



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

December 24, 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.

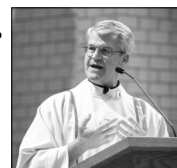


4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Behold, you will conceive
in your womb and bear
a son, and you shall
name him Jesus."
- Lk 1:31

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary."



The season of Advent is filled with announcements. There are old, sterile women bearing children, an unmarried virgin is suddenly carrying a child, and angels singing to shepherds. All of these announcements are filled with wonder, fear, and praise. This weekend we hear the great announcement of the birth of Jesus and the bright promise that His reign will last forever.

When Mary hears the angel's news, she is confused and asks, "How can this be?" But Mary is very quickly reassured when Gabriel tells her that the power of the Holy Spirit will overshadow her and that the child will be called the Son of God. Finally, Gabriel tells Mary that "nothing will be impossible for God." And that's all that Mary needs to hear. Her response is "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Sometimes life does seem impossible and we may respond with fear or doubt. In those moments, we must remember Mary, who listened to the angel and responded to an uncertain future with great faith.

"The secret of waiting is the faith that the seed has been planted, that something has been started." - Henri Nouwen

God bless you,
Father Dave

Fourth Sunday of ADVENT



*"...and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means 'God is with us.'"*

The Fourth Sunday in Advent announces the identity of Jesus, the long awaited Messiah. We wait, knowing that the day Jesus was born, everything changed. Let us allow ourselves to be changed once again by the victorious arrival of Emmanuel—our God who became like us so he could be with us.



The Word was made flesh | And dwelt among us

Merry Christmas

He was in the beginning with God. All
things came to be through him, and without
him nothing came to be. What came to be
through him was life, and this life was the
light of the human race.

John 1:2-4



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 12/5-12/11/2023:

Actual:	\$24,563
Budget:	\$61,126
FYTD Actual:	\$1,069,518
FYTD Budget:	\$1,111,260

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.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Parish Office Closures

Please note that the Parish Offices will be closed the following days around the Christmas holiday:

- Dec. 22: Closing at Noon
- Dec. 25: Closed, No Adoration
- Dec. 26: No Reconciliation
- Dec. 31: No 6 PM Mass
- Jan. 1: Closed, No 6:30 AM Mass

Thank you for understanding and Merry Christmas!

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"
— Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

#stewardshipreflection



Save the Date

School Open House

Sunday, January 28

- Meet students, parents, teachers & staff
- Tour our school
- Complete your student's application

School News

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

- ⇒ **Merry Christmas!** We'd like to wish our students, families, teachers and staff a very Merry Christmas! We are on Christmas break, with our school office closed, until classes resume on January 4, 2024.
- ⇒ **Italian Feast Fundraiser:** The Omaha Travel Club will host an Italian Feast on January 13 from 5– 9 PM in the Dining Room to raise funds for the 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. Kids are \$5 and Adults are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Tickets may be purchased in advance from 8th graders or at the door.
- ⇒ **2024 Musical—Finding Nemo, Jr:** Registration for our 2024 musical is open! Get all of the details and register by Jan. 21st online at school.stephen.org/musical.

Religious Education News

- ⇒ **Merry Christmas!** It's not too late to register your children for Religious Education classes. We offer classes for students in PreK through Grade 8. Classes meet on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. Visit our website at stephen.org for more information or contact our Religious Education office at 402-896-5683. Classes resume January 9, 2024.
- ⇒ **Two Catechists needed for 6th Grade Religious Education:** Our 6th grade Rel. Ed. classes on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM will need new catechists for the second semester beginning January 10, 2024. All materials and lesson plans are provided. Please contact Eileen at e.smith@stephen.org if you can volunteer. Thank you!

Youth Ministry News

- ⇒ **Witness Wednesdays for High Schoolers:** We are on Christmas break on December 27th. Look for more information coming in January!

CYSL SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

- CYSL Soccer is for SSM Parishioners in grades K–8th
- Athletes of all abilities and multi-sports athletes welcome
- Registration Deadline: 5 PM, Friday, Jan. 8th

Note: Micro (Ages 3–6) Registration Opening at Later Date!



Sports Club

Register & more information at:
stephen.org/sports-club



Christmas Flower Memorials

In Memory of:	Donor:
Chris Abbott	Brian & Trisha Gappa
Jeanette & Emil Adam	Mike & Melissa Adam
Deceased Members of the Adam Family	Larry & Carol Adam
Jim All	Mike & Melissa Adam
Julie Anciaux	Jenny Whitcomb
Bruce, Chuck & Kelly Appleby	Mike & Linda Verzal
Fred & LaVonna Appleby	Mike & Linda Verzal
Tom & Helen Baye	Mike & Virginia Baye
Joyce Becker	Terry & Rose Becker
Ken Becker	Terry & Rose Becker
Joe Beckwith	Bill & Colleen Beckwith
Martha Beckwith	Bill & Colleen Beckwith
Reba & Benny Benschoter	Mary Miller
Cecelin Bera	Chuck & Ann Botdorf
James Bera	Chuck & Ann Botdorf
Albert & Marian Berning	Jim & Jan Kjosa
Bill Bertch	Jeanne Workman
Cyril Berthiaume	Jeffrey & Karen Berthiaume
Sylvan & Virginia Bissen	Marty Fawcett
Deceased Members of the Blazek Family	Larry & Carol Adam
Lois & Charles Botdorf	Chuck & Ann Botdorf
Terrence Boyle	Gail Daly
Deceased Members of the Bridston Family	Pam & Gary Davis
Irene Buckley	David & Sara Klein
Joe & Eve Bunton	Paul Richter
Ted & Vivian Buras	Ron & Jean Buras
Maurice & Kathy Burns	Jeff & Patti White
Irene Butterfield	Bob Treadway & Margene Schneckloth
Martin & Josephine Caliendo	Therese Caliendo
Elizabeth Chitsey	Jeffrey & Karen Berthiaume
Anna Chmura	Mary Venditte
Roman Chmura	Mary Venditte
Stefan Chmura	Mary Venditte
Eugene & Doris Christiansen	John & Julie Christiansen
Deceased Members of the Cinnamon Family	Steve Cinnamon
Don Clapp	Paul Richter
Ann Copeland	Brian & Trisha Gappa
Harold & Sophia Cork	Anita Milacek
John Cortinas, Sr.	Carol Cortinas
Deceased Members of the Costello Family	Bud & Rosalie Lynch

In Memory of:	Donor:
Sofia & Charles D'Abate	Gary & Sandra Heer
Les & Dona Leigh Davis	Jo & Tom Davis
Deceased Members of the Davis Family	Pam & Gary Davis
Richard Delaney	Steve & Cathy Lorenz
August & Thelma Dethlefs	Denny & Janice Dethlefs
Lynda Diessner	Laureen Westby
Doug Diggins	Terrance & Donna Diggins
Margaret Dix	Gary & Sandra Heer
Jack Dobrinska	Diane Dobrinska
Roy Doty	Mae Doty
Terry Doukas	Nancy & Dick Larson
Mark A. Drazic	Jone Drazic
Joe & Charlotte Dziueawiec	Marie Stibbs
Ann & Jim Egan	Patrick Egan
Great Aunt Helen	Peggy Evans
Ann, Alice, & Warren Fawcett	Marty Fawcett
Rodger Fawcett	Marty Fawcett
Ryan Fawcett	Marty Fawcett
Charles & Isabel Feld	Mr. & Mrs. Norbert Muhlbauer
Angelo Felici	Dee Felici
JoAnne Fike	Jeff & Patti White
Alan Fochek	Amanda Ruh
Zachary Fochek	Amanda Ruh
Conrad Gall	Deann Grovijohn
Dorothy Gappa	Brian & Trisha Gappa
Jean Goodwin	Peggy Evans
Dale Greimann	Leslie & Adam Schulte
Dom & Elizabeth Grota	James Laphen
Rudy & Mary Grovijohn	Deann Grovijohn
Robert Gyhra	Teresa Pfister
Kim Hacker	Bob & Rene Hacker
Kim Hacker	Tom Hacker
Donna & Mel Hale	Len & Alice Kruse
Barney Hallett	Tim & Michelle Hallett
Leo & Anna Hallett	Tim & Michelle Hallett
Ruth & Don Harris	Pat Miller
Scott Harris	Pat Miller
Paul & Delores Hartigan	Tim Hartigan
Susan Hartigan	Tim Hartigan
Eileen Hartmann	Bruce, Sue, & Mike Sharp
Mary Jane Harvey	Patrick Egan
Ed, Louise & Norbie Heer	Gary & Sandra Heer

Christmas Flower Memorials

In Memory of:	Donor:
Robert & Eleanor Heideman	Joyce & Roger Snowden
Harold & Albie Helgenberger	Marty & Rita Warwick
Dorothy Hiemer	Bob Treadway & Margene Schneckloth
Leonard Hiemer	Bob Treadway & Margene Schneckloth
Herbert & Evelyn Hoffmann	Ron & Jean Buras
James Huffman	Rose Huffman
Jake Hurd	Norm Thomas
Richard Hytrek	Kevin & Jacqueline Hytrek
Louis Iannuzzelli	Michael Litz
Ron Ingram	Sharon Ingram
Juan Jacobo	Estefani Jacobo
Mavis & John Jenkins	Gary & Sandra Heer
Mike Jenkins	Deb Jenkins
Rich Johns	Mary Johns
Kevin Keegan	Melissa Keegan
Michelle Klabunde	Marty Fawcett
Dean Klein	David & Sara Klein
Marge & Otto Klein	David & Sara Klein
Dolores (Mother of Mike Knier)	Michael & Sue Knier
Patricia (Mother of Sue Knier)	Michael & Sue Knier
Joe Koley	Tim & Michelle Hallett
Chris & Helen Konoposos	Gary & Sandra Heer
John Kratina	Kathy Kratina
The Kratina Family	Kathy Kratina
Victor Krause	Tudy Storm
The Krumsick Family	Gregory Krumsick
Joann Krumwied	Kevin & Jacqueline Hytrek
Charles & Norma Kruse	Len & Alice Kruse
Leonard Kruse	Len & Alice Kruse
Ron Kuzelka	Theresa Kuzelka
Deceased Members of the Kuzelka Family	Theresa Kuzelka
Alice & Bub Lang	Jan Johnson
Patrick Lang	Jan Johnson
Richard Lang	Jan Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Lanning	Scott & Karen Stevens
Pat & Elizabeth Laphen	James Laphen
Pat & May Laphen	James Laphen
Deceased Members of the Larson Family	Nancy & Dick Larson
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick & Shirley Lasauskas	Anton Lasauskas
Joe Latoza	Kathy Kratina

In Memory of:	Donor:
Richard & Margaret Lauritsen	John & Barb Secora
Marv & Vi Limbeck	Randy Limbeck
Norbert Litz	Michael Litz
Evelyn Litz	Michael Litz
Merlin Loberg	Angie Loberg
Larry & Bonnie Long	Scott & Jane Long
The James Long Family	Carole Stickels
Sean Paul Lynch	Bud & Rosalie Lynch
Deceased Members of the Lynch Family	Bud & Rosalie Lynch
Dave & Gladys Mandel	Deann Grovijohn
Elmer & Adella Mandel	Deann Grovijohn
Ben Mannino	Lucille Mannino
Bob Mannino	Lucille Mannino
Mark Mannino	Lucille Mannino
Larry McCabe	Jan McCabe
Rich McCormick	Bonnie McCormick
Dolores & Joe McGill	Roland Wedige
Bernie & Mary Ann McGrath	Kathleen Wawers
Art & Kathleen Menzies	Tim Hartigan
Richard & Teresa Micek	Randy Psota
Joe & Frances Mickells	Nancy & Dick Larson
Art & Virginia Miller	Mary Miller
Deceased Members of the Mills Family	Larry & Carol Adam
Gene Mitchell	Jan Mitchell
Russ Mitchell	Jan Mitchell
Ken & Ruth Mitchell	Scott & Jane Long
Rita Mondor	Mike & Melissa Adam
Walt & Eleanor Mondor	Mike & Melissa Adam
Gary & Michael Mongar	Carol Mongar
Sandy & John Moral	Tim & Michelle Hallett
Don Moss	Tim & Michelle Hallett
Charles & Ann Muhlbauer	Mr. & Mrs. Norbert Muhlbauer
Thomas Mullen	Brian Mullen
Dorothy Murphy	Jim & Donna Murphy
Scott Murphy	Jim & Donna Murphy
James Murphy, Sr.	Jim & Donna Murphy
Juanita Mutuc	Steve Cinnamon
Gertrude Nee	Bill & Colleen Beckwith
Jack Nee	Bill & Colleen Beckwith
Nicholas & Elizabeth Neesen	Deann Grovijohn
Stephen & Joan Ondak	Peggy Evans
Joseph Ostrowski	Mike & Melissa Adam

Christmas Flower Memorials

In Memory of:	Donor:
Allan & Hannah Perdue	Bill & Cheryl Perdue
Pompeyo Perez	Estefani Jacobo
Nicole Peterson	Chad Peterson
Gerri Phillips & James Phillips	Tim & Jill Wood
Arnold & Maxine Pivonka	Denny & Janice Dethlefs
Donald Popp	Cindy Popp
Bob Prondergast	Brian & Trisha Gappa
Katie Prondergast	Brian & Trisha Gappa
Edward & Vernice Psota	Randy Psota
Bill Ramaekers	Jim & Donna Murphy
Vi Ramaekers	Jim & Donna Murphy
Duane Rath	Dee Felici
Geo & Leona Richter	Paul Richter
Michael Richter	Paul Richter
Ione Riesselman	Dennis & Ruth Riesselman
Ray Riesselman	Dennis & Ruth Riesselman
Louie & Mary Riha	Mike & Virginia Baye
Jindra Rinker	Tina Schmidt
Ellen Ritz	Marie Stibbs
Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Andrea Rodman	Anton Lasauskas
Ricardito Romero	Gilbert Romero
The Parents of G. Romero	Gilbert Romero
The Mother of A. Romero (Estella)	Gilbert Romero
Paula Routh	Angie Loberg
Herb & May Ruhr	Randy Limbeck
Bernadette Rupiper	Terry & Rose Becker
Clarence Rupiper	Terry & Rose Becker
Gerry Rupiper	Terry & Rose Becker
Morgan Sanderson	Scott & Annie Sanderson
Sam Sanderson	Scott & Annie Sanderson
Elizabeth & Mathias Schaack	Bob Zielinski
The Schaffer Family	Gregory Krumsick
Alois & Frances Schmaderer	Doris Young
Larry Schmeckpeper	Catherine Schmeckpeper
Doris Schumacher	Paul Richter
Harry & Bertha Schumacher	Paul Richter
Tony & Nellie Secora	John & Barb Secora
George Sedlak	Jeffrey & Karen Berthiaume
Helen Sedlak	Jeffrey & Karen Berthiaume
Fr. Kenneth Sedlak, CSsR	Jeffrey & Karen Berthiaume
Maria Senior	Rose Huffman
Deceased Members of the Setlak Family	Larry & Carol Adam

In Memory of:	Donor:
Tim Sheehy	Laureen Westby
Laura & Raymond Shumway	Bob Zielinski
Mathilda & Marshall Shumway	Bob Zielinski
Babies of the Shumway Family	Bob Zielinski
Joseph L. Siracuse	Lucy Siracuse
William Skupa, Jr.	Jo Ann Skupa
Hiram & Helen Snowden	Joyce & Roger Snowden
Carmella Snyder	Janet & Morris Quillin
Donald Snyder	Janet & Morris Quillin
Leroy Snyder	Janet & Morris Quillin
Lawrence & Bernadine Spieker	Shirley Spieker
Jim & Joann Stachura	Bill & Cheryl Perdue
Jean & Jerry Stahmer	Karen Hiles
Hilda Steffen & Ike Steffen	Dennis & Ruth Riesselman
Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Stevens	Scott & Karen Stevens
Jerry Stibbs	Marie Stibbs
Don Stickels & Family	Carole Stickels
Lewis Storm	Tudy Storm
Rick Stout	Marty Fawcett
Denny Swanstrom	Mary Swanstrom
Norman Timm	Brian Mullen
Eugene Treadway	Bob Treadway & Margene Schneckloth
Dick Triba, Helen & Henry Triba	Tim & Michelle Hallett
Ann Vandehaar	Scott & Jane Long
Ed & Myrl Verzal	Mike & Linda Verzal
Mary & Jim Virca	Tim & Michelle Hallett
Maynard Wanetka	Lisa Wanetka
Charles & Lorraine Warwick	Marty & Rita Warwick
Susan Warwick	Marty & Rita Warwick
Ken & Theresa Watkins	Ron & Jean Buras
Kenneith & Lucy Watkins	Ron & Jean Buras
Jim Watsabaugh	Billie Watsabaugh
Bill & Angela Wedge	Roland Wedge
Marlene Westby	Laureen Westby
Don & Sally Whitcomb	Jenny Whitcomb
Jim & Sharon Williams	Bob Williams
David & Doris Winkelbauer	Jeff Winkelbauer
Garry & Marge Wittwer	Jo & Tom Davis
Mardeen Wood & Ronald Wood	Tim & Jill Wood
Elinor Workman	Jeanne Workman
Jack Workman	Jeanne Workman
Curtis Young	Doris Young
Mary & Ben Zielinski	Bob Zielinski

ON THE FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

JOIN US FOR MASS & A BLESSING OF OUR NEW STATUE



Dec. 26th
8:15 AM Mass

Following Mass, Fr. Dave will bless our new St. Stephen statue.

The statue was donated by Kevin and Mary Lorraine Miller in memory of Mary Lorraine's parents, Leon and Reba Benschofer.

Following the blessing there will be a reception in the Dining Room.

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer: Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different.

The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.
©LPi



Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Monday, Jan. 1st
8:15 AM

Please note: Because the Solemnity falls on a Monday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year

Angel Tree Project: Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you for your phenomenal participation in the Angel Tree Project benefitting elderly people served by the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA). Our parishioners "adopted" and **purchased gifts for 100 individuals** and donated over **6,000 items** including denture/dental products, incontinence products, cleaning supplies, gloves, socks, personal hygiene products, facial tissues, and toilet paper. Those items will be stocked by ENOA for use by any of their 6,570 clients in five counties. You didn't stop at that, you also donated **\$3,250 in gift cards, \$1,554 worth of postage stamps** and **\$651.50 in monetary donations**, all which has been passed on to ENOA to use while serving their clients. This is an incredible way to bring joy to the elderly in our community and you lived out The Corporal Works of Mercy, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, and clothing the naked! Bless you all this Christmas season!



ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



We will not have Adoration on Monday, December 25th. Our Adoration Chapel is available 24/7 via door access code: 9675*.

First Friday Adoration

Join us for First Friday Adoration on Friday, January 5th from 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM.

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.



THE GIVER OF EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT HAS CALLED UPON US TO MIMIC GODS GIVING.

St. Nicholas of Myra





TRIVIA NIGHT

JANUARY 20, 2024

THERE ARE SO MANY
WAYS TO GET INVOLVED
IN TRIVIA NIGHT!

REGISTER A TEAM

VOLUNTEER TO HELP

DONATE PRIZES



SCAN TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT GETTING
INVOLVED OR VISIT
[STEPHEN.ORG/
TRIVIA-NIGHT](https://stephen.org/trivia-night)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CATIANA URRUTIA
402-861-4541/C.URRUTIA@STEPHEN.ORG



St. Stephen the Martyr | Dinner & Auction

CASINO Royale



SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 6, 2024

Now that Christmas is over, it's
time to start counting down to the
Dinner and Auction!

*Raffle Tickets go on sale in 19 Days
Event Tickets go on sale in 61 Days*



◀ SCAN FOR MORE INFO OR VISIT
stephen.org/dinner



Upcoming Events

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](https://stephen.org/primetimers).

Help stock our Food Pantry!

Drop off anytime at the Food Pantry Cart
located in the foyer of the Parish Center



Needed Hygiene Items:

Paper Towels, Laundry Soap, Bar Soap, Dish Soap,
Shampoo, Deodorant, and general household cleaners.

Needed Food Items:

Pasta, mac-n-cheese, crackers, cookies, cereal, jelly

Thank you for continuing to support the SSM Food Pantry!

Join Our Lectio Divina Women's Group in the New Year!

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH | 9:15 AM | PARISH CENTER:

Come and learn the Lectio Divina way to pray! Our women's group invites you to learn the practice of scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. **Our first meeting of the year will be January 4th** and we will begin a new eight-part study called, *Wisdom: God's Vision for Life*. Drawing on the wisdom literature of the Bible—Proverbs, Wisdom, Sirach, and Ecclesiastes—this study will teach you how to actively seek sound guidance and increase your sense of peace in navigating life. Questions? Contact Nancy at wiederholtncancy@hotmail.com.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

“Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me;
your throne shall stand firm forever.” (2 Sm 28:16)

Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 89)

Second Reading:

The revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages
but now manifested through the prophetic writings and,
according to the command of the eternal God,
made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith. (Rom 16:25-26)

Gospel:

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus.” (Lk 1:31)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's plans are not always what we imagined.
Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary.
Say “Yes, Lord” — and God will show you that His
imagination is better than yours.

Observances for the week of December 24, 2023

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

Monday: The Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Wednesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

Next Sunday: The Holy Family; New Year's Eve



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, December 23

8:15 am † Jerome Shavlik (DB)
5:00 pm † Erin Doll (ZT)

Sunday, December 24—4th Sunday in Advent

7:30 am † Greg Elwer (ZT)
9:00 am SI St. Stephen Parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Beatriz Gutierrez Puentes (ZT)

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve

4:00 pm † Lewis Storm (DB)
4:15 pm † Lois Lammers Stammes (SS)
6:00 pm † Julie Anciaux (ZT)
11:00 pm SI St. Stephen Parishioners (DB)

Monday, December 25—Christmas Day

9:00 am † Mike Dallan (ZT)
10:30 am † Tom and Rita Sautter (DB)

Tuesday, December 26—Feast of St. Stephen the Martyr

6:30 am † Gerald Moseke (ZT)
8:15 am † Emanuel Erma Shavlik (DB)

Wednesday, December 27

6:30 am † Hannah & Allan Perdue (ZT)
8:15 am † Roger Pribnow (ZT)

Thursday, December 28

6:30 am Communion Service
8:15 am † Robert Gentrup (DH)

Friday, December 29

6:30 am † JoAnn Spurgin (ZT)
8:15 am † Elizabeth Gulizia (DB)

Saturday, December 30

8:15 am † Patty Greving (DB)
5:00 pm † Bob Mannino (ZT)

Sunday, December 31

7:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (ZT)
9:00 am SI St. Stephen Parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Dolores Knier (ZT)
6:00 pm No 6 PM Mass

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

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

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:

Michael Bazant, husband of Patricia

Kim Weeks

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

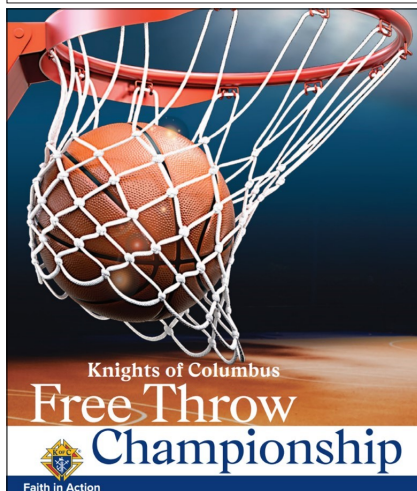
Matt Kelly, son of Billie Watsabaugh

Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim

News from the Community

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP—DEC. 30 AT 11 AM: Join us in Thanksgiving, Prayer and Healing for the many Blessings received this past year and for the coming New Year. Join the Padre Pio Prayer Group on December 30 at 11 AM in the Dowd Chapel on Boys Town Campus.

UPCOMING GRIEF SHARE GROUP AT MARY OUR QUEEN—TUESDAYS, 6:30 PM, BEGINS JAN. 23, 2024: A GriefShare support group is a safe place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Scan the QR Code to learn more.



FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Age 9—14

SAINT STEPHEN THE MARTYR

Gym

JANUARY 5TH

7PM

This is a fun activity for families, where boys and girls shoot 15 free throws.

CONTACT Kevin Rempe

krempe82@gmail.com

With questions, no RSVP required

8th Grade Fundraiser

ITALIAN FEAST

Kids-\$5

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\$12- at the door

JANUARY
13TH
5-9PM

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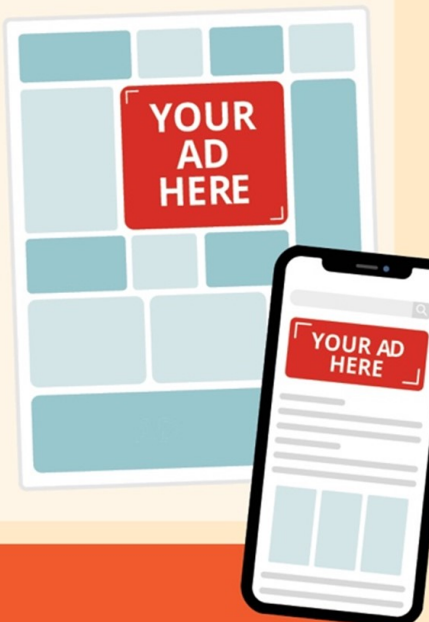
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The Support of Your Business is Greatly Appreciated

Kjirsten Finnegan from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. It is the support of the business community that helps to make our church thrive. Please consider purchasing a print and/or digital ad as your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract

Church bulletin advertising is a cost-effective way to advertise 52 times per year and show support for your local community; in turn, parishioners will support you!

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Kjirsten Finnegan
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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



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Christmas • Luke 2:1-14

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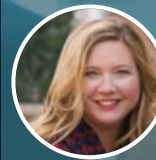
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