

February 16, 2025

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 8:20-9:05 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: staff Contact Info: staff

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM Submit requests to Rachel at <u>r.cooley@stephen.org</u>.





Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass 62 Pastor's Message — From Father Dave

Life is a series of seasons, isn't it? It always seems like this time of year brings a healthy dose of "cabin fever" to many people, including myself. Sometimes our attitudes and words become as gray and as bitter as the weather. This week, I would like to offer a prayer that I have had since my first semester in the seminary. A spiritual director gave it to all seminarians, and we prayed it together on several



occasions. Let's pray that, during cold, cloudy days, we can recognize—and call upon—the warm presence of God. He will help us to endure the cold, and His grace will help us treat each other with compassion and respect.

"Keep us, O God, from pettiness. Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretense and meet others face-to-face without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always be generous. Let us take time for all things and help us grow calm, serene, and gentle. Teach us to put action into our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize that it is the little things of life that create differences; That in the big things of life, we are as one. And, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind." Amen.

> In Christ, Father Dave



6 PM - 8 PM THURSDAY NIGHTS

Evening includes 6 PM Mass followed by a catered dinner and a talk from Father Dave.

Feb. 13th: Jesus Takes Feb. 20th: Jesus Blesses Feb. 27th: Jesus Breaks March 6th: Jesus Gives

Each event is \$20/person. Please RSVP using the QR code.



16701 "S" Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org t. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ

6[™] SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are you who

are now hungry,

for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who

are now weeping,

for you will laugh." - Lk 6:21

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 2/4-2/10:

Actual:	\$57,185
Budget:	\$51,172
FYTD Actual:	\$1,710,552
FYTD Budget:	\$1,596,671

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.

"Blessed are you when people hate you...exclude and insult you, and denounce your name...on account of the Son of Man." - Luke 6:22

All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time; the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Pray for the strength and courage to proclaim our faith to others, especially during uncomfortable situations. *#stewardshipreflection*



WEST OMAHA FAMILY OF PARISHES YOUTH MINISTRY 2025 WORLDS OF FUN TRIP

Thursday, June 5th, 2025 Open to all 6th-12th grade students

Adult chaperones needed. More information to come with Registration. Registration opening April 1st, 2025.





Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Rhyen Treslin Boukal, daughter of Craig and Lindsey Hudson Lewis Guinane, son of Mitchell and Rachel Luca Anthony Rossi, son of Anthony and Lisa

School News

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

⇒ Enrollment for the 2025-2026 School Year: Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is open. The enrollment process must be completed by Feb. 17th to reserve your child's spot in our school for the 2025-2026 school year. Some grades are at capacity, so please do not delay in getting your child enrolled for next year!

Religious Education

- Fr. Matthew Face-Off Fundraiser: Help us raise \$300 to go towards the Mardi Gras Parish Fundraiser auction items. Any Rel. Ed. student who donates \$1 may choose to enter their name into a drawing for the chance to compete against Fr. Matthew in some fun obstacles during classes on March 11 & 12. Each \$1 donation gives you one chance! We will have multiple winning students each class time. All donations will be collected during Rel. Ed. classes through February 19.
- Seeking teen and young adult volunteers for Confirmation Retreats: We are asking for older siblings (or cousins or family friends, etc...) to help with both the March 21st and March 22nd Confirmation Retreats. Volunteers do not need to possess any special qualifications other than an ability to socialize with others in an honest and respectful way. If interested, contact Sam at s.jizba@stephen.org. Parents, please return the permission slips for your child to attend the upcoming retreat by March 7.
- ⇒ Vacation Bible School: Thank you to the 14 adults who have volunteered so far! We are looking for just seven more adults to cover all the stations. Games Leader- one more, Sticky Scripture Leader- two more, Imagination Station- one more, Crew Leader Coordinator- one more, Sing & Play- two more. Scan the QR code for all the details on volunteering to help guide kids this summer on this ultimate TRUE NORTH Totally Catholic Alaskan adventure. All volunteers will receive one free child's registration. VBS is scheduled for June 9-13.

Youth Ministry

Witness Wednesdays for Highschoolers: Join us Wednesday, Feb. 19th for Adoration Night at St. Wenceslaus. All 9-12th graders are welcome to join us every Wednesday! Snacks and drinks are provided. Learn more at stephen.org/witness-wednesdays.

Save the Date! Totus Tuus 2025

Catholic Summer Camp St. Wenceslaus & St. Stephen the Martyr

GRADES 1-6 | JUNE 23RD-27TH 9 AM - 2:30 PM Mon. - Fri. | St. Wenceslaus | Cost: \$50

9 AM - 2.30 PM Mon. - Fn. | St. Wencesiaus | Cost. \$50

GRADES 7-12 | JUNE 22ND-26TH

6:30-8:45 PM Sun. - Thurs. | St. Wenceslaus | This program is free!

Registration opening March 1st

Totus Tuus complies with ArchOmaha Safe Environment regulations & only involves Safe Environment certified adults

Questions?

- Contact Johnny Murray, Director of Youth Ministry
- 531-283-5129
- murrayj@stwenceslaus.org



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Dining Room Bathroom Remodel





Help us raise funds to renovate the Dining Room bathrooms. Your donations will enhance accessibility, update fixtures, and improve comfort and cleanliness. Every contribution helps achieve this essential renovation for our community. Let's revitalize our space together!



Scan to Donate



CCW Accepting Nominations for Woman of the Year

We are accepting nominations for our Council of Catholic Women's "Woman of the Year" Award. The Council of Catholic Women supports, empowers, and educates the Catholic women in the Archdiocese of Omaha, specifically in the areas of spirituality, service and leadership. Written submissions for considerations for this year's honoree must include the reason for you nominating her with a brief bio sent to gigistamp@cox.net by midnight on March 12. Thank you!

Beloved Women's Group Leader Needed

Are you looking for a way to get more involved at St. Stephen? Beloved Women's Group is seeking for someone to lead (or co-lead) the Beloved Women's Group starting in Fall 2025. This group meets monthly. The meetings involve watching a 30 minute video followed by a discussion. This year the group has met on Thursday evenings, but dates can be picked by the leader. The leader is responsible for choosing a study for the group to complete over eight months, coordinating hospitality for attendees and starting the study video. If you are interested or have any questions about the opportunity, please reach out to Erica Hinton at ericahinton13@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

Now Hiring



Director of Operations

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is seeking a Director of Operations. The Director serves as a key member of the pastor's Leadership Team and oversees and directs a broad range of responsibilities to provide the necessary support and infrastructure for the mission of the parish to thrive. For more information and to apply, please visit stephen.org/careers.

Thank you for your generous response to our Advent Angel Tree!

Our Parish participated in an Angel Tree Project this past Advent to provide essentials for two organizations: Carole's House of Hope & Essential Pregnancy Services. Their notes of thanks are included below:

Carole's House of Hope is grateful for the generous support shown by St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church. We are so grateful for your gift of paper products, baby products, socks, and more! It is already making a positive impact and allowing us to continue to provide for women and children in our transitional living home. Your generosity will go a long way in helping us as we connect with our participants and help them progress on their journey with great expectation for tomorrow!

Essential Pregnancy Services (EPS) is grateful for the support of your parish community! Your support has meant that we are able to provide more for mothers navigating their new life with their little ones. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Track & Field Registration

GIRLS HEAD COACH NEEDED FOR 2025 TEAM

- Season begins March 3
- Grades 5-8
- Contact Kate Harr to volunteer at ssmtrackandfield@gmail.com



REGISTERATION OPEN

stephen.org/sports-club-track or scan this QR Code:



Join our Parish Family

about ways you can get involved & grow closer to Christ, contact Adam Ybarra at a.vbarra@stephen.org.







 Watch an info
 Contact Colleen Eusterwiemann

 video about the
 402-861-4538

 Sanctuary Course
 c.eusterwiemann@stephen.org





How can we provide essential, responsive, impactful assistance to mothers & families?

Speaker: Gina Tomes of Guiding Grace Feb. 25th | 7 PM

St. Stephen the Martyr - Dining Room

Learn how to walk more closely with mothers & families from Gina Tomes of Guiding Grace, a local motherhood support network that offers a variety of services and benefits for pregnant moms. Learn how our parish can further minister to mothers & families in need as we aim to create a culture of life.

Sponsored by St. Stephen the Martyr Respect Life Ministry



Induction Ceremony

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting an induction ceremony for Catholic men on Wednesday March 19th at 7 PM at St. Stephen the Martyr, refreshments afterward. For more information or to RSVP please contact Jeff Stumpf 402-490-9780 or membersKofC10160@gmail.com

THANK YOU: Thanks to all of our donors for making our recent Blood Drive successful! We collected 56 units of blood. Watch for more information coming soon about our next Blood Drive scheduled for April 12th!



Join us at the 168th & Harrison Runza^{*} Monday, February 17th 15% of sales from 4 - 8 pm will be donated to St. Stephen the Martyr.

We invite you to join us in any manner you feel comfortable. All sales through the drive-thru, dine-in or carry-out will support St. Stephen the Martyr Church.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Carnivale and Mardi Gras celebrations are linked to Ash Wednesday, Lent, fast and abstinence. Can you tell us more about the connections between these events?

Answer: Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the forty days known as Lent. Every year, Christians highlight this penitential season as a time of selfexamination, reformation of one's life, and continued development of a deeper spiritual life. The recommended practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving become the focus of Lenten activity and ritual. Each of these spiritual practices is aimed at personal discipline as well as continued concern for the other, especially the poor or alienated.

Forty days is a symbolic biblical period of time, during which personal transformation occurs and out of which people surface as more spiritual, ready to carry out God's mission. Relying on God's providence and care, no matter how difficult life becomes, is crucial to Lenten spirituality. Fasting was initially stricter, permitting only one simple meal a day without meat, fish, or other delicacies. Such things were not even allowed in the house.

In order to prepare for this in an age of no refrigeration, people gathered to consume whatever was not allowed during Lent. This led to parties or celebrations originally referred to as Carnivale, literally meaning "goodbye to meat," or Mardi Gras, literally meaning "Fat Tuesday." The eating and celebrating ended on the Tuesday just before Ash Wednesday. Today we focus more on moderation in all things, as well as a strong concern the poor. What are you doing for the poor this Lent? ©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*.*



your weakness make you impatient...let words of thanks break from your lips." — St. Peter Damian

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose hope is the LORD. (Jer 17:7)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. (Ps 1)

Second Reading:

If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain. (1 Cor 15:16-17)

Gospel:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours." (Lk 6:20)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Too many of us make the mistake of expecting prosperity here on Earth as a reward for following Christ. But Jesus is very clear: sorrow and hardship are a part of life. But when we offer these sufferings to Christ, they become transformed. They become blessed. And so do we.

Observances for the week of February 16, 2025

Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Monday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order: Presidents' Day Friday: St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Next Sunday: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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 15 8:15 am SI James & Adaku Esther Gninefou (DK)

5:00 pm	†	Allan & Hannah Perdue (MP)
Sunday, February 16		
7:30 am	†	William Hosier (MP)
		Jeanette Peterson (DB)
10:30 am	SI	People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
6:00 pm	†	Diane Redmond (MP)

Monday, February 17

6:30 am † Jerry Muhlbauer (MP) 8:15 am † Gene Zywiec (MP)

Tuesday, February 18

- 6:30 am † Gladys Mandel (DB) 8:15 am † Erin Doll (MP)
- Wednesday, February 19

6:30 am † Allan & Hannah Perdue (DB) 8:15 am † Albert & Marian Berning (MP)

Thursday, February 20

6:30 am † Terry Sohm (DB) 8:15 am † Linda Lichter (DB)

Friday, February 21

6:30 am † Jeffrey Kane, Jr (DB) 8:15 am † Frank Orsi (DB)

Saturday, February 22 8:15 am † William & Irene Hosier (GO) 5:00 pm † Rich McCormick (DB)

Sunday, February 23 7:30 am SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB) 9:00 am † Vince Irlbeck (AD) 10:30 am † Zach Fochek (GO) 6:00 pm † Sister Clairce Faltus (DH)

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

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; MP = Fr. Matthew Pohlman DH = Fr. Denny Hanneman; AD = Fr. Amit D'Souza DK = Fr. Dan Kampschneider; DO = Fr. Gary Ostrander

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: Carol Mongar, mother of Christopher & Jeff Milena Braganza, mother of Sharmila & grandmother of Rachel, Hannah & Sarah Fernandes Terence John McBrearty, husband of Cheri

Yvonne Kamphaus, wife of Mike Kamphaus

Pray for those sick/injured/healing: Ron Rauart

Susan Smith, St. Stephen school teacher **Dave Cavanaugh** Maurice O'Toole, brother of Sharon Pratt Ron Burkle, husband of Sheryl 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



Knights of Columbus 2025 Scholarship Application

St. Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus is accepting applications for the 2025 Deacon Wesley Kreun Memorial Scholarship. This is not an academic scholarship, but instead the awards will be chosen based upon the applicant's service activities within the parish as well as any other charitable activities. There will be four \$500, one-year awarded to individuals attending local Catholic High Schools, as well as

scholarships awarded to individuals attending local Catholic High Schools, as well as four \$1000 one-year scholarships awarded to individuals attending an accredited college or university. In addition, we will have one \$1000 scholarship to an individual attending a trade school. You can pick up your applications either from the kiosk in the Gathering Space or from the Parish Office between now and April 30th. When you have completed your application, please submit it to the Parish Office. For more information, contact Hank Hardy at hwhardy02@gmail.com.

Community News

ROMAN FORUM TOASTMASTERS: Have a heart! Join us for a special Roman Forum Toastmasters Valentine meeting on Feb. 19th at 11:30 AM in the Parish Center. Contact Tom Johnson at 402-598-4867 with any questions.

"THE WAY" THROUGH GRIEF—CATHOLIC CEMETERIES, STARTING MARCH 1: If you have felt the pain of sorrow and grief, Catholic Cemeteries is offering a grief workshop called "The Way' through Grief." This workshop consists of six-two-hour sessions beginning at 10:30 AM on Saturday, March 1 and running through April 5. Through prayerful reflection with guided fellowship, we learn to journey in life from grief to the life our Lord wishes for us. To register or for more information, contact deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com.

ROSARY & MASS TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: Join the Serra Club of West Omaha on Monday, February 17th at 5:30 PM at St. James Catholic Church in Omaha for a special Rosary & Mass for Vocations. Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Tom Weisbecker to pray together for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life in the Archdiocese of Omaha. After Mass, stay for our Meeting & Mixer and learn from our speaker, Brother Andre Marie of the Knights of the Holy Eucharist located in Waverly, Nebraska. Light refreshments will be provided. There is no cost to attend. All are invited! Learn more at serrawestomaha.org.

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

SSM Cub Scouts Pack 494 Presents

Saturday, February 22nd 7pm to 9pm in the SSM Dining Hall

\$25 per Mom & her son(s)

Slip into your finest lunu attire and get ready to

hula the night away at the 2025 Mom Prom!

All boys attending any school (SSM/Public) are invited to attend with their mom. Feel free to substitute with a grandma, aunt, older sister as needed

Scan QR Code or use the link below to register!

https://forms.gle/BwnBvwvYXAhTjdw3B

Sturgeon at 402-85

or ashray02@live.com with any questions

-515

(TALABLES)

om Prom

HIDDEN IN OUR HEARTLAND:

The Fight Against Sex Trafficking in Nebraska

Thursday, February 20th | 7:00 PM Skutt Catholic High School (3131 S 156th St, Omaha, NE 68130)

Sex trafficking exists throughout Nebraska, in both our cities and our rural communities. In this eye-opening presentation, I've Got A Name will reveal the reality of this injustice where we live and its impact on our youth.



Rebekah Allick, Nebraska Volleyball Player + NIL Partner of I've Got A Name, shares how youth can make choices that honor their dignity and worth as God's children



Paul Yates, Executive Director of I've Got A Name, shares how parents and guardians can be proactive in protecting youth against exploitation

NO CHARGE Parents and youth are encouraged to attend!



I've Got A Name is a Lincolnbased nonprofit organization that is dedicated to end sex trafficking in Nebraska through Street Outreach and community awareness. Through Street Outreach, their team builds strong, trusting relationships with women and girls who are vulnerable and victims in our state.

Brought to you by: St. Stephen the Martyr Council of Catholic Women



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