



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

July 16, 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](http://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](http://stephen.org/staff)

**Bulletin Deadline:** Monday, 5 PM

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



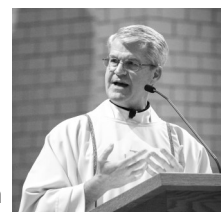
## 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The seed sown on rich  
soil is the one who hears  
the word and understands  
it, who indeed bears fruit  
and yields a hundred or  
sixty or thirtyfold."  
- Mt 13:23

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

**"Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns  
grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich  
soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or  
thirty fold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."**



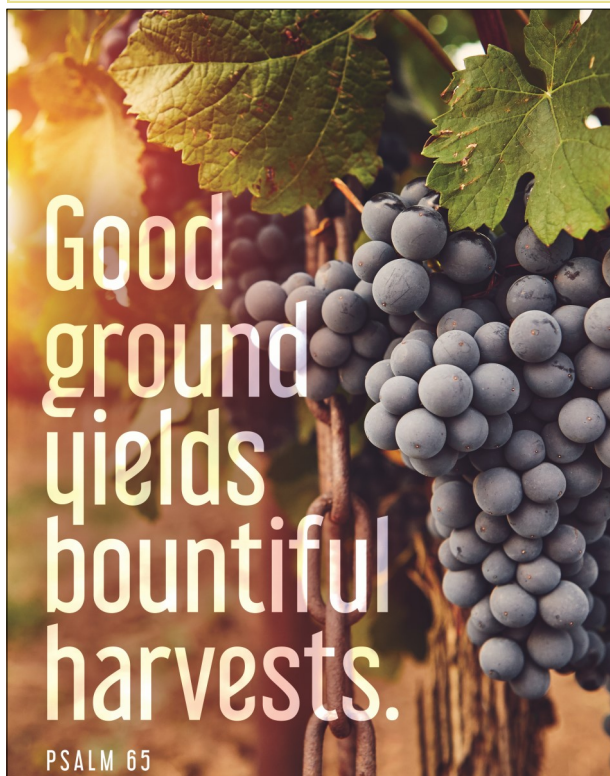
The parable that Jesus tells today registers a serious complaint, not only about the people of His time, but also about us today. God's word is sown abundantly in this world, but it usually falls on dead soil. It is trampled, it is drying up, and it does not grow. Even though God lavishly spreads His grace over us, He does not force us to accept the gift. As strange as it sounds, the only thing that can stop the activity of God is the decisions of humanity. We have the free will to accept or reject the beauty, the forgiveness, and the life that God has to offer to us.

How often in the course of a day do we fail to recognize God speaking His love to us? How often do we refuse to allow God's word to take root and grow in our lives? The truth is that God offers us everything that we need, but we have the power to refuse it all. Let us pray that we might be even more attentive to the presence of God and His desire to share His life with us. Instead of refusing His love, let us be more aware of how we can receive His love and His grace throughout our days.

*"Nature has some perfections, to show that she is the image of God; and some defects, to show that she is only His image." -Blaise Pascal*

This weekend we celebrate with Thomas Matya, who has been with us as a seminarian intern for the last year. We are very grateful to Thomas for the way that he got involved in the busy life of our parish. He was always ready to help, and we especially appreciate his presence in our Religious Ed program and our school. I know that you join me in offering prayers for Thomas, as he continues his discernment of God's will.

*God Bless you,  
Father Dave*



Good  
ground  
yields  
bountiful  
harvests.

PSALM 65



## Congratulations Newly Baptized!

**Luciana Itzel Machuca**  
**Zacarias Julian Machuca**  
children of Francisco & Maricela

**Madison James Secor**  
daughter of Spencer & Allison

**Beau Daniel Recker**  
**Lillian Christina Recker**  
**Connor Thomas Recker**  
children of Nathan & Kimberly

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | [stephen.org](http://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 7/4-7/10/2023:

Actual:	\$35,268
Budget:	\$44,314
FYTD Actual:	\$53,743
FYTD Budget:	\$63,307

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.



## Annual Contribution Reports



Last week, our Finance Office emailed semi-annual (January 1 - June 30) Contribution Reports to parishioners. If you did not receive yours, please check your spam folder. Please contact the Finance Office with any questions at (402) 861-4534. Thank you for your generous giving!

*"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." - Matthew 13:22*

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in earthly activities that you have no time for God? Gratitude and generosity are virtues that we should strive to do on a daily basis. Every decision we make either takes us one step closer to God or one step further away. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week as well.

*#StewardshipReflection*

## School News

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

### ⇒ We're Hiring Teacher Associates:

We need a couple more teacher associates for the 2023-2024 school year. We have both part-time and full-time positions available. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact assistant principal, Greg Verraneault, at (402) 896-0754 or email [g.verraneault@stephen.org](mailto:g.verraneault@stephen.org).

## WE'RE HIRING

Teacher Associates

To learn more or apply:  
Contact Greg Verraneault,  
Assistant Principal, at:  
[g.verraneault@stephen.org](mailto:g.verraneault@stephen.org) or  
call (402) 896-0754.

⇒ **Summer Office Hours:** This summer the school office will be open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM-Noon. Emails or voice messages received will be returned as quickly as possible.

⇒ **Summer Play Dates:** We know starting a new school year can be an exciting, yet apprehensive transition for our kids. The goal of our summer play dates is to give them a chance to meet future classmates before the big day! All incoming PreK, TK & Kindergarten students are invited. Our next play dates are July 26th at 11 AM—Noon and August 13th, 11:35 AM—12:35 PM. Please visit our website to RSVP: [school.stephen.org/summer-play-date](http://school.stephen.org/summer-play-date).

⇒ **We still have room for your student!** We still have space in most classes for the 23-24 school year, including our preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten classes! Request a tour or apply at [school.stephen.org/admissions](http://school.stephen.org/admissions).

## Religious Education News

### ⇒ Is God calling you to share your Catholic faith with others? St.

Stephen's Religious Education relies on adult and high school volunteers to share PREPARED LESSONS with K-8th grade students for one hour a week on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon/evening during the school

## Passing on the Faith!

Share your love of Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith with the next generation. Become a catechist!

year. We supply everything you need to present the lessons. All you need is a love for the Lord and a desire to share it. You will be amazed at how much your own understanding of the Catholic church, as well as your faith itself, grows as you share it with the children of your parish! Please contact Eileen at 402-896-5683 for details on how to become a catechist or co-catechist for the 23/24 school year.

⇒ **Religious Education 2023-2024 Registration:** If you have not registered your child/children yet, please do so! Registering them now helps us prepare for the correct number of students and catechists. Class times may be changed later if your schedule changes. Register online at [stephen.org/re-registration](http://stephen.org/re-registration) or call our office if you have any questions at 402-896-5683.

⇒ **Religious Education Department Summer Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday; 9 AM to 1 PM or by appointment; 402-896-5683.

## Youth Ministry News

⇒ **Summer Event for High Schoolers:** You are invited to "Witness Wednesdays" on July 19th at St. Stephen for praise & worship and adoration. Get more details at [stephen.org/youth-ministry](http://stephen.org/youth-ministry).

⇒ **Summer Events for Middle Schoolers:** Join us at "Better Together Tuesdays" on July 18th and August 8th at St. Stephen the Martyr. Find more information at [stephen.org/youth-ministry](http://stephen.org/youth-ministry).





## Annual Golf Outing September 10 at 2 PM Tiburon Golf Club

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a 9-hole scramble golf event at Tiburon Golf Club on Sunday, September 10th beginning at 2 PM.

- Sign up as a single, double, or foursome
- Registration fee is \$45: includes a cart, golf, and appetizers
- Raffle and Auction Items available at the event.
- Proceeds will help launch the Holy Family Ranch, whose mission is "to provide a Catholic camp in the Omaha Archdiocese where youth and families can experience beauty, deepen relationships, and grow in holiness".



**Register after Masses on  
Sundays from July 9-August 6.**

### PrimeTimers Upcoming Events

**CARDS & GAMES: Every 2nd & 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).



**Sports Club**

## CROSS COUNTRY REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

- Open to all registered St. Stephen parishioners in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th
- Welcome students of all capacities and those participating in other sports
- The registration deadline is Sunday, August 13th
- Fees are \$40 per student and includes new jersey

**MORE INFORMATION & REGISTER AT  
[STEPHEN.ORG/SPORTS-CLUB-CROSS-COUNTRY](http://STEPHEN.ORG/SPORTS-CLUB-CROSS-COUNTRY)**



## CALL FOR 2023-2024 CORPORATE SPONSORS

### Become a sponsor for St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School!

Interested in helping support our school while promoting your business? Become a 2023-24 St. Stephen the Martyr Corporate Sponsor! This year's fundraising efforts will help underwrite the cost of security updates including replacing classroom door handles/locks and upgrading our internal communications system for teachers and staff. Additional funds raised will support our teachers & staff and help aid in equipment needed for our school. The deadline for sponsorships is July 31st. Contact Lori Havens for more information, [lorihavens80@gmail.com](mailto:lorihavens80@gmail.com) or visit [school.stephen.org/corporate-sponsors](http://school.stephen.org/corporate-sponsors).

### 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 Run Dr, Omaha, NE 68164 | (402) 496-7988

#### 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., 11 a.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

# Safe Environment Certification

**Saturday, August 5th**  
**10 AM - Noon**  
**St. Stephen the Martyr - Dining Room**

Training is free of charge, but registration is required.  
Register online at: [omaha.cmgconnect.org](http://omaha.cmgconnect.org)  
Questions? Contact Melissa Kane at [m.kane@stephen.org](mailto:m.kane@stephen.org) or at (402) 896-9675.

## Better Together Tuesdays

You | Us | Him  
we're better together

6th - 8th Graders  
July 18th & August 8th  
from 5:30 - 7 PM  
St. Stephen the Martyr Field  
Games | Dinner | Time Together

Learn  
More



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

## WITNESS WEDNESDAYS *for high schoolers*

YOU ARE INVITED

**JULY 19 | 7-8 PM | ST. STEPHEN**  
*adoration, praise & worship*

[stephen.org/youth-ministry](http://stephen.org/youth-ministry)

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

## MIDDAY WITH MATTHEW

A summer bible study in July diving into the  
Sunday readings from the Gospel of Matthew.

JULY 8TH, 15TH, 22ND  
FROM 11AM TO NOON

For more details and to receive text notifications, scan  
the QR code or visit [stephen.org/young-adults](http://stephen.org/young-adults).



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

**Question:** Why do we use incense at Mass?

**Answer:** The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

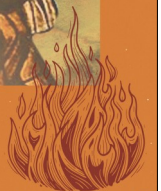
Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives. The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass). ©LPi

JOANNDAN MARTYR

“—  
**YOU CAN  
BURN OUR  
BODIES,  
BUT YOU  
CANNOT  
HARM OUR  
SOULS.**

—ST. CHARLES LWANGA





# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The rain and snow come down  
and do not return there  
till they have watered the earth,  
making it fertile and fruitful. (Is 55:10)

### Psalm:

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a  
fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)

### Second Reading:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time  
are as nothing  
compared with the glory to be revealed for us.  
For creation awaits with eager expectation  
the revelation of the children of God. (Rom 8:18-19)

### Gospel:

And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:  
"A sower went out to sow. (Mt 13:3)

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 are all sowers in the field. Our time, our  
money, our attention: these finite resources  
are the seeds, and the choice is ours where we  
scatter them. Do we focus our efforts on soil that  
will bear fruit for the kingdom?

## Observances for the week of July 16, 2023

- Sunday:** 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Tuesday:** St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest  
**Thursday:** St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr  
**Friday:** St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and  
Doctor of the Church  
**Saturday:** St. Mary Magdalene  
**Next Sunday:** 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 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, July 15

8:15 am SI Michael Drake (DB)  
5:00 pm † Ben Mannino (ZT)

### Sunday, July 16

7:30 am † Donald Schaecher (ZT)  
9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)  
10:30 am † Tina Szalewski (DB)  
6:00 pm † Josephine Caliendo (DH)

### Monday, July 17

6:30 am SI Fr. Dave Belt (ZT)  
8:15 am † JoAnn Spurgin (ZT)

### Tuesday, July 18

6:30 am † Joe & Ali Tupper (DB)  
8:15 am † Thomas Kisicki (ZT)

### Wednesday, July 19

6:30 am † Juris Judalena (DB)  
8:15 am † Dave Ryan (DB)

### Thursday, July 20

6:30 am † Mary Ann Drelicharz (DB)  
8:15 am † Roger Vanderbeek (DB)

### Friday, July 21

6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (DB)  
8:15 am † Carmen Aya (DB)

### Saturday, July 22

8:15 am † Lyle Samuelson (DB)  
5:00 pm † Mark Mannino (AS)

### Sunday, July 23

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (DB)  
9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)  
10:30 am † Rose Moritz (DH)  
6:00 pm † Mary Elwer (DB)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

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

Please note: Priest schedule subject to change

*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:

**Nick Skar**, son of A.J. & Kim  
**Lindsay Austin**, sister of Heather and Joe DeMaria  
**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:

**Sheila Curran**, mother of Amanda

## 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

### REGISTER FOR EPS' BREAKFAST FOR LIFE

Essential Pregnancy Services and the EPS Auxiliary invite you to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Breakfast for Life on Saturday, August 12 at 9:30 AM in the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center at 14330 Eagle Run Dr. in Omaha. The event will feature local guest speaker Angelina Giles, APRN, Executive Officer of Sancta Familia Medical Apostolate. Angelina will share how EPS helped her navigate an unexpected pregnancy and inspired a personal desire to serve and support women with life-affirming medical care. Doors open for registration and continental breakfast at 9:00 AM. Registration is \$40. Reserve your seat(s) and learn more about this pro-woman, pro-life event at [friendsofeps.org](http://friendsofeps.org). Registration preferred by Friday, Aug. 4. For questions, contact Maria: 531-239-3138 or [mariad@essentialps.org](mailto:mariad@essentialps.org).

### CATHOLIC BUSINESS GROUP JULY NETWORKING EVENT

Join us Thursday, July 20th for 5:30 PM Mass and then 6-7:15 networking at the JPPI Newman Center-Omaha to learn about a local Catholic Business. Attend & share conversation, create business connections, learn from others about Catholic resources here in Omaha. There is always quality networking, conversation and growing in our Catholic faith. No reservations/cost for this event. Visit [cpbcomaha.org](http://cpbcomaha.org) for more info. Contact John at [yochumja@yahoo.com](mailto:yochumja@yahoo.com) with any questions.

### MIDTOWN CATHOLIC HIRING DIRECTOR



Midtown Catholic is looking to hire a Director who will help enhance spiritual growth, increase engagement and membership, foster unity between St Thomas More and St Joan of Arc Catholic Churches as well as oversee finances, technology, and maintenance of facilities. Scan the QR code or go to [www.midtowncatholic.church](http://www.midtowncatholic.church) for full details.

### ROMAN FORUM TOASTMASTERS CLUB MEETING—WEDNESDAY, JULY 19TH

Join us Wednesday, July 19th from 11:30 AM—12:30 PM in the St. Stephen the Martyr Gonderinger Parish Center for a summer meeting! Questions? Contact Tom Johnson at (402) 598-4867.

## NEBRASKANS Embracing Life

### 46th Annual Pro Life



July 16-22 at Our Lady of Lourdes Gymnasium in Omaha, 2110 S 32 Ave. DONATION DROP OFF Sun Noon-8 PM; Mon, Tues, Wed, 8 AM-8 PM; SALE Thu-Fri, 8 AM-6 PM, Sat Half price, 8 AM-2 PM. Please save your saleable items and help us to defend life, thank you! More details [www.NebraskansEmbracingLife.org](http://www.NebraskansEmbracingLife.org)

## Wills & Trusts

### What's the Difference and Why Do They Matter?

A Short and Simple Primer



Thursday, July 27  
St. John Paul II Newman Center  
1221 S. 71st Street

11:30 - 11:45 Check-in  
11:45 Free Lunch Served  
12:00 - 1:00 Presentation

RSVP: [susan.gnann@jpiiomaha.org](mailto:susan.gnann@jpiiomaha.org), (402) 557-5575

Hear from estate attorney Julia Palzer about the basics of estate planning. No matter your age, planning for your family and your legacy is essential.



KELLOGG & PALZER, P.C.



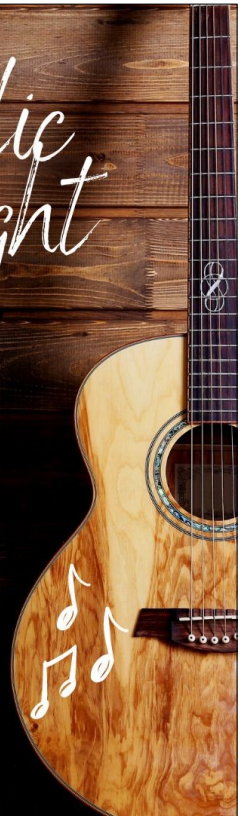
ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA | LUND  
ST. JOHN PAUL II  
NEWMAN CENTER

## Omaha Catholic Songwriter Night

A free concert full  
of original  
Catholic music by  
local artists.

Friday, July 28, 7 - 8 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
14330 Eagle Run Drive



## Thursday, July 20th Women's Night of Praise

7 p.m. | Adoration in the church with  
praise and worship music

8 p.m. | Food & fellowship in  
Kampschneider Hall

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
14330 Eagle Run Drive





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391-2171

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