



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

January 28, 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 ([https://www.facebook.com/
StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha](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 IN ORDINARY TIME

In their synagogue was a man
with an unclean spirit; he cried
out, "What have you to do with
us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you
come to destroy us? I know who
you are—the Holy One of God!"
Jesus rebuked him and said,
"Quiet! Come out of him!"
- Mk 1:23-25

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

ELP

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes."

On Sunday, January 28, the Catholic Church in the United States begins its celebration of Catholic Schools Week. It is an opportunity for all Catholic schools nationwide to celebrate their many achievements and the fact that we bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our students and the families we serve. This year's theme is Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community.

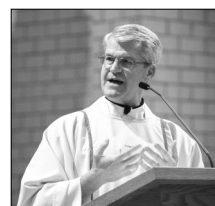
Here at Saint Stephen, we have had a Catholic school as a part of our ministry since the beginning of the parish. We know very well that having a Catholic school in the parish means many sacrifices and challenges, but we also know the benefits of having a school as a part of our mission and ministry. The Church has been very clear in her teachings that Catholic schools in our parishes are a necessary component to the mission of proclaiming the Good News to all.

I am very grateful to all who work together to make Saint Stephen the Martyr Catholic School a place where our young people can grow in their faith and come to a greater understanding of how they can change the world by putting their faith into action. We owe a debt of gratitude to our faculty and staff, to our students, volunteers, and countless benefactors in our community who recognize the importance of having a Catholic school in our parish and community. Your commitment makes a difference!

I am very proud of our school, and I hope that you are too. I truly believe that this is a necessary ministry in our parish and our community, and I will continue to make the necessary sacrifices to build up this Catholic educational community. Above all else, we have to believe that God is present and that the Holy Spirit is at work in every person. With great faith, let us step into a very bright future, for God is preparing the next generation of faithful adult Catholics through our work and commitment to Catholic education today.

"Catholic education is an expression of the mission entrusted by Jesus to the Church He founded. Through education the Church seeks to prepare its members to proclaim the Good News and to translate this proclamation into action." —"To teach as Jesus did," United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1972.

God bless you,
Father Dave



Celebrating Catholic Schools Week



*A good school provides a rounded
education for the whole person. And a good
Catholic school, over and above this, should
help all its students to become saints.*

POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Discover how our school is truly
**united in Christ to ignite the joy of faith,
community and learning**

in our Annual Report on page 4 of this bulletin.

To learn how we are celebrating
Catholic Schools Week, visit school.stephen.org.



Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Scarlett Maryanne Urzendowski, daughter of Sean and Heather

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 1/16-1/22 2024:

Actual:	\$66,368
Budget:	\$52,998
FYTD Actual:	\$1,457,546
FYTD Budget:	\$1,452,471

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.



TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

St. Stephen the Martyr is committed to ensuring all youth in our Parish have access to Catholic education, whether that is through our school or our religious education program.

Through generous parishioner support, we were able to distribute over \$45,000 in tuition assistance to school and RE students for the 2023-2024 school year. Please consider contributing to our second collection this weekend. Your gift will help nourish St. Stephen the Martyr and provide for a brighter future for our youth!

To contribute to the Tuition Assistance Fund, place your donation in the baskets during the second collection this weekend or scan the QR code to give online.



School News

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



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Catholic Schools Week 2024 January 28 - February 3



Learn how St. Stephen the Martyr is celebrating Catholic Schools week at school.stephen.org/csw.

- ⇒ **Vote for our school in the Spirit Catholic Radio Catholic Superstar Contest!** Who's ready for Catholic Schools Week? We are! Vote for your favorite Catholic School, St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School, in Spirit Catholic Radio's Superstar Contest! For 12 years, Spirit Catholic Radio has been shining a spotlight on Catholic high schools and elementary schools in their listening area with the Superstar Contest. Let's get our community talking about the importance of Catholic education by encouraging others in our community to vote! Superstar voting competition begins January 29th and lasts through February 9th. Visit spiritcatholicradio.com/superstar2024 to vote!



- ⇒ **Enrollment for 2024/2025 School Year:** We are now accepting new student applications for the 24/25 school year and re-enrollment is open for our current families. Acceptance letters and enrollment packets for new families will be sent out at the end of February. To apply, visit school.stephen.org/admissions.

Religious Education

- ⇒ **EPS Baby Bottle Drive:** Last week, families were 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 was 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.
- ⇒ **Server Training:** A training is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th from 9-11 AM. All 5th -8th Graders are highly encouraged to become an altar server for St. Stephen the Martyr. Altar Servers are 5th-12th grade students who assist our priests and deacons during weekend Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. If your child is interested in becoming an Altar Server, please complete the Altar Server form at osvhub.com/stephen/forms/altar-server or visit stephen.org.

Youth Ministry

Witness Wednesdays

FOR ALL 9TH-12TH GRADERS OF ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR & ST. WENCESLAUS

Encounter, Know & Share the love of Jesus

Join your friends for a time of fellowship and community through hearing testimonies, bible study, Adoration, and "real" topic discussions. Snacks and drinks provided.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

8-9:30 PM

JANUARY 31ST - ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

FEBRUARY 7TH - ST. WENCESLAUS



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 SAM JIZBA AT (402) 861- 4512 OR S.JIZBA@STEPHEN.ORG

stephen.org



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question: I have a friend who receives communion, but who I know for a fact is in a state of mortal sin. Should I tell our priest? Is it my responsibility to say something?

Answer: While we may always want to do what is best for our friends and family members, we have a responsibility to respect their privacy and their conscience. In its reflections on the Eighth Commandment ("You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"), the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury. [One] becomes guilty: -of rash judgment who, even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor; -of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who do not know them; of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them" (no. 2477).

We will never truly know what is in a person's mind, heart, and soul; only God knows those things. We should, of course, take our concerns to God and entrust the person about whom we are concerned to God's grace and mercy. If we have concerns about the spiritual wellbeing of someone with whom we are close, we should go to the person themselves and talk about our fears and concerns. Unless it is a case of abuse or endangerment (which we have a moral and even legal responsibility to report to the appropriate authorities), we ultimately do not have the freedom to share another's persons faults or sins, however good we think our intentions might be. ©LPi

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

**FEBRUARY 10
9-11 AM
WORSHIP SPACE**

TO REGISTER: EMAIL S.JIZBA@STEPHEN.ORG



Live Lent TOGETHER

SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING

THURSDAY, FEB. 1ST

GPC 7:00-9:00 PM



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter. Know. Preach.

**REGISTER
NOW!**



ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



Mondays, 7-8 PM, Worship Space

*Please note that there will be **no First Friday Adoration this month** because our school students will be celebrating Special Friends Mass for Catholic Schools Week.

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

First Saturday Rosary

Saturday, Feb. 3rd
Prior to 8:15 AM Mass
Worship Space



HELP FUND-A-NEED

Help us raise funds for our maintenance team! Contribute to our Fund-A-Need campaign for a new maintenance truck and fertilizer spreader.



*Donating is
easy, simply
scan the code!*



LEARN MORE
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



**Give with your whole heart.
Get some love from us!**

**Give Blood on
February 10**



Share your heart! Come give in February for a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/heart.

Blood Drive at
St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church
Sponsored By: St. Stephen the Martyr Knights
of Columbus

Saturday, February 10, 2024

7:30 AM to 12:30 PM

St. Stephen the Martyr
16701 S Street



Schedule Your Appointment



**Middle School
Track Registration**

NOW OPEN!

- Open to SSM parishioners in 5-8th grade
- Register before February 26, 2024



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



Food Pantry Curbside Drop-off

Saturday, February 3rd
10 AM - Noon

**Knights of Columbus will collect
donations in front of the Parish Center**



Needed hygiene items:
toothbrushes, deodorant,
shampoo, laundry soap, dish
soap, general household
cleaners, toilet paper
Needed food items: pancake
syrup, tomato pasta sauce,
canned tuna, canned
chicken, canned soup, cereal

Thank you for continuing to support the SSM Food Pantry!

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School



2024 Annual Report

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello and welcome!

It is both a blessing and a privilege to accompany the students, families and staff of St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School. Our school has earned a reputation for academic excellence and a strong Catholic identity through the hard work and support of our staff, families, and parish community. It is truly a joy to walk through the school and see passionate teachers and enthusiastic students engaged in the learning process. This is my sixth year as principal and I am grateful every day for the opportunity to serve St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School. I can confidently say that our students, staff, and families can feel the joy of Christ in all that we do.

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School lives its mission by being *United in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning*. I am especially confident in our priorities: providing a safe and nurturing Catholic environment, continuous improvement, ongoing intentional teacher development, service to others, social-emotional well-being, and relationship-building.

If you are seeking to provide a strong faith foundation for your children, and if you are looking for a spiritual community to call home, we'd love to meet you! Give us a call, we'll schedule a tour!

Experience the love of Christ shared at our school.

Mrs. Julie Perrault



OUR MISSION

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



MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all to encounter Christ, know Christ and proclaim Christ. Our school is an important extension of this mission. With this understanding, through financial stewardship and fundraising efforts, all parishioners help fund more than 50% of the per-pupil tuition cost. This generosity allows all children in our community the opportunity to establish a strong Catholic faith foundation while receiving a first-class education. Our school is truly blessed by this financial support.

The children at St. Stephen the Martyr are in great hands. I am so humbled and blessed to be a part of our amazing team of educators. Our administrators, teachers and staff are second to none. We love our students, and we are committed to providing a solid Catholic education, while drawing out the very best of each child so they may become servants of Christ, bringing peace, joy, hope and His light to our world. On behalf of our parish and school, thank you for taking the time to read through this report. We look forward to sharing the love of Christ with you and your family. God bless you!

Father Dave Belt

FAITH

St. Stephen the Martyr is proud of its unique identity as a faith-based Catholic school. Our education develops knowledgeable Christian servant leaders to impact the world. We invoke God's name in prayer first thing in the morning, throughout the day and upon dismissal. Each class attends Mass and assists in the liturgies. Students are active in Catholic devotions including praying the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, and The Stations of the Cross. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to students throughout the school year. Our priests regularly visit classrooms and help with faith formation.

Our preschool programs participate in Montessori-based approach to faith formation through the "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd" curriculum and the "Theology of the Body" curriculum is used for faith formation in grades K-8.

Our Catholic Identity Committee meets quarterly to review Catholic Identity goals. In 2023, the committee planned and facilitated our first school-wide Eucharistic Procession, our annual May Crowning procession, and student-led Lent and Advent prayer services. Additionally, the committee plans and facilitates 24 hours of faith formation for our teachers each year.

COMMUNITY

A sense of community is fostered between grade levels with our buddy reading program and mixed-grade Mass celebrations. Students have the opportunity to participate in athletics including basketball, football, volleyball, cross country, track, and soccer through the Parochial Athletic League (PAL) and Catholic Youth Soccer League (CYSL). We also offer an array of extracurricular opportunities including robotics, musicals, math club, yearbook committee, student council, band, SSM News Team, and more.

As part of the curriculum, students grow in virtue by participating in community outreach starting in preschool. Students feed the hungry with food drives, make cards and gifts for the homebound, elderly, and sick, provide warmth to the homeless and low-income hosting sock and winter glove drives, and support women and children through our participation in our parish's annual diaper drive and our school's annual Penny War benefitting Essential Pregnancy Services.

Parents are encouraged to play an active role in their child's education by collaborating with teachers, volunteering in the classroom, and getting to know other parents. A vibrant and active Home & School Association plans many events for parents to interact and create lasting friendships.

ST. STEPHEN BY THE NUMBERS

613 K-8th grade students

88 early childhood students

447 school families

333 school families are parishioners of St. Stephen

140 students in KidZone (before/after school care)

13 average Early Childhood class size

24 average K-8 class size

18:1 student to staff ratio

79% of 8th-grade graduates attend Catholic high school (past 3-year average)

26% of 8th-graders taking the Catholic high school entrance exams earned scholarships for the 2022/2023 school year

85% of our alums earn high school academic honors, regardless of whether they attend public or Catholic high schools



OUR STORY

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School was established in 1992 and named after the first martyr of the Catholic Church. The school started with grades K-5. Fr. Gerry Gonderinger was the founding pastor and Sister Regina Wagner was the first principal. Our own Fr. Dave Belt was the first music teacher in addition to being the associate pastor. Within four years of opening the school, it had grown to K-8th grade. Two years later a new structure was added providing 19 more classrooms, a computer lab, a library, and a full-size, state-of-the-art gym. The enrollment grew quickly and by 2002, there were three classes in every grade including preschool.

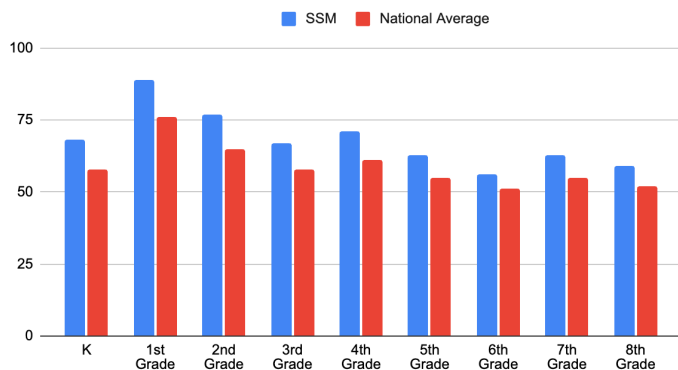
In 2008, the school earned the title of being a National Blue Ribbon School. That same year, St. Stephen the Martyr became an accredited school. Both awards acknowledge excellence in administration, curriculum, and instructional staff. The school continues to exceed accreditation standards attributable to the hard work and commitment of students, staff, and families. St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School is truly a place where students, staff, and families feel safe and loved.

Today St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School has 701 students enrolled in preschool through 8th grade and consistently remains a top-five populated Catholic Elementary School in Nebraska. Since its inception, St. Stephen the Martyr has graduated almost 2,000 students.

We are so grateful to our families for their outpouring of support and confidence in our school leadership. Everything we do together, and we will continue to provide students with an exceptional faith-filled education.

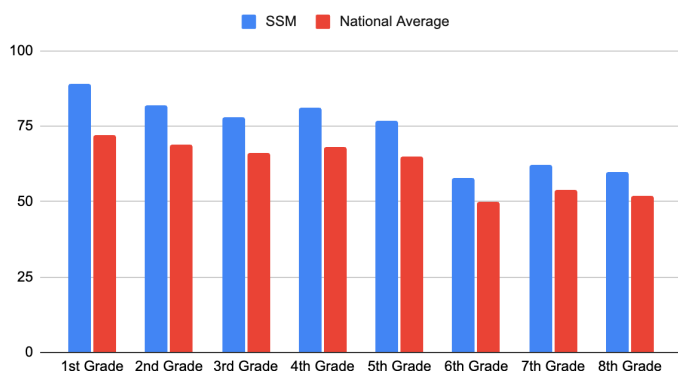
LEARNING

STAR Reading Comparisons Winter 2024



SSM = St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School compared to the National Average. Kindergarten test results are for Early Literacy. 1st-8th Grade are test results for Reading.

STAR Math Comparisons Winter 2024



SSM = St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School compared to the National Average

"We have had six kids attend and graduate from SSM. We are nearing the end of our journey at St. Stephen with our seventh and youngest in 6th grade this year. One of the things that we love most about SSM is the genuine care that the teachers, faculty and staff have for the students. Not only do they care about the students' academic success, but they also strive to instill faith and values in and out of the classroom. Our kids have left St. Stephen's not only with a solid academic foundation, but also a strong moral compass and sense of purpose." - Kevin & Lori R., Parents of 6th grade student and six St. Stephen Graduates



St. Stephen follows the State of Nebraska curriculum standards while adding additional Archdiocesan curriculum standards, including religion and more robust core expectations. Our academic programs are measured against performance objectives and are aligned with The National Standards and Benchmarks For Effective Catholic Elementary Schools. Our students are assessed three times during the school year in both reading and math using Renaissance® STAR™ Assessments. These assessments allow teachers to pinpoint exactly where a student's abilities are at a given time, while also charting their progress and allowing teachers to tailor learning and standards to their students' level and abilities. Additionally, teachers can collaborate with their colleagues to understand incoming and outgoing students' abilities and together help students not only meet required standards but exceed standards when possible. The charts on the left show comparative information from winter 2024 data based on the national average and St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School.

St. Stephen the Martyr offers a Blended Learning approach to education. Students in a Blended Learning classroom rotate through small group stations to better understand specific concepts within a core subject (i.e. multiplication). Examples of small groups would include manipulatives, teacher (small group), reading/writing (cross-curricular), and iPad/computer work. This also allows teachers to differentiate learning by placing students into groups based on their level of understanding.

We are a Google-based educational facility and utilize Google Classroom Suite for posting assignments, calendars and email communications. Our technology lab includes Google Chromebooks, iPads, 3D printers, robots and a STEM maker space. Additionally, each of 6-8th grade students has their own Chromebook through our rent-to-own program. TK-5th grade classrooms have a shared set of iPads. Teachers have access to their own iPad and laptop to use with either an interactive board or an Apple TV for projection or board work. The school also uses many digital learning opportunities through RAZ Kids, Mystery Science, Freckle Math & ELA, Flocabulary, IXL, guided readers, BrainPop, and other grade-specific subscriptions. The school currently uses FACTS School Information System, and Home & School funds a customized family mobile app that allows our families to easily access their FACTS Family Portal and other school resources.

At St. Stephen, learning extends beyond our students. In addition to 24 hours of faith formation, our teachers participate in 20 hours of professional development sessions on curriculum alignment, data analysis, and MTSS (multi-tiered system of supports) strategies for a growth mindset and social-emotional learning. For the best behavioral and academic outcomes for our students, we use the Gradual Release of Responsibility Framework, an "I do, We do, You do" approach to learning and Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS). Additionally, we use Restorative Practices to promote inclusiveness, relationship-building, and problem-solving. Instead of punishing students, we encourage students to reflect on and take responsibility for their actions and then build plans to repair any harm they may have caused. The way students are treated, and the way students treat others is just as important in a Catholic school as the formal, written curriculum.

"When our oldest started preschool, we remember walking into the school and her teacher said, 'Isn't it amazing that God blessed us with this beautiful weather?' From that moment, we knew we wanted our kids to be able to learn and talk about the faith at school. St. Stephen has surpassed our expectations and we love the way the school implements the faith in everyday learning." - Lizzy & Chris O., Parents of Preschool, 1st & 3rd Grade Students

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- In the 2023-2024 school year we welcomed 113 new students and 53 new school families, bringing our Preschool-8th grade enrollment to 701.
- Our Resource Team has two full-time resource teachers, two interventionists, two counselors, three teacher-associates and a dedicated volunteer who support our classroom teachers and students to ensure every child is successful in school. This multi-tiered system of support, provides a proactive and preventative framework, integrating data and instruction to maximize student achievement and support their social, emotional, and behavioral needs from a strengths-based perspective, educating the whole child.
- Digital curriculum subscriptions including RAZ Kids, Mystery Science, Freckle Math, Freckle ELA, IXL and other grade-specific subscriptions were renewed to supplement in-school instruction and learning assessments.
- School facility updates include handicap-accessible entrance doors, school office remodel, new carpet in kinder classrooms, new vinyl tile in science labs, updated heating and cooling control system for room-by-room temp control, replaced school offices' AC unit, kitchen updates (new dishwasher, ovens, lunch trays) and new door handles/locks for all classrooms.
- Home & School Association raised \$147,557.62 for our school. These funds help offset instructional expenses and fund necessary remodels and security upgrades.
- Our students supported our community through whole-school and class-level service projects including food drives, collections (socks, diapers, winter gloves and hats, financial donations, etc.), visiting the elderly and homebound during the holidays and much more!

"When we were new to Omaha, we were searching for a school for our soon-to-be Kinder that would provide her a strong faith foundation with a smaller academic setting. And while it seemed so far away at the time, we really wanted to find a school that would carry her through her junior high years. Twelve years later, the St. Stephen's administration, teachers and staff continue to provide and foster an amazing, faith-based academic environment for our children and prepared them for high school. Additionally, the community of families at St. Stephen the Martyr are some of the best!" — Andrea H., Parent of 5th grader and two SSM Alums: Class of 2023 & 2021



REASONS TO LOVE SSM

1

Academic Excellence

Recognized by the Nebraska Department of Education as a distinguished Cognia Accredited elementary school. This accreditation ensures that all learners realize their full potential and that the administration is committed to continuous improvement. Our school is also recognized as a Blue Ribbon School based on high standards and student achievement.

2

Individualized and Holistic Approach

Dedicated, passionate & qualified teachers and staff empower students to recognize their unique gifts and inspire them to reach their greatest potential.

3

United in Christ, Faith Formation

Students, united in Christ, participate in school Mass liturgies, daily prayer and Catholic catechetical instruction.

4

Care for Our Community

Students develop lifelong skills, virtues, and habits of heart and mind through service projects and caring for others in our community.

5

Needs-Based Instruction

Blended Learning environments allow teachers to differentiate learning by placing students into groups based on their level of understanding.

6

Welcoming, Thriving Environment

Rooted in faith, our vibrant student life, active Home & School Association, thriving sports club and supportive parish community ensure a positive, safe and joy-filled academic experience.



"The community and support is unmatched. From parents to teachers to administration, everyone is rooting for you and your kids."
— Erin S., Mother of students in preschool, Kindergarten, second & fifth grades

"St. Stephen the Martyr is preparing our children for their future, shaping them both academically and spiritually. We value the opportunity for them to regularly participate in the sacraments with their classmates." — Matt & Katie K., Parents of Preschooler & 1st Grader



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



Archdiocese of Omaha
Catholic Schools

Schedule Your Tour Today!
(402) 896-0754
school.stephen.org/tour

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin,
and will put my words into his mouth;
he shall tell them all that I command him." (Dt 18:18)

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

Second Reading:

An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord,
so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. (1 Cor 7:34)

Gospel:

The people were astonished at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. (Mk 1:22)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

With one swift command, Jesus freed a man from the possession of evil spirits. He has that same power to banish the shadow of sin from our own lives. Let's invite him into our hearts, asking him to cleanse the darkness he finds there.

Observances for the week of January 28, 2024

Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

Wednesday: St. John Bosco, Priest

Friday: The Presentation of the Lord,
World Day for Consecrated Life

Saturday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr;
St. Ansgar, Bishop

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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, January 27

8:15 am † Erin Doll (ZT)
5:00 pm SI 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)

Monday, January 29

6:30 am SI Patrick Tucker (ZT)
8:15 am † Luella Linnebur (ZT)

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 am SI Trish Figura (ZT)
8:15 am † Elizabeth Gulizia (DB)

Wednesday, January 31

6:30 am † Leonard Kruse (ZT)
8:15 am † Luella Linnebur (DB)

Thursday, February 1

6:30 am † Gene Zywiec (DB)
8:15 am † Romyne Howe (DB)

Friday, February 2

6:30 am † Kate Stork (ZT)
8:15 am † Mary Jill Faber (DB)

Saturday, February 3

8:15 am † Kyle Andersen (DB)
5:00 pm † Edward Trout (ZT)

Sunday, February 4

7:30 am † Mary Ann Drelicharz (DB)
9:00 am SI St. Stephen Parishioners (DB)
10:30 am † Beatriz Gutierrez Puentes (ZT)
6:00 pm SI Deacon Denny Dethlefs (AS)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; ZT = Fr. Zach Tucker;
AD = Fr. Amit D'Souza; AS = Fr. Andy Sohm

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:

Andrew Williams, husband of Monira
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



Thank you for your care for the unborn this January!

Our One Rose, One Life and 9 Days for Life efforts were very successful. Thank you for your participation! Please continue to pray for a greater respect for vulnerable human lives in our country. Consider the number of lives affected each year by abortion in the United States: 930,160 babies are aborted every year. That's 2,548 babies killed every day. 106 abortions per hour, 1.8 per minute, and one every 35 seconds. (Statistics provided by Live Action via the Guttmacher Institute, Jan. 2024)

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WOMEN'S RETREAT
Saturday March 2, 2024
9:00 - 3:00
Optional Rosary 8:00
and Mass 8:30

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Help us help the homeless

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(St. Patrick's Church, Gretna) fully furnishes 6-8 apartments per week, assisting those transitioning off the streets. We are in need of gently-used, (small scale) furniture, kitchenware, linens, flat-screen tv's and more. Donation drop-offs are Wednesday's, 6-7:30 PM, 17711 Storage Road. Pickup's are available. Friend request us on FB to learn more and to stay up to date on needs, search "Least of My Brethren, Omaha" or call Dave Harvey at 402-681-5424.



Holy Hour for Priests and Vocations

Please join Fr. Ben Boyd as he leads us in prayer and shares his vocation testimony at the Holy Hour for Priests and Vocations February 8 at 7 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. It will include adoration, benediction, and music ministry.



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24 February 7 PM - 9 PM
All TK - 5th grade boys
\$25 Per Mom & Her Son(s)

Come dressed to impress in your most glow-worthy attire for the 2024 Mom Prom and be ready to dance in a blacklight bash with glow-in-the-dark accessories (will be provided if you don't have your own).

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!



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 \$10 registration fee covers workbook, materials & lunch. For information or to register email lifesidewalk@gmail.com.

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