



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

July 23, 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)

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 l.schulte@stephen.org.



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The righteous will
shine like the sun in
the kingdom of their
Father." - Mt 13:43a

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

Jesus replied, 'no, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest...'

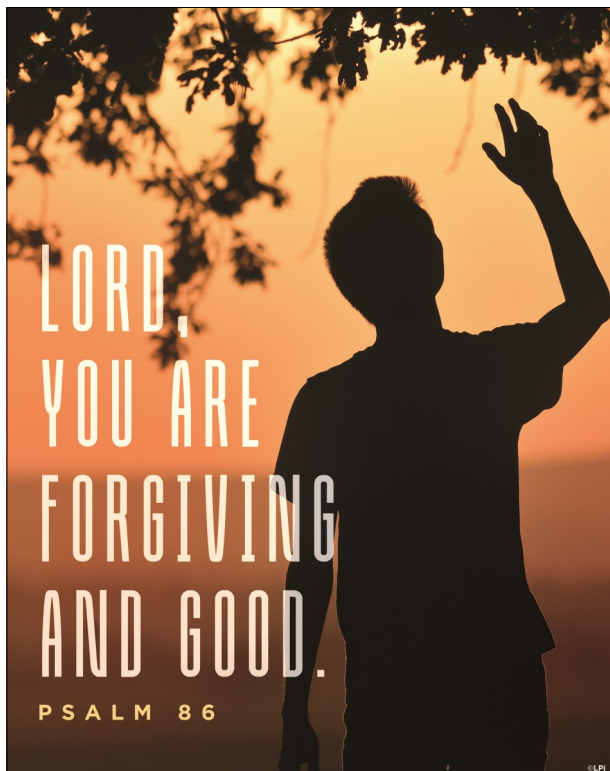
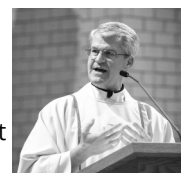
We continue this weekend with another parable rooted in agriculture. Jesus tells the story about a field of wheat that has weeds sown into it by an enemy of the landowner. The first impulse is to go out into the field and pull up the weeds so that the wheat may prosper. But the landowner tells his servants that the wheat would be uprooted along with the weeds. He directs them to let the weeds and the wheat grow together until harvest, when the wheat will be gathered into barns and the weeds are tied into bundles for burning.

The lesson that is learned from this parable is that God is patient with His people, especially when we aren't patient with one another. From the earliest days of the Church, people were scandalized by hypocrisy and the sinful behavior of many who called themselves "Christian." The desire to go out and "pull up the weeds" and get rid of members who caused problems was understandable. But the words of Jesus today teach again that judgment of people belongs to God alone, not to any of us. Only God has the power to judge, just as He alone has the power to forgive sins.

Many people around Jesus would have been very comfortable if He would have stayed away from the dinner tables of tax collectors and other sinners and only spent time with the Pharisees and other suitable people. The past generations of the Church should teach us that some of the most notorious sinners turn out to be the most beautiful saints, and likewise those who are "holy" in appearance may turn out to be holding the corruption of sin in their hearts. God, who is the only one who can see into our hearts, will sort this all out. Let us grow together, weeds and wheat alike, until the harvest at the end of time.

"Here and there and now and then, I find a new being WITHIN me...sometimes hidden sometimes manifest."—Frederick Buechner

God Bless you,
Father Dave



**Congratulations
Newly Baptized!**

Parker Ryan Tritz
Cooper Joseph Tritz
Children of Matthew & Lindsay
Sofia Brigid Lindhorst
Daughter of Braxton & Martha



Congratulations!

**Alec Brown and
Myah Keenportz**

*Our faith community wishes
you many blessings!*

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 Fr. Zach Tucker at (402) 896-9675 ext. 2

Homebound Eucharist

Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Parish office phone number: (402) 896-9675

Financial Stewardship

Offertory & Online Giving 7/11-7/17/2023:

Actual:	\$41,075
Budget:	\$43,314
FYTD Actual:	\$98,154
FYTD Budget:	\$107,621

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.



Annual Contribution Reports



Our Finance Office recently emailed semi-annual (Jan 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 kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom." - Matthew 13:24, 37-38

As children of God, we are all "good seeds". We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God's plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others and share our financial gifts to help build God's kingdom on earth. Through our example of gratitude and generosity we sow "good seeds" on earth and ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

#StewardshipReflection

School News

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

⇒ **Back to School Event—August 14th:** We are so excited to welcome our families back for another great school year! At our Back to School Event, you can plan to drop off your school supplies, meet your teachers, check out your classroom, and visit the various club & activities booths in the gym. You may come between 11 AM – 1 PM or 5-7 PM. More details will be posted on our website and emailed to families in early August!

⇒ **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.



⇒ **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.

⇒ **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, Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes! Request a tour or apply at school.stephen.org/admissions.

Religious Education News

⇒ Share your faith!

St. Stephen the Martyr is pleased to share the Catholic faith with the children of our parish during the school year through weekly, in-person, after-school classes as part of our Religious Education program. This is an incredible opportunity to allow your child to encounter the peace, wisdom and understanding of Jesus Christ and his Catholic Church! We rely on adult and

high school parishioners to volunteer as "Catechists," witnesses of the faith who teach and share the Catechism of the Catholic Church with children in our parish and prepare them to receive the Sacraments. We supply everything you need to present PREPARED LESSONS with K-8th grade students for one hour a week on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon/evening. Call the RE Office for details.

⇒ **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 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 Events for Middle Schoolers:** Join us at "Better Together Tuesdays" on August 8th at St. Stephen the Martyr. Find more information at stephen.org/youth-ministry.

⇒ **Summer Events for High Schoolers:** Join us August 16th from 7-8 PM in the Parish Center for witness and small group and August 30th from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space for prayer and praise.



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.

MICRO SOCCER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



- Micro Soccer is for SSM Parishioners, ages 3-6
- Games will start September 10th and play for 7 weeks, every Sunday
- Registration will close at Noon, Friday, August 18th



Sports Club

Register & more information at:
stephen.org/sports-club



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.

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
Questions? Contact Melissa Kane at
m.kane@stephen.org or at (402) 896-9675.

*Better Together
Tuesdays*

You | Us | Him
we're better together

6th - 8th Graders
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

AUGUST 16 | 7-8 PM | PARISH CENTER
witness & small groups

AUGUST 30 | 7-8 PM | WORSHIP SPACE
adoration, praise & worship

Welcome New Staff Members!

Please join us in welcoming both Colleen Eusterwiemann and Sam Jizba to the St. Stephen the Martyr team! Keep them in your prayers as they transition into their new roles. We are blessed to have them at St. Stephen the Martyr!

Colleen Eusterwiemann, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Colleen Eusterwiemann has been hired as our new Pastoral Care Coordinator and her first day at St. Stephen will be Monday, July 24th. Colleen is currently serving as a suicide prevention counselor, as well as a support person/counselor for newly-bereaved next-of-kin of suicide victims. She has also served in the Eastern Nebraska Office of Aging, and as a Clinical Specialist, Assistant Site Coordinator, and Assistant Family-Teacher at Boys Town. Colleen is excited about continuing her work of "providing support, resources, and hope" in our parish community. Colleen stated, "I believe that Saint Stephen the Martyr is a great environment to use my unique skill set and work ethic to assist the parishioners of the Church."

Sam Jizba, Confirmation Coordinator

In June, Sam Jizba was hired and joined our Religious Education team as our new Confirmation Coordinator. Sam spent many years in retail/customer service before working as Director of Youth Ministry at St. Elizabeth Ann and St. James parishes here in Omaha. Most recently, he worked at Gloria Deo and will he continue to work there in addition to his position here. In Sam's words, "Having spent over 10 years as a middle and high school youth minister, I have gained a great deal of experience working with and guiding youth through the discovery of their Catholic Faith. I am glad I am able to bring this experience to St. Stephen the Martyr and am excited to work with our Confirmation families this year."



CALL FOR 2023-2024 CORPORATE SPONSORS

Become a School Sponsor before July 31st!

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 at lorihavens80@gmail.com or visit 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

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



Eucharistic Adoration

Mondays from 7-8 PM
in the Worship Space

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

5TH GRADE
THROUGH
HIGH SCHOOL



Altar Servers Needed

Is your child trained to be an altar server? We are in need of servers to assist us at weekend Masses. Not trained, but interested in serving? All 5th-12th grade students are eligible and we will help get interested students trained! Scan the QR code to fill out a form and our Director of Liturgy will follow up with you about upcoming opportunities to serve. Thank you!



Question: Why do priests wear a Roman collar?

Answer: The practice of priests wearing the Roman collar developed in the mid-nineteenth century as an alternative to wearing the cassock which in some places was seen as impractical or which was even outlawed by anti-Catholic legislation. Since its introduction, it has taken different forms, and if you visit different countries today, you will see variation in what priests wear.

The Code of Canon Law simply observes that priests wear "suitable ecclesiastical garb" according to the judgments of the national bishops conferences and local custom (no. 284). The US Bishops have instructed that outside of liturgical functions, a "black suit and Roman collar are the usual formal attire for priests. The use of the cassock is at the discretion of the cleric." Priests who are members of religious communities are to follow the rules of their institute regarding the habit or other approved clothing.

In the end, whether a priest wears the Roman collar, a religious habit, or, as is the case in many European countries, a suit and tie (to distinguish them from Protestant clergy who wear a collar) the goal of their clerical clothing is to serve as a sign of their commitment to guide and to serve, and to also allow them to be truly public figures because they are ordained for the service of all. ©LPi

“OCCUPY
YOUR MINDS
WITH GOOD
THOUGHTS,
OR THE ENEMY
WILL FILL
THEM WITH
BAD ONES.”

- ST. THOMAS MORE

LAWYER, CHANCELLOR, MARTYR



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

And you taught your people, by these deeds,
that those who are just must be kind;
and you gave your children good ground for hope
that you would permit repentance for their sins.
(Wis 12:19)

Psalm:

Lord, you are good and forgiving. (Ps 86)

Second Reading:

The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible
groanings. (Rom 8:26)

Gospel:

"Let them grow together until harvest;
then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters,
'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for
burning;
but gather the wheat into my barn.'" (Mt 13:30)

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Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

When the disciples cannot understand something, they approach Jesus, and beseech him to explain. Let us be this forthcoming when we are discerning the will of God or struggling with a decision. Let us ask him to explain in words we can understand.

Observances for the week of July 23, 2023

Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest
Tuesday: St. James, Apostle
Wednesday: Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Next Sunday: 17th 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. 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, 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)

Monday, July 24

6:30 am Communion Service
8:15 am Communion Service

Tuesday, July 25

6:30 am † Jo Ann Spurgin (ZT)
8:15 am † Ed Mathine (DB)

Wednesday, July 26

6:30 am † Joe & Ali Tupper (ZT)
8:15 am † Mike Hupka (DB)

Thursday, July 27

6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (DB)
8:15 am † Bob Mathine (DB)

Friday, July 28

6:30 am † Dale Dunn (ZT)
8:15 am † Beatriz Gutierrez Puentes (DB)

Saturday, July 29

8:15 am † Michael Wais (DB)
5:00 pm † Donald Wingert (ZT)

Sunday, July 30

7:30 am † Ron Ingram (DB)
9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Dorothy Hakenholz (ZT)
6:00 pm † Josephine Caliendo (ZT)

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 or
402-896-9675.*



Pray For...

Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Ann Rush, wife of Jim, mother of Amy, Julie & Jason
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

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 or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

News from the Community

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN INDIANAPOLIS

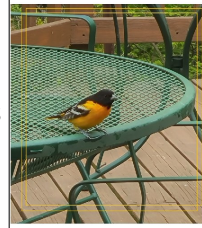
Fr. Owen Korte, a priest of the Archdiocese, is organizing a bus trip to attend the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 16-22nd, 2024. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience! It's part retreat, part rally, part party, part big church experience, part faith formation. We will arrive at the National Eucharistic Congress on the 17th in time for the 6 PM Opening Event and leave July 21st at 2 PM. The cost of six nights of lodging (including breakfast) and transportation is \$799 per person based on double occupancy. We will stay two nights on the road to make it in time for the Congress. The bus will pick up and drop off in Hartington and Omaha. Registration at the Congress is \$200 per person with the group discount. For more information on the particulars of the trip or to register, contact Fr. Owen Korte at 402-719-4134 or owkorte@archomaha.org. For more information on the congress itself and to receive weekly emails, visit eucharisticcongress.org.

SEEKING TRUTH BIBLE STUDY AT ST. LEOS THIS FALL

All are invited to the city-wide Seeking Truth Catholic Bible Study class with Deacon Steve and Sharon Doran. Join us for this special '15th Anniversary Year' as we study several books from the 'Apostles and Prophets.' This 15-week course begins on September 14th. Live classes meet on Thursdays at 1 P.M. and 7 P.M. at St. Leo's Church. Go to www.seekingtruth.net for more information and to register. Bring a friend too! It's Awesome!

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

Join us in healing prayer with the Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus with the St. Padre Pio Prayer Group. July 29 at 11 am in the Dowd Chapel on Boys Town Campus.



Women of Hope Who Find God in ALL 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 —\$425

Check-in between 4:30-5:30pm on

Thursday & retreat concludes on Sunday at 2:30pm. Register using this QR code or at creighton.edu/curc



CRAFT & FARMERS MARKET

New Cassel Retirement Center
Saturday, August 5th 2023
9:00am - 3:00pm
900 No. 90th Street

Wills & Trusts

What's the Difference and Why Do They Matter?

A Short and Simple Primer



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.

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, (402) 557-5575

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



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Susan & Michael Leahy - Parishioners

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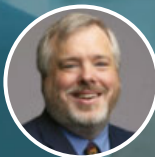
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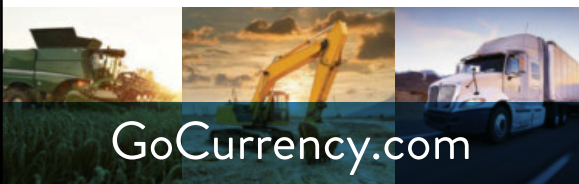
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