



St. Stephen the Martyr CATHOLIC CHURCH

Encounter, Know, Proclaim

February 25, 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.



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.
- Mk 9:7-8

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

CLP

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"On the evening of the first day of the week... Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you... As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'"
-John 20:19a, 21-23



When was the last time you went to Confession? If you haven't celebrated this great Sacrament of healing recently, why not?

I have heard some creative answers to that question in my years as a priest. "Why should I have to tell my sins to another human being?" "I tell my sins directly to God, and I know that He forgives me." "Confessing my sins makes me feel uncomfortable." "The priest will treat me differently when he sees me in public." In these four weeks leading up to Holy Week and Easter, I would like to offer a series of articles to teach about the Sacrament of Penance and to assist you as you prepare to celebrate this beautiful Sacrament in preparation for Easter.

When Jesus rose from the tomb on Easter Sunday, He entrusted the ministry of forgiveness and healing to His followers (see the above passage from St. John's Gospel). From the beginning, reconciliation and forgiveness have stood at the heart of the Church as the enduring gift of God to believers and the enduring mission of the Church to the world. This is our work: to heal divisions in us and among us, and to re-establish communion and harmony within us. Historically, the Sacrament of Penance has been understood as the "Second Baptism", the Sacrament that leads us back to the Eucharist, just as Baptism first brought us to the Eucharist. We know that when we sin, we separate ourselves from God and from others. By celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, the union with God and His people is restored, which is most deeply and profoundly expressed in Sunday Mass.

From the early days of the Church, the Eucharistic Liturgy has been seen as the primary Sacrament of Reconciliation. We believe that, in the Penitential Act at the beginning of the Mass, where we call to mind our sins and pray the Confiteor or the "Lord, have mercy" together, that the venial or "lesser" sins of our lives are forgiven. For us to receive the Body of Christ, we have to become the Body of Christ, healed of all division. Besides Sacred Scripture, the foundation of what the Church teaches about Reconciliation can be found in Church Law, paragraphs 959-991. The Church also teaches, through the Catechism of the Catholic Church that anyone who is aware of committing a mortal sin must not receive Holy Communion without receiving "sacramental absolution" (CCC #1457). It also teaches that, "while it isn't strictly necessary, confession of everyday faults (venial sins) is nevertheless strongly recommended by the Church" (CCC #1458).

The process of reconciliation and forgiveness is not a private act, something that can be accomplished only by asking God to forgive us in a private prayer. We do believe that if we express heartfelt sorrow for our sins that God will indeed forgive us, but the Church also teaches that we need to experience that forgiveness through the Sacramental life of the Church. In the Sacrament of Penance, we come face-to-face with the reality of sin in our lives and that our sins have separated us from God and others. We speak to another human being—a priest—acting in the person of Christ, about the areas where we need God's grace to heal our brokenness. Strengthened by God's grace, we re-commit ourselves to the difficult task of avoiding sin and we agree to do some act of penance as a remedy for the sickness of sin and a renewal of life. Finally, we hear that we are forgiven through the prayer of absolution.

Next week I will write about the roles of the priest and the penitent in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

"So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

God Bless,
Father Dave

St. Stephen the Martyr | Dinner & Auction | April 6, 2024

CASINO Royale

TICKETS
ON SALE NOW!

Join us as we go "all in" supporting
St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic
Church & School on April 6, 2024

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE

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 2/13-2/19, 2024:

Actual:	\$43,596
Budget:	\$47,576
FYTD Actual:	\$1,654,959
FYTD Budget:	\$1,649,745
Collection for the Black & Indian Missions:	\$1,250

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.



Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Frances Kelly Robertson,
daughter of Ryan and Kali

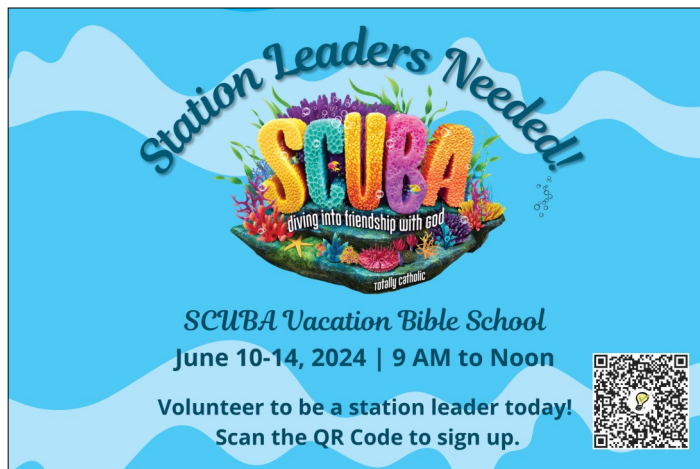
School News

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

⇒ **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 next week! To apply, visit school.stephen.org/admissions.

Religious Education

⇒ **Seeking Station Leaders for VBS this summer:** Station Leaders are our volunteers who present the material in the stations to the children. Each station leader will have a manual that is easy to follow with the day's activities and a few middle or high school volunteers assigned to assist them. Adult volunteers may waive the tuition of one child participating in VBS. Scan the QR code to volunteer.



Youth Ministry

⇒ **Witness Wednesdays:** High Schoolers are invited to join us for Witness Wednesdays every week from 8–9:30 PM. Join us Feb. 28th in the Parish Center. Don't miss this opportunity to get to know friends and grow in your friendship with Jesus! Find all information and future dates at stephen.org/witness-wednesdays.

⇒ **Totus Tuus Save the Date:** Join our Parish Family July 7-12th for Totus Tuus, a Catholic camp for kids! Each day of Totus Tuus involves learning about the Catholic faith, experiencing the Sacraments, praying together, and of course, fun summer camp activities! Totus Tuus will be held at St. Stephen the Martyr and led by young adult missionaries hired by the Archdiocese of Omaha. Day camp open to 1st-6th graders. Evening experience offered for 7th-12th graders. Registration opens March 1st.

⇒ **Register Now for Steubenville of Rochester!** Join us for a weekend experience of your Catholic faith in Rochester, MN. All rising freshmen in high school through rising freshmen in college are invited to attend this weekend retreat with our group. Visit stephen.org/steubenville for more information.

⇒ **Middle School Ministry Planning Meeting**



MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY PLANNING MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7–8 PM

DAILY MASS CHAPEL

JOIN US TO PLAN UPCOMING EVENTS WITH OUR CORE TEAM!

5TH–8TH GRADE STUDENTS & PARENTS WELCOME





TICKETS ON SALE NOW

*Join us as we go "all in" supporting
St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic
Church & School on April 6, 2024*

Itinerary

5:00 – Mass
6:00 – Cocktail Hour
7:30 – Dinner
8:45 – Live Auction
9:30 – Casino Games/Music

Dinner and Auction event tickets are \$100/person and can be purchased online at stephen.org/dinner or scan the QR Code. Event tickets include a catered plated dinner and a full bar. Seating is limited.



LEARN MORE: STEPHEN.ORG/DINNER

MICRO SOCCER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

- Micro Soccer is for SSM Parishioners, ages 3–6
- Games will start April 7th and play for 7 weeks, every Sunday



Sports Club

**Register & more information
at: stephen.org/sports-club
or scan the QR code.**



Join us for fun & fellowship!

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.



Assistance for Senior or Disabled Homeowners

If you are a senior or disabled homeowner and need assistance with yard clean up or minor inside repairs, a group of retired parishioners and Knights of Columbus members may be able to help. Contact Steve Cinnamon at 402-669-3441.



**Knights of
Columbus**

Scholarship Opportunity

The Saint Stephens Knights of Columbus are accepting applications for the 2024 Deacon Wesley Kreun Memorial Scholarship. This is not an academic scholarship. We award based upon the applicant's service to our parish family and involvement in other charitable activities which align with our Catholic faith. We will award four \$500 dollar 1-year scholarships to individuals attending a local Catholic High School and four \$1,000 1-year scholarships to individuals attending an accredited college or university. Additionally, new this year, we will award one \$1,000 scholarship to an individual attending a trade school. Applications are available either from the kiosk in the Gathering Space or from our website kofc10160.org until April 30, 2024. Completed applications must be submitted to the Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish Office by May 1st. If you have any questions, please reach out to Hank Hardy at hhardy@janome-america.com.

CCW Seeking Nominations for Woman of the Year



CCW
Council of Catholic Women

We are accepting nominations for our Council

of Catholic Women's "Woman of the Year" Award. The Council of Catholic Women supports, empowers, and educates the Catholic women in the Archdiocese of Omaha, specifically in the areas of spirituality, service and leadership. Written submissions for considerations for this year's honoree must include the reason for you nominating her with a brief bio sent to gigistamp@cox.net by midnight on March 12. Thank you!

LENTEN PARISH *Mission*



March 17-19th
7 - 8:30 PM

Guest Speaker
**FR. RALPH
O'DONNELL**



Lenten Parish Mission: March 17th– 19th from 7-8:30 PM

Join us for inspiration to grow closer to Christ this Lent at our annual Parish Mission. Our guest speaker this year will be Fr. Ralph O' Donnell who will speak March 17-18. Our Parish Mission will conclude on Tuesday, March 19th with a Parish-Wide Reconciliation Service. Light hospitality will be provided.

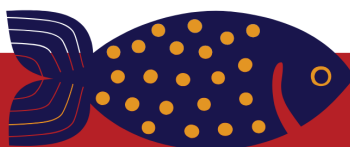


Fish Fry Fridays

Feb. 16 - March 22

5 - 8 PM

Dine In or Carry Out



kofc10160.org

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Pray with us every
Friday during Lent
6 PM
Worship Space

*KOC Fish Fry Fast Pass
Available for Stations Attendees

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross or Via Crucis, commemorate Jesus' passion and death on the cross. There are 14 stations that each depict a moment on his journey to Calvary.

CONFESSION TIMES LENT 2024

Tuesdays | 5:30-6:30 PM
Saturday | 3:30-4:45 PM

Parish-Wide
Reconciliation
Service
Tuesday, March 19
7-8:30 PM

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: What do the colors of the priest's and deacon's vestments mean?

Answer: In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the colors of the vestments evolved over the course of several centuries and there was wide variation both in the colors used, and in the feasts and seasons associated with particular colors. It was Pope Innocent III (d. 1216) who gave us the basic outline that was later prescribed by Pope Saint Pius V in 1570. The various colors remind us of the dominant themes of a particular season or celebration.

White: Used for the seasons of Christmas and Easter and in celebrations of the Lord, of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs. This color is also used in Masses for the dead, at baptisms, weddings and other festive celebrations.

Red: As the color of both blood and fire, red is used on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, as well as Pentecost and special celebrations of the Holy Spirit.

Moreover, red is used on the feasts and memorials of the Apostles and those saints who died as martyrs.

Violet: The color for Advent and Lent. Violet may also be used in Masses for the dead and on All Souls Day (November 2).

Green: A color of life and hope, green is used throughout Ordinary Time.

Other colors: Rose may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent, black may be used in Masses of the dead and on All Souls Day, gold or silver may be used on solemn occasions in place of white, red, or green. ©LPI

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



First Friday Adoration

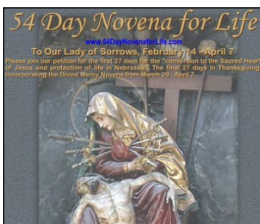
Join us Friday, March 2nd for First Friday Adoration in the Worship Space. The Eucharist will be exposed after the 8:15 Mass until 2:30 PM Benediction. Come, encounter the Lord of Heaven and Earth!

Mondays, 7-8 PM, Worship Space

Join us in the quiet to worship Jesus every week. You can also join us in our Adoration Chapel 24/7. The code for access is 9675*.

Join your parish family in praying the 54 Day Novena for Life

February 14–April 7



Say the rosary every day for 54 days with the intention that abortion becomes illegal in Nebraska. Each Wednesday during Lent at 7:45 AM, we will pray the rosary for this Novena as a parish family. This will take place prior to the 8:15 AM Mass. Visit stephen.org for more information on this devotion.

First Saturday Rosary

Saturday, March 2nd
Prior to 8:15 AM Mass
Worship Space

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I know now how devoted you are to God,
since you did not withhold from me your own
beloved son." (Gn 22:12)

Psalm:

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. (Ps 116)

Second Reading:

He who did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for us all,
how will he not also give us everything else along
with him? (Rom 8:32)

Gospel:

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Mk 9:7)

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

The Transfiguration left the disciples with more questions than answers. What had they just seen? What had they just heard? They were confused, but they trusted Jesus. Let's follow in their example, trusting in God's care as we journey deeper into Lent.

Observances for the week of February 25, 2024

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Tuesday: St. Gregory of Narek,
Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent



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, February 24

8:15 am SI Esther Gninefou &
James Gninefou (ZT)
5:00 pm † Mike Jenkins (DH)

Sunday, February 25

7:30 am † Barbara DeVol Sinsabaugh (ZT)
9:00 am † Gene Mitchell (ZT)
10:30 am † Cathy Greise (ZT)
6:00 pm SI Patrick Tucker (DH)

Monday, February 26

6:30 am † Gene Zywiec (ZT)
8:15 am SI Tiese Family(ZT)

Tuesday, February 27

6:30 am † Leonard Kruse (ZT)
8:15 am † Gerald Moseke (ZT)

Wednesday, February 28

6:30 am † Hector Augusto Rojas Gutierrez (ZT)
8:15 am † Luella Linnebur (ZT)

Thursday, February 29

6:30 am † Valentinea Quintana (DK)
8:15 am † Elizabeth Gulizia (DK)

Friday, March 1

6:30 am † Harlan W. Fangmeyer (ZT)
8:15 am † Luella Linnebur (DB)

Saturday, March 2

8:15 am † Rich Johns (DB)
5:00 pm † Kyle Andersen (ZT)

Sunday, March 3

7:30 am SI Charle, Frederie, Agnes Aflagah (ZT)
9:00 am † Gene Mitchell (DB)
10:30 am SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
6:00 pm † Joe Latoza (MS)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; ZT = Fr. Zach Tucker;

DH = Fr. Denny Hanneman;

DK = Fr. Dan Kampschneider; MS = Fr. Matt Spotts

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:

Rochelle Thomas, wife of Norman

Jeanette Peterson, mother of Pamela and Debi

Parishioners who are sick/injured/healing:

Berneice Adams

Tiffany Cole, wife of Jim, mother of Jaeli, Eli,
Brynlee & Millie

Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim

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

Community News

SCHOLARSHIP FOR 8TH GRADE GIRLS ATTENDING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL: Catholic Daughters Court #2182 Mary Immaculate from Christ the King is accepting scholarship applications from 8th grade girls planning to attend a Catholic High School their freshman year. Any student interested in the \$1,000 scholarship should contact Regent Marilyn Lowery at mlowery122153@gmail.com by Friday, March 15, for an application. All applications will be due by Friday, April 5, with the winner presented at their meeting on Tuesday, May 14.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT CATHOLIC CEMETERIES:

Come pray with us on the Wednesdays of Lent. We will journey The Stations of the Cross in Holy Angels Mausoleum in Resurrection Cemetery at 78th and Center at 6 PM starting on February 21st. On Good Friday we invite you to walk the Stations of the Cross at 3 PM in Calvary Cemetery at 78th and Center Rd. For further information please contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com.

ESSENTIAL PREGNANCY SERVICES' GLOW 2024 BENEFIT DINNER:

Join GLOW honorary chairs, Dr. Paul and Mrs. Bernadette Esposito, Thursday, February 29th, at the Mid-America Center to hear a life-inspiring 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 bidpal.net/glow24. For event assistance, contact Maria at MariaD@EssentialPS.org or 531-239-3138.

MAGNIFICAT-OMAHA UPCOMING EVENTS

Lenten Brunch: All women are invited to the Magnificat-Omaha Lenten Brunch at St. Robert Bellarmine March 9th at 9:30 AM. Our guest speaker is Julie Storr, OSB Oblate, an inspiring speaker/writer and founder of the LectiotheLiturgy.com. She will inspire you to hold on to joy during your Lenten journey. Cost: \$20. Find more info and register at magnificatomaha.org.

Life in the Spirit Retreat: All women are invited to the Magnificat-Omaha Life in the Spirit Retreat on March 23rd, from 9 AM to 2 PM at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church. The cost is \$10, including a Box Lunch. Register by March 7th at magnificatomaha.org.

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

Join us for our next speaker! Mrs. Teresa Kenney, APRN-NP, will speak on What is a Healthy Body. Saturday, March 2, Chesterton Academy of Omaha, 36th and Q Streets. Evening begins with a Social Hour at 6 PM followed by the talk at 7 PM. Event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by Chesterton Academy of Omaha.

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY 8-DAY SILENT RETREATS

Now in its 50th year, Creighton University's Christian Spirituality program invites you to an individually directed 8-day silent Ignatian Retreat. Join us May 17-26th or May 28- June 6th at the Creighton University Retreat Center in Griswold, IA. Contact csp@creighton.edu.

St. Stephen the Martyr is Walking with Moms in Need!



We are here to promote a culture of life & support in our community and parish. If you are pregnant or parenting and in need of assistance, please reach out to Colleen at 402-861-4538. or c.eusterwiemann@stephen.org.

Food Pantry Curbside Drop-off

Saturday, March 2nd

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!

Marian Momentum Show Choir Presents

Princess Ball

Father and Daughter Dance

Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024

Time: 5:30 P.M. - 8 P.M.

Cost: \$35 per father/daughter duo, \$10 per additional daughter*

Location: Marian High School

Open to: PreK-5th grade daughters and their prince charming (fathers, special fathers, uncles, grandfathers, etc.)

*cost includes t-shirt, crown, snacks, and activities



scan to register



"We Would Like to See Jesus"

An IPF Lenten Morning of Reflection

March 2nd, 2024

Christ the King Parish
654 S. 86th Street

Mass at 8:15 a.m.
Event Concludes at Noon

Scan the QR
code to register



INSTITUTE for PRIESTLY FORMATION

30 Setting Hearts on Fire for Christ
Since 1994

CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL

MARCH 6, 2024 8 AM - 2 PM ST. MARY'S, LINCOLN

At a critical time in our state's history, speak up for life, family, and faith in law at the 10th annual day of advocacy at **Catholics at the Capitol**.

Sign up at NECatholic.org or scan the QR code!



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Agent & Parishioner tschmitz@farmersagent.com

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