

September 8, 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 Rachel at <u>r.cooley@stephen.org</u>.





23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

<u>—</u>6≬o—

And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech

impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him

off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" - Mk 7:32-34

Pastor's Message—From Father Dave

He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"— that is, "Be opened!" — And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.



Today's Gospel tells the story of the healing of the deaf man. In this passage, Jesus puts His fingers in the man's ears and then spits on his fingers and touches the man's tongue. This sounds kind of gross, doesn't it? But I remember my mom spitting on her fingers to clean a stain on my face or to tame a lock of hair that was sticking up.

These are very intimate gestures, where one person touches another to care for them. In these very simple gestures of touching the man's ears and tongue, Jesus performs a miracle, and the man is healed.

Do we ever think about the simple, everyday miracles that we witness (and perform)? A smile, a handshake or embrace, a word of support or hope can all make a huge difference in our lives and the lives of others. Today I encourage you to look around and to see God's activity in the world. We too can be a part of the miracle if only we reach out to others.

"We must measure our goodness, not by what we don't do, what we deny ourselves, what we resist, or who we exclude. Instead, we should measure ourselves by what we embrace, what we create, and who we include." -Carla Thompson Powell

> In Christ, Father Dave

Baptismo

Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Graham Thomas Tiwald, son of Dean and Hannah



Congratulations, Newly Married!

Craig Callahan and Tara Parr Our faith community wishes you many blessings!

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.

Matrimonv

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 a.ybarra@stephen.org.

Financial Stewardship

Offertory & Online Giving 8/20-8/26:		
Actual:	\$46,665	
Budget:	\$47,226	
FYTD Actual:	\$346,231	
FYTD Budget:	\$369,411	
Offertory & Online Giving 8/27-9/2:		
Actual:	\$30,669	
Budget:	\$47,035	
	+ 110 070	

	,
FYTD Actual: FYTD Budget:	\$418,973 \$416,446

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.







School News

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

- ⇒ 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 1 hours and 35 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 bnkeller@gmail.com.
- We still have room for your student! We still have space in most \Rightarrow classes for the 24-25 school year, including our PreK and Kindergarten classes! Request a tour or apply at school.stephen.org/admissions.

Religious Education

- ⇒ **Cookie Dough Fundraiser**: Our annual fundraiser begins this week and runs through October 16. Please help support our fundraiser by purchasing frozen cookie dough from a Rel. Ed. student or by using the QR code. Students will come home this week with forms and information. The Cookie Company-Westroads frozen cookie dough will sell for \$18/tub. Thank you for your support!
- Enrollment is still open for Religious Education Classes! If you have \Rightarrow a student in Pre-K through 8th grade who does not attend a Catholic school, enroll them in Religious Education classes now! We offer weekly, catechist-led classes, a homeschool RE program for parent-led faith formation in non-sacrament years, and sacrament preparation for students who missed First Communion and Reconciliation in 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 \Rightarrow 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 stephen.org/re-registration.

Youth Ministry

Witness Wednesdays: Welcome, new High Schoolers! All 9-12th Grade \Rightarrow students are invited to join us every Wednesday for Witness Wednesdays. View our September schedule below. We will spend time together learning from powerful witnesses to our faith. Snacks and drinks are provided. For more information, please visit stephen.org/ witness-wednesdays.

> ST. WENCESLAUS & ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR YOUTH MINISTRIES PRESENTS Witness Wednesdays Encounter. Know & Share the love of Jesus Join your friends for a time of fellowship and community through hearing testimonies, bible study, Adoration, and "real" topic discussions. Snacks and drinks provided. September Schedule: WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 8-9:30 PM

IST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS AT ST. WENCESLAUS 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS AT ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

September 4th: St. Wenceslaus - Testimony Night feat. Evan Collins & Johnny Murray.

September 11th: St. Stephen the Martyr - "In the Word" Night: diving into scripture through the study "The Crux".

September 18th: St. Wenceslaus - Eucharistic Adoration Night

mber 25th: St. Stephen the Martyr - "Be Rea Night: Serving the Poor - Corporal & Spirituc Works of Mercy & their importance.



EFORE I FORMED YOU



Respect Life Ministry

Congratulations to our 2024 Nebraska Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Art Contest Winner!

Purchase a shirt to help promote a greater respect for life within our community!

> **T-Shirt Details:** T-Shirt Type: Quality Gildan Gray Shirts with a white imprint Cost: \$15/shirt (sizes Youth XS-Adult XL); \$17/shirt (Sizes Adult 2XL-4XL)

> > **SSM Students** May Wear On Martyr Mondays!

Order by Sept. 27th Must complete an order form and submit payment via Venmo or by check made payable to Knights of Columbus 10160. Checks should be dropped off in the Parish Office.



Congratulations. Sarah!

> Venmo Pavment @KofC1016

Scan to Complete

Order Form

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Thank You for your Food Pantry donations!



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the generous parishioners and Knights of Columbus for your support of the

SSM Food Pantry through the First Saturday drop off!

To donate to the Food Pantry, drop off items to the Food Pantry cart in the foyer of the Parish Center anytime. There is also a curbside drop -off event every first Saturday of the month thanks to our Knights of Columbus. Our Food Pantry provides aid to area families in need.

"O God, grant that whatever good things I have, I may share generously with those who have not, and whatever good things I do not have, I may request humbly from those who do." – St. Thomás Aquinas



stephens.primetimers@gmail.com.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH 9-11 AM WORSHIP SPACE FOR 5TH - 12TH GRADERS

TO RSVP: EMAIL SAM AT S.JIZBA@STEPHEN.ORG



Prayer Shawl Ministry Sept. 11th | 9:15 AM

Gather, pray and make Prayer Shawls/ Blankets to be given to persons experiencing crisis in their life. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month from 9:15 to 11 AM in the Parish Center. Questions? Contact: Kathy Stodola at (402) 981-1592. If you would like to help but can't knit, tie or crochet—this group is seeking donations of yarn, fleece, or gift cards from JoAnn Fabric or Hobby Lobby. Donations can be dropped off to Colleen in the Parish Center.

CHECK OUT OUR LIST OF



Our parish has many small groups who study and grow in their faith together. Please feel welcome at our book & bible studies. Check out a full list of options on our website.

STEPHEN.ORG/ADULT-FAITH-FORMATION







54 Day Rosary Novena to Our Lady Guardian of Faith September 11 - November 3

Join your parish family in praying for Life in Nebraska. The 54 Day Novena of Life, offered through Mary in Christ, is a very powerful prayer. As we are alive in the Body of Christ, our prayer together inspires conversation.

Please join us and invite your friends and families as we continue to "Fight Like Heaven" to get the word out on the upcoming ballot initiatives in November. For more information and how to pray the Novena, visit <u>54daynovenafor-</u> <u>life.com</u>.

Our Lady, Guardian of Faith, pray for us!

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 is the history behind feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

Answer: Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, is credited with having discovered the true cross around 330. She traveled to the Holy Land and uncovered the places associated with Jesus' life. Legend has it that Helena uncovered three crosses but was not able to detect the true cross until each of them was laid on a leper. Only one of them cured the leper, proving it to be the true cross. A great church was built at the site, and soon various portions of the cross were sent to other churches as relics to be venerated.

The day after the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, September 14, 335, the actual cross was displayed for veneration. Egeria, a women traveler to Jerusalem around the year 386, kept a diary that has survived. She tells of the unique veneration of the wood of the cross that took place on Good Friday, something maintained ritually to this very day.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross focuses on the gift of love that Jesus manifested by his total gift of self, offered for all. The cross, the ultimate form of capital punishment in its day, has become for us the ultimate symbol of love and triumph over evil and death. ©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*.

Oh Sacrament Most Holy, Oh Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving Be Every Moment Thine!



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. (Is 35:5-6)

Psalm:

Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 146)

Second Reading:

Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him? (Jas 2:5)

Gospel:

"He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak." (Mk 7:37)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Be opened!" said Christ two thousand years ago, as he placed his finger in the ear of the deaf man. "Be opened!" he says to us today, laying his hand upon our hearts. May we always accept Christ's invitation to become a new creation.

Observances for the week of September 8, 2024

Sunday:	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Grandparent's Day
Monday:	St. Peter Claver, Priest
Wednesday:	Patriot Day
Thursday:	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Friday:	St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Next Sunday:	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday



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	, se	ptember 7
8:15 am	SI	Tom & Linda Mertz (MP)
5:00 pm	†	Marjorie Gell (DB)
Sunday, S	Sep	tember 8
7:30 am	ť	Mary Ann Drelicharz (MP)

10:30 am SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (6:00 pm † Bill Wills (DB)	DB)

Monday, September 9

6:30 am † Mary Elwer (MP) 8:15 am † Marian & Albert Berning (MP)

Tuesday, September 10

6:30 am	†	Leo and Mary Ann	Thurman (MP)
		Jane Schuyler (DB)	

Wednesday, September 11

6:30 am † Robert O'Donnell (MP) 8:15 am † Rich McCormick (DB)

Thursday, September 126:30 am1Bob & Sue Mathine (DB)8:15 amSICindy Souba (DB)

Friday, September 13

6:30 am † Daniel Higgins (MP) 8:15 am † Patricia Paulsen (DB)

Saturday, September 14

8:15 am	†	Mary Edwards (DB)
5:00 pm	†	Rodger Fawcett (MP)

Sunday, September 15

7:30 am	ť	Jim Brazda (MP)
9:00 am	SI	People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
		Bob Menard (DB)
6:00 pm	†	Margaret Klein (AS)
SI = Specia	al Ir	tention † = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; MP = Fr. Matthew Pohlman AS = Fr. Andy Sohm

Please note: Priest schedule subject to change If you'd like to reserve a Mass intention, please contact Melissa in the parish office at <u>m.kane@stephen.org</u>.



Pray for deceased souls of our parish:

Kathy Haidley, wife of Jim Herman Weist, father of Anne Kalkowski Justin Cooper, son of Jeannie Maida Claudia Britten, wife of Jerry Jack Caniglia, husband of Stella

Pray for those who are sick/injured/healing:

Christopher Widseth, husband of Kimberly Betty Pfeiffer, mother of Cheri Johnson 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

Now Hiring



Director of Communications Find more information at stephen.org/careers

WE ARE HIRING A DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS: The Director of Communications is a full-time position (30-40 hours/week) and is responsible for developing and overseeing a comprehensive, clear, and consistent communication strategy to articulate and advance the mission of Saint Stephen the Martyr. The Director will work closely with the pastor, staff, and lay leadership to support and enhance communication in the areas of ministry, the parish, the school, and the community. The ideal candidate is a thoughtful leader, strategic thinker, experienced writer, creative problem-solver, and valuable team member. They have excellent skills in preparing all written publications and in developing and maintaining websites and a digital presence. For more information and to apply, visit <u>stephen.org/careers</u>.

Community News

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 <u>oaccw.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 <u>coreyB@stwenceslaus.org</u>.

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

ARCHBISHOP'S VIGIL FOR LIFE SEPTEMBER 28, 2024, 8:00 AM ST. MARY'S CHURCH 2302 Crawford St, Bellevue, Nebraska

Help build the culture of life through prayer! Join Archbishop George Lucas for the Vigil for Life. Following Mass, there will be Exposition of the Holy Eucharist and a rosary procession to the Bellevue abortion facility.

This is one of the most powerful pro-life events in the area.

Please join us!





Join the Serra Club of West Omaha for a Holy Hour to Pray for Families

Monday, September 16, 2024 Gather at 5:30 PM | Holy Hour at 6 PM

Holy Family Shrine, 23132 Pflug Road, Gretna Fr. Tom Weisbecker, Chaplain of the Serra Club of West Omaha

As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live. ~ St. John Paul II ~

Serra Club of

Vest Omaha

Questions: Contact Lori Hamilton bobxlori@aol.com 402-699-5027

For more information, contact St. Mary's Church at 402-291-1350, or email rectory@stmarysbellevue.com, or visit omahavigilforlife.org



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

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