

January 21, 2024

# 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>.

# Join us! Jan. 22 -24 Forty Hours Devotion

All St. Stephen the Martyr parishioners and friends are invited to join us for 40 Hours of Devotion. Come and spend time with Jesus!

See details on page 3 of this bulletin!



# 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20

# Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day's walk announcing, 'Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed,' when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth."



Our first reading for this weekend recounts the story

of Jonah and the message of repentance that he brought to the Ninevites. Jonah was a reluctant prophet, sent to speak to the sworn enemy of his people. Jonah couldn't care less if God was going to destroy the Ninevites; besides, he had planned on going to Tarshish, which was in the opposite direction of the city of Nineveh. It took a terrible storm at sea and three days in the belly of a large fish to convince Jonah otherwise. When the fish spit Jonah out of his mouth, Jonah found himself on the shore of Nineveh.

Even though Jonah was reluctant to do the Lord's work, the power of God's word, spoken through Jonah, entered into the hearts of this pagan people and they were suddenly converted to the faith. So great was their repentance that their acts of penance involved everyone from the king to the animals. Even God repented and He changed His mind about destroying the city.

When it comes to proclaiming the message of God's mercy, we are all reluctant prophets. Many times we are thinking about how sinfulness can be punished, instead of how merciful and forgiving God is. How often do we want revenge or we wish harm on someone who has hurt us in any way? We must remember the words of the Lord's Prayer, which we recite often: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." If God did forgive us in the same way that we forgive others, would we be forgiven?

We must be convinced of the extraordinary power of God's forgiveness and love and share that message with others. As Jonah learned in Nineveh, God does have the power to transform people.

"Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to his love, and the future to his providence." –Saint Augustine

God bless you, Father Dave

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 Chris

# 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: <u>stephen.org/sacraments</u>.

### 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 1/9-1/15/2024:

Actual:	\$40,646
Budget:	\$52,998
FYTD Actual:	\$1,390,593
FYTD Budget:	\$1,403,259

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 <u>stephen.org/give</u>. Offertory envelopes may also be mailed to our office: 16701 S Street, Omaha, NE 68135.



### One Rose, One Life One Rose, One Life Second Collection

This weekend, the Knights of Columbus will host a second collection for the annual fundraising campaign, 'One Rose, One Life'. This campaign is conducted by the Nebraska Knights of Columbus, for the Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska and supports various prolife causes, events and organizations. **To contribute, place your donation in the second collection at Masses this weekend or mail a check donation to:** Knights of Columbus, Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska, 4770 Jean Marie Lane, Fort Calhoun, NE 68023. Please notate "KOC-10160" in the Memo Line. Thank you for your support!

### "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."- Mark 1:17

Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

*#stewardshipreflection* 

# School News

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





### Reserve Your Tour at our School Open House! Sunday, January 28

- Meet students, parents, teachers & staff
- Tour our school
  - Complete your student's application
    school.stephen.org
- ⇒ Catholic Schools Week: Catholic Schools Week is just around the corner. We will kick off the week with our school's Open House on Sunday, January 28th. We hope you will join us! Tour reservations are required. Please visit <u>school.stephen.org/openhouse</u> to register.
- ⇒ 2024 Musical—Finding Nemo, Jr: Registration for our 2024 musical is open! Get all of the details and register by Jan. 21st online at <u>school.stephen.org/musical</u>.

# **Religious Education**

- ⇒ EPS Baby Bottle Drive: On January 23rd & January 24th, families are invited to join in supporting mothers and babies in unexpected and under supported pregnancies by participating in the EPS Baby Bottles' Change for Life. A baby bottle will be sent home with the students for families to add coins, cash or checks in the baby bottles provided. Please return the bottles by February 7th with your donations.
- ⇒ **First Communion Parent Meeting:** Please plan for at least one parent of each child preparing to receive First Communion this April to attend a meeting in the Dining Room on February 11th at 4 PM. Children are not required to attend the parent meeting. First Communion packets, which should be completed at home with your child, will be distributed at that time.





Register & more info at: stephen.org/sports-club-track or scan this QR Code:



# 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>.



# **Forty Hours Devotion** Spend Time with Jesus January 22 - 24

All parishioners and friends of St. Stephen the Martyr are welcome to attend as much of the forty hours as their schedule permits.

A sign-up has been created to ensure the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone. Scan the below QR Code to sign up.

In addition to being the first evening of our 40 Hours Devotion, Jan. 22nd is recognized by all Dioceses of the United States as the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.



or visit stephen.org/adoration.

**Schedule** Monday, Jan. 22nd, 7 PM to Wednesday, Jan. 24th, 5 PM

Please note that the Blessed Sacrament will not be exposed on Tuesday and Wednesday from 6 - 9 AM to allow for Daily Masses.

# Join your parish family at 40 Hours Devotion A Message of Encouragement from Fr. Zach Tucker

Perhaps you have heard the announcements or seen the bulletin pieces over the past couple of weeks inviting you to join us for 40 Hours Devotion, or 40 hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, but you have had the thought "I've never done this before" or maybe "I don't know what I would do!"

I would encourage you, don't let those thoughts stop you from signing up for an hour! Our relationship with God works in many ways like all our other relationships. If we want to grow closer to someone else, we spend time with them, we learn to recognize how they communicate, what matters to them, and who they are.

In the same way, if we want to hear the voice of God, if we want to come to know Him and His plan for us more, then we must spend time with Him. The saints who have gone before us have encouraged us to run to Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist, to run to Him with all our needs, joys, fears, and uncertainties! It is in Adoration that we come to know The Lord and have the opportunity to gaze upon His Love made visible, His presence, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, in the Blessed Sacrament.

So, if you've never spent an hour in Eucharistic Adoration, don't be intimidated, there isn't a right or wrong way to do it! We tend to make things complicated in our heads, but it isn't difficult. To adore is simply to sit in the presence of Jesus, to receive from Him the grace He wishes to pour out upon you. You can pray a Rosary, read your Bible or another spiritual book, or even journal if you feel the need to "do" something, but it's not necessary. Though you probably have heard the term Holy Hour, any amount of time is acceptable as well.

Devotion to the Eucharist is one of the pillars of the Catholic Church because it is in the Eucharist that Jesus comes to us. Come spend an hour with Him, encounter His love for you, and be restored and refreshed through that encounter!

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

**Question:** Can a person (the mother, father, or provider) ever be forgiven for an abortion?

**Answer:** For people of faith, any conversation of human sinfulness should always lead us to reflect on God's loving mercy. Because God's mercy is greater than any sin, the Church is clear that even those involved in the sin of abortion can be reconciled with God and the Church. To help make this grace more available through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Pope Francis extended the permission to absolve someone of the sin of abortion to all priests in 2016.

Even with the grace and blessings of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the tragedy of abortion and the aftermath of abortion takes a toll on everyone involved. Ministries of outreach and support, such as Project Rachel, offer pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats, and other forms of care. As Christians, we are also called to help promote this healing and reconciliation in all its forms.

To learn more, visit www.hopeafterabortion.com. ©LPi



### Mondays, 7-8 PM, Worship Space

Please join us in the quiet to adore Our Lord every Monday in the Worship Space for Exposition and Benediction.

Join us in our Adoration Chapel 24/7. The code for access is 9675\*.



# TRY YOUR Luck IN THE NEW YEAR!

# YOU COULD WIN!

1ST PLACE: \$5,000 2ND PLACE: \$3,000 3RD PLACE: \$2,000

# TICKETS ON SALE NOW: 1 FOR \$100

6 FOR \$500

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN



# PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS STEPHEN.ORG/DINNER



# MICRO SOCCER COORDINATOR NEEDED

St. Stephen the Martyr Sports Club is seeking a volunteer to serve a 2-year term as our Micro Soccer Coordinator. Duties include:

- Help set up league registration
- Construct teams and recruit coaches
- Make schedule
- Recruit referees for games

• Help with field set-up on Sundays Interested? Contact Corey Guenther at coreyguenther34@gmail.com



# BECOME A MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Can you be His hands & feet?

- ONE HOUR/WEEK COMMITMENT
- BECOME AN EMHC VIA ACCESSIBLE ONLINE TRAINING
- FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT KATHY HAILDLEY AT (402) 639-0264 OR KATHAIDLEY@GMAIL.COM

stephen.org

# Help stock our Food Pantry!

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



Needed Hygiene Items: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, laundry soap, dish soap, & general household cleaners

Needed Food Items: Cereal, pancake mix, pancake syrup, canned fruit, canned vegetables, and tomato pasta sauce

Thank you for continuing to support the SSM Food Pantry!



# Join PrimeTimers in 2024!

CARDS & GAMES EVERY SECOND AND FOURTH THURSDAY: Stop by and see what's happening on Cards and Games Thursdays! Meet some new friends and have a fun afternoon. We play Pitch, Manipulation (REALLY EASY to learn), and Bridge players are often looking for a fourth! Don't play cards? How about a game of Mexican Train Dominoes or Tripoley. Or why not introduce us to **your** favorite game! You will feel welcomed! Bring a friend and a snack to share as we meet at the Parish Center! It's also a great time to donate an item to the SSM Food Pantry. Questions? Contact us at stephens.primetimers@gmail.com.

# Weekly Prayer

# Sunday's Readings

### **First Reading:**

- When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way,
- he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them;

he did not carry it out. (Jon 3:10)

### Psalm:

Teach me your ways, O Lord. (Ps 25)

### Second Reading:

For the world in its present form is passing away. (1 Cor 7:31)

### Gospel:

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment.

The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:14-15)

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# Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The disciples were fishing when Christ found them, hard at work to support their families, casting their nets into the sea. Sometimes when God calls us, we are in the middle of something else. Don't be afraid to change your plans to follow Him.

# Observances for the week of January 21, 2024

Sunday:	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
Tuesday:	St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
Wednesday:	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
Friday:	Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
Saturday:	St. Angela Merici, Virgin
Next Sunday:	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Celebrate Catholic Schools Week



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 <u>stephen.org/prayer-line</u> or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

# Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 20		
8:15 am	1	Jeffrey Kane, Jr. (DB)
5:00 pm	†	Leonard & Adele Hassenstab (ZT)
Sunday, January 21		
		Lewis Storm (ZT)
9:00 am	SI	Deacon Denny Dethlefs (ZT)
10:30 am	†	Kim Lestina (ĎB)
6:00 pm	SI	St. Stephen Parishioners (DB)
Monday, January 22		
6:30 am	†	Ken Hamik (ZT)

6 8:15 am † Arthur D Houston (ZT)

Tuesday, January 23

- 6:30 am † Howard Ball (DB)
- 8:15 am † Mark Mannino (ZT)

### Wednesday, January 24

6:30 am † Thomas Phillipp (DB) 8:15 am † Luella Linnebur (ZT)

Thursday, January 25

6:30 am † Mary Ann Bryl (DB) 8:15 am † Eldred Keane (DB)

### Friday, January 26

6:30 am † Rich McCormick (DB) 8:15 am † Gerald Moseke (ZT)

### Saturday, January 27

8:15 am † Erin Doll (ZT) 5:00 pm † St. Stephen Parishioners (DB)

Sunday, January 28 7:30 am † Mary Ann Drelicharz (DB) 9:00 am † Gene Mitchell (ZT) 10:30 am † Joe Sautter (ZT)

6:00 pm † Roger Pribnow (AD)

t = Repose of the Soul SI = Special Intention

DB = Fr. Dave Belt: ZT = Fr. Zach Tucker: AD = Fr. Amit D'Souza

### 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:

Andrew Williams, husband of Monina Judy Bruns, mother of Cathy Harrington Dr. Gary Vogelsberg, husband of Bernice Carol Harris, mother of David, Julie & Sharon

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

The Rumbaugh Family John Lewandowski, husband of Suzie Max Rocha, husband of Kelly, father of Jayden, KK, Trinity and Xander **Molly Felker**, daughter of Mike and Stacy Michael Bazant, husband of Patricia **Kim Weeks Yvonne Kamphaus,** wife of Mike 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

# Advocate for the Vulnerable this January



### Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children—Tomorrow, January 22

Join Catholics throughout the country on Monday, Jan. 22nd as the Church in the United States observes the annual "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children." This day is set aside to pray for the legal protection of human life and to do penance for the violations to human dignity through abortion. We are called to observe this day through prayer and penance. Learn more at: <u>respectlife.org/january-22</u>.

# EPS Baby Bottle Campaign— Pick yours up in the Gathering Space this Weekend!

EPS Baby Bottles is a community-wide fundraiser, and its proceeds help inspire women to choose life for their babies and a bright future for themselves! While filling baby bottles with coins, cash, or checks to benefit women who are experiencing unexpected and undersupported pregnancies, the fundraiser can also serve as an opportunity to teach your children about the value of all human life (born and unborn). Pick up your bottle after Masses in the Gathering Space on Jan. 20th or 21st and return them the weekend of Feb. 3rd and 4th.

### Nebraska Walk for Life

Join your fellow Nebraskans on January 27th for the annual Nebraska Walk for Life. This year's event will feature international speaker and abortion survivor Melissa Ohden, in addition to state and federal representatives. The event will also feature information about the pro-abortion ballot initiative. Learn more at <u>lincolnrighttolife.org/walkforlife</u>.

### Become a Sidewalk Advocate!



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. **Saturday, February 10, 2024** at Catholic Charities Building, 9223 Bedford Ave, from 10 AM – 4 PM. The \$10 registration fee covers workbook, materials & lunch. For information or to register email <u>lifesidewalk@gmail.com</u>.





# GLOW 2024 Benefit Dinner

**Registration Now Open!** 

Join GLOW honorary chairs, Dr. Paul and Mrs. Bernadette Esposito, **Thursday, February 29, 2024**, at the **Mid-America Center** to hear a lifeinspiring keynote address by author and pro-life activist, **Toni McFadden**. Registration is \$75 per person or \$750 to host a table of 10.

Register, sponsor, and donate at <u>bidpal.net/glow24</u>.

Essential Pregnancy Services provides life-affirming, holistic support to women experiencing unexpected or under-supported pregnancies.

For event assistance, contact Maria at <u>MariaD@EssentialPS.org</u> or 531-239-3138.





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

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St. Stephen Martyr, Omaha, NE

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