

April 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 (<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: staff Contact Info: <a href="

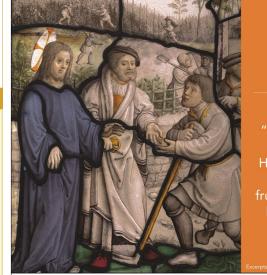
Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM Submit requests to Leslie at <u>l.schulte@stephen.org</u>.



National Day of Prayer is an annual observance designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May. People are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation". The president signs a proclamation each year encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

We are asked to pray for our government leaders, our military, for those working in media, business and education. We also pray for our churches and our families.

God, You are a shield for all those who take refuge in You. As we abide in You and Your Word abides in us, we take up our shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and run boldly into the darkness to **Lift Up the Word and Light Up the World**! In the Mighty name of Jesus we pray, Amen!



5[™] SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit." - Jn 15:1-2

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."

Jesus uses the image of the vine and the branches this weekend to illustrate how vital it is for us to stay connected to him. Just as a vine cannot bear fruit if it is separated from the branch, so we cannot live full, fruitful lives if we are separated from Jesus.



How often have we tried to begin a project or make a decision without taking it to prayer first? How often do we strive to do our will instead of doing the will of the Father? We are nothing; we can do nothing without the grace of Jesus Christ. Let us pray that, as Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish continues to grow and flourish, we may always make time to give thanks for God's generosity and that we may stay connected to Jesus through the Eucharist, Sacrament of Reconciliation, prayer, and works of mercy.

"Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born, If he's not born in thee, thy soul is still forlorn. The cross on Golgotha will never save thy soul, The cross in thine own heart alone can make thee whole."

— Angelus Silesius

God Bless, Father Dave

Congratulations, Newly Married!

Lindsey Becker & Luke Chamberlain

Our faith community wishes you many blessings!



Glessings

Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Abby Ann Kroupa, daughter of Jacob and Jaclyn

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org 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: <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 4/16-4/22/24:

Actual:	\$42,643
Budget:	\$50,167
FYTD Actual:	\$2,107,298
FYTD Budget:	\$2,080,377

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.



"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." -1 John 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you "walk the talk?" Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start!





School News

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

- ⇒ May Crowning—May 3rd: Students are invited to bring a flower for Mary on Friday, May 3rd. Flowers will be arranged and taken to the church to honor Mary during our May Crowning prayer service.
- ⇒ Stock up for Summer at our Spring Book Fair: The Spring Book Fair is May 6th-10th, 7:30-7:55 AM and 3:30-3:55 PM. If you can't make it to the Fair, you can shop at our school's Online Book Fair. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. All orders, including online orders, benefit our school! For more details or to shop the online book fair, visit <u>school.stephen.org/book-fair</u>.
- ⇒ Order Your 24-25 School Supply Packs: Home & School is again organizing the sale of school supply packs through Educational Products, Inc. (EPI). School Supply Packs ordered through EPI are delivered directly to the school and placed in your child's classroom before Back to School Night. To order, visit <u>educationalproducts.com/</u> <u>ShopPacks</u> and enter school code STS021. Be sure to order for your child's 2024/2025 grade level. The order deadline is June 2, 2024.
- ⇒ Open Home & School Positions: We are preparing for another year of supporting our school! We have several opportunities to get involved! To view the positions and sign up, visit <u>school.stephen.org/volunteer</u>.
- ⇒ School Advisory Board End of the Year Nominations: Each year our School Advisory Board honors individuals for their hard work and dedication to our students. Scan the QR Code to nominate your favorite teachers, support staff members and volunteers!



⇒ Enrollment for 2024/2025 School Year: We are still accepting new student applications for the 24/25 school year. Once your application has been accepted, our office will send you an enrollment packet to complete. To apply, visit <u>school.stephen.org/admissions</u>.

Religious Education

- ⇒ Last week of classes will be April 30 & May 1st. Thank you for entrusting your children with us. It has been an awesome year. Have a very safe and blessed summer!
- ⇒ Vacation Bible School Registration Closed: We have reached capacity for our Vacation Bible School. You may still contact the RE Office at <u>e.smith@stephen.org</u> to be added to the waitlist. The office will contact you if spots become available. We still have spots reserved for children of volunteers! Sign up to volunteer at <u>stephen.org/vbs</u>.
- ⇒ Registration for the 2024-2025 school year has begun. Please visit stephen.org/religious-education for more information and to register.

Youth Ministry

- ⇒ Witness Wednesdays: Join us May 1st from 8—9:30 PM at St. Wenceslaus. Don't miss this opportunity to get to know friends and grow in your friendship with Jesus! Find all information and future dates at <u>stephen.org/witness-wednesdays</u>.
- ⇒ Register for Totus Tuus & volunteer to help:





Support the youth of our parish through the Nebraska Day of Giving!

St. Stephen the Martyr is committed to ensuring that all the youth in our Parish have access to Catholic education, whether that is through our school, religious education programs, or youth ministry. Our Tuition Assistance program helps us keep that commitment.

Your support will help fund the following programs for the youth of our Parish:

- Financial Assistance for Steubenville attendees
- Tuition Assistance for Religious Education students
- Tuition Assistance for School students

Your gift will help nourish St. Stephen the Martyr and provide for a brighter future for our youth! We are grateful for your support.

Nebraska s bortion Is it that Bad?

Pro-abortion activists are leading an effort to create a right to late-pregnancy abortion in the Nebraska Constitution.

Join Marion Miner of the Nebraska Catholic Conference and Katherine Burow of Abortion Dialogue Academy to learn about this deceptive proposal, and how you can help defeat it.

Unable to Attend the City-Wide Training at St. Roberts?

Join us at St. Stephen on Tuesday, May 21st at 7 PM St. Stephen the Martyr Respect Life Ministry will host a presentation by Marion Miner of Nebraska Catholic Conference on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7 PM in the St. Stephen the Martyr Dining Room. Mr. Miner will discuss the pro-abortion ballot proposal and what pro-lifers can do to help defeat it. Light refreshments will be provided. Interested in staying connected with our St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry? Sign up for our e-newsletters at stephen.flocknote.com/SSMRespectLife.



Katherine Burow Marion Miner Nebraska Catholic Conference Abortion Dialogue Academv



Saturday, May 4th





Marion Miner

Nebraska Catholic

Conference



Free Purple Hyacinth

building. The plants need sun/ partial sun and need to be planted ½ inch deep. If you are interested in planting these in your own garden, please stop by the Parish Center. Instructions are included with the seed packets. Happy gardening!



Monthly Meeting & Fellowship: The St. Stephen the Martyr Council of Catholic Women invite all confirmed Catholic women to attend our monthly meeting scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month from 7-8 PM with fellowship through 9 PM. We hope you can join us! To sign up for emails, please visit stephen.org/ councilofcatholicwomen.

Monthly Bunco Night: Bunco is hosted by the Council of Catholic Women every third **Thursday** of every month in the Parish Center from 7-9 PM. 21+; \$10/person. Questions? Contact Brenda Kreber at 402-203-5196.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

- Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles,
 - and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him. (Acts 9:27)

Psalm:

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (Ps 22) Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

And his commandment is this:

we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. (1 Jn 3:23)

Gospel:

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (Jn 15:5)

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

Every Christian is a vine awaiting the loving attention of our gardener to prune and perfect us, to remove the parts of ourselves that are dead so that the fruitful parts burst forth with life. Trust the wisdom of the gardener. He alone can make us bloom.

Observances for the week of April 28, 2024

Sunday:	5th Sunday of Easter
Monday:	St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the
	Church
Tuesday:	St. Pius V, Pope
Wednesday:	St. Joseph the Worker
Thursday:	St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the
	Church; National Day of Prayer
Friday:	Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
Next Sunday:	6th Sunday of Easter

Join our Parish Family!

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

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>.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 27

8:15 am † Lawrence Rupp (ZT) 5:00 pm SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)

Sunday, April 28

- 7:30 am † Mary Ann Drelicharz (ZT)
- 9:00 am † Eugene Mitchell (ZT) 10:30 am † Cathy Greise (ZT)
- 10:30 am † Cathy Greise (ZT) 6:00 pm † Lyle Samuelson (AS)

Monday, April 29

6:30 am † Judy Klein (ZT) 8:15 am † Boden Rieschl (ZT)

Tuesday, April 30

- 6:30 am † JoAnn Spurgin (ZT) 8:15 am † Elizabeth Gulizia (DB)
- Wednesday, May 1 6:30 am SI Aya & Tina Zrust (ZT) 8:15 am † Ines Rivera (DB)

Thursday, May 2 6:30 am † Dan McGargill (DB)

6:30 am † Dan McGargill (DB) 8:15 am SI Abraham Manyout (DB)

Friday, May 3

6:30 am † Leonard Kruse (ZT) 8:15 am † David Lemoine (DB)

Saturday, May 4

8:15 am † Ándrew Williams (DB) 5:00 pm † Dora Isabel Rojas Gutierrez (ZT)

Sunday, May 5

7:30 am † Jim Brazda (ZT) 9:00 am † Luella Linnebur (DB) 10:30 am SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB) 6:00 pm † Margaret Klein (TBA) SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; ZT = Fr. Zach Tucker; AS = Fr. Andrew Sohm; TBA = To Be Announced—Priest assignment was not

available at time of print. 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>.



Please pray for those who are sick/injured/healing: Richard Bloom Betty Brinster, wife of Jerry Berneice Adams Tiffany Cole, wife of Jim, mother of Jaeli, Eli, Brynlee & Millie Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim Max Rocha, husband of Kelly, father of Jayden, KK, Trinity and Xander Molly Felker, daughter of Mike and Stacy Michael Bazant, husband of Patricia 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

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



SEEKING

PASTORAL

COUNCIL

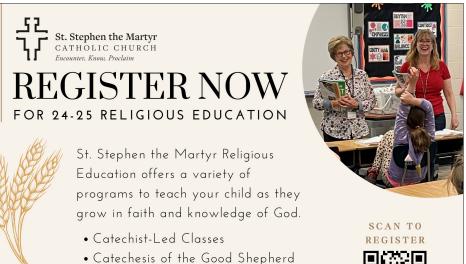
MEMBERS Will You Apply?



Learn more & apply at stephen.org/pastoral-council-apply

Pastoral Council Seeking Two New Members The Pastoral Council is seeking two engaged parishioners to join their team. In

support of Fr. Dave, this Council strives to be consultative in nature, a medium for communication, and a model of cooperation and collaboration. Learn more and apply at stephen.org/pastoral-council-apply. Questions? Please contact Bob Homan at rlhoman1961@gmail.com.



• Parent-Led Faith Formation



STEPHEN.ORG/RELIGIOUS-EDUCATION

Knights of Columbus Scholarship Opportunity The Saint Stephen 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 one-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 30th. Completed applications must be submitted to the SSM Parish Office by May 1st. If you have any questions, please reach out to Hank Hardy at hhardy@janome-america.com.

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

Question: How does a person become a canonized saint?

Answer: It is important to remember that all the saints are people, real people who lived just as we do! The first saints of the Church were martyrs or theologians known for a holy life. Over time, the Church has established a set process to investigate the causes of saints.

After a holy person's death, the bishop of their diocese initiates the canonization process with the Vatican. Typically, they must wait five years to ensure any false enthusiasm has lessened. With Vatican approval, the process begins and the person receives the title "Servant of God." The first phase involves collecting information about the person's life and scrutinizing it carefully. One person has the specific role of raising doubts — this is the origin of the phrase "devil's advocate!" When it is clear the person truly lived a heroically holy life according to Church teaching, they are declared "Venerable."

If the person is a martyr for the faith, they will also be declared "Blessed." If the person is not a martyr, they must be credited with a miracle. This is also closely examined for authenticity. Once the miracle is authenticated as truly a miracle performed by God through the person or through their intercession, they are beatified. An additional authenticated miracle is required before canonization, and we can call them "Saint." ©LPi



Join us in the quiet to worship Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

First Friday Adoration May 3rd, 9:30 AM—2:30 PM Following our school's May Crowning

Weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is on Mondays from 7-8 PM in the Worship Space. You can also join us in our Adoration Chapel 24/7. The code for access is 9675*.

"To speak of the Blessed Sacrament is to speak of that which is most sacred." - St. Euphrasia

First Saturday Rosary

Saturday, May 4th Prior to 8:15 AM Mass Worship Space

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR ORDINANDI AND SEMINARIANS St. Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40th Street, Omaha

Monday, May 20, 2024

6:30 PM – Greetings in the Narthex Meet our Serrans whose mission is to promote and support vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in the Catholic Church.

7:00 PM – Holy Hour in the Sanctuary of St. Cecilia This special Holy Hour on May 20 is to pray for the Transitional Diaconate Ordination of three seminarians—Will Targy, Logan Hepp, and Brian Hulaon May 24, and to pray for the Priestinod Ordination of two men—Deacons Zachary Eischeid and Matthew Pohiman—on June 1. Be sure to join us as we pray together from our hearts for these ordinandi and all our seminarians before the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacramert. Please show your support and invite your Itamily, friends, and guests to join us! Stay-tuned for a live-stream link. All are welcome!

Presider: Rev. Frank Baumert, Chaplain, Serra Club of West Omaha Assisted by: Seminarians Will Targy, Logan Hepp, Brian Hula, and Deacon Zachary Eischeid. Deacon Matthew Pohlman will still be in Rome

> HOSTED BY THE SERRA CLUB OF WEST OMAHA



Youth, parents, and all the faithful are invited. Help build the church locally through vocations support.

Questions: Contact Lori Hamilton, Serra VP bobxlori@aol.com or 402-699-5027



"The end for which God has instituted the priestbood has been to appoint on earth public persons to watch over the bonor of his divine majesty, and to procure the salvation of souls."

 \sim St. Alphonsus Liguori \sim

Tee It Up For Vocations!



The Serra Clubs of Omaha and West Omaha Present Annual Golf, Tennis, & Pickleball Outing Monday, June 3, 2024

All proceeds support Archdiocese of Omaha Vocations Programs Registration Open Now!

 Individual Golf \$125
Foursome Golf \$500
Tennis/Pickle Ball \$75
Dinner Only \$40
Sponsor a Priest, Seminarian, or Religious \$125
Hole Sponsor \$250 To learn more, register, or sponsor: https://serrawestomaha.org/golf/ Register and Pay Online or Download PDF and Mail a Check For questions, contact Joe Grier at 40<u>2-680-6654</u> Golf Registration - 11 AM Pines Country Club Tennis and Pickleball - 3 PM Genesis Westroads Includes lunch before and cocktail hour, dinner, and awards after







t Night at the Races

DADDY DAUGHTER DERBY DANCE Saturday | May 4, 2024 | 7 - 9 PM

IN THE SSM CAFETERIA \$25 PER DAD AND GIRL(S) SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER Questions? Contact Hali Cyr at halitcyr@gmail.com

West Omaha Family of Catholic Parishes

Immaculate Conception 13943 Dowd Drive | Boys Town, Nebraska | (531) 355-1030

Mass Times Sun: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Daily: 11:40 a.m.

> Confession Tue and Thu: 11 - 11:30 a.m.

St. Stephen the Martyr 16701 S St, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675

Mass Times Mon - Fri: 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.; Sat: 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sun: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

> Confession Tue: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Sat: 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. or by appointment

> > St. Vincent de Paul

14330 Eagle <mark>Run Dr, Omaha, NE 68164 | (402) 4</mark>96-7988

Mass Times Mon - Fri: 6:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.; Sat: 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sun: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11a.m. and 5 p.m.

> Confession Sat: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.; Sun: 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. anytime by appointment

St. Wenceslaus

15353 Pacific St. Omaha, NE 68154 | (402) 330-0305

Mass Times

Mon - Thu: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Fri: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m. Sat: 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sun: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon and 5:30 p.m.

Confession Mon - Thu: 5 PM until line ends Sat: 9 AM until line ends; 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM anytime by appointment

Community News

GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE STUDY ON SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO: In cooperation



with Jeff Cavins and Ascension Press, Spirit Catholic Radio brings you The Great Adventure – Your Journey Through the Bible. Learn how the people,

places, and events of the Bible all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith. More details at spiritcatholicradio.com/adventure.



Flaming Hoops Basketball Camp

May 28-May 31, 2024

Registration Now Open!

When: Tuesday, May 28th -Friday, May 31st \Rightarrow 8:30-10:30 AM (Grades 1-3) \Rightarrow 10:45 AM - 12:45 PM (Grades 4-8) Where: St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic School gym Who: Boys and girls Grades 1-8 (2024-25 school year) Questions: Contact Kathy Jones, kjonesflaminghoops@gmail.com

Registration: For more information & to register, scan the QR Code.





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

St. Stephen Martyr, Omaha, NE

B 4C 02-0349



SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!