

March 30, 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>.

## **LENTEN PARISH MISSION** March 30 - April 1, 2025



Join us for three evenings of inspiration to live our mission of becoming a community for all to encounter, know, and proclaim Christ.

Sun., March 30th: 7 PM Talk & Reception Mon., March 31st: 7 PM Talk & Reception Tues., April 1st: 5 PM Talk followed by Parish-Wide Reconciliation Service beginning at 7 PM





## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

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"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'" - Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

## Pastor's Message — From Father Dave

"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.""



We all know the story of the Prodigal Son, probably because we have lived it. Think of the arrogance and selfishness that brought the son to his father to ask for his share of his inheritance—before Dad is even dead! For some reason, the father gives half of everything to his son, who leaves home and wastes it all. Finally, after spending everything and being so hungry that he wants to eat pig slop, he repents and goes home. Dad is standing there, waiting for the son to come back. Because he has his son home, they have a great celebration.

Through the season of Lent, we come to discover the ways that we have wasted and squandered all of the blessings and gifts that God entrusts to us. In so many ways, we are the prodigal son or daughter that walks away from God. Now is the time to come to our senses and come back to God. Even when we have wasted our lives and made tragic, sinful choices, God is waiting to take us back.

Are you ready to admit your sinfulness? Are you ready to come back to God? The most powerful way for us to turn away from sin and to embrace the God who is waiting for us is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. When is the last time that you went to Confession? Is it time to go again? Even if it has been a while since you last celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, this season of Lent offers you the opportunity to reflect upon your sinfulness and to experience the love and grace of God that can only come through the Sacramental life of the Church.

Now is the time to come back to our senses and come back to God.

"The tragedy is not that things are broken. The tragedy is that they are not mended again." -Alan Paton

In Christ, Father Dave

## First Communion Congratulations

Congratulations to the young people of our parish who are receiving their First Holy Communion today. Please continue to pray for them and their families. May God bless you!

> "Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me."

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 Ch

## 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 a.ybarra@stephen.org.

## **Financial Stewardship**

#### Offertory & Online Giving 3/18-3/24:

Actual:	\$40,478
Budget:	\$47,016
FYTD Actual:	\$2,048,712
FYTD Budget:	\$1,889,454

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.



## Second Collection for **Catholic Relief Services**

At all Masses this weekend, there will be a second collection supporting the lifesaving work of Catholic Relief Services. For 80 years, CRS has been providing expertise and compassion to the very poorest of our brothers and sisters in more than 100 countries.

They are in particular need to your generosity this year due to loss of funding. Thank you for your support!



"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." - Joshua 5:12

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

Congratulations, Newly Baptized! William Christopher Valker, son of William and Meghan Mason Edwin Maldonado, son of Michael and McKenzi

## Easter Flower Memorials



The Easter Flowers Memorial collection is to remember loved ones that have gone before us on the occasion of Easter. Please be sure to add your loved one's name in the special intention field.

For inclusion in bulletin, memorials must be received by April 9th. Scan the QR code to contribute online or place envelopes in the collection basket.



## **Food Pantry Curbside Drop-off**

Saturday, April 5th | 10 AM - Noon **Knights of Columbus will collect** donations in front of the Parish Center

> Needed hygiene items: deodorant, tooth brushes and paste, cleaning supplies, and laundry soap

Needed food items: Spaghetti Sauce, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Hamburger Helper, **Canned Fruit & Vegetables** 

Any donation you can provide will be appreciated and used. The items listed above are particular needs at this time. Thank you for continuing to support the SSM Food Pantry!

## School News

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

First Communion Celebration: Second graders and their families are invited to a First Communion Celebration! Second graders will be honored at 8:15 AM School Mass on Tuesday, April 1st. They are invited to wear their First Communion attire to school. Mass will be followed by a breakfast for First Communicants and their families.

## **Religious Education**

DONATION

- Congratulations to all the First Communicants on this special day! May your faith be strengthened and your hearts filled with the joy of receiving the Eucharist for the first time.
- Parish-Wide Reconciliation: Due to the snow days, we had to cancel  $\Rightarrow$ reconciliation for our Wednesday night students. Due to the priests' schedules and our limited class time, we will not be rescheduling. Instead, please join us on Tuesday, April 1st at 6 PM in the Worship Space for the parish-wide service.
- Spring Break for Religious Education will be April 7th-11th. There  $\Rightarrow$ will be no Religious Education classes on April 8th & 9th. The Religious Education Office will also be closed for the week.
- Vacation Bible School: VBS is June 9th-13th. Please check our website  $\Rightarrow$ for more information at www.stephen.org/vbs. Adult and youth volunteers are still needed.

## Youth Ministry

Witness Wednesdays: Join us Wednesday, April 2nd for Scripture Study night with Fr. Tobias at St. Wenceslaus in the St. Elizabeth Room. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us every Wednesday! Snacks and drinks are provided. Learn more at stephen.org/witness-Wednesdays.

#stewardshipreflection

# FIRST Communion

## **Congratulations First Communicants!** *May the light of Christ continue to dwell in your hearts.*

Cooper Anderson Victoria Armstrong William Bennett, III Grace Bowder Mateus Braga Andrew Bredin Elliott Brown Oliver Brown Lillian Brummer Lucy Burke Ida Ruby Cano Rubén Cano **Bennett** Case Jalen Clancy Leonidas Clark Ryan Conlin Zoe Cook Isabel Cooley Iyla Craft Cecilia Cyr Grace Daly Apollo Danigole Magnolia Deacon **Benton DeCook Elodine Dischler** Myles Doke Devin Doll **Rex Dvorak Brooks Eastin Charles Eiler** Wyatt Erdman Cash Erickson Ivanna Febres-Cordero Ireland Fleck **Tinsley Ford** 

Mallory Frans Nolan Gemberling Arabella Gordon Vincent Gutgsell Jr. Joseph Guthmann-Leany Griffin Hartwig James Hatcher **Ouinn Hatcher** Hendrick Hauptman **Evelvn Hendricks** Chelsea Hernandez Villa Nolan Hoff Caleb Holmberg Hailey Hooper Theodore Huerta Breckyn Jackson Emmett Johnson Oliver Jones Julia Joslin Penelope Kator Harrison Kavan Patrick Keating-Anderson Davis Keegan Abigail Keller **Keegan Knowlton** Grace Kovar Amelia Kratochvil Jude Kriha Eli Krueger Natalie Lipari Mary Lohr Landon Lozano Ryann Ludemann Graham Lukken Maximiliano Machuca Korbin Mallgrave

**Roselyn Mancuso** Whitney McGuire Sal McMullen Alexander Meyer Leo Micek **Everly Michaelsen Emerie Mielak** Caden Miglini Merrik Murphy Massika Nare Haven Nath Beckam Nelson **Emanuel Nya** Magaret Nya Teagan O'Leary Eli Orsi Hailey Ortiz Addison Osterloh **Fiona Ostwald Brynlee** Otto Zachary Ourada Knox Patera John Peretti Jordan Pestotnik **Atticus Peters** Stella Pieper **Darcy Pieper Elizabeth Ramsey** Harrison Reding Dawson Reeves **Reece Reichmuth** Olivia Reischl **Oliver Riesberg Orion Riesberg** Luke Rinehart

**Charles Rischling Camila Rodriguez Perez Charlotte Rohlfsen** Isabella Romero Bridget Rourke Olivia Ryan Natalie Sanderson Kora Schueth Amelia Schulte **Rylee Scott Connor Severson** Romann Shaw **Oliver Sitter Royal Sledge-Frank** Dawson Smith Jude Snyder Alaina Stevens Emilia-Joyce Stitnicky Jonas Synowicki **Emily Tauriella** Michael Tot Sydney Trujillo-McCoy **Thomas Tutwiller** Cole Valasek Easton Vodicka Madison Volentine Lia Walden Maximus Walsh Mason Watson Claire Weller Benjamin Wellman Estella Wellman lohn Wisnieski Evelyn Wolfe

## Parish-Wide Reconciliation Service

**Tuesday, April 1st | Worship Space** Following the final evening of the Parish Mission

Final Parish Mission Talk: 5 PM Reconciliation Service: 7 PM

Come, experience God's loving mercy!



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Pray with us every Friday during Lent 6 PM Worship Space

KOC Fish Fry Fast Pass Available for Stations Attendees



Join the St. Stephen the Martyr Respect Life Committee in the world's largest grassroots movement to end abortion during 40 Days for Life! Sign up to pray & witness on-site at an abortion clinic, from our Adoration Chapel, or wherever you are! Our day of prayer is:

**Friday, April 11th** Bellevue Abortion Clinic 1002 Mission Ave. Bellevue, NE

Scan the QR Code to learn more & sign up.



Saturday, April 5th Prior to 8:15 AM Mass Worship Space



## March 7-April 11 5 - 8 PM | Fridays Dine In or Carry Out

Visit stephen.org/fish-fry-fridays for full menu & pricing

New! Family Max Pricing: \$40

St. Stephen the Martyr

CATHOLIC CHURCH Encounter, Know, Proclaim Fried Shrimp Baked Salmon Mac n' Cheese Cheese Pizza Kids Meals

Fried Fish



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

**Question**: Lent always seems to help me renew my relationship with God and strengthen my religious practice. Do you have any suggestions as to what I could do to achieve that the rest of the year?

**Answer:** The obvious answer may seem to be to do whatever you do during Lent all year round. But part of the power of Lent is that we focus as a community on renewing our faith and preparing for Easter. Our Lenten practices have a purpose and a goal. Therein lies the secret. When we focus our efforts on one virtue, or try to change one bad habit, or seek to deepen our understanding of one aspect of faith, we focus our efforts and give our full attention to what we are trying to accomplish. We tend to be more successful achieving our goals. More importantly, it has a ripple effect in our lives: one thing changes or is added to the spiritual mix of our lives and many aspects are changed.

All too often we leave our spiritual growth to chance and the practice of faith to habit, and then wonder why we have no sense of growth or progress. Think of it in terms of exercise. We walk, lift weights, bend and stretch to attain the maximum benefit from what we do. In addition, to keep those benefits, we eat healthful food and get enough vitamins and rest. Spirituality requires the same kind of attention: we pray, fast, read the Bible, receive sacraments, and do charitable work to maximize the benefits of practicing faith. Keeping Lent year round keeps us in spiritual shape! ©LPi

## ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

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\*.

Please join the Respect for Life Ministry on their Journey with Spiritual Adoption Monday April 7th at 7 PM during Weekly Adoration.



## Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

#### **First Reading:**

While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover. (Jos 5:10)

#### Psalm:

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

#### Second Reading:

And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Cor 5:18)

#### Gospel:

"But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."" (Lk 15:32)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Prodigal Son doesn't dare ask for the honor of being called his Father's son again. All he wants is to be close to his Father, to be cared for. But his Father surprises him with his mercy, as God surprises us. He offers more than just forgiveness. He offers redemption.

## Observances for the week of March 30, 2025

Sunday:	4th Sunday of Lent
Tuesday:	April Fools' Day
Wednesday:	St. Francis of Paola, Hermit
Friday:	St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest
Next Sunday:	5th Sunday of Lent

# 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

#### Sa

Saturday, 8:15 am	, <b>M</b> a † †	<b>arch 29</b> Joe, Jr & Timothy Pawloski (DB) Carlos & Sonia De la Torre (MP)
9:00 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 1:00 pm 3:30 pm	† † SI SI SI	Lewis Storm (VP) Rich McCormick (VP) Zach Fochek (MP) People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB) First Communion Candidates (MP) First Communion Candidates (DB) Steven Kucirek (VP)
Monday, March 31		
6:30 am 8:15 am	† †	Betty Finsen (MP) Larry Ware (MP)
Tuesday, April 1		
6:30 am 8:15 am	† †	Lyle Samuelson (MP) Diane Redmond (DB)
Wednesday, April 2		
		Barbara Wzorek (MP) Larry Ware (DB)
Thursday, April 3		
		Barbara Wzorek (DB) Jane Schuyler (DB)
Friday, April 4		
6:30 am 8:15 am	† †	Leonard Kruse (MP) Eileen Calkins (DB)
Saturday, April 5		
8:15 am 5:00 pm	SI †	Connor Matthew Dierkes (DB) Rita Sautter (VP)
Sunday, April 6		
9:00 am 10:30 am	† †	Jim Brazda (VP) Mary Miller (MP) Alan Fochek (MP) Jim Fetter (VP)

SI = Special Intention t = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; MP = Fr. Matthew Pohlman VP = Visiting Priest

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: Dennis Moore, husband of Lois Jerrene Langel, sister of Brian Langel **Dolores Pettitt**, mother of Mike

#### Pray for those sick/injured/healing:

Patrick McGranahan, husband of Diane John Klopp, husband of Sue **Ron Rauart** Susan Smith, St. Stephen school teacher **Dave Cavanaugh** Maurice O'Toole, brother of Sharon Pratt Rocky Epperson, brother in-law of Lisa Goldsmith Larry Comer, husband of Janie Larry Boettcher, husband of Judith Rod Heng, husband of Carol Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim Molly Felker, daughter of Mike and Stacy Michael Bazant, husband of Patricia Ryan Huebner, son of Marty and Cheryl

## CLOTHING OUR NEIGHBORS

#### March 8th - 30th

Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee

Help us provide socks & underwear to Least of My Brethren & Women's Center for Advancement this Lent.

Participate by:

- 1. Take one or more ornaments from one of the trees and return new items under the trees.
- 2. You can donate \$10 or \$25 gift cards (Walmart or Target) and cash or checks by placing them in a box on the small tables in the gathering space. Checks should be made out to St. Stephen the Martyr Church.
- 3. You can also donate using the QR code on the box in the Gathering Space, in the bulletin and at Stephen.org.











## In Service to One, In Service to All.

**Blood Drive at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church** Sponsored By: St. Stephen the Martyr Knights of Columbus Saturday, April 12th, 2025 | 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM

To schedule your appointment:

- Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767),
- Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: StStephenOMA, or
- Scan the QR code to schedule an appointment.
- Questions? Contact Tom Jaworski at (402) 469-5529

Donors needed! Come give blood for a \$15 Gift Card by email! See rcblood.org/Help.

# Schedule You

Appointment

#### 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



Join our Monthly Events!

Monthly Meeting & Fellowship April 1st at 7 PM in the Parish Center: You are welcome at our monthly meeting scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month in the Parish Center from 7-8 PM with fellowship through 9 PM. We also host a Social Night every third Thursday of the month at 7 PM in the Parish Center. There are many other opportunities for service and fellowship. Please join us! To sign up for emails, please visit stephen.org/councilofcatholicwomen.

**SUNDAY. APRIL 27TH** AFTER 10:30AM MASS | DINING ROOM

Join us for an Easter celebration featuring donuts, "Sleepless from Seattle" coffee cart, and face painting followed by an egg hunt and a visit from live bunnies to pet and hold!



## **Catechists** Needed!

Our parish & school offers Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessoribased approach to religious education. This program is sustained by trained catechists.



Please prayerfully consider becoming a trained catechist! Formation Course is available this summer.

Level I Formation June 27-30, Aug. 7-10, October 25-26, Nov. 8-9, 2025 Mary Our Queen | \$400\* \*Cost to be reimbursed after year of service

Learn more at stephen.org/cgs

Service Project

Lenten



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St. Stephen Martyr, Omaha, NE

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