back to the '90s Dinner & Auction

IS IN THREE WEEKS!

THREE WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE EVENT NOW:

- 1. Purchase your tickets only 100 remain.
- 2. Volunteer we need a few helpers with decoration set-up, silent auction assembly, and registration.
- 3. Buy a raffle ticket this is a great way to donate if you can't attend, plus you can win some big bucks!



Saturday, March 25, 6-11 PM St. Stephen the Martyr





Scan the QR code or go to stephen.org/dinner



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

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 Gatherina Space

Needed items include:

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



St. Stephen the Martyr kofc10160.org Come enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship every Friday during Lent.

Menu: Fried Fish (\$12), Baked Salmon (\$13), Shrimp (\$13), Combo (\$13), Mac & Cheese (\$8), Pizza (\$6)

Kids Meal (age 5-10): Fried Fish (\$7), Mac & Cheese (\$6) (4 & Under: Free!)

- Includes French fries, coleslaw & roll
- Desserts provided by the Council of Catholic Women (cash only)
- Beer from Nebraska Brewing Company and wine offered for a freewill donation.

You Are Invited!

Welcome.

An incredible experience that will help you discover what's missing in your life and what to do about it. Because you deserve to live with passion and purpose.

Men's Weekend:

Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12, 2023

Register and more information at stephen.org/welcome-weekend





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

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (Gn 12:2)

Psalm:

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (Ps 33)

Second Reading:

Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.

He saved us and called us to a holy life. (2 Tm 1:8-9)

Gospel:

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun. (Mt 17:1-2)

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

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We have been tasked with the awesome responsibility of bearing witness to Jesus transfigured. We have seen what is real. We have heard what is true. Do we have the courage to rise, and not be afraid?

Observances for the week of March 5, 2023

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Tuesday: Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

Wednesday: St. John of God, Religious Thursday: St. Frances of Rome, Religious

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent, Daylight Saving

Time begins

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 4 8:15 am † Terry Podraza (DB) 5:00 pm † Erin Doll (ZT)

Sunday, March 5

7:30 am † Nora Nellis (ZT) 9:00 am † Donald Schwarte (ZT) 10:30 am † Bob Menard (DB)

6:00 pm SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)

Monday, March 6

6:30 am † Jim Willette (ZT) 8:15 am SI Heese Family (ZT)

Tuesday, March 7

6:30 am SI Terry & Marie Zrust (ZT) 8:15 am † Thomas Kisicki (DB)

Wednesday, March 8

6:30 am † David Lange (ZT) 8:15 am † Rita Lusk (DB)

Thursday, March 9

6:30 am † Steve Williams (DB) 8:15 am † Bob Mathine (DB)

Friday, March 10

6:30 am † Terry Podraza (ZT) 8:15 am † Anthony Giebler (DB)

Saturday, March 11

8:15 am † Margaret Kehun (ZT) 5:00 pm † Matthew J Stoll (DB)

Sunday, March 12

7:30 am † Linda DeHart (DB)
9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Anna Bourek (ZT)

6:00 pm SI Heese Family (ZT)

SI = Special Intention t = Repose of the Soul

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

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 sicklinjured! 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 **Jon Evans**

Deceased souls of our parish family:

Michael Wais, son of Thomas & Rosemary, brother of Donna Garrett

Arthur (Dave) Houston, father & father-in-law of Lauri & Gary Hering

Patricia Whipple, wife of Bill





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