

August 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 (<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, 7:30 AM–7:30 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. Matthew Pohlman Staff Contact Info: <u>stephen.org/staff</u>

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Leslie at <u>l.schulte@stephen.org</u>.





21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." - Jn 6:67-69

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

"...Many of His disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied Him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, 'Do you also want to leave?' Simon Peter answered Him, 'Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."



All three readings for Mass this weekend are about commitment. In the first reading, we hear the story of Joshua asking the Israelites to decide whom they will serve. He says that he and his household will serve the Lord. The Israelites also re-commit themselves to serving the Lord. In our Gospel, we hear that many people could not comprehend Jesus' teaching, especially about eating His Body and drinking His Blood. Because this was too much for them, they walked away from the commitment that they made to following Him.

What about the commitments you have made in your life? Are you faithful to them? I believe that we are more tempted, not to break commitments totally, but to be half-hearted in living them. We generally keep our commitments, but we only give 50 or 75 percent (or maybe less) instead of giving 100 percent of ourselves to our family, parish, and community.

This weekend, we are challenged to examine the many commitments that we have made and to reflect upon how much of ourselves we give to staying faithful to them. We have all known difficult times in our lives when people committed themselves and their love to help us and hold us up in our weakness and brokenness. Jesus does the same for us. May we show the same kind of committed love that Joshua, Saint Peter, and Jesus show in our readings this weekend.

"To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement." -Saint Augustine

> In Christ, Father Dave

Baptism

Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Elijah Cole Turco, son of Travis and Amber Trevor Jayson Priebe, son of Brett and Amy Eleanor Jane Strobel, daughter of Robert and Kayla

16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org

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 & Homebound Eucharist Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Becoming Catholic! Order of Christian Initiation Contact Adam Ybarra, Director of Mission, at (402) 861-4507 or <u>a.ybarra@stephen.org</u>.

Financial Stewardship

Offertory & Online Giving 8/13-8/19/2024:

Actual:	\$41,279
Budget:	\$47,226
FYTD Actual:	\$297,843
FYTD Budget:	\$322,184

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.



"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve...As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

When we commit to serve the Lord, we become a disciple in the work of the Lord. A disciple is a person who spends time in prayer every day, joyfully participates in charitable works and generously supports their local parish and Church mission. If we say we serve God, our words and actions should reflect the Gospel message to others. *#stewardshipreflection*



- Micro Soccer is for SSM Parishioners, ages 3-6
- Games will start Sept. 15th and play for 7 weeks, every Sunday at Mission Park
- Register by 5 PM, Friday, August 30th

Register & more

information at: stephen.org/sports-club



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School News

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

- ⇒ We still have room for your student! We still have space in most classes for the 24-25 school year, including our PreK and Kindergarten classes! Request a tour or apply at <u>school.stephen.org/admissions</u>.
- ⇒ Spirit Wear Orders: Support our 8th Graders traveling to Washington D.C. next spring by purchasing new SSM Spirit Wear! Spirit Wear can be worn by students on Martyr Mondays and other designated spirit days. To shop, visit <u>ssmspiritwear.logoshop.com</u>. All proceeds go to the Omaha Travel Club in support of the 8th Grade Washington D.C. trip.
- ⇒ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Volunteers Needed: Come learn more about your Catholic faith through the eyes of 3-5 year olds! All our Early Childhood students attend Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as part of their faith formation at school. The classes are led by a trained catechist, but the program is in need of volunteers to serve as assistants during each session, which are approximately 45 minutes each during the school day. There is no experience needed, but volunteers must be Safe Environment Trained. For more information, please contact Brooke Keller at <u>bnkeller@gmail.com</u>.

Religious Education

- ⇒ Enrollment is still open for Religious Education Classes! If you have a student in pre-K through 8th grade who does not attend a Catholic school, enroll them in Religious Education classes now! Our program invites, encourages, and equips children and their families to encounter, know and proclaim Christ! We offer weekly, catechist-led classes for students in PreK through Grade 8 on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. We also offer a home-school RE program for parent-led faith formation in non-sacrament years. Lastly, we offer additional sacrament preparation for students who missed First Communion and Reconciliation in the second grade. Please reach out to discover how SSM Religious Education can support your family on your journey of faith! Call 402-896-5683 for more information.
- ⇒ RE Volunteer Opportunities: Would you be willing to assist in a weekly RE class? We have created a "Catechist Assistant" volunteer role this year for parents/grandparents/high school students who want to be involved in RE without the responsibility of preparing lessons. Many of our classes just need a second person to help in the classroom. To learn about this and all our volunteer opportunities visit <u>stephen.org/re</u> <u>-registration</u>. Volunteers receive discounted or waived tuition. Please prayerfully consider signing up—we cannot do this without you!

Youth Ministry

⇒ Witness Wednesdays: Join us again this week, Wednesday, August 28th from 8—9:30 PM in the Parish Center. We will spend time together learning from powerful witnesses to our faith. Snacks and drinks are provided. For more information, please visit <u>stephen.org/witness-</u><u>wednesdays</u>.

Sports Club



Book & Bible Studies

Many Bible/Book Studies are available to our parishioners as a way to encounter, know, and proclaim Christ. Additional opportunities will be announced in the coming weeks! Scan the QR code to see the latest information.



- Seeking Truth Bible Study on Genesis: Everyone is welcome to join the 2024-2025 season of Seeking Truth Bible Study. This year, we will study the Book of Genesis. The study begins August 27th and meets every Tuesday from 9:15-10:45 AM in the Parish Center. The study has a winter break from December 3rd-January 7th. Questions? Please contact Connie at ccinnamon47@gmail.com.
- ⇒ Acts of the Apostles Bible Study with Deacon Marty: Deacon Marty will be offering study on the Acts of Apostles. The group will meet on Wednesdays starting September 4th from 9:30-11 AM in the Parish Center. The textbooks will be the Bible and the Shepherd's Notes book on "Acts". For more information or to register, email Deacon Marty at <u>mwarwick3@cox.net</u>.
- ⇒ Women's Bible Study on 2nd Saturday Mornings: Join other women of St. Stephen the Martyr parish once per month as we journey together through "Psalms II Praying With Jesus" by Kevin Perrotta. We will meet on the second Saturday of the month from 9 11 AM beginning September 14th. To register and reserve your book, contact Janice Dethlefs 402-651-0153.
- ⇒ Lectio Divina: Come and learn the Lectio Divina way to pray! Lectio Divina means "Divine Reading". Our women's group invites you to learn the practice of scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. We meet the First Thursday of each month from 9:15 10:30 AM, beginning September 5th in the Parish Center. Questions? Contact Nancy at wiederholtnancy@hotmail.com.
- Friday Faith & Fellowship: Join us this semester as we study "When You Pray" by Edward Sri and "The Women of Christmas" by Liz Curtis Higgs. We meet Fridays from 9:30 11 AM, beginning Sept. 6th in the Parish Center. Questions? Contact Christie at czhinton@mac.com.



Blessing of the New Tabernacle A Message from Father Dave Belt

Dear Saint Stephen parishioners, On the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I had the great privilege of blessing our new tabernacle. It was so fitting that we have the blessing on this great Feast: As Mary was the first Tabernacle of Jesus, so we bless the Tabernacle in our church that holds the Most Blessed Sacrament of Jesus Christ. I would like to offer a few points for your consideration regarding the Tabernacle:

- I'm very grateful to the donors who funded this project. We have added a lot of sacred art on our property and in our church in statues and Stations of the Cross in the last two years. We have also replaced our sacred vessels we use for Mass. We have more that we want to add or replace, and are always grateful for the generosity of our people.
- We're very grateful to the donors of the original Tabernacle. As most of you know, the lid of this Tabernacle opened like a treasure chest, and not like a door, which is most common. For the last two years, the hinges have been loose and broken. We had locksmiths, metalsmiths, carpenters, and other skilled parishioners look at it to see how it could be repaired. We even had an expert who restores Tabernacles examine it. The answer we received was the best plan would be to replace it. One of the top priorities of the Church is that the reserved Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle be secure. We felt it wasn't secure with the broken hinges.
- Some people have asked why we didn't place the new Tabernacle in the church. The easiest answer to that question is that we don't have the archbishop's permission to change the placement of the Tabernacle at this point. The documents on the liturgy say that the diocesan bishop makes the final decision about the placement of the Tabernacle in a church. Archbishop Lucas and I have talked several times about our church, and the need for it to be renovated. We need to replace the pews, floor covering, and some of the lighting. We also need to look at providing enough space for our people to be in the church, without setting up chairs in the Gathering Space. In the next three to five years, we will be making plans to renovate the church, and the placement of the Tabernacle will be included in the planning process. I would like to have the Tabernacle visible in the church, as the instructions from the Church require. At this time, we don't have an appropriate place for the Blessed Sacrament in the church. I humbly ask you to be patient with this process, so that we may offer our Lord a beautiful, holy, and secure place to be present.
- Finally, I ask you to pray for the leadership of our parish, as we discern what we need to renovate or build to provide for the needs of our community. As you know, building anything is expensive, so we will need the financial support of our entire parish.

I'm very grateful for your love of the Sacrifice of the Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Let us be patient, as we make the best decisions we can about the future of our parish. I know I can count on you for your prayerful support through these exciting and challenging times. Please know that I love you, and that I hold you in my daily prayers. May God bless us and our community of faith!

> In Christ, Father Dave

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>.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: What kind of religious practices should we begin, once we marry, to help us practice our faith each day?

Answer: Your spiritual life as a couple is important. The sacrament of Marriage is a gift and a grace, but living it well isn't always easy! It requires intentionality and perseverance. Growing your spiritual life as a couple also requires a plan. Life can be incredibly busy. There's never "enough time" for everything we want to do. But we can live by our priorities. If we don't prioritize prayer, we'll find it slowly disappear from our lives.

If you're not already praying individually, that's a good place to start. If your schedules are similar, take some quiet time at the same time to help hold each other accountable. Praying together is also important! You could start by looking at the religious practices of your family and of families around you that you respect. Talk with your spouse about the ones who make the deepest impression on you or were most meaningful when you were young. Think about what you want your future children to experience. Making faith a commitment now will mean it is engrained habit when you grow your family. Ultimately, these faith practices should help us grow in our love for God and for one another. ©LPi



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

Mondays | 7 PM | Worship Space

Please join us in the Adoration Chapel 24/7. The code for access is 9675*.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." (Jos 24:18)

Psalm:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 34)

Second Reading:

This is a great mystery,

but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. (Eph 5:32)

Gospel:

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (Jn 6:68)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Many followers of Jesus could not accept his teachings. To those that remained, he posed a simple question: "Do you also want to leave?" He asks us the same, every moment of every day. Let us answer with confidence, in all that we do: "Only you have the words of eternal life."

Observances for the week of August 25, 2024

Sunday:	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	St. Monica
Wednesday:	St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Next Sunday: 22nd 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 <u>stephen.org/prayer-line</u> or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 24 8:15 am † Joel Zounda Sitti & Alice Kokovi Atayi (MP) 5:00 pm † Michael Strehle (DH)

Sunday, August 25

7:30 am SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB) 9:00 am † Patricia Fields (DB) 10:30 am † Cathy Greise (MP) 6:00 pm † Margaret Klein (MP) **Monday, August 26** 6:30 am † Andrew Williams (MP) 8:15 am † Patrick Gottsch (MP)

Tuesday, August 27 6:30 am † Kate Stork (MP) 8:15 am † Gerald Moseke (DB)

Wednesday, August 28 6:30 am † Fred Totten (MP) 8:15 am SI Will Manyout (DB)

Thursday, August 296:30 amSIDean & Jane Baumert & family (DB)8:15 amtLyle Samuelson (DB)

Friday, August 30

6:30 am † John Fenton (MP) 8:15 am † Elizabeth Gulizia (DB)

Saturday, August 31

- 8:15 am SI James Gninefou & Adaku Esther Gninefou (MP)
 - 5:00 pm † Jeanette Peterson (DB)

Sunday, September 1

7:30 am † Ole Claire Knudsen (DB) 9:00 am SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB) 10:30 am † Gerald Moseke (MP) 6:00 pm SI Jeff Souba (MP)

SI = Special Intention **†** = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; MP = Fr. Matthew Pohlman; DH = Fr. Denny Hanneman

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>.

Pray For ...

Pray for those who are sick/injured/healing:

Larry Comer, husband of Janie Matt Kelly, son of Billie Watsabaugh Larry Boettcher, husband of Judith Rod Heng, husband of Carol Marie Stibbs Richard Bloom Betty Brinster, wife of Jerry 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 Ryan Huebner, son of Cheryl & Marty

Community News

REGINA CAELI ACADEMY JOB OPENING: Come join our exciting mission to form the next generation of Catholics! Regina Caeli is a private, independent, Classical Homeschool Hybrid[™] operating in the Catholic tradition. Preschool - 12th-grade students attend classical academic and extracurricular classes two days a week and homeschool the remaining days following the plans provided by RCA. To learn more, contact Melissa Baumbach at mbaumbach.oma@rcahybrid.org.

OMAHA COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN CONVENTION: The 100th Convention of the Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (OACCW) will be held on Monday, September 16, 2024 at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Norfolk, NE. Pre-register by September 2nd. Registration form and \$25 registration fee are mailed to Deb Warren, POB 324, Elgin, NE 68636. Forms available online at oaccw.org.

CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE ETHICS CONFERENCE: Health care professionals are invited to the first annual Converging Roads health care ethics conference on October 19 from 8 AM - 5:45 PM at Creighton University in Omaha, NE. This one-day conference will explore the theme of Fundamental Health Care Ethics and offers continuing education for health care professionals rooted in the Hippocratic and Catholic ethical tradition. Registration: \$75-\$159 based on CME/CNE inclusion. This conference is presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation, the Archdiocese of Omaha, The Fr. Edward J. Flanagan Guild, and Creighton University. For more info, please visit convergingroads.com or email <u>alexandra@forlifeandfamilv.org</u>.

ST. WENCESLAUS CATHOLIC CHURCH GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: This group meets on Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30 PM beginning on September 9th. For more information, contact Brian Corey 402-697- 7514 or coreyB@stwenceslaus.org. Scan the QR code to learn more.

3-Day Silent Directed gnatian Retreats







If you have been on retreats before and looking for a more personal retreat experience, consider one of the dates below. These retreats start with check-in between 4:00-5:00pm for the 6pm supper and conclude at 3pm the final day. You would be assigned a spiritual director who you would meet with each day. Directors are guided with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Lovola.

Thurs-Sun Oct 17-20, 2024 Thurs-Sun Dec 5-8, 2024 Thurs-Sun Jan 23-26, 2025

Dates through summer 2025 are set and registration will open the first week of December. Sign up for our newsletter.

The cost is \$375 for room, all meals and private sessions. A non-refundable deposit of \$75 would be requested at registration. Register at creighton.edu/ retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats

or scan code.

Terri Lou Duggan **Creighton University Retreat Center** 712-778-2466 curc@creighton.edu

West Omaha Family of Catholic Parishes

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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 Run Dr, Omaha, NE 68164 | (402) 496-7988

Mass Times

Mon - Fri: 6:<mark>45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m</mark>.; Sat: 8:1<mark>5 a.m. an</mark>d 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

Golf Fore IPF

September 9, 2024 Miracle Hill Golf Course Omaha, Nebraska



12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start; Dinner to follow at the 19th Hole (the IPF Office at 11626 Nicholas Street)

Questions? Call Dawn Sledge at 531-272-8498 or send her an email at dsledge@priestlyformation.org.







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