

December 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 (https://www.facebook.com/ StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha) 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 8:20-9:05 AM on Tues/Wed/Fri. The Adoration Chapel is available 24/7 via door access code: 9675*

Exposed Adoration

Mondays from 7 to 8 PM and on first Friday of the Month from 9 AM to 2:30 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.coolev@stephen.org</u>.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, December 9th



From the Office of the Archbishop: Catholics of the Archdiocese of Omaha are dispensed from the Holy Day of Obligation on December 9th.

This will not be a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Please do pray for our country on December 9th, our national feast day.

Please feel welcome to join us for Mass at 6:30 AM or 8:15 AM on December 9th. Parish offices will remain open.



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

-010-

"Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." - Lk 3:5-6

Pastor's Message — From Father Dave

"Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name."



In our first reading this weekend, Baruch is speaking to a people who, because of their sinfulness and hardness of heart, have lost everything and are living in a foreign land. He is calling them to look forward to the day when their time of mourning is turned to glory and joy. Instead of being punished for their sinfulness, they will be rewarded for their faithfulness and will be brought back home to the Promised Land of their ancestors.

As we continue our journey into Christmas, we realize that we have put on a robe of sinfulness and misery too. In the midst of the happiness and success of the past year, we have turned our backs on God. We carry our own generous share of hurts and pains, failures and sins. But in this Season of Advent, we are called to cast down those dark and heavy robes and put on the cloak of justice and glory, which is a gift from God.

One of the best ways for us to let go of the robe of sinfulness is by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When we sin, we not only hurt our relationship with God—we harm our relationship with other individuals and the Church. When we gather as God's people to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we affirm the truth that we are weak and our community is in need of God's healing forgiveness. We also celebrate that God's love and grace will always be more powerful than our weakness and sinfulness. On Tuesday, December 17, at 7 PM, we will celebrate the gift of forgiveness at our parish's Reconciliation Service. There will be a number of priests here that evening to hear individual confessions. The entire liturgy will take about an hour.

Now is the time to cast off the robes of sinfulness and misery and put on the cloak of justice and glory. Please make every effort to take advantage of this opportunity to experience God's forgiveness and love. Let us pray for ourselves and for one another, that we may have the courage and the grace to confront our sinfulness and ask God to heal us.

"Salvation is free for you because someone else paid." –Anonymous

In Christ, Father Dave

Baytim Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Camden Renee Costanzo, daughter of Michael and Bailey Renee Raegan Elizabeth Hughes, daughter of Jordan and Kristyna Laney Mae Jones, daughter of Stanley and Jenna Kate Ann Weis, daughter of Zachary and Shannon

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 Chri.

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 & 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 11/19-11/25/2024:

Actual:	\$61,690			
Budget:	\$49,267			
FYTD Actual:	\$1,070,934			
FYTD Budget:	\$929,399			
Offertory & Online Giving 11/26-12/2/2024:				
Actual:	\$58,221			

Actual:	\$58,221
Budget:	\$49,267
FYTD Actual:	\$1,130,471
FYTD Budget:	\$1,031,304
Christmas Actual	\$100

St. Stephen the Martyr operates on a Fiscal Year from July 1-June 30

\$4,516

Thank you for your generous giving!

Christmas Budget

1. EX 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, Omaĥa, NE 68135.

Second Collection this weekend

The Retirement Fund for Religious provides restricted grants to any religious institute in the U.S. It distributes both basic, supplemental and special; assistance retirement grants from the fund to religious institutes based on a formula and criteria approved by the conferences of major superiors and bishops. Scan the QR code or place your contribution in the collection basket at all Masses Dec. 7/8th.





School News

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

⇒ Teacher/Staff Christmas Gift Program: We will again offer the opportunity to participate in the annual Teacher/Staff Christmas Gift Program. Donations are used to give a gift to each of St. Stephen the Martyr teachers and staff members who share in the daily education and care our students. We look forward to continuing the tradition this year and showing our teachers and staff members how much they're appreciated! Give online using the QR code. Donations will be collected through December 11th. Thank you for supporting our Catholic school educators!



Registration is open for the 2024 Musical: Matilda Jr! Register now for the School Musical! The Musical is open to school students in grades 1st-8th. Grades 6-8th must audition. Parts will be given to students in grade 5 and below. Performances will be April 4th-5th. Register at school.stephen.org/musical.

Religious Education

- First Reconciliation Services: Our 2nd graders and some of the older children of our parish will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Dec. 9th & 10th at 7:10 PM. Please keep them and their families in your prayers during this special time. Family and friends are encouraged to attend and celebrate the sacrament together. A cookie reception will follow in the Dining Room.
- \Rightarrow Adoration December 17 & 18: Parents, please join us during our last week of classes before Christmas Break for Adoration during your child's class. The student's will participate in guided Adoration during the first half of class in the Worship Space and then head to their classroom for their Christmas celebrations. Parents are invited to stay in Adoration and spend some quiet time with Jesus.
- Sacrament Fees: As listed on our website, students receiving \Rightarrow Sacraments will additionally be responsible for the following fees: First Reconciliation/First Communion: \$50 and Confirmation: \$55. Please scan the QR code to pay the Sacrament Fee for your child/children going through sacramental preparations if necessary. Payment is due by December 31, 2024.



Youth Ministry

- Witness Wednesdays for Highschoolers: All 9-12th graders are welcome to join us every Wednesday! Snacks and drinks are provided. Learn more at stephen.org/witness-wednesdays.
 - December 11th: Guest Speaker Morgan & Johnny Murray discussing the Sacrament of Matrimony & Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Wenceslaus - Elizabeth Room (Location change due to construction at St. Stephen the Martyr)
 - December 18th: Adoration Night at St. Wenceslaus Elizabeth/Chapel
- Special Candlelit Mass: Our High School Youth Ministry has been invited to attend a special mass on St. Lucy's feast day at Roncalli Catholic High School on Friday, December 13th from 7-9 PM. Hot Cocoa and snacks to follow the special Candlelit Mass.



Middle School Youth Ministry Announcement

During the early days of this new liturgical year, it seems fitting to introduce this second of two articles updating you all on the momentum behind a new Middle School Youth Ministry program at our parish. I am encouraged by the positive feedback this initiative has received. I am particularly grateful to Tiffany Cole who has generously offered her time and energy to lead this effort. She is collaborating with Adam Ybarra, our Director of Mission, to advance this important ministry.

Our new program is in line with our mission that "...all encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ." This means that providing an atmosphere in which an experience with the living God is at the center. To that end, I invite you to please consider sharing your talents with our middle schoolers, whether they be musical gifts for praise and worship, organizational, activity-planning, or other skills that may benefit our youth. While a schedule is not yet firmly established, the gatherings are expected to be monthly on Sunday evenings. The presence of Safe Environment Certified adults will be most helpful. If you would like to assist in any way, please contact Adam (a.ybarra@stephen.org), and he will get you in touch with Tiffany and the Middle School Youth Ministry team.

l am excited about this opportunity for the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in our parish. Please keep them in your prayers. May God bless you all in a particular way in this holy season of Advent.

Peace, Fr. Matthew



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: What is the Hispanic Advent custom of "Las Posadas"?

Answer: "Posada" is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. "Las Posadas" refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our "posada." As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell. ©LPi



Weekly Adoration is canceled Monday, December 9th due to First Reconciliation.

You are always welcome in the Adoration Chapel for quiet adoration and prayer!

- The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7. The code for access is 9675*.
- Are you interested in spending a particular hour each week in prayer and Adoration of Our Lord? Email ststephenadoration@gmail.com.

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 <u>a.ybarra@stephen.org</u>.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship." (Bar 5:3-4)

Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. (Ps 126)

Second Reading:

So that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ. (Phil 1:10-11)

Gospel:

"The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." (Lk 3:5-6)

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**

John the Baptist was appointed to prepare the way for the Lord. This Advent, follow his example and prepare the way for the Lord. Invite the Lord to make straight the roads in your life that wind, and to smooth all that is rough in your heart.

Observances for the week of **December 8, 2024**

Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	Our Lady of Loreto
Wednesday:	St. Damasus I, Pope
Thursday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Friday:	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Saturday:	St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Advent



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 Dece 8

Saturday	, De	ecember 7	
8.15 am	+	Margaret Jean Andary (DB)	
5:00 pm	÷	Rich McCormick (MP)	
5.00 pm			
Sunday, D)ec	ember 8—Second Sunday of Advent	
7.30 am	+	Dennis Palik (MP)	
0:00 am	+	Dich Johns (DD)	
9.00 am		Rich Johns (DB)	
10:30 am	SI	People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)	
6:00 pm	†	People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB) Wilma Wills (AS)	
Monday, December 9—Feast of the Immaculate			
Conceptio			
conception of the conception	+	William Ehret (MP)	
8:15 am	Т	Jim Sautter (MP)	
12:05 pm	†	Larry Muhlbauer (DB)	
5:30 pm	SI	People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)	
Tuesday	Do	cember 10	
ruesuay,	100		
		Robert O'Donnell (DB)	
8:15 am	Ť	Jane Schuyler (MP)	
Wednesday, December 11			
6.30 am	+	Kathy Haidley (DB)	
0.00 am	÷	Kate Stork (MP)	
0.15 am	1	Rate Stork (MF)	
Thursday, December 12			
6:30 am	†	Linda Lichter (DB)	
8.15 am	+	Beatriz Gutierrez Puentes (DB)	
0.15 am		Death 2 Gutterrez ruentes (DD)	

Friday, December 13

6:30 am SI James Gninefou & Adaku Esther Gninefou (DB)

8:15 am † Zach Fochek (MP)

Saturday, December 14

8:15 am † Roger Becker (MP) 5:00 pm † Ben Mannino (DB)

Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday of Advent 7:30 am SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)

9:00 am † Jim Brazda (MP) 10:30 am † Rich McCormick (MP)

- 6:00 pm † Diane Redmond (DH)

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

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

Pray for deceased souls of our parish: June Puterbaugh Elaine Armstrong Frank McKenny, father of Glea Hamik **Eugene Meier,** father of Jane Steffes, grandfather of Ryan and Ashley Steffes

Pray for those sick/injured/healing:

Rocky Epperson, brother in-law of Lisa Goldsmith Christopher Widseth, husband of Kimberly Larry Comer, husband of Janie Larry Boettcher, husband of Judith Rod Heng, husband of Carol Betty Brinster, wife of Jerry Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim Molly Felker, daughter of Mike and Stacy Michael Bazant, husband of Patricia Ryan Huebner, son of Cheryl and Marty Yvonne Kamphaus, wife of Mike Kamphaus

Patriotic Reminders from St. Stephen's Knights of Columbus 4th Degree



⇒ Wreaths Across America will be at Springfield Memorial Gardens on Sat., Dec. 14 at 11 AM. Arrive early, as parking is limited. Wreaths will be distributed to place at headstones after the short program. The Knights of Columbus golf outing donated \$1,000 to the organization this year.

⇒ **Pearl Harbor**, the naval base in Hawaii, suffered a surprise attack on December 7, 1941. American Flags are to be at half staff, sunrise to sunset that day in Honor of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.





Community News



OMAHA ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (OACCW):

OACCW will offer an annual scholarship to a female high school senior in the Archdiocese of Omaha in the amount of \$750. This scholarship serves to

enlighten, inform, and inspire young Catholic women regarding the OACCW as the major organization of Catholic Women in the Omaha Archdiocese. The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving high school senior woman who resides in or is affiliated with a parish within the Archdiocese of Omaha. Application deadline is Jan. 15th. To apply, visit https://oaccw.org/home/about/#scholarship.

V2 WINTER ADVENTURE: Join 5th-12th graders and their



fathers/grandfather at the V2 Winter Adventure December 13-15, 2024, 7 PM Friday to 9 AM ADVENTURE. Sunday. Activities include sledding and snow activities

(weather permitting), formation talks, small group discussions, Mass, adoration, and reconciliation. Cost includes a two-night stay (heated sleeping), meals, snacks, and all activities. Location: Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE. Price: \$145 through December 11th. Visit v2ministries.com for more information and to register.

NATIVITY SCENES FROM AROUND THE WORLD: Everyone is invited to make a pilgrimage to St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE to view God's Love made visible in Nativity scenes from the Holy Land, Africa, North and South America, Asia and Europe. Please pray for peace, which our world so urgently needs. Viewing is available from Dec. 1-17 and Jan. 2-3. Visit StBenedictCenter.com for more information.

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

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) 330-0304

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



Students grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade, homeschooled, and/or attending a Catholic school or Religious Education class are eligible to participate. Submit to Spirit Catholic Radio (address below) a hand-drawn 6.5" wide x 8" tall design. This year's theme is: The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

Artists can pick between the two mysteries for their grade range below:

- K 2nd Grade: The Baptism of the Lord, The Wedding in Cana,
- 3rd 5th Grade: The Transfiguration, The Rosary
- 6th 8th Grade: The Proclamation of the Kingdom. The Institution of the Eucharist

Winners, runners-up, and honorable mentions all receive prizes. Winners are displayed on prayer cards! There are three judging categories: K-2nd grade. 3rd-5th grade. and 6th-8th grade.

Please include contact info (student's name, parish, age) on the back.

SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK BY DECEMBER 13TH, 2024



13326 A Street, Omaha NE 68144 402.571.0200 | kvss@kvss.com spiritcatholicradio.com/art





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St. Stephen Martyr, Omaha, NE

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