



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

November 12, 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 are live-streamed on our Facebook
page (<https://www.facebook.com/StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha>) and our website.

Private Prayer

Daily Mass Chapel and Worship Space are open
6 AM-9 PM Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM-6:30 PM
Saturday & 6:30 AM-7:30 PM Sunday. Church doors
are locked during school Mass from 8:20-9:15 AM
on Tues/Wed/Fri. The Adoration Chapel is available
24/7 via 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.



32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Lord, Lord, open the door
for us!' But he said in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, I do
not know you.'"
- Mt 25:11-12

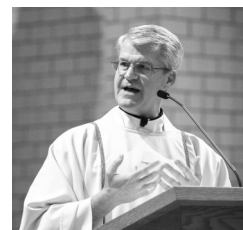
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God."

In this response from the Psalm at this weekend's Mass, we proclaim how desperate we are to have God's presence in our lives. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we hear that, "The desire for God is written in every human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to Himself. Only in God will he ever find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for. (CCC #27)" The problem is that we try to fill the void with the things of this world. When we do that, when we turn to alcohol, food, technology, shopping, drugs, or anything else besides God, the hunger never subsides. It is only through God that we will find the empty places of our hearts filled with His never-ending love.



For another image, we turn to the Gospel, where we hear the story of the 10 bridesmaids, waiting for the groom to return with his bride. The wait takes them late into the night, and 5 of the bridesmaids didn't bring any oil for their lamps. They weren't prepared to welcome the groom with his bride, and they miss their arrival. Because their lamps were empty, they missed what they were waiting for.

Like the bridesmaids, we are all waiting for Jesus the Groom to come back to earth to bring us into the eternal wedding feast of Heaven. The "oil" in the lamps of our lives is God's love and grace. When we close our hearts to God, we cannot be filled with His presence. And many times, we try to fill this void with the things of this world. I encourage you to recognize how much you thirst for the presence of God in your life. Open your heart to His love. Even if you feel that you are too sinful or aren't worthy of His love, turn to Him for help and strength. And trust that He is there for you.

"In the desert we rediscover the value of what is essential for living; thus in today's world there are innumerable signs, often expressed implicitly or negatively, of the thirst for God, for the ultimate meaning of life. And in the desert people of faith are needed who, by the example of their own lives, point out the way to the Promised Land and keep hope alive."

—Pope Benedict XVI

God bless you,
Father Dave



Heavenly Father, King and Lord, You instill in all of
Your creation an order and value. You call Your
children "very good".

We surrender to You the conflicts that tear your
family apart. We pray for an end to blindness that
places pride, greed, power, and selfishness above
human dignity and brotherly love.

We pray in gratitude for all of those who have
defended peace, virtue, and justice with honor. We
pray especially for those who have suffered in mind
and body from the ravages of war. Let Your
Kingdom come! May Your peace that surpasses all
understanding reign in our hearts and in our world.
Amen.



**Congratulations Newly
Married!**

**Sophia Paal and
Jonathan Schmucker**



**Congratulations,
Newly Baptized!**

**Isabella Catherine Rose John,
daughter of Mark and Kristin**

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 10/31-11/6/2023:

Actual:	\$38,404
Budget:	\$49,893
FYTD Actual:	\$854,844
FYTD Budget:	\$840,821

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.



Help us “lick family violence”!

Second Collection for Safe Homes at all Masses on November 11th & 12th



Safe Homes, a ministry of the Notre Dame Sisters, serves local women and children in the Omaha Metro area who have broken free of the domestic violence cycle. Tootsie Pops will be distributed after Mass to show our gratitude to

help us “Lick Family Violence”. Give at all Masses this weekend or by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity to these women & children.



“Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

- Matthew 25:13

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We’ve all said, “I’ll do it later when I have time.” Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus’ call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? Don’t delay. None of us is guaranteed tomorrow.

#StewardshipReflection

Religious Education

Family Mass

November 14 or 15

5:30 PM

Pizza & Potluck Reception

Following Mass in Dining Room

Please check off your family name at the attendance table in the Gathering Space before entering for Mass.

Potluck items may be dropped off in the Dining Room before Mass.

Scan this QR code to bring a side dish, dessert and sign up for clean-up duty



School News

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

- ⇒ **Thanksgiving Food Drive:** St. Stephen students are invited to help stock the St. Stephen the Martyr Food Pantry, just in time for the holidays! Students may bring their designated item to their classroom anytime before Thanksgiving break and the food will be blessed at the All School Mass on November 21st. In addition to stocking our St. Stephen Food Pantry, surplus items will be shared with Catholic Charities’ Juan Diego Center. Grade-level food assignments can be found on our website at school.stephen.org.
- ⇒ **Picture Retake Day —Nov. 15th:** Retake day is for students who were absent on picture day. Students should come to school in their picture clothes, they will not need to change into their uniform. Students who are taking pictures due to an issue with their original ones should bring the pictures to school on Wednesday. If you are having pictures retaken for “cosmetic” reasons, the fee for pictures would be the same amount as the original order.
- ⇒ **Announcing our 2024 Musical—Disney’s Finding Nemo, Jr.:** We are so excited as we prepare for another great production for our students to be involved in! The musical is run by our Home & School Association and open to all 1st through 8th graders. Registration begins Nov. 28th on our website, school.stephen.org/musical. Auditions are for grades 6-8th only. All middle school students must register before auditioning. All 1st-5th grade students who would like to be in the musical will be given a role.
 - ⇒ Auditions are on the stage at 3:30 PM on Monday, Dec. 4th and Thursday, Dec. 7th
 - ⇒ Rehearsals start the week of Monday, January 8th
 - ⇒ School performance: Thursday, March 21st
 - ⇒ General Audience performances are March 22nd & 23rd

Religious Education News

- ⇒ **Religious Education Family Mass:** All RE students are expected to meet at 5:30 PM in the Worship Space next week with a parent/family for Mass on Nov. 14th or 15th. Families are invited to stay for a pizza party following Mass! Please sign up to bring a side or RSVP through links in the RE Family Connection emailed Sunday.
- ⇒ **Religious Education Volunteers Needed:** We need a few more volunteers to assist with classes as co-catechists. Please contact Sandy at s.kimmey@stephen.org if you can volunteer. We especially need assistance in the following classes: 1st grade Wednesday at 4 PM and 2nd Grade Wednesday at 5:30 PM. Thank you!

Youth Ministry News

- ⇒ **Witness Wednesdays for High Schoolers:** Join us this Wednesday night for Adoration and Praise & Worship. Join us from 8—9:30 PM at St. Wenceslaus.
- ⇒ **Better Together Tuesdays:** Our Middle School Youth Ministry programming is on pause until we hire our new youth minister.



Angel Tree Project

Nov. 4th - Dec. 3rd



Hosted By: St. Stephen the Martyr Social Justice Ministry

This holiday season, help us provide gifts for the elderly served by the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA).

There are Three Ways to Participate:

1. **Sign up to "adopt" a specific person(s):** If you signed up to adopt a person, return your wrapped/tagged gifts under the tree in the Gathering Space by December 3rd.
2. **Take an ornament from one of the trees** and return the item(s) under the tree by Dec. 3rd.
3. **Give Stamps, Gift Cards, Cash/Checks:** Donate books of stamps, \$10 or \$25 gift cards (Walmart or Target), cash or checks by placing them in the wooden drop box labeled "Angel Tree Project" in the Gathering Space. Checks should be made out to St. Stephen the Martyr Church. To give online, scan the QR Code.



Questions? Contact Teresa Ziska at 402-960-8618

Our Respect Life Month Diaper Drive was a huge success!

Thank you for your generosity!



During the month of October, our Respect Life Committee coordinated many activities, among them was a month-long diaper drive sponsored by St. Stephen the Martyr Council of Catholic Women, Omaha Urban Council of Catholic Women & Spirit Catholic Radio.

Together, our parish and school gathered 12,000 diapers that will be distributed to local pregnancy support charities EPS, Mater Filius, Bethlehem House, Catholic Charities and Christ Child Institute. Thank you for your incredible generosity and support of mothers and families in need!

Knights Seeking Honor Guard Donations



Our own 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly 3860 here at St. Stephen the Martyr is working to form an Honor Guard. As part of those efforts, we are asking any parishioners who may still have swords and scabbards from past Honor Guards, to consider donating these to our Assembly so that they can be re-purposed for their intended use. In addition, the ceremonial regalia has been updated to a more modern look. We will also accept donations of the previous regalia so that it can be properly and respectfully disposed of. If you have any of these items, please contact our Faithful Navigator Jeff Winkelbauer at 402-214-2385 or contact any Knight for assistance.

Not Yet a Parishioner?

Register at stephen.org.

Click on "Become a Parishioner" in the footer.

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!



CCW
Council of Catholic Women

FOCUS SEEK24 Scholarship Opportunity

The Fellowship Of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) will be holding their SEEK24 conference in St. Louis from January 1-5, 2024. For more information, visit seek.focus.org.

Were you thinking about going to SEEK24 this coming January? The St. Stephen the Martyr Council of Catholic Women will be offering a limited number of scholarships to be applied toward SEEK24 Student Event Passes during the month of November to college-aged SSM parishioners. Please contact Sue Hepp at hepp.sue@gmail.com for more information no later than Nov. 27, 2023.

Ladies Bunco Night

Women of St. Stephen the Martyr are invited to Bunco Night on Nov. 16 from 7-9 PM in the Parish Center. Bunco is hosted by the Council of Catholic Women every third **Thursday** of the month. Must be 21+; \$10/person. Questions? Contact Brenda Kreber at 402-203-5196.

A Community *for All*

Thank you to everyone for completing and submitting your Commitment Card!

For those who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, there is still time! We would love to have 100% participation in this program as it helps us to plan out our financials.

You may return your card by:

- mailing it to the church using the pre-addressed envelope included with the letter.
- placing it in the collection basket at Mass on Sunday.
- scanning the QR code below and complete it electronically.

All cards need to be returned to the parish by Sunday, November 26th.

As a friendly reminder, electronic giving is an easy, safe and secure way to support St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church. We are grateful for your support!



PrimeTimers Upcoming Events

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD Thursday, Nov. 30th 6PM

Choose a country: plan representative attire and side dish traditional to that country. Don't know what to bring? Choose any side dish and give it a festive name to match that cultural tradition. Don't miss the fun! Main dish and dessert provided.

\$6 (make checks out to Pat Miller). Please RSVP EARLY to a committee member (Pat Miller, Moe Muhlbauer, Jan Savoie, Rosemary Napierala). We will gather in the Parish Center.



CARDS & GAMES

Every 2nd & 4th Thursday at 1 PM in the Parish Center. Everyone is welcome! Sign up for our emails at stephen.org/primetimers.

IN MEMORIAM

Book of Remembrance Remember your loved ones this November

The month of November is the traditional month in our Liturgical Year to remember the faithful departed in a special way.

During the month of November, a Book of Remembrance will be placed on the welcome table in the Gathering Space. We invite parishioners to inscribe the names of their loved ones in the Book of Remembrance as a reminder to us of the importance of our prayers for these Holy Souls throughout the year.

Now Hiring



Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

View details online at: stephen.org/careers

We're hiring a Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Are you or someone you know interested? Visit stephen.org/careers for the job description.

Contact Adam Ybarra, Director of Mission, at 402-861-4507 or a.ybarra@stephen.org for more information or to apply.



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.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Where does the money go that is collected each week at Church?

Answer: This is a good question! Every parish has financial obligations, including the basic operation of the buildings, salaries, maintenance, and improvements. In addition, there are schools to support, programs to run, charities to be funded, and operational expenses like hosts and wine for Mass, music books, vestments, and so on. In some cases, cemeteries and other buildings need attention. Finally, there is the diocesan assessment that each parish pays to help run the diocese and the support services provided to each parish.

Most parishes manage to get by with the collection, a few fundraisers and endowments. But contrary to popular opinion, cash flow is also a problem, and many parishes operate in the red. The Finance Committee is responsible for assisting the pastor in fiscal management, and good stewardship is the basis for successful programs. ©LPi

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



Mondays, 7-8 PM, Worship Space

Please join us in the quiet to adore Our Lord every Monday evening, or join us in our Adoration Chapel 24/7. The code for access is 9675*.

St John Bosco



"I beg you to recommend to everyone, first, adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and then reverence for most holy Mary."

"Take refuge often at the feet of Jesus... My dear ones, the Visit to the Blessed Sacrament is an extremely necessary way to conquer the devil. Therefore, go often to visit Jesus and the devil will not come out victorious against you."

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom,
and she is readily perceived by those who love her,
and found by those who seek her. (Wis 6:12)

Psalm:

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

Second Reading:

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
(1 Thes 4:14)

Gospel:

"Therefore, stay awake,
for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt 25:13)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God knows that, sooner or later, we all face a night that is long and dark. He has given each of us exactly what we need to make it through. If we keep Him with us, the light will not go out.

Observances for the week of November 12, 2023

- Sunday:** 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
Wednesday: St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude, Virgin
Friday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
Saturday: The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin
Next Sunday: 33rd 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, November 11

8:15 am † Michael Wais (ZT)
5:00 pm † Matthew J Stoll (DB)

Sunday, November 12

7:30 am SI St. Stephen Parishioners (DB)
9:00 am † Virgine Irlbeck & Rita Venner (DB)
10:30 am † Justin Chamberlain (ZT)
6:00 pm † Julie Anciaux (ZT)

Monday, November 13

6:30 am † David Lange (ZT)
8:15 am † Silvino Gutierrez Puentes (ZT)

Tuesday, November 14

6:30 am † Ian Dobson (ZT)
8:15 am † Thomas Kisicki (DB)

Wednesday, November 15

6:30 am † Debbie Dallan Settlemeyer (ZT)
8:15 am † Tina Szalewski (DB)

Thursday, November 16

6:30 am † Elizabeth Gulizia (DB)
8:15 am † Bob Mathine (DB)

Friday, November 17

6:30 am † Jim Willette (ZT)
8:15 am † Gretchen K. Peterson (DB)

Saturday, November 18

8:15 am † Vicky Bosque (DB)
5:00 pm † Zach Fochek (ZT)

Sunday, November 19

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (ZT)
9:00 am SI St. Stephen Parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Dolores Knier (DB)
6:00 pm † Josephine Caliendo (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...

Deceased souls of our parish family:

Terrence & Doris Collard, parents of John Collard
Lucille Windels, mother of Troy, John, Michael & Kerry

Richard Johns, husband of Mary
Margaret Klein, mother of David Klein

Ken Hamik, brother of Dan Hamik
Virginia Micke, sister of Mary Ann Caez

Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Richard Guthmann, grandfather of Sophia, Eva, Joey, Millie, Noah & Luke
Yvonne Kamphaus, wife of Mike
Lawrence Boettcher, husband of Judith
Dan Liles, husband of Lori, father of Cash and Jerzy
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

News from the Community

IXIM: SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY – JOIN US ON MISSION

Thank you for supporting the Archdiocese of Omaha's mission to Guatemala! Since 2004, parishioners from across the Archdiocese of Omaha have gone to our sister diocese in Huehuetenango, Guatemala to work alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ. Our 19th trip will be June 13 – June 23, 2024. Learn more about how to join us on mission at an upcoming information meeting:

- Sunday, December 3 at Noon at St. Frances Cabrini Parish Center
- Thursday, December 14 at 2 PM at St. Margaret Mary West Campus

MAGNIFICAT OMAHA ADVENT BRUNCH — DEC. 2

All women are invited to the Magnificat-Omaha Advent Brunch at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church on December 2 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Our guest speaker is Jane Guenther, spiritual director, teacher, and the Director of the Catholic Renewal Center for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. She will inspire you to bring more JOY into your Advent journey. Cost: \$20. For reservations and information, go to www.MagnificatOmaha.org. Magnificat-Omaha is an archdiocesan-wide Catholic women's organization focused on evangelization.

RESTORING CATHOLIC CULTURE: LEADING OUR FAMILIES, HOMES, COMMUNITIES, AND CHURCHES BACK TO THEIR CATHOLIC ROOTS

Join us for our next speaker! Mr. Tom Venzor from the Nebraska Catholic Conference will speak on Explorations of Political Philosophy. Saturday, November 18, Chesterton Academy of Omaha, 36th and Q Streets. Evening begins with Networking and Social Hour at 6 PM followed by the talk at 7 PM. Event is free and open to the public, sponsored by Chesterton Academy of Omaha.

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

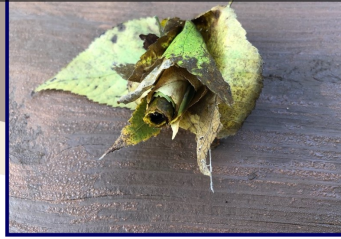
Mon - Thu: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Fri: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m.
Sat: 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Sun: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon and 5:30 p.m.

Confession

Mon - Thu: 5 PM until line ends
Sat: 9 AM until line ends; 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM
anytime by appointment

3-Day Silent Directed Ignatian Retreats

* **Creighton** *
UNIVERSITY
Retreat Center



If you have been on retreats before and looking for a more personal retreat experience, consider one of the dates below. These retreats start with check-in between 4:00-5:00pm for the 6pm supper and conclude at 3pm the final day. You would be assigned a spiritual director who you would meet with each day. Directors are guided with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

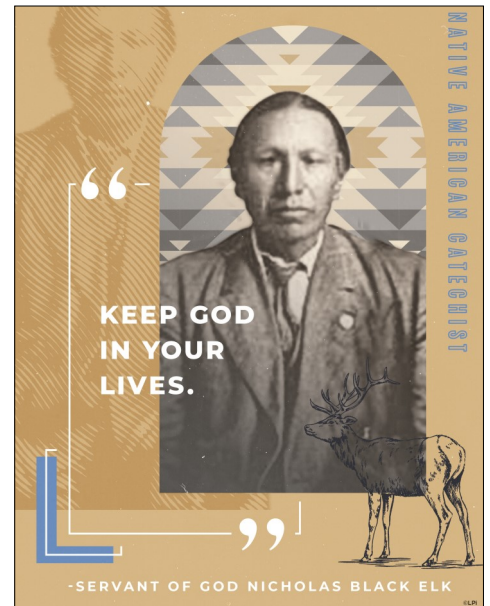
Thurs-Sun Jan 18-21, 2024
Thurs-Sun Mar 21-24, 2024
Thurs-Sun May 2-5, 2024
Sun-Wed July 14-17, 2024

The cost is \$375 for room, all meals and private sessions. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 would be requested at registration.

Register at creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats or scan code.



Terri Lou Duggan
Creighton University
Retreat Center
712-778-2466
curc@creighton.edu



SAVE THE DATE
OMAHA VA
STAND DOWN

Milo Bail Student Center • UNO
Friday November 17th 2023 • 10am-2pm

We hope you'll join us in serving our homeless Veterans at this year's resource fair! Be on the lookout for more information in the following weeks.

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402-334-6708 11422 Miracle Hills Dr.

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1702 N. 72nd St.
391-2171

Southwest Chapel
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895-3400

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Agent & Parishioner tschmitz@farmersagent.com

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Rooferees.com

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Calen Griffin, Financial Advisor & Parishioner
402-871-2085 | calengriffin.com
calen.griffin@mutualofomaha.com

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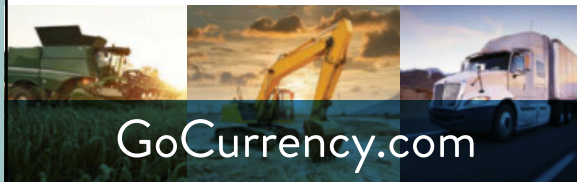
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