

November 26, 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 (<u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha</u>) 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: <u>stephen.org/staff</u> Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

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





#### OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

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"'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" - Mt 25:34

### Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord. God. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal..."

On this Feast of Christ the King, it is strange to hear God describe Himself as a Shepherd, a Servant who goes out and brings back all who have wandered away from the safety and security that only He can give to us. This



passage from the first reading, taken from the book of Ezekiel, is in contrast to the image that we are given in the Gospel, where Jesus has come in glory, surrounded by angels, sitting upon His "glorious throne." Or is it?

What Jesus teaches us through His life, death, and resurrection is that the glory and joy that we experience in the life to come depends on the way that we serve God in this life. To share in the Kingship of Jesus Christ means that we have to humble ourselves and become like Him. Jesus is seated in glory upon His throne because He was completely faithful to the will of the Father. Our Lord was sent to bring the wandering and lost sheep back into the fold of God's love.

This is our mission too. There are many people in the world today that are lost and wounded. It is up to us to find them and bring them back to the love of God. That means that we have to be willing to sacrifice time and comfort in order to serve the needs of others.

If we want to participate in the glory of heaven, we must be willing to humble ourselves like a gentle shepherd, and serve the needs of those who are injured and in need of God's healing grace.

"For the Christian, to speak of power and strength means pointing to the power of the Cross and the strength of Jesus' love: a love that remains firm and whole, even in the face of rejection, and that appears as the fulfillment of a life spent in total self-offering for mankind." -Pope Francis

> God bless you, Father Dave

Baptismo

Congratulations, Newly Baptized! Lincoln Matthew Hinds, son of Eliott and Jessica Scottie Jack Tieso, son of Lucas and Shelby Elizabeth Josephine Lohr, daughter of Nicholas and Jessica



Congratulations Newly Married!

**Taylor Jonas & Zachary Fegely** 

Our faith community wishes you many blessings!

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org 5. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Chri

### 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 11/7-11/13/2023:

Actual:	\$46,600
Budget:	\$50,862
FYTD Actual:	\$901,635
FYTD Budget:	\$891,683

Financial data from 11/14-11/20 was not available at the time of print. These numbers will be reported in next weekend's bulletin.

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.





## **Director of Youth &** Young Adult Ministr

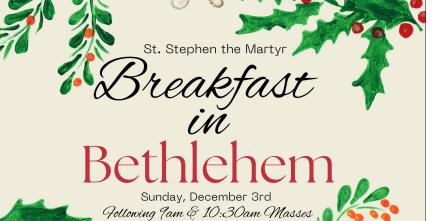
We're hiring a Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. Are you or someone you know interested? Visit stephen.org/careers for the job description.

### "... whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me.

#### *– Matthew 25:40*

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, real generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient to us, when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's timeline.

#StewardshipReflection



Come celebrate the beginning of Advent and the Feast of St. Nicholas with a morning filled with the Knights of Columbus' famous pancake breakfast and St. Nicholas festivities including Sleepless from Seattle specialty coffee cart, hot cocoa, fun activities for the kids, and a visit from St. Nicholas himself.

Scan the QR Code to RSVP so St. Nicholas can be prepared for all of the children attending!



Interested in learning more about St. Nicholas and how you can celebrate at home? Visit our website at school.stephen.org/ breakfast-in-bethlehem.

This event is hosted by St. Stephen the Martyr Home & School Association and St. Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus.

### School News

generosity.

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

- ⇒ Winter Book Fair: Our next Book Fair is scheduled for December 11-14th, just in time for all of your holiday shopping! More details will be coming soon. Sign up to volunteer at the Book Fair at school.stephen.org/volunteer.
- $\Rightarrow$ Christmas Gift Program: The Home & School Association will again offer families the opportunity to participate in the annual Teacher/Staff Christmas Gift Program. Donations are used to give a gift to each of St. Stephen the Martyr teachers and staff members who share in the daily education and care of your child.

 $\Rightarrow$ 2024 Musical: Finding Nemo, Jr: Registration for our 2024 musical begins November 28th! Get all of the details online at school.stephen.org/musical.

Scan the OR code to donate, and thank you for your

Thank you for participating in our Thanksgiving Food Drive! Our  $\Rightarrow$ school students and their families were wonderfully generous during our Food Drive for our SSM Food Pantry and the Juan Diego Center. Thank you for feeding the hungry!

### **Religious Education News**

- ⇒ **Family Mass:** What an awesome turnout we had! Thank you to all who attended our Family Mass and provided food for the potluck. It was so heartwarming to see so many families attend and encounter Christ! We are so thankful for all of you and look forward to doing this again.
- ⇒ **First Reconciliation:** Our second graders in the Rel. Ed. program and school will be receiving their First Reconciliation on December 4th & 5th. May our Lord bless them on their First Reconciliation, may His love be upon them and His presence always guide them. May they and their families discover the wonder of God's forgiveness.

### Youth Ministry News

- Witness Wednesdays for High Schoolers: High Schoolers are invited to join us November 29th for a *Be Real* Night at St. Stephen the Martyr.
- Better Together Tuesdays: Our Middle School Youth Ministry  $\Rightarrow$ programming is on pause until we hire our new youth minister.



### CYBER MONDAY SHOPPING?





#### HELP STOCK OUR SILENT AUCTION! All donations are greatly appreciated

SCAN TO JOIN OUR WISH LIST!



Any questions? Contact Catiana Urrutia, Development Associate, at 402-861-4541 or c.urrutia@stephen.org

### COME AND ADORE HIM

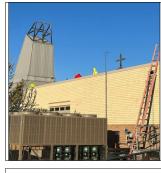
AN ADVENT PRAYER RETREAT

Open to all Young Adults Organized by the West Omaha Family of Parishes Led by Fr. Padraic Stack

Saturday, Dec. 9th | 8 AM - Noon | St. Vincent de Paul Registration required by December 5th SCAN OR CODE TO REGISTER



#### Questions? Contact Adam Ybarra at a.ybarra@stephen.org



### **Roof Replacement Project**

Work is now complete on our roof over the parish offices, schools' administrative offices and dining room! Due to the age and current condition of the roof, replacement was a necessary update to keep our parish home & school safe and protected from the elements.

If you are interested in supporting continued capital improvement projects, please reach out to Catiana Urrutia at 402-861-4541 or <u>c.urrutia@stephen.org</u>.

### 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 <u>a.ybarra@stephen.org</u>.



### Christmas Flower Memorials



We are collecting donations for Christmas Flowers for our worship space. This opportunity is a great way to remember loved ones who have gone before us.

Donations can be made online through OSV (or scan this QR code) or placed in the Offertory Basket using your Offertory Envelopes received in the mail. Please be sure to add your loved one's name in the special intention field.

Please make your donation by Dec. 11th to be included in the Dec. 24th bulletin. Contact the parish office with questions at 402-896-9675.



# First Saturday Devotions



Join the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, Dec. 2nd to pray the Rosary in devotion to Mother Mary. We will pray the Rosary prior to the 8:15 AM Mass in the Worship Space.







<sup>T</sup>HOLY DAY MASS TIMES DEC. 7 AT 5:30 PM DEC. 8 AT 6:30 AM, 8:15 AM\*, 12:05 PM, 5:30 PM\*\* \*ALL SCHOOL MASS, LIMITED SEATING

Join us for a reception to celebrate Mary \*\*APPETIZER RECEPTION FOLLOWING DEC. 8TH 5:30 PM MASS IN THE DINING ROOM



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. 回顾家恩

Questions? Contact Teresa Ziska at 402-960-8618



The Knights of Columbus will be outside the Parish Center. Please pull through the south parking lot to drop off your donations.

**Items needed:** We are in need of pantry staples such as flour, sugar, vegetable oil and the "extras" for a holiday meal such as fried onions, jello, jar gravy, instant potatoes, pumpkin pie filling, pie dough mix, etc.

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

Question: Why are some saints honored as "patron saints"? Answer: Each person is unique and each of us has different gifts, interests, talents, and, yes, even struggles and areas where we need to grow. This is no less true of those holy women, men, and children who have been canonized or beatified. Because we believe that the saints and blesseds are both models of faith and intercessors, Christians have looked to certain holy people as role models and heavenly protectors for occupations, spiritual charisms, and even places. Although the Church sometimes names a person as a patron saint (e.g. Saint Philip Neri as the patron of Rome, Saint Clare of Assisi as the patroness of television, or Saint Aloysius Gonzaga as the patron of youth and young adults), more often it is popular devotion that inspires lay Christians to turn to a particular saint or blessed for heavenly help and support. This is how, for example, Saint Cecilia came to be honored as the patroness of musicians, Saint Toribio Romo as patron of migrants coming into the United States, and Saint Gertrude of Nivelles as patroness of cat lovers. Although there are official and unofficial lists of patron saints, we should always feel free to ask any and all the saints to give us their patronage and protection in whatever it is that we need. ©LPi



**First Friday Adoration—December 1st** 9 AM—2 PM in the Daily Mass Chapel

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\*.



"Spend as much time as possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament and He will fill you with His strength and His power." -Mother Teresa

# Weekly Prayer

### Sunday's Readings

#### **First Reading:**

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. (Ez 34:17)

#### Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)

#### Second Reading:

When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all. (1 Cor 15:28)

#### Gospel:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him.

And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."

(Mt 25:31-32)

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### Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God is always closer to us than we suspect. He is in every need we encounter and every person we meet. Never stop seeking His face.

### Observances for the week of November 26, 2023

Sunday:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Thursday: St. Andrew, Apostle

Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent

### È. 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/praver-line or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday, November 25

8:15 am † Barron Mischke (ZT) 5:00 pm SI Katie Elwer (DB) Sunday, November 26

- 7:30 am SI St. Stephen Parishioners (DB) 9:00 am † Paul Moritz (ZT) 10:30 am † Ron Ingram (ZT) 6:00 pm † Sally Otto (DH)

### Monday, November 27

6:30 am † Barron Mischke (ZT) 8:15 am † Ann Chaney (ZT)

Tuesday, November 28

- 6:30 am † Hannah & Allan Perdue (ZT)
- 8:15 am † Bernie & Mary Ann McGrath (DB)

Wednesday, November 29

- 6:30 am f Barron Mischke (ZT) 8:15 am SI Chuck and Kathy Harvey (DB)

Thursday, November 30

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

#### Friday, December 1

6:30 am † David Mandel (ZT) 8:15 am † Jeanette Heyden (DB)

#### Saturday, December 2

8:15 am † Albert and Marian Berning (DB) 5:00 pm † Zach Fochek (ZT)

#### Sunday, December 3 7:30 am SI St. Stephen Parishioners (DB) 9:00 am † Russ Mitchell (DB) 10:30 am † Maurice Rule (ZT) 6:00 pm † Julie Anciaux (ZT)

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 <u>m.kane@stephen.org</u> or 402-896-9675.



### Deceased souls of our parish family:

Kate Stork, wife of Gary

### Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Michael Bazant, husband of Patricia John McDonnell, husband of Susan **Kim Weeks** 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

# Council of Catholic Women FOCUS SEEK24 Scholarship

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.

### News from the Community

Feast of the Immaculate

Conception at Dowd Chapel

### December 8, 2023 Mass 4:00 pm

Discussion of the Stained Glass Windows – Thomas Lynch, Director of Community Programs

Discussion of Stained-**Glass Window** Renovation - Jennifer Lambrecht, Lambrecht Studios, inc.

Light refreshments to follow in the rectory breezeway. Book and ornaments available.

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.

OMAHA WELCOMES THE STRANGER: The gospel asks that we "welcome the stranger" among us. Omaha Welcomes the Stranger is a non-profit organization that provides temporary shelter and hospitality for migrants and asylum seekers who arrive in Omaha and assists them in finding permanent housing. If you would like to help sponsor a migrant family or learn more about how you can assist asylum seekers in our community please contact OWS at tom-margaret@cox.net.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Come experience the magic of this beautiful play by Charles Dickens! December 13th and 14th, 6:30 PM, Chesterton Academy of Omaha, 36th and Q Streets in the St. Mary's Gym. Tickets \$10/Adults, \$5/youth. Children 5 and under are free. More information and tickets available online at chestertonomaha.org.

**3 DAY SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT:** Come away to the quiet and be present to what God wants to offer you. Creighton University Retreat Center, located one hour east of Omaha in Griswold, IA is offering 3 Day Silent Directed Retreats at the times listed below. Retreats begin 6 PM supper the first day and end at 3 PM the last day. The cost is \$375 for room, meals and one-on-one spiritual direction sessions. Register at creighton.edu/retreatcenter or scan the QR Code

Choose one from these available dates:

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



#### 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., 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

### Come make merry with a Tom & Jerry!

Please join us for fellowship and cheer

Saturday, December 16th 9:00-11:00 AM **Parish Center** 

\*Must be 21 to attend\*

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

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St. Stephen Martyr, Omaha, NE

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