



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

September 3, 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.



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

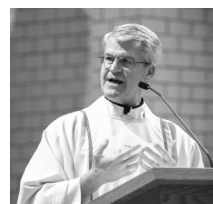
"Whoever wishes to come
after me must deny
himself, take up his cross,
and follow me. For whoever
wishes to save his life
will lose it, but whoever
loses his life for my
sake will find it."
- Mt 16:24b-25

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

OLP

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."



In his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren writes: "It's not about you. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness... you must begin with God. You were born by His purpose and for His purpose."

This is what Paul is saying in his letter to the Christians living in the city of Rome, that their lives must be about fulfilling the will of God—not their will. Paul is asking those early believers living in a hostile and hateful city to lay their lives on the line to show God's mercy and love. Paul is asking the Christians of Rome to be bold in living their faith in Jesus Christ, even though it may mean torture and death. To be a Christian was costly, and living a life based on the teachings and the person of Jesus Christ meant great risk and pain. For St. Paul, a mind and heart that has been changed by faith in Jesus Christ will lead to a different and transformed life. True Christians cannot hide the fact that Jesus Christ loves them.

How often do we try to live the reality that Jesus Christ loves us? If we do that, we run the risk of being ridiculed and rejected by people because the life of a faithful Christian looks different than a life that is built on the values of modern society and culture. Be willing to be transformed by the love of Jesus, so that you may know and understand God's will and do "what is good and pleasing and perfect."

"It's not about you..."

***Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you're scared."* - Eddie Rickenbacker**

*God Bless you,
Father Dave*



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Parish Offices Closed for Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day, there will be no
6:30 AM Mass on Monday, September 4th, and our
Parish Offices will be closed.
Please join us for 8:15 AM Mass.



Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Luke James Raphael Guthmann-Leany, son of Scott and Jacqueline
Reena Lynn Shrestha, daughter of Roman and Mekenzie
Ryder William Hoff, son of Keith and Ashley
Ember Joy Ohri, daughter of Kevin and Elisabeth

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 8/22-8/28/2023:

Actual:	\$39,282
Budget:	\$47,414
FYTD Actual:	\$358,804
FYTD Budget:	\$385,904

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.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

What does God want from you?

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?"

Are you being called to be a priest or deacon, brother or sister? Contact Fr. Scott Schilmoeller, Vocations Director, at (402) 558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?"

- Matthew 16:26

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else."

We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.

#StewardshipReflection

School News

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

⇒ **Martyr Marathon:** Martyr Marathon, our school's largest fundraiser of the year, is set for Friday, September 15th. Students earn money for the school by walking the marathon route. Students are encouraged to collect pledges from family, friends, neighbors or businesses to support their effort. Donors then pledge a flat donation in support of our school. Learn more at school.stephen.org/martyr-marathon.

⇒ **Curriculum Night:** Save the Date: Curriculum Night is set for Thursday, Sept. 14th. This event informs families of the curriculum covered in our classrooms. We will have tips on how you can support your student's learning at home. Students do not attend curriculum night - just parents/guardians. The event will be from 5:30 - 7:30 PM and you will be able to attend sessions with both classroom teachers and specialists.

⇒ **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.



⇒ **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

⇒ **Please Volunteer with RE!** We have a 6th grade class on Wednesday at 5:30 PM with no Catechist. Please volunteer! All teaching materials are provided. Unable to commit to teaching a weekly class, but willing to occasionally assist in the classroom? Please let us know! Many of our Catechists would greatly appreciate another adult or high-schooler in the classroom just to help manage the kiddos. If you are able to help, please reach out to the RE Office at (402) 896-5683. God bless you!

⇒ **NO Religious Ed classes next week, September 5th & 6th.**

Youth Ministry News

ST. WENCESLAUS & ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR
YOUTH MINISTRIES PRESENTS

Witness Wednesdays

OPEN TO ALL 9TH-12TH GRADERS
Encounter, Know & Share the love of Jesus

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
8-9:30 PM
STARTS SEPTEMBER 13TH @
ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS AT ST. WENCESLAUS | 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS AT ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

Join your friends for a time of fellowship and community through hearing testimonies, bible study, Adoration, and "real" topic discussions. Snacks and drinks provided.

Better Together Tuesdays

You | Us | Him
we're better together

6th - 8th Graders
September 5th & 19th
7 - 8:30 PM
St. Stephen the Martyr Gym

Learn More

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

Welcome.

CRHP 2.0

There is **More** to Life

Men's Weekend:

Saturday, October 7 and
Sunday, October 8, 2023

Women's Weekend:

Saturday, October 14 and
Sunday October 15, 2023

**Register
Today!**

Scan Here:



or Visit

stephen.org/welcome-weekend



**St. Stephen the Martyr
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Find Clarity and Purpose

We all wrestle with life's biggest questions: Who am I? What am I here for? What matters most? **Welcome.** puts a framework around those questions to help you find clarity and a deeper sense of purpose.



Form Meaningful Relationships

You know that comfortable feeling you get when you walk into a room full of friends? Imagine feeling that way at church. **Welcome.** is an opportunity to form meaningful relationships with people at St. Stephen's who will journey with you.



Get a Fresh Perspective

Life is demanding - and draining. **Welcome.** gives you a break from the everyday so you can recharge, experience life with newfound energy, and become a better-version-of-yourself.



PARISH CENSUS

YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT!

Complete the Parish Census today!

Your participation will help us to:



keep you up to date on parish happenings



keep track of your sacraments



connect you with opportunities & better serve you

**Scan the code to complete
the census today!**



Questions? Contact Catiana Urrutia
402-861-4541/c.urrutia@stephen.org



IRON SHARPENS IRON



**St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
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Top Golf 9/10

Join us from 2-4pm for appetizers and golfing at Top Golf! Located by Westroads Mall



Nature's Call Camping 9/22

Join us at Two Rivers State Park for an evening of bonfires, camping, swimming and the great outdoors. Bring your tents and sleeping bags!



Casino Royale 9/29

James Bond in the background...Smoked meat on the counter...Make your best wager. What a great way to spend a Friday night! 7-10 PM | Hosted by Schyler Fricke



Fall Start

Date:

**Friday,
Oct. 6th
6 AM**

Parish Center

RSVP Here





Adult Faith Formation Gather in Community



Sisters in Faith: Join women of St. Stephen the Martyr every Monday night for adoration and fellowship. Join us for adoration from 7-8 PM with faith, fellowship & rosary from 8-9 PM. We are excited to grow as sisters in Christ! Email lganow@outlook.com for more information.



Young Adult Bible Study: A Saturday morning bible study diving into the Sunday readings alongside meditations that will help us enter deeper into the text with one another and how it is relevant to our lives. Learn more: stephen.org/young-adult.



Council of Catholic Women: This Women's Council supports, empowers, and educates Catholic Women through spirituality, leadership, and service. Meets the first Tuesday of every month September—May from 7-8 PM in the Parish Center. Also, enjoy Bunco nights on the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 PM in the Parish Center (\$10 entry at the door with cash prizes).



Becoming Catholic! Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA): Are you a Catholic needing First Communion or Confirmation? Are you seeking Baptism or full communion with the Catholic Church? 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. The program will prepare you for full communion or initiation in His Church. Sessions begin in September, but you can start any time! Learn more at stephen.org/becoming-catholic.



Adult Faith Formation Study your Faith

Seeking Truth Bible Study—Tuesday Mornings: Join us Tuesday mornings to study the Gospel of John. We will meet from 9:15 to 10:45 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 at Burdi561@gmail.com.

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. To register, contact Deacon Marty at mwarwick3@cox.net. Registration is OPEN and new attendees will be accepted through October 4th & 5th.

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 or Jan Mitchell (402) 669-7409.

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 wiederholtncancy@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: Philipians". All materials are provided. Join at any time! Questions? Contact Christie Hinton at czhinton@mac.com.

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!

WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: What does the Church say about suicide?

Answer: Unfortunately, despite the Church's clear teachings in resources like the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, there are still many people who are confused about what the Church teaches regarding the tragic reality of suicide.

While we hold that all life is sacred, we are also all-too aware that psychological, emotional and even physical illness — as well as extreme anxiety, fear, and abuse — can lead individuals to take their own lives. Speaking to this, the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults reflects, "Although suicide is always objectively sinful, one should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (pg. 294). The text also states the reality of illness or other extreme influences can "diminish the responsibility of one committing suicide" (pg. 293).

Parishes and grief support groups should show special care and concern for those families that have lost a loved one to suicide. And, communities should always try to be mindful of those who might be at risk of suicide or self-harm. If someone is contemplating suicide, please know that help is available, including the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255).

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ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



Mondays, 7-8 PM, Worship Space

Gather with us to spend time in silence in front of the Blessed Sacrament. You are welcome to stay just a few minutes or the full hour. Jesus longs to spend time with you!

Beloved: A WOMEN'S GROUP

GROW YOUR FAITH WITH WOMEN OF ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR!

First Meetings of the Year:
Sept. 13 at 5:45 - 7AM
Sept. 28 at 7:45 - 9PM

We will meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 5:45-7AM and the 4th Thursday of the month from 7:45-9PM. You can choose to attend one meeting per month or both!

More info at
stephen.org/beloved



St. Stephen the Martyr
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Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Whenever I speak, I must cry out,
violence and outrage is my message;
the word of the LORD has brought me
derision and reproach all the day. (Jer 20:8)

Psalms:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
(Rom 12:1)

Gospel:

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.
For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
(Mt 16:24-25)

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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

A love of suffering does not come naturally to us as humans. We have no instinct to throw our arms around a rough and heavy cross — no, we shy away from it. But as adopted children of God, crafted lovingly in His image, our inheritance is the grace to do what feels so impossible.

Observances for the week of September 3, 2023

- Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Labor Day
Friday: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday: St. Peter Claver, Priest
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Grandparents' Day

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.

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, September 4

8:15 am † Margaret Malloy (ZT)

Tuesday, September 5

6:30 am † Rosie Lardizabal (ZT)
8:15 am † John Kratina (DB)

Wednesday, September 6

6:30 am † Ricardo Salvator Romero (ZT)
8:15 am † Mary Joseph (DB)

Thursday, September 7

6:30 am SI Terry & Marie Zrust (DB)
8:15 am † Bob Mathine (DB)

Friday, September 8

6:30 am † Dale Dunn (ZT)
8:15 am † Eugene Mitchell (DB)

Saturday, September 9

8:15 am † Albert and Marian Berning (DB)
5:00 pm SI Trent Przymus (ZT)

Sunday, September 10

7:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
9:00 am † Kyle Nolan (DB)
10:30 am † Bob Menard (ZT)
6:00 pm † Mary Elwer (DH)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

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

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:

Lawrence Boettcher, husband of Judith
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

Deceased souls of our parish family: Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them

Chuck Skoumal, husband of Jane
Gerald Moseke, father of Christina Preuss

"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
GONDERINGER PARISH CENTER
PRESENTED BY SR. JEANNE CHRISTENSEN, RSM



What can you do to fight human trafficking in Omaha?

Join us for a compelling presentation from Sr. Jeanne Christensen of the Sisters of Mercy, who is involved in education, advocacy and fighting the evil industry.



Sponsored by SSM
Respect Life Ministry
St. Stephen the Martyr
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Holy Hour for Priests and Vocations

September 14 at 7 PM

Please join Father Nicholas Mishek as he leads us in prayer and shares his vocation journey at the Holy Hour for Priests and Vocations September 14 at 7 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. It will include adoration, benediction, and music ministry in addition to Father Mishek's personal testimony.



Without our priests, we do not have anyone to administer the sacraments. Without the sacraments, we do not have the grace that Jesus offers us through the Church.



September 1 - October 31
Collecting cash/checks or gently worn coats of any size.

Look for containers for monetary donations and boxes in the Gathering Space and Parish Center.



October 6-8, 2023

Application Deadline September 30, 2023

Overlook Lodge
Camp Comeca
75670 Road 417
Cozad, NE 69130

The Way Healing Retreat for Survivors of Abuse

Are you a survivor of abuse? Seek healing at *The Way Healing Retreats for Survivors of Abuse*, developed by Sue Stubbs, Victim Assistance Coordinator of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

Led by a team specializing in victim assistance, The Way Retreats are trauma-sensitive and designed to assist the victim attain the peace, self-worth and healing God wants for them.

The Way Retreat for Women is October 6-8th at Overlook Lodge, Camp Comeca in Cozad, Nebraska. The cost is \$250 which includes private room, meals, retreat materials and program. *Financial assistance may be available if cost is a hardship.* To request an application please contact: Elizabeth A. Heidt Kozisek, Ph.D. 308-382-6565 or cpo@gidiocese.org.

For more information, please visit gidiocese.org/the-way-retreats.



Magnificat-Omaha's September Brunch

Join us on Saturday, September 23
from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at St.
Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church for

our Fall Brunch. This gathering of Catholic women will feature Sarah Kaczmarek of Encounter Ministries, who will deliver a personal testimony of how God transformed her life. Cost is \$20. Meal included. To register or for more information, visit MagnificatOmaha.org.



Enrich your retirement, enrich the lives of others

Are you retired or finished raising your family? Do you want to give back, enrich your spiritual life, and build community with other mature adults?

Consider joining the Ignatian Volunteer Corps in

Omaha. At IVC we believe that the life experience, wisdom, and skills of older men and women can transform the world through justice, rooted in Gospel values. email us to arrange a time to gain further information. Please email Joanne Fisher, at jfisher@ivcusa.org or call 402 215-1651. For more details, visit our website, www.ivcusa.org/Omaha.

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