



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

October 1, 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.



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

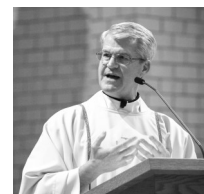
"When John came to you in
the way of righteousness,
you did not believe him;
but tax collectors and prosti-
tutes did. Yet even when
you saw that, you did not
later change your minds
and believe him."
- Mt 21:32

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

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

**"Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are
entering the kingdom of God before you."**

Whenever we hear the Gospel writers speak of "tax
collectors and prostitutes," we understand them to be
code words for "big-time sinners." These two groups of
people were rejected by the religious leaders of Jesus'
time, but Jesus Himself welcomed them, loved them,
and forgave them. Knowing that the religious leaders of His time were not
approving of the company He was keeping, Jesus tells the parable of a
vineyard owner who had two sons. The first son said that he would obey his
father and go into the vineyard, but he didn't go. The other son first
refused, but then changed his mind and went. Jesus then asks the question,
"Which of the two did his father's will?" The answer? The second one did the
father's will. Even though he refused at first, he had a change of heart.



This parable is difficult for us to hear because of the judgments we make
against other people. It is out of our realm of understanding to think that
God would forgive the most notorious of sinners in our midst. And yet,
that's how God's love and mercy works: God never gives up hope that a
sinner will repent and do His will. The real issue is with those who are self-
righteous, those who believe that they are better than everyone else—and
whose hearts are not moved by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The
unwillingness to do the Father's will, while paying lip service to it, will take
us out of the reach of God's embrace and place us in darkness.

The spirit of repentance is the foundation of receiving the gift of grace from
God and of receiving the gift of eternal life one day. There will be those who
are greater sinners than we who will have the opportunity for life in
heaven. That may be difficult for us to fathom, but we remember that God's
ways are not our ways. God will show abundant generosity to those who
repent of their sinfulness, whether they are saints or notorious sinners.

**"Every great person has first learned how to obey, whom to obey, and
when to obey." -William Ward**

*God bless you,
Father Dave*



Respect Life Sunday

October is Respect Life Month, which is kicked off
with Respect Life Sunday on the first Sunday of the
month. Our Respect Life Ministry has planned ample
ways for you to pray and take action this month!

**Please check page three of this bulletin for more
information.** Please pray that each of us will more
deeply regard each and every human life as God
does—precious and irreplaceable!

Respect Life Sunday Events:

- **Heart of a Child Ministries Presentation—
following the 9 AM and 10:30 AM Masses at
the KOC Pancake Breakfast.** Join us for a fun,
family friendly presentation to inspire your
family to find joy in each new human life.
- **36th Annual LifeChain — 2-3 PM at Dodge
Street between 84th & 87th Sts.** Parishioners
will gather together to witness and pray for an
end to abortion. Signs will be provided.

Learn more at stephen.org/respect-life.



Congratulations Newly Baptized!

Grayson John-Remi Carlin, son of Brique Carlin

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 9/19-9/25/2023:

Actual:	\$41,767
Budget:	\$45,687
FYTD Actual:	\$542,655
FYTD Budget:	\$569,392

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.



Now Hiring



Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

View details online at: stephen.org/careers

Seeking Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry to join our team

St. Stephen the Martyr is seeking candidates for a Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Are you or someone you know interested? Visit stephen.org/careers for the job description.

For more information, contact Adam Ybarra, Director of Mission, at 402-861-4507 or a.ybarra@stephen.org.

School News

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

- ⇒ **Fall Family Frolic:** Join us at Vala's Pumpkin Patch on Tuesday, October 10th from 11 – 4 PM for our annual Fall Family Frolic, hosted by St. Stephen the Martyr Home & School Association. Your family is responsible for admission at the door, no advanced ticket purchase is required. We have the Jack O' Lantern Party Barn reserved for a SSM meet-up space and we'll provide s'mores from 1 – 3 PM! Wear your SSM spirit or Martyr Marathon shirt, grab your friends and join us for lots of St. Stephen family fun!
- ⇒ **Husker Watch Party:** Join the St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School Men's Club on Friday, October 6th for their second annual Husker Watch Party when the Huskers take on the Fighting Illini! We'll gather at 6:30 PM outside on the school field (east of the playground). Kickoff is at 7 PM. The Men's Club will provide hotdogs, brats and chips. Bring your own beverages, chairs and/or blankets, and get ready for a fun gathering!

Religious Education News

- ⇒ **No Rel. Ed Tuesday, October 10th:** Due to building upgrades, there will be no classes on Tuesday, October 10th due to a planned power outage. Classes on Wednesday, October 11 will meet as scheduled.
- ⇒ **First Reconciliation Parent Meeting:** Parents of 2nd graders who will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in December will meet in the Worship Space on Sunday, October 15th at 4 PM. Please come to hear more about Reconciliation, receive your parent/child packet and other information. Please contact Sandy Kimmey, Director of Religious Education, at s.kimmey@stephen.org with questions or visit the Sacrament Preparation page of our website at stephen.org/sacraments.
- ⇒ **Don't miss out on any updates!** View our weekly Family Connection newsletter on stephen.org/family-connection.
- ⇒ **RE Cookie Dough Fundraiser:** Get your cookie dough now for all your Fall baking needs! We will again be selling tubs of frozen cookie dough from a local business: The Cookie Company! New this year: Oatmeal Butterscotch and M&M cookies! Order online by scanning the QR code below or from a Religious Education student.



Youth Ministry News

- ⇒ **Better Together Tuesdays for Middle Schoolers:** Join us Tuesday, Oct. 3rd & 17th in the St. Stephen Gym. Check our website for future dates.
- ⇒ **Witness Wednesdays for High Schoolers:** Join us October 4th for Testimony Night at St. Wenceslaus from 8—9:30 PM.



"Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives."

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

TAKE ACTION



Oct. 1st: 2023 Life Chain

Join thousands of Catholics across Omaha and the nation to prayerfully stand for God's unborn children on Sunday, Oct. 1st from 2-3 PM. St. Stephen parishioners and school families are asked to gather on the south side of Dodge from 84th-87th streets. Meet at 1:15 PM in the Gathering Space to carpool. Signs will be provided.

Oct. 1st: Heart of a Child Ministries

Celebrate the gift of life and who we are as children of God after the 9 AM and 10:30 AM Masses on Sunday, October 1st. Heart of a Child Ministries' will present their 25-minute family friendly presentation complete with music, scripture, fun fetal facts, a live ultrasound, fun hands-on activities and take-home bags for the kids. Join us during the Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast for this fun-for-all presentation.

Oct. 7th: 40 Days for Life Prayer Day

We will be taking part in the *40 Days for Life* campaign to pray and fast for an end to abortion. Scan the QR code to sign up to pray from your home/work, in our Adoration Chapel, or outside Bellevue Health Clinic, 1002 W. Mission Ave.



PRAY



Saturdays in October

Oct. 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

Join the Knights of Columbus every Saturday in October to pray the Rosary together as a community before 8:15 AM Mass in the Worship Space. We will follow the USCCB's meditations on the mysteries offered as a prayer for all life, from conception to natural death.

Oct 2nd: Eucharistic Adoration

Join us for Adoration from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space to pray for a respect for life from conception to death.

Oct. 14th: Rosary Rally

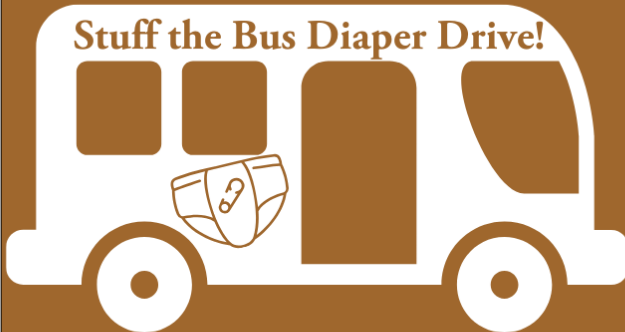
Join us at Noon on Oct. 14th for a Rosary Rally for Life, a public demonstration of our prayer and support of life from conception to natural death. Join us on the west lawn, along 168th Street.

Oct. 13th-21st: Respect Life Novena

Pray for the protection of human life, from conception to natural death. Each day of the novena features a different pro-life prayer intention, accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

October is Respect Life Month

Stuff the Bus Diaper Drive!



Diaper Drive Hosted in Partnership with St. Stephen the Martyr Council of Catholic Women, St. Stephen the Martyr Respect Life Ministry, Omaha Urban Council of Catholic Women, Spirit Catholic Radio

Diapers will be distributed to: EPS, Mater Filius, Bethlehem House, Catholic Charities and Christ Child Institute.

Support Women & Families In Need

Please join us in collecting diapers and wipes for local women and families in need.

Your donation will support women who have chosen not to have an abortion and now need our help providing for their babies.

Most Needed Items:

Wipes & diapers (sizes: Newborn, 4, 5 and 6)

Drop-off Locations:

- Gathering Space or School Commons throughout October (place diapers in cribs)
- Stuff the Bus in front of the Parish Center on:
 - Sundays after Mass:
October 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
 - Fridays from 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM:
October 13th & 20th
 - Tues/Wed from 4-7 PM:
October 24th & 25th



Scan to Give
Online



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For more details on all Respect Life Month activities, visit stephen.org/respect-life.

Saturday, October 7 Food Pantry Curbside Drop-Off

10 AM - Noon in Front of Parish Center

Most Needed Items Include:

Paper Towels, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent, Rice, Spaghetti Sauce, Crackers, Hamburger Helper, Canned Tomatoes, Instant Mash Potatoes, Boxed Potatoes, Instant Oatmeal, Pasta, Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cookies, Shampoo, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Deodorant




PAL BASKETBALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Open to all SSM 4-8th Grade students & parishioners

Register by: Noon, Wednesday, Oct. 11th
Boys Tryouts: Oct. 15th & 22nd
Girls tryouts: TBD



Learn more at:
stephen.org/sports-club-basketball



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Can anyone offer the Anointing of the Sick to a sick or dying person, or is that only something a priest can do?

Answer: The Letter of James speaks to us of the ancient tradition of a special anointing and blessing of those who are sick: "Is there anyone sick among you? Let him send for the presbyters of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord ... If he has committed any sins, they will be forgiven him" (5:14, 15b). This passage forms the foundation for the theology of the sacrament that we call "Anointing of the Sick." In keeping with what we read in the Letter of James and the ancient tradition of the Church, the anointing of a person of who sick or dying many only be performed by a priest or bishop.

Although deacons and other members of the Church are not able to celebrate the sacrament with a person who is sick, we can read Sacred Scripture and pray with and for those who are ill. Resources like the Book of Blessings also contain special blessings that can be celebrated by deacons or lay ministers. In the end, we want to be sure that we show a special care and concern for the sick, helping them to always experience God's loving comfort through made tangible through our acts of charity and service. ©LPi

You Are Invited!

Welcome. is a way for you to personally encounter God, the Catholic faith, and our church community.

Women's Weekend:

Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8, 2023


Men's Weekend:

Saturday, October 14 and Sunday October 15, 2023

Register and more information
at stephen.org/welcome-weekend




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



"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

PROVERBS 27:17

CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. STEPHEN
You are invited to our fall kick-off
October 6th at 6 AM in the Parish Center
Coffee & Rolls provided



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER

SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 11

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO PLACE AN ORDER
QUESTIONS? CONTACT EILEEN AT
E.SMITH@STEPHEN.ORG OR 402-896-5683



ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Mondays, 7-8 PM, Worship Space

The practice of Adoration dates back to the early Church but surged in popularity during the Middle Ages. It remains an important part of the prayer life of millions of Catholics. During Eucharistic Adoration, the Eucharist is sometimes displayed in a monstrance, a metal stand that resembles a sunburst that holds a consecrated host. Other times, it is kept in a ciborium (the dish which hosts are distributed during Holy Communion) inside of a tabernacle. A red candle signals the presence of Jesus.

May the merciful love of Jesus draw more and more souls to adore and worship him in Eucharistic Adoration.

Pray THE ROSARY



First Saturday Devotions

Join the Knights of Columbus on October 7th for First Saturday Devotions to Mother Mary. We will pray the Rosary with the intention of a greater respect for life at every stage prior to the 8:15 AM Mass in the Worship Space.

St. Stephen Choir Seeking New Members

Looking for a new ministry this fall? Come and join the St. Stephen the Martyr 10:30 AM Choir! We rehearse on Thursday nights at 7 PM for an hour in the Worship Space. There are no tryouts. If you would enjoy connecting with new friends and would like to share your vocal talents, give us a try! For more information, please contact Paula Bonkiewicz, Director of Music, at p.bonkiewicz@stephen.org.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed,
he does what is right and just,
he shall preserve his life. (Ez 18:27)

Psalm:

Remember your mercies, O Lord. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

Have in you the same attitude
that is also in Christ Jesus. (Phil 2:5)

Gospel:

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you,
tax collectors and prostitutes
are entering the kingdom of God before you."
(Mt 21:31)

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

God invites each of us to work in His vineyard,
but it's our choice whether we "clock in" or stay
home. Let's never fail to show up. It's the most
important job we will ever have.

Observances for the week of October 1, 2023

- Sunday:** 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Respect Life Sunday
- Monday:** The Holy Guardian Angels
- Wednesday:** St. Francis of Assisi
- Thursday:** Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin; Bl.
Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest
- Friday:** St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher,
Virgin
- Saturday:** Our Lady of the Rosary
- Next Sunday:** 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Join our Parish Family!

Welcome visitors and newcomers! Scan the QR Code if you
would like to register as a parishioner.

To learn more about ways you can get involved & grow closer
to Christ, contact Adam Ybarra at (402) 861-4507 or
a.ybarra@stephen.org.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 30

8:15 am † Michael Wais (DB)
5:00 pm † Joe Latoza (DB)

Sunday, October 1

7:30 am † Michael Wais (DB)
9:00 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
10:30 am SI Peg Odorisio (ZT)
6:00 pm † Jacob Mathews (ZT)

Monday, October 2

6:30 am † JoAnn Spurgin (ZT)
8:15 am † Jeanne Wilson (ZT)

Tuesday, October 3

6:30 am Communion Service
8:15 am † Kyle Andersen (DH)

Wednesday, October 4

6:30 am SI Randy & Trish Figura (ZT)
8:15 am † Judy Roche (DB)

Thursday, October 5

6:30 am † Thomas Grabowski (DB)
8:15 am † Bob Mathine (DB)

Friday, October 6

6:30 am † Hannah & Allan Perdue (ZT)
8:15 am † Arthur D Houston (DB)

Saturday, October 7

8:15 am SI Terry & Marie Zrust (DB)
5:00 pm † Erin Doll (ZT)

Sunday, October 8

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (ZT)
9:00 am † Marian Brincks (DB)
10:30 am SI St. Stephen parishioners (DB)
6:00 pm † Fernando Colon (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
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 [stephen.org/
prayer-line](http://stephen.org/prayer-line) or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

News from the Community

PRAY THE ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS IN OCTOBER

The Archdiocese of Omaha is seeking to pray 50,000 rosaries to encourage young Catholics discerning priesthood and consecrated life. They are in a spiritual battle and need your help. How to participate: 1. Pray the Rosary 2. Log your rosary at Omahavocations.org. You can also Email rosary@archomaha.org or call 402-827-3749.

"CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME" FILM EVENT HOSTED AT ST. WENCESLAUS

Please join us for a screening of *The Letter*, a documentary based on Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. *The Letter* is a film that challenges our spiritual values to take action regarding the planetary emergency. We are called to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The St. Wenceslaus Catholic Social Teaching Ministry is hosting the screening on October 22 from 1-3 PM in Cain Hall. We will reflect on the film, discuss, and consider how we can take action regarding climate change. Light refreshments will be provided. Hosted by St. Wenceslaus Catholic Social Teaching Ministry. For more information please contact Cara Hilgert, hilgertc@stwenceslaus.org.

GRATITUDE RETREAT OCTOBER 21

Take a day away this Fall to steep yourself in gratitude. Receive God's gracious gifts, cultivate grateful hearts, and share generous blessings in the beauty of God's Creation. Saturday October 21, 2023 from 9 AM -3:30 PM. Check-in and fellowship begin at 8:30 AM. Takes place at Creighton University Retreat Center which is one hour east of Omaha in Griswold, IA. Facilitated by Retreat Leaders & Spiritual Directors Brenda Stalbaum and Martin & Kathy Kemler. \$60 includes lunch. To register email CURC@Creighton.edu, call 712-778-2466, or scan the QR code.



SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE

We need YOU in this important mission! Training will be offered for men and women desiring to help women through sidewalk advocacy or prayer support at local abortion facilities. This peaceful, prayerful, law abiding approach has saved over 20,000 babies in 239 cities. Attend our training and see how you can be a part of our team on Saturday, October 14 from 11:30 AM-6 PM at the Catholic Charities Building, 9223 Bedford Ave. \$15 registration fee covers workbook & materials. For information or to register contact Sarah at sarahpsaflomaha2022@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

The Market at St. Teresa of Calcutta will be closed for renovations temporarily. Therefore, Catholic Charities is asking for volunteers to help them transport items to the Juan Diego Center, move other equipment and then set up the newly renovated area again in November. Please contact Jennifer Reyna, Advancement & Volunteer Coordinator at jenniferr@ccomaha.org or 402-829-9261 to volunteer.



**WEST OMAHA FAMILY OF PARISHES
YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY**

VALA'S PUMPKIN PATCH

OCTOBER 13TH, FROM 5-10PM
Campfire Site 22 (by the Pavillion)

S'mores, pop, & some snacks provided. Bring snacks or dessert if you wish! BYOB is not allowed but Vala's does sell cider on site.

Admission Tickets can be purchased online in advance or at point of entry.

CONTACT EVAN COLLINS WITH QUESTIONS:
E.COLLINS@STEPHEN.ORG




COAT DRIVE

thank you for helping to keep others warm

Now - October 31
Donate gently worn coats of any size to the basket in the Gathering Space or Parish Center.

Monetary donations can also be dropped off or given online via PayPal using this QR Code.

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

Bishops' Pro-Life Banquet & Conference
OCTOBER 6 & 7 | NECATHOLIC.ORG | LINCOLN, NE

EVENT DETAILS

Join the Bishops of Nebraska & keynote speaker, Joe Heschmeyer for an evening of celebration, stewardship, & learning about living out the Truth.

5:30 PM Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)
6:30 PM Dinner, Awards, Keynote

8:30 AM Liturgy of the Hours
9:00 AM - Conference
4:00 PM (Lunch Included)

Embassy Suites | Downtown Lincoln
Block Room Rate Available

EVENT PRICING

Banquet Ticket.....\$65
Conference Ticket.....\$55
Banquet & Conference.....\$100
Banquet Table of 10.....\$650

\$600 Early Bird Special | Discounted prices for clergy & students | Free banquet childcare

REGISTER

Online.....NECatholic.org
Phone.....(402) 477-7517

SCAN HERE!




A Retreat for Grieving Parents

He Wept

Saturday, October 14, 2023
from 8am - 6pm
St. Patrick's Parish, Elkhorn

Join us for a spiritual retreat focused on the fact that life for your child has changed, not ended.

All grieving parents, whose children of any age have died by any cause, including miscarriage, no matter how long ago are invited to attend.

Register by October 1st:
<https://tinyurl.com/HeWept23>


Please contact Mandy Busch with questions:
mbsch@stpatelkhorn.org

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