

May 14, 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/ <u>StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha</u>) 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 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

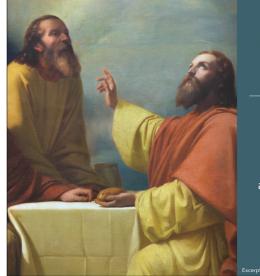
Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM Submit requests to Leslie at <a href="https://www.submit.com">l.schulte@stephen.org</a>.

# Happy Mother's Day!



Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have chosen to entrust the human person to mothers in a special way. We thank and praise you for the gift of mothers; for their tenderness, care, and compassion, for their intuition and encouragement, for commitment and sacrifice. Bless all mothers this day. Keep, strengthen, and refresh them in your loving care. May they be blessed by our open-hearted love and gratitude. Amen.



# 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY **OF EASTER**

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth." - Jn 14:16-17a

# Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.



This passage from the First Letter of St. Peter is a beautiful and gentle message of encouragement to the early believers who were beginning to have doubts about their newfound faith in Jesus Christ and are beginning to be persecuted by their opponents. This brief passage is part of a longer letter, which teaches the early Christian community about how their life should be lived at all levels. We all long for the mature kind of faith that feeds us and sustains us in times of trial and adversity, and today St. Peter is speaking to strengthen our hope.

Peter affirms that Jesus, by His own self-sacrifice, is their source of life and hope and is their model of behavior. Peter urges these new believers to live moral and upright lives that will mirror the life of Christ. When these believers act with a clear conscience, then anything and everything their accusers say will be in vain. Joy, gentleness, and peace will be enough to witness to their faith.

We know that today there are people in the world who are ready to catch us doing something that will upset them or offend them. We are going to be hurt, criticized, and laughed at by others, but we must always act in a way that makes the love of Jesus Christ present in the world. If we get angry or lash out against a person or a group of people when they are persecuting us or making fun of us, then evil has won.

"Become an expert in the art of discovering the good in every person. No one is entirely bad. Become an expert in the art of finding the truthful core in the views of every kind. The human mind abhors total error."

- Dom Helder Camara

God Bless you, Father Dave

**Congratulations Newly Baptized!** Raelvnn Lucv Krull daughter of Shayne and Abigail

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org

# 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 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 5/2-5/8 2023:

Actual:	\$38,210
Budget:	\$49,894
FYTD Actual:	\$2,131,594
FYTD Budget:	\$2,266,605

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.



# Second Collection for Catholic Communication Campaign May 20 & 21

The Catholic Communication Campaign helps the Church spread the Gospel message in the U.S. and in developing countries using modern media tools to inform, inspire, and

enlighten. Give in person at Mass next weekend during the second collection or give online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



# "For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God's will, than for doing evil."

### 1 Peter 3:17

The old line says "if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we don't get the result we anticipated or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times we may respond negatively and ask, "Why me? I did everything right!" Here's the thing – adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own selfreliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you.

#stewardshipreflection

# School News

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

- ⇒ Order Your 23-24 School Supply Packs: Home & School is again organizing the sale of school supply packs through Educational Products, Inc. (EPI). School Supply Packs ordered through EPI are delivered directly to the school and placed in your child's classroom before Back to School Night. To order, visit <u>educationalproducts.com/</u> <u>ShopPacks</u> and enter school code STS021. Be sure to order for your child's 2023/2024 grade level. The order deadline is May 23, 2023.
- ⇒ Open Home & School Positions: We are preparing for another year of supporting our school! We have several open positions for Martyr Marathon and other committees. To view the positions and sign up, visit school.stephen.org/volunteer.
- ⇒ **Kindergarten Experience Days July 25 & 26 from 9-11 AM:** Our Kindergarten Experience Days replace the traditional "Kindergarten Round-Up" events and give our incoming Kindergarten class the opportunity to meet the Kinder teachers, their future classmates and get a taste of what Kindergarten will be like when they begin in August! Enrolled families will receive more information via email.
- ⇒ Home & School Night At the Ball Park: Join us May 31st at Werner Park to cheer on the Storm Chasers! We encourage families to purchase tickets on the Berm so we can all sit together & kids can see their friends. Tickets are \$10 each and the game starts at 7:05 PM. Reserve your tickets at: <u>milb.com/omaha</u>.
- ⇒ Enrollment for 2023/2024 School Year: We still have space in most classes for the 23-24 school year, including our incoming Kindergarten class! Request a tour or apply at <u>school.stephen.org/admissions</u>.

# **Religious Education News**

- ⇒ Religious Education 2023-2024 Registration: Don't wait to register for next year! Please register early to help us in our planning for next year. Visit our website at <u>stephen.org/re-registration</u> to register or call our office if you have any questions at 402-896-5683.
- ⇒ Vacation Bible School: We are getting there but we are still in need of four Astronauts to run our necessary command modules and equip our youth at St. Stephens with an out of this world experience at VBS! Our goal is to shine Jesus' light and love to over 200 children! Can you help us? Scan the QR code.



⇒ VBS Donations Signup: We are in need of items to make our Vacation Bible School the best experience possible for our children. Please watch for a sign-up coming soon!

# Youth Ministry News

⇒ Totus Tuus Summer Camp: Open to grades 1-12 on Jul 9-14. Hosted in partnership with St. Wenceslaus. Visit Stephen.org/totus-tuus for more information.



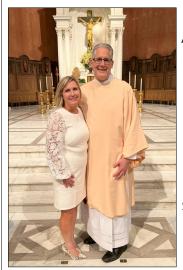


Join us at 6 PM on Thursday, June 29th in the Parish Center. Slip on those golf pants, skirts and shorts, dazzle us with your socks and shirts - you might even need a visor and some bling! Pizza and salad will be served and you ship know we'll have some games and fun! Cost is \$15 and reservations are needed by June 18th.

### Watch for more information about our upcoming plans to see "Spamalot" at Ralston Theater in July!

**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>.

# Congratulations Scott Tylski! Ordained Permanent Deacon on May 6th



Scott Tylski was ordained a Permanent Deacon on Saturday, May 6th. He was one of nine men in the Archdiocese of Omaha ordained during a special Mass which took place at the Cathedral of Saint Cecilia. Scott and his wife, Julie, have been parishioners of St. Stephen the Martyr for over 20 years and currently serve as the coordinators of our RCIA and Marriage Formation programs. Scott also serves as an Annulment Advocate for the parish. Please join us in congratulating Scott and keep him in your prayers as he begins this new journey as an ordained deacon in service to Christ and His Church.

#### A Note of Thanks from Deacon Scott:

Julie and I would like to thank our parish family of St. Stephen the Martyr for all of your prayers, support, and generosity over these last few years, months, and days. I am excited to be serving all of you in this diaconal ministry! Thank you and God Bless! - Deacon Scott



# **MISSION**

Jesus is getting ready for you. Make sure you are getting ready for Jesus. Ask God to help you grow closer to him every day.

### WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

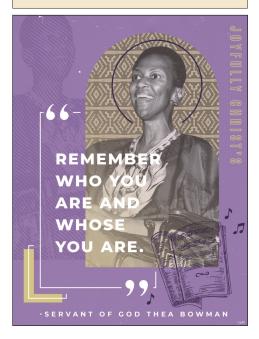
**Question:** The Bible says that Jesus condemned gambling, but I notice that so many parishes have them at festivals and other events. What's correct?

**Answer**: Although Jesus speaks of our relationship with material wealth and the very human struggle with greed, the gospels do not include any specific instructions related to gambling. At the same time, the Church is very sensitive to the needs of those who might struggle with an addiction to gambling, and pastoral care should always be offered to those who struggle with this reality in their life.

While it is true that many parish or school communities include gambling or games of chance in festivals and fundraisers (e.g. bingo, roulette, ring tossing, dunking booths, etc.), there is nothing inherently wrong these sorts of events, given they are played fairly and within the limits of reason are not morally objectionable.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: "Games of chance (card games, etc.) or wagers are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others" (no. 2413).

As in all things, moderation and a sense of healthy limits should be applied to gambling and games of chance. For those who find themselves living with addiction to gambling, help is available in various 12-step and addiction recovery programs. ©LPi



# Weekly Prayer

# Sunday's Readings

### **First Reading:**

Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:17)

### Psalm:

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (Ps 66) Or Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh,

he was brought to life in the Spirit. (1 Pt 3:18)

### **Gospel:**

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,

the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him." (Jn 14:15-17)

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

If we love Christ, we will keep his

commandments, and the world will not accept us. But we are not left orphans — God sends us an Advocate. Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!

# Observances for the week of May 14, 2023

Sunday:	6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day
Monday:	St. Isidore
Thursday:	The Ascension of the Lord; St. John I, Pope and Martyr
Saturday:	St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest; Armed Forces Day
Next Sunday:	The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day

### Join our Parish Family!

Welcome visitors and newcomers! If you would like to register as a parishioner, please visit <u>stephen.org</u>. 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, May 13 8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT) 5:00 pm † James & JoAnn Stachura (ZT)
Sunday, May 14 7:30 am † Bob Menard (ZT) 9:00 am † Virgine Irlbeck (ZT) 10:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB) 6:00 pm † Shirley Cooley (DB)
Monday, May 15 6:30 am Sl Heese Family (ZT) 8:15 am † Mercy Jeanne Ayikoele Atayi & Dedevidjin Charlote Gbikpi (ZT)
<b>Tuesday, May 16</b> 6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT) 8:15 am † Thomas Kisicki (DB)
Wednesday, May 17 6:30 am † Jim Willette (ZT) 8:15 am † Shaun Welch (DB) 5:30 pm † Greg Elwer (ZT)
Thursday, May 18—Ascension Thursday6:30 am † Joe Tiesi (ZT)8:15 am † Bob Mathine (DB)12:05 pm SI5:30 pm † Tina Szalewski (DB)
Friday, May 19 6:30 am † David Lange (ZT) 8:15 am † Ali and Joe Tupper (DB)
Saturday, May 20 8:15 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (DB) 5:00 pm † Donald Wingert (ZT)
Sunday, May 21 7:30 am † Linda DeHart (ZT) 9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB) 10:30 am † Lewis Storm (DB) 6:00 pm † Josephine Caliendo (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 <u>m.kane@stephen.org</u> or 402-896-9675.

Pray For ...

### Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Chuck Skomol, husband of Jane Mary Azara, mother of Sally Bishop Barb Armstrong, wife of Mike Nancy Major Jaeck Ryan Huebner, son of Marty and Cheryl

# Deceased souls of our parish family:

Zachary Fochek, nephew/cousin of the Ruh family Anna Ropp Joan Maier, mother of Mike John Kratina, husband of Kathy

### News from the Community

COLLEGE STUDENTS: FIND YOUR NEW CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT JPII NEWMAN

Are you a student who will be attending college in Omaha for the 2023-24 school year? If you're looking for a vibrant community to be a part of, consider applying to live in Newman Hall! We still have some rooms open for residents, both male and female! Living here at JPII Newman, you get: built-in community, beautiful apartment-style housing, and the opportunity to grow in faith alongside your peers! For more information, go to: www.jpiiomaha.org/housing.

### TOASTMASTERS 35TH ANNIVERSARY ROMAN FORUM

We would like to invite you to our 35th Anniversary Roman Forum Toastmaster on Wednesday, May 17 from 11:30 AM—12:30 PM in the Parish Center. For more information, please contact Tom Johnson at 402.598.4867.

### 'PAY-AS-YOU-GO' SUMMER GOLF LEAGUE

A 'pay-as-you-go' golf league at Tiburon begins May 12 and runs every Friday thru Aug 25. The shotgun tee times begin after 5:30. Cost is \$21 which includes 9-holes and a cart. Contact Kevin White at 402 650-3969 via text if are interested or call if you have questions.

### MUSIC IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SEEKING INSTRUMENT DONATIONS

Music in Catholic Schools is the 5th through 8th grade band program in the Omaha Archdiocese. We have a band instrument inventory that we use to provide instruments to those students whose families could not afford to rent or buy an instrument of their own. This is such a worthwhile program for all students! Do you have an instrument sitting around that you might be willing to donate to MCS? We are especially in need of Flutes, Clarinets, and Alto Saxophones, but we would also accept Oboes, Trumpets, French Horns, Trombones, Baritones/Euphoniums, Tubas, and Percussion Kits. Please contact Annette Wallace at <u>amwallace@archomaha.org</u> or call 402-827-3724.

### SEEKING GLOBAL CATHOLIC EXCHANGE HOST FAMILIES

Global Outreach is a Catholic exchange program matching excellent students from Eastern Europe with Catholic American families. Host families are still needed for Skutt and Roncalli for the upcoming school year. Please contact Monsignor James Gilg at 402-618-0607, Dee Drozd at 402-440-0817, or Allison Drozd at 402-580-1369.

#### STAND WITH HER: SIDEWALK ADVOCACY TRAINING: MAY 20TH, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM

Omaha Sidewalk Advocates For Life is a life-affirming sidewalk advocacy and prayer ministry devoted to helping women who are pregnant - standing with them, meeting them where they are, and empowering them to embrace both their children and their dreams. On May 20th, at the Catholic Charities education room (9223 Bedford Ave, Omaha NE 68134), Sidewalk Advocates will host a training for peaceful, prayerful, lawabiding approach in reaching out to women and men on the sidewalks of abortion facilities. This training is also open to those wishing to engage in prayer support on the sidewalk, which is vital to our mission. For more info or to register, contact Michelle Witt, Program Director, at <u>aflomaha2022@gmail.com</u>. Cost: \$20/person (covers the training materials and lunch).

#### West Omaha Family of Catholic Parishes

Immaculate Conception 13943 Dowd Drive | Boys Town, Nebraska | (531) 355-1030

Mass Times Sun: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Daily: 11:40 a.m.

> Confession Tue and Thu: 11 - 11:30 a.m.

**St. Stephen the Martyr** 16701 S St. Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675

#### Mass Times Mon - Fri: 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.; Sat: 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sun: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**Confession** Tue: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Sat: 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

or by appointment

### St. Vincent de Paul

14330 Eagle <mark>Run Dr, Omaha, NE 68164 | (402) 4</mark>96-7988

Mass Times Mon - Fri: 6:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.; Sat: 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sun: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11a.m. and 5 p.m.

> Confession Sat: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.; Sun: 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. anytime by appointment

#### St. Wenceslaus

15353 Pacific St. Omaha, NE 68154 | (402) 330-0305

Mass Times

Mon - Thu: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Fri: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m. Sat: 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sun: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon and 5:30 p.m.

#### Confession

Mon - Thu: 5 PM until line ends Sat: 9 AM until line ends; 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM anytime by appointment

### Flaming Hoops Basketball Camp 2023 May 30-June 2

St. Stephen the Martyr Cym



Open to incoming 1st - 8th Grade Grades 1st-3rd (8:30 - 10:30 AM) Grades 4th-8th (10:45 AM - 12:45 PM)





### Women of Hope Who Find God in <u>ALL</u> Things

A Silent Ignatian Retreat for Women August 24-27, 2023 At Creighton University Retreat Center

This Ignatian retreat is designed especially for women using the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Get away from the hectic pace of life and take time to deepen your relationship with God by engaging your heart, mind, body and eternal soul. Hear God speak to your heart in the community of silence. There will be 11 preached conferences by Sharon Doran who combines her love of Sacred Scripture with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Expect God to work in powerful ways through the promises of His revealed Word combined with the rhythm that St. Ignatius developed to contemplate it. The exercises are Holy Spirit inspired and the word of God is living and active, so each retreat is a non-repeatable experience.

You are invited to contemplate the hope-filled mysteries and learn to experience God in ALL things and walk together on life's journey. There will be opportunities for Mass, confessions & spiritual direction.

Retreat costs based on single occupancy and includes meals — 5425 Check-in between 4:30-5:30m on Thursday & retreat concludes on Sunday at 2:30pm. Register using this QR code or at creighton.edu/curc



reighton University Retreat Center 16493 Contrail Ave | Griswold, IA 51535 | 712.778.2466 | curc@creighton.edu

**Seeking** "Apostles & prophets" TRUTH

<sup>a</sup>T 15-week Seeking Truth Study at St. Leo's Church, 1920 N. 102 Street Begins Thursday 9/14/23 Live Classes w/ Sharon Doran MA Registration Opens May 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 ~ Don't delay!

# SeekingTRUTH.net

More info on website, & bring a friend, all are welcome!



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

St. Stephen Martyr, Omaha, NE