



St. Stephen the Martyr CATHOLIC CHURCH

Encounter, Know, Proclaim

February 4, 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.



5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When it was evening, after
sunset, they brought to him all
who were ill or possessed by
demons. The whole town was
gathered at the door. He cured
many who were sick with various
diseases, and he drove out
many demons, not permitting
them to speak because they
knew him. - Mk 1:32-34

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

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

I would like to use my column this week to address some questions that we have had regarding Mass Intentions. As you know from reading the bulletin and attending Mass here at Saint Stephen, there has been a tradition of publishing/announcing what the intention is for each Mass. While there is no plan to change this practice, I want to clarify what Mass intentions are and the current Church laws that direct this ancient practice of "having a Mass said" for a particular intention.

Mass intentions and stipends have a very long and complicated history in our Church. They have their roots in the 7th and 8th centuries, when donors were paying an honorarium to the priest before the liturgy with the expectation that the Mass would be celebrated only for the intention that was specified by the donor. As the Mass became more exclusive and the participation of the assembly during Mass was minimized or even eliminated, Mass stipends became one of the few ways in which lay people could still have a role in the liturgy. By making an offering to the priest they were assured that their individual, special intentions would be remembered at the Mass.

With the liturgical reforms following Vatican II, there is no longer any real need for this kind of participation. Every member of the congregation has ample opportunity to participate in Mass through prayer, song, and gesture. There was also a shift in the Church's understanding of the donation given to the priest in the 1983 revision of Church Law (The Code of Canon Law), which rejects the terminology of "stipend" and speaks of an "offering." For centuries, the Mass stipend was seen as compensation for the priest's time and labor, but the revised Code speaks of the Mass offering, which better conveys the freewill, gratuitous nature of a gift. A Mass offering is seen as a gift to the Church for the support of its ministers and not as a contract involving services in return for the payment of money. When an individual makes a donation, it becomes the obligation of the priest only to exclusively celebrate the Mass for the intention of the donor. By accepting a Mass offering, the only obligation that the priest undertakes is to celebrate Mass at some time for the particular intention: there is no obligation to publish or announce the intention for Mass.

After this brief historical and theological background, the practice of offering a monetary gift for a Mass intention can be summarized in one sentence: The intention for which an offering is given becomes the priest's intention only, not the intention of the entire congregation. While a donor appreciates hearing his/her intention announced at Mass, in no way does it diminish the importance of the prayers and intentions of the rest of the congregation.

Please note also that the pastor of a parish is bound by Church Law to celebrate one Mass per weekend and on Holy Days of Obligation for the people of the parish (*missa pro populo*). The associate pastor or a substitute priest is not allowed to celebrate the *pro populo* Mass, unless there is a serious reason. Because the priests' schedules may have to be altered at the last minute, there may also be a last-minute change in the Mass intentions, so that I may fulfill my obligation to celebrate one Mass a week and on Holy Days of Obligation for the people of the parish. Also, there are times during the week when the priest who is scheduled for Mass has a last-minute conflict, and a deacon must step in to conduct a Communion Service. Whenever possible, in these situations, someone from the parish office will contact the donor to inform them of the change. If this does happen, the Mass intention will be scheduled for another day. The priests and parish office staff are grateful for your patience and understanding when these changes are necessary.

Finally, per Archdiocesan policy, the suggested offering for Mass in the Archdiocese of Omaha is \$10. Also, if a priest says more than one Mass a day, he can only accept an offering for one Mass (except for Christmas). According to Archdiocesan policy, the rest of the offerings are sent once a month to the Chancery and placed in the Seminary Trust Fund.

*God Bless,
Father Dave*



WITH JOYFUL HEARTS,
WE WELCOME OUR
NEWLY BAPTIZED.

Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Silas Dean Dvorak, son of Aaron and April
Jeffrey John Belling, son of Joshua and Taylor

Weston Michael Grothe,
son of Joseph and Amanda

Wyatt Daniel Grothe, son of Joseph and Amanda

Our parish family is praying for you!

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 1/23-1/29 2024:

Actual:	\$48,059
Budget:	\$52,998
FYTD Actual:	\$1,510,301
FYTD Budget:	\$1,505,470
Tuition Assistance Fund:	\$2,078.84

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.



Year-End Stewardship Reports

Last week, 2023 Stewardship Reports went out electronically via email and by USPS mail to parishioners who have financially contributed to our parish this year. If you did not receive yours, please check your spam/junk mail folders. Please direct questions to Amy Maroney at a.maroney@stephen.org.

Thank you for your generosity! We humbly ask you to continue to prioritize the mission of St. Stephen the Martyr as you plan your finances this year.



Thank you from the Knights of Columbus

Thank you for your generous participation in the One Rose, One Life Collection, conducted by the Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska and supports various pro-life causes, events and organizations throughout the year. Our parish raised over \$4,000 for this fund, which will be used throughout the year to build a culture of life. God Bless you for continuing to courageously pray and support the Unborn and all Life!

School News

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

⇒ **Vote for our school in the Spirit Catholic Radio Catholic Superstar Contest!** 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 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:** Don't forget about your 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: Feb. 11 at Noon in the Dining Room.** Please plan for at least one parent of each child preparing to receive First Communion this April to attend this meeting. 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. Please reach out to e.smith@stephen.org with questions!
- ⇒ **Altar 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

- ⇒ **High Schoolers: Join us for Witness Wednesdays every week from 8—9:30 PM.** Join us Feb. 7th at St. Wenceslaus and then the following week on Feb. 14th (Ash Wednesday) at St. Stephen the Martyr. 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.



THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE
DARKNESS, AND THE
DARKNESS HAS NOT
OVERCOME IT.

STEUBENVILLE OF ROCHESTER

JULY 12-14, 2024

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



REGISTRATION
REQUIRED:



The Future of Youth & Young Adult Ministry at our Parish

A Message from Adam Ybarra, Director of Mission

In October of this past year, Evan Collins resigned from his position as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry here at St. Stephen's to pursue other ministry opportunities. Although his time here was short-lived, the impact that he had on the youth and young adults of our parish family was incredible. Subsequently, his departure has also left us with a very large hole that we have needed to fill on our staff. After hosting several applicants for interviews, we haven't been able to find a qualified applicant and have decided to temporarily postpone the hiring process.

As God's providence would have it (and with some foresight from Evan) we still have robust programming being offered for the and young adults of our parish. Here's how it will look for the spring semester:

Young Adult Ministry: Our parish has been in collaboration with young adult leaders from our parish family, namely St. Wenceslaus and St. Vincent de Paul, to provide programming and support for our parishes. St. Stephen's is being represented by Fr. Zach Tucker and Adam Ybarra. This group meets monthly to pray and to discuss future events.

Youth Ministry: St. Stephen's has been collaborating with the youth minister from St. Wenceslaus to provide on-going programming and support for our parish youth. There is a rotating schedule of weekly events that are being hosted between our two parishes. We will also be joining efforts for our summer events - Totus Tuus and Steubenville of Rochester (different location from last year). We have asked Mr. Terry Wenzl from our school to take the lead on providing four annual events that will be designed to meet the needs of our middle school students.

During this time, we will continue to assess the staffing needs here at the parish. If you know of a potential applicant, please let me know and please continue to pray for the efforts of youth and young adult ministry here in the parish and the archdiocese.

Blessing OF CATECHISTS

At all Masses February 10th & 11th

All those who teach the faith to young people will be invited to stand to receive a blessing at the end of all Masses.

Thank you for answering God's call to share the Gospel with every generation!

You are appreciated!

Knights of Columbus Scholarship Opportunity



**Knights of
Columbus**

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 Schools and Four - \$1000, 1-year scholarships to individuals attending an accredited college or university. Additionally, new this year, we will award One - \$1000 scholarship to an individual attending a trade school. Applications are available either from the kiosk in the SSM 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. Thank you very much and God Bless!

WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Is gossip a mortal sin?

Answer: To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness."

In its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing "false witness" means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word "gossip" isn't used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words "detraction" and "calumny," which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing "another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them," without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it "harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements" (see no. 2477). In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479). Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: "No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it" (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person's good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. ©LPi

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



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*.

WHERE THE
ROSARY IS
RECITED
THERE WILL
BE DAYS OF
PEACE AND
TRANQUILITY.

—ST. JOHN BOSCO



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

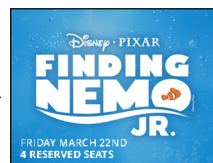
CASINO Royale

3 Day BIDDING BLITZ DAILY JACKPOT

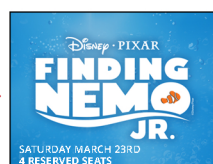
Dive into the excitement of our Bidding Blitz event, the prelude to Casino Royale! With a new auction package every day, it's a three-day gamble you won't want to miss. Secure your winning bid for exclusive items and experiences – the stakes are high, and the thrill is real! Join the action now!

LEARN MORE: STEPHEN.ORG/DINNER

**Tuesday
February, 6th**



**Wednesday
February, 7th**



**Thursday
February, 8th**



**SCAN NOW TO
START BIDDING!**



ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

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

For 5th Graders & Up

TO REGISTER: EMAIL
S.JIZBA@STEPHEN.ORG



**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**



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

Can you be His hands & feet?

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stephen.org



Primetimers
fellowship

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.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. (Jb 7:4)

Psalm:

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted. (Ps 147)

Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast,
for an obligation has been imposed on me,
and woe to me if I do not preach it! (1 Cor 9:16)

Gospel:

He cured many who were sick with various diseases,
and he drove out many demons. (Mk 1:34)

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

Jesus went from town to town, synagogue to synagogue, following the need. He follows it still, to this very day. Your life is the town he is visiting, your heart the synagogue where he preaches. Remember that for this purpose he has come.

Observances for the week of February 4, 2024

- Sunday:** 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
Tuesday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Thursday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
Saturday: St. Scholastica, Virgin
Next Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
World Marriage Day



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 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 People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
10:30 am † Beatriz Gutierrez Puentes (ZT)
6:00 pm SI Deacon Denny Dethlefs (AS)

Monday, February 5

6:30 am † Marian & Albert Berning (ZT)
8:15 am † Bonnie Bratcher (ZT)

Tuesday, February 6

6:30 am Communion Service
8:15 am † Gerald Moseke (DH)

Wednesday, February 7

6:30 am Communion Service
8:15 am † Luella Linnebur (DS)

Thursday, February 8

6:30 am † Linda Dehart (DB)
8:15 am † Robert Anthony Murphy (DB)

Friday, February 9

6:30 am SI James Gninefou & Esther Adaku
Gninefou (DB)
8:15 am † Jane Schuyler (ZT)

Saturday, February 10

8:15 am † Claude Welch (ZT)
5:00 pm † Erin Doll (DB)

Sunday, February 11

7:30 am † Lewis Storm (DB)
9:00 am SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
10:30 am † Bob Menard (ZT)
6:00 pm † Gene Zywiec (ZT)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

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

DH = Fr. Denny Hanneman; DS = Fr. Dan Soltys

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:

Berneice Adams

Tiffany Cole

Tara Scheuth

Erika Goldsmith

Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim

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

Honoring our Nation's History

FEBRUARY 1ST: NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

National Freedom Day honors the signing of a joint House and Senate resolution that later became the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. President Lincoln signed the Amendment outlawing slavery on February 1, 1865, although it was not ratified by the states until later. It is also a day in which all U.S. citizens can celebrate the freedom they share with their fellow Americans.

FEBRUARY 12TH: THE FIRST 590 PRISONERS OF WAR RELEASED FROM VIETNAM PRISON CAMPS

arrived in C-141 and C-9 med evacuation planes at Clark Air Base, PI. Several releases occurred afterwards. Other remains are identified as they are released by governments and identified via military forensic specialists.



Thank you to veterans and current service members for your sacrifices!

Community News

SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO'S 2024 SPIRIT "SILVER" CELEBRATION DINNER

Spirit CATHOLIC RADIO NETWORK You are invited! Join us Saturday evening, **February 24, 2024** at the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs, IA! This year, our special keynote speaker will be **Dr. Ray Guarendi**. He is the host of *"The Dr. Is In"* that can be heard weekdays at Noon on Spirit Catholic Radio and he is a frequent guest on our **Spirit Mornings** show. **General Admission is only \$50 per seat.** Please make your reservation by February 16, 2024. To purchase tickets or to get more info visit spiritcatholicradio.com/dinner.

CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF OMAHA SPEAKER SERIES:

Restoring Catholic Culture: Leading our Families, Homes, Communities, and Churches back to their Catholic Roots. Join us for our next speaker! Mr. Christopher Candela from St. Peter Church of Omaha will speak on *Explorations of Sacred Music*. Saturday, February 17, Chesterton Academy of Omaha, 36th and Q Streets. Evening begins with a Social Hour at 6:00pm followed by the talk at 7:00pm. Event is free and open to the public, sponsored by Chesterton Academy of Omaha.

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.

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.



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



Track & Field Registration

NOW OPEN!

- Open to SSM parishioners in 5-8th grade
- Multi-sport athletes welcome
- Registration Deadline: February 26th
- Register & more info at: stephen.org/sports-club-track



Scan this QR Code:



SSM CUB SCOUTS PACK 494 PRESENTS

LET'S GLOOO!

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!

SACRED PRESENCE

Embracing Jesus in the Eucharist

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

Join us for a women's day of inspiration, prayer, music, food and fellowship

GUEST SPEAKER-JULIE CARRICK

Speaker, Author, & Catholic Recording Artist

\$20 Registration Fee Includes Lunch
Register Online:
stcharlesomaha.org/womensretreat
by February 26, 2024
Or Call Bertie 402-651-1616



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Susan & Michael Leahy - Parishioners

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