

August 27, 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 (<u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha</u>) and our website (<u>stephen.org/live-stream</u>)

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

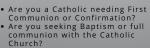
Associate Pastor: Fr. Zach Tucker Staff Contact Info: staff

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Leslie at <u>l.schulte@stephen.org</u>.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." - Rev 3:20

Jesus Christ invites each of us into a more perfect union with Him. All we must do is allow His grace to transform us.







The **Becoming Catholic!** program at St. Stephen the Martyr will help you deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ through a more intimate knowledge of His Church and Holy Scripture.

Tylski at tylskisj@cox.net, (402) 861-2209; or Adam Ybarra at a.ybarra@stephen.org, (402) 861-4507. Are you ready to open the door?

For more information, please contact Scott and Julie





21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Mt 16:19

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"Jesus asked His disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'Who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter said in reply, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"



Most people are interested in knowing what others are saying about them. Jesus was no exception. Rumors were circulating everywhere about His identity. With Jesus ready to pass on the responsibility of leadership to His disciples, He wanted to make sure that they knew who He was. Peter gives an answer that is really a profession of faith in Jesus as Messiah. His answer earns him the "keys" to the kingdom of heaven.

During the time of Jesus, keys were given to stewards and trusted servants of a household. These trusted few had the authority to let people in and out of places where very important people lived. These words of Jesus to Peter conferred great authority upon him and gave him the power and authority to lead our young Church after the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

I believe that anyone who holds the "keys" of the Church, that is, authority, leadership, and responsibility, must do so with great compassion, sensitivity, and concern for all—especially the least ones. The leaders of the Church must be learners and listeners, and do their best to respond to the needs of the people who are entrusted to them.

Authority in the Church means that those who lead our universal family of faith must embrace a life of service that reflects the great love, sacrifice, and humility of Jesus. Please continue to pray for all the individuals who hold positions of leadership and authority in our Church, especially for Pope Francis, Archbishop George Lucas, and for the priests that serve the Archdiocese of Omaha and Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish.

"For leadership there is only one road: service. There is no other way. If you have many qualities, the ability to communicate, etc., but you are not a servant, your leadership will fail, it is useless, it has not power to gather people together... Leadership must enter into service, but with a personal love for the people." –Pope Francis

God Bless you, Father Dave

Baptism o

Congratulations Newly Baptized! Emmett Wesley Gloyne, son of Aaron and Sarah Henson Ace Ford, son of Brian and Jessica

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: <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 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 8/15-8/21/2023:

Actual:	\$35,989
Budget:	\$47,414
FYTD Actual:	\$318,437
FYTD Budget:	\$338,491

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.





What does God have planned?

"Who has known the mind of the Lord?" Through prayer our minds become better aligned with the mind of Christ and His will for us. If the Spirit is prompting you to know Christ as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, contact Fr. Scott Schilmoeller, Vocations Director, at (402) 558-3100 or email: vocations@archomaha.org.

"Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?" - Romans 11:35

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give God anything - He already owns it all. God made everything, including us. Since we are made in His image, we too, are called to be generous. How we use our God-given gifts becomes our gift back to Him. Gratitude for all we have been given opens our hearts to joyful generosity! And, through our generosity, we just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.

#StewardshipReflection

School News

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



- ⇒ Substitute Teacher List: We need more substitutes for our amazing teachers at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School! All college graduates or anyone who has completed 60 credit hours & a human relations class/training are eligible. You do not need a teaching certificate. Interested or have questions? Contact Mr. Verraneault at g.verraneault@stephen.org or call (402) 896-0754.
- ⇒ Spirit Wear Fundraiser: Our 8th grade students, who will travel to Washington DC next spring, are hosting a spirt wear fundraiser! Stock up on some new gear to show your St. Stephen spirit! Spirit Wear can be worn on Martyr Mondays and other designated spirit days. The order deadline is September 1st. Get more info and order online at school.stephen.org/spirit-wear.
- ⇒ Teacher Wish List: Help our teachers have a great start to their school year by donating an item from their wish list! Your support of our teachers and school are greatly appreciated! View the lists here: school.stephen.org/teacher-wish-lists.

Religious Education News

- ⇒ **RE Parent & Students meet in Worship Space for all classes this week.** RE students do NOT report to their classrooms at the start of class this week. Instead, all students AND their parents should head directly to the church worship space at the beginning of all RE classes on August 29/30th! Father will offer a Welcome Blessing, and our DRE will be providing important parent information about the RE school year. After the welcome in the church, parents will accompany students to their classrooms to meet the catechists. Parents are then invited to the GPC for refreshments and fellowship while their children complete their class time. NOTE: This replaces the "Parent Meeting" which was held in years past during the first week of RE classes. Please make every effort to join your children!
- ⇒ Catechists needed! We still need adult and high school parishioners to volunteer as Catechists! While only a few classes still have no teachers, we also need co-catechists in many of our grades. If you are able to help, please reach out to the RE Office at (402) 896-5683.

Youth Ministry News

- ⇒ September Events for Middle Schoolers: Join us at "Better Together Tuesdays" on September 5th and 19th at St. Stephen the Martyr. Find more information at <u>stephen.org/youth-ministry</u>.
- ⇒ Summer Events for High Schoolers: Join us Wednesday, August 30th from 8-9 PM in the Worship Space for prayer and praise. Go to stephen.org/youth-ministry for future Witness Wednesday dates.





First Saturday Devotions

Join the Knights of Columbus on September 2nd for First Saturday Devotions to Mother Mary. We will pray the Rosary prior to the 8:15 AM Mass in the Worship Space.

Center (\$10 entry at the door with cash

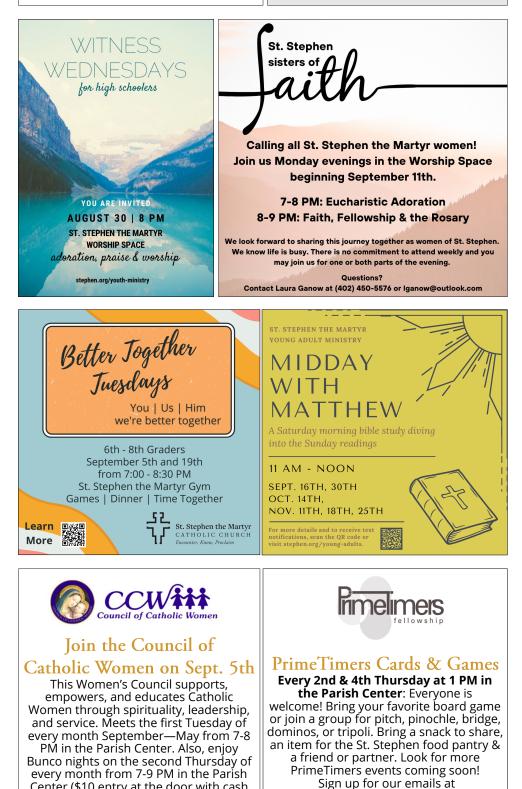
prizes).



Eucharistic Adoration First Friday Adoration

Friday, September 1st 9 AM-2:30 PM

Weekly Adoration Mondays, 7-8 PM in the Worship Space



@LP

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

Question: Why are Catholics required to give money to the Church?

Answer: Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22). One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called "tithing," in which 10 percent of a person's goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God.

Today, the practice of tithing — giving 10 percent — is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that, "The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities" (no. 2043). This means that, although we are not bound to practice "tithing" in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us.

Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees.

How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, "As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (4:10).

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stephen.org/primetimers.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

- "I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder: when he opens, no one shall shut,
 - when he shuts, no one shall open." (Is 22:22)

Psalm:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands. (Ps 138)

Second Reading:

For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:36)

Gospel:

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 16:18-19)

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

"Who do you say that I am?" Let our whole lives be the answer, given not in words, but in action. If the world looked at your life, your decisions, your words, and your deeds, would they conclude that you are a person who believes Christ is the son of the living God?

Observances for the week of August 27, 2023

- 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday:
- Monday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

The Passion of St. John the Baptist **Tuesday:**

Next Sunday: 22nd 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 <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, August 26				
		Michael Wais (DB)		
5:00 pm	†	Ricardo Salvador Romero (ZT)		
Sunday, August 27				
		Ron Ingram (ZT)		
		Tina Szalewski (ZT)		
10:30 am	SI	St. Stephen parishioners (DB)		

6:00 pm † Beth Devitt (DB)

Monday, August 28

- 6:30 am † Mary Ann Drelicharz (ZT) 8:15 am † Leonard Hassenstab (ZT)

Tuesday, August 29

6:30 am SI Dean & Jane Baumert & family (DB) 8:15 am † David McNerney (ZT)

Wednesday, August 30

- 6:30 am f Gene Mitchell (DB) 8:15 am SI James Gninefou and Esther Adaku
 - Gninefou (ZT)

Thursday, August 31

6:30 am † Francisco Roman (DB) 8:15 am † JoAnn Spurgin (DB)

Friday, September 1

6:30 am SI Jeff Souba (DB) 8:15 am † Julie Anciaux (ZT)

Saturday, September 2

8:15 am SI Knights of Columbus (ZT) 5:00 pm † Kyle Andersen (DB)

Sunday, September 3

7:30 am	†	Michael Wais (ZT)
9:00 am	SI	St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
10:30 am	†	Donald Schaecher (DB)
6:00 pm	†	Gerald Fansler (ZT)

SI = Special Intention t = Repose of the Soul

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

Please note: Priest schedule subject to change

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 Skoumal, husband of Jane Dan Liles, husband of Lori, father of Cash and Jerzy John Secora, husband of Barb, father of Andy, Jeff, Joel, Trevor, and Mike Gene Zywiec, Husband of Dee, father of Sherri Ryan Huebner, son of Cheryl & Marty Matt Kelly, son of Billie Watsabaugh Ann Rush, wife of Jim, mother of Amy, Julie & Jason Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim

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 <u>stephen.org/prayer-line</u> or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.



Adult Faith Formation Bible & Book Studies

Seeking Truth Bible Study—Tuesday Mornings: Join us Tuesday mornings to study the Gospel of John. We will meet from 9:15 to10:45 AM starting September 5th—March 2024 in the Parish Center. Class materials are free and will be handed out at the first class. We will watch presentations from Sharon Doran's Seeking Truth Bible Study and discuss group questions together. Please register by emailing Diane Burton <u>Burdi561@gmail.com</u>. Scripture Study on the Gospel of John—Wednesday Mornings or Thursday Evenings: Beginning October 4th & 5th through May 15th & 16th in the Parish Center, Deacon Marty Warwick will lead participants through a study of the Gospel of John on either Wednesdays from 9-11 AM or Thursdays 6:30-9 PM. Questions? Contact Dcn. Marty: <u>mwarwick3@cox.net</u>.

Women's Bible Study—2nd Saturday Mornings: Join other women of St. Stephen the Martyr parish once per month as we journey together through, "Psalms An Invitation to Prayer" & "Psalms II Praying With Jesus" both by Kevin Perrotta. The group meets in the Parish Center on the 2nd Saturday of the Month from 8 – 10 AM, beginning September 9th. All materials, including books, are provided. To register & reserve your book call Janice Dethlefs at 402-651-0153.

Lectio Divina – First Thursday of the Month: Beginning Sept. 7th, join us on the first Thursday of each month in the Parish Center from 9:15-10:30 AM to learn the practice of scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. Questions? Contact Nancy at wiederholtnancy@hotmail.com.

Friday Faith & Fellowship: This group follows the SSM school calendar and meets on Fridays in the Parish Center from 9:30-11 AM beginning on September 8th. This fall the group will do a 6-week study from formed.org called "Lectio: Philippians". All materials are provided. Join at any time! Questions? Contact Christie Hinton at czhinton@mac.com.

Questions? Contact Christie Hinton at <u>czhinton@mac.com</u>. **Beloved Women's Group:** Beloved is a faith & fellowship group for women of all ages. This year we will offer morning and evening sessions. Join us beginning September 13th and/or September 28th. More details at <u>stephen.org/adult-faith-formation</u>.

Friday Men's Group: Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Group meets Friday mornings from 6-7 AM beginning October 6th. Through shared experience and small group discussion, we build a brotherhood strengthening us in our mission as disciples.

"CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM THE LORD; THEY ARE A REWARD FROM HIM." PSALM 127:3

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

PRESENTATION

Wednesday, Sept. 20th | 7-8 PM St. Stephen the Martyr in the Gonderinger Parish Center Presented by: Sr. Jeanne Christiansen, RSM

What can you do to fight human trafficking in Omaha? Join us for a compelling presentation from Sr. Jeanne Christiansen of the Sisters of Mercy, who is involved in education, advocacy and fighting the evil industry

Hosted by St. Stephen the Martyr Respect Life Ministry

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:<mark>45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m</mark>.; 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







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

St. Stephen Martyr, Omaha, NE