

February 9, 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: stephen.org/staff

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





5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. - Lk 5:10-11

Pastor's Message — From Father Dave

After he had finished speaking, Jesus said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing.



This weekend's Gospel is St. Luke's version of Jesus calling Simon Peter to be his follower. Jesus asks Simon to bring him out away from the shore of Lake Gennesaret, so he can preach to the people from the water. When they are finished, he tells Simon to throw out his nets for a catch. Simon replies by saying that they have been fishing all night and have caught nothing, but at the command of Jesus, he will lower the nets. When they pulled in the nets, they were so full that they had to call another boat to help them. Simon and his companions, James and John, were so astonished and amazed at what they were seeing, so Simon asked Jesus to leave him, because he was a sinful man. Instead of leaving, Jesus tells Simon and his friends not to be afraid. "From now on," Jesus says, "You will be catching men."

How often have we been like Simon and his companions, working feverishly and coming up with empty nets? How many times have we felt like our lives are empty, even though they are filled with people and activities? Perhaps the reason is that we aren't listening to Jesus. Maybe our problem is that, even though we are busy doing good things, we aren't making time in our hectic lives to listen to Jesus give us direction.

Like Simon, James and John, we are called to be disciples. Following the Lord does mean that we recognize our own weakness and sinfulness, but it also requires that we trust in God's goodness and generosity. If we only listen to Jesus speak His love to us and follow the directions He gives us, we will know God's abundant grace.

We come to know this abundant grace whenever we gather to celebrate the Eucharist. We are nourished at the banquet table of God's love, and in turn we are called to go forth into the world to be God's instruments of healing and grace. We may be sinful people, but we are also chosen people. We are chosen to go into the world, to cast the nets of God's grace, and bring in people who long to feel love, forgiveness, and peace.

"All men should strive to learn before they die/ what they are running from and to and why." -James Thurber

In Christ, Father Dave

Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Joanna Christopher Smoyer, daughter of Brent and Elizabeth **Ximena Rose Mendez**, daughter of Ivan and Eliticia Vieyra

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 1/28-2/3:

Actual:	\$44,453
Budget:	\$52,308
FYTD Actual:	\$1,653,376
FYTD Budget:	\$1,545,500

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.



Every day, in little ways and in big ways, God asks, "Whom shall I send?" Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger or to say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. God is always talking to us; we just need to pay more attention. When you hear God calling have the courage to walk through the door and say, "Here I am, Lord." *#stewardshipreflection*



School News

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

- Food Drive Thank You: Thank you, school families, for an incredibly fruitful Catholic Schools Week Food Drive! Our Pantry shelves are now stuffed to the brim with nutritious food and necessities for those who need them. A special thank you to Mrs. Mabeus and her team of 7th graders who hauled the food to the pantry and helped with sorting.
- 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!
- ⇒ Pro-Life Art Contest: School & RE students in grades 3-6: submit your "Culture of Life" themed artwork to the state-wide Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Art Contest! Information was sent home with your student, or visit nebraskakofc.org/programs/culture-of-life-art-contest.html

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- 1 more, Sticky Scripture Leader- 2 more, Imagination Station-1 more, Crew Leader Coordinator-1 more, Sing & Play-2 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. 12th in the Parish Center for Circle of Grace Night. All 9-12th graders are welcome to join us every Wednesday! Snacks and drinks are provided. Learn more at <u>stephen.org/witness-wednesdays</u>.

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

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





Viaticum-Food for the Journey

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.



SAVE THE DATE 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.



Contact Johnny Murray, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry with questions at murrayj@stwenceslaus.org



GIRLS HEAD COACH NEEDED FOR 2025 TEAM

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





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.





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 a.ybarra@stephen.org.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Landscape Ministry

The Landscape Ministry is seeking new members to help beautify parish grounds & provide a contemplative atmosphere. Volunteers help maintain existing landscape beds, complete projects and coordinate clean-up events.

Upcoming monthly meetings:

Feb. 10th & March 3rd 3 PM | Parish Center

To volunteer, contact Steve at: 402-669-3441



Thank You to the Prayer Shawl Ministry!

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry recently donated five bags of blankets to Project Harmony. Project Harmony's mission is to protect and support children, collaborate with professionals and engage the community to end child abuse and neglect. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry knits and crochets gifts while praying for the recipient of the item. Thank you to our Prayer Shawl Ministry for their generosity!

۱ſ Now Hiring St. Stephen the Martyr **Director of Operations**

RSVP

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.



bout the Sanctuary

Course

Watch an info video 402-861-4538

Contact; Colleen Eusterwiemann c.eusterwiemann@stephen.org

Register for the Sanctuar Course

Seminarian Care Packages

SPONSORED BY THE VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Let's show our support of our three seminarians by sending them care packages in February! Bring items to the Gathering Space by Feb. 10th.

Packages will be sent to our parish's three seminarians: Deacon Logan Hepp at Kenrick Glennon Seminary, Seminarian Michael Figura at the North American College in Rome, and Seminarian Alex Kennedy at Saint John Vianney.







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

Question: Would optional celibacy help the priest shortage?

Answer: This is a hotly debated topic. There are good arguments on both sides, and there is no clear answer that emerges. However, the shortage of clergy in denominations that do allow marriage would seem to indicate that optional celibacy is not the quick answer that some might think. No one solution is perfect. Each one has its flaws and problems that are not easily solved. While optional celibacy would open ordination to some great men who are married, it also brings the problems of family, financial support, marital problems, and issues-good and badof childrearing. So it would not seem that optional celibacy is a realistic solution to the shortage of clergy.

With all of the varied challenges and problems facing the Church, it is easy to forget that the Holy Spirit leads us. Openness, dialogue, and education are second to our prayers and petitions to the Holy Spirit to make clear the path the Church should follow. A response that is rooted in a culture of political correctness is almost certainly doomed; a response that is rooted in prayer and in God cannot fail. ©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 $9675^{\frac{1}{2}}$.

"Since Christ Himself has said, 'This is My Body,' who shall dare to doubt that it is His Body?" —St. Cyril of Jerusalem



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!" (Is 6:8)

Psalm:

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord. (Ps 138)

Second Reading:

Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (1 Cor 15:11)

Gospel:

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. (Lk 5:10-11)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"I am a sinful man," says Simon Peter as he falls to his knees before Jesus. He had doubted the Lord, had hesitated to follow his instructions. How often can the same be said of us? Remember that God knows the outcome. He knows our nets will be filled. Do not be afraid.

Observances for the week of February 9, 2025

Sunday:	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day
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- Monday: St. Scholastica, Virgin
- **Tuesday:** Our Lady of Lourdes
- Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop; Friday: Valentine's Day

Next Sunday: 6th 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 8		
		Larry Muhlbauer (MP)
5:00 pm	SI	People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
Sunday, February 9		
7:30 am	†	Hans Knudsen (DB)
		Linda DeHart (MP)
		LaVonna Appleby (MP)
6:00 pm	†	Lyle Dirkx (DH)
Monday, February 10		
		Barbara Wzorek (MP)
8:15 am	†	Claudia Britten (MP)

Tuesday, February 11 6:30 am † Eileen Calkins (MP)

- 8:15 am † Larry Ware (MP)
- Wednesday, February 12
- Communion Service 6:30 am 8:15 am † Larry Muhlbauer (DH)

Thursday, February 13 Communion Service 6:30 am

8:15 am † Michael Flynn (JG)

Friday, February 14

6:30 am SI Alvin & Helen Fuchs (DB) 8:15 am † Valentinea Quintana (MP)

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) 9:00 am † Jeanette Peterson (DB)

- 10:30 am SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
- 6:00 pm † Diane Redmond (MP)

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

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; MP = Fr. Matthew Pohlman DH = Fr. Denny Hanneman; JG = Msgr. James Gilg Fr. Dan Kampschneider=DK

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: **Terence John McBrearty**, husband of Cheri Yvonne Kamphaus, wife of Mike Kamphaus Dean Belcher, uncle of Sara Klein Kennard Pohlman, grandpa of Fr. Matthew Pohlman Chuck Hervert, husband of Julie

Pray for those sick/injured/healing:

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 **Ryan Huebner**, son of Cheryl and Marty

Community News

2025 SPIRIT CELEBRATION DINNER: Join Catholic Answers' Senior Apologist, podcast host, and author, Jimmy Akin! Jimmy is a convert to the Faith and has an extensive background in the Bible, theology, the Church Fathers, philosophy, canon law, and liturgy. Join us on February 22, 2025, at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs. Social hour begins at 5 PM with the Dinner and Program to follow, starting at 6 PM. General Admission is \$75 per seat. Please make your reservation by February 14, 2025! Get your seats at https:// spiritcatholicradio.com/jimmy/.





- St. Catherine of Siena

Called & Gifted **Discernment Process**

Introductory Workshop Feb 28th (evening) through Mar 1st (daytime) St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church



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 Lincoln-I've Got A Name is a Lincoln-based 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

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:<mark>45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.; Sat: 8:15 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) 330-0304 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



Mom Prom 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

(TEALANER)



Sturgeon at 402-8 -515 or ashray02@live.com with any questions



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