



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

August 17, 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 (<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 noon 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 r.cooley@stephen.org.



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three." - Lk 12:50-52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPL

Pastor's Message — From Father Dave

"In those days, the princes said to the king: "Jeremiah ought to be put to death; he is demoralizing the soldiers who are left in this city, and all the people, by speaking such things to them; he is not interested in the welfare of our people, but in their ruin."

Jeremiah was a prophet in the southern kingdom of Judah about 800 years before the birth of Christ. Except for a few beautiful teachings about God's love and care for his people, Jeremiah is known for being a prophet of doom and gloom that foretold the fall of Jerusalem. In our first reading for Mass this weekend, we hear how the people received the prophet's message. The advisors to the king said that Jeremiah was demoralizing the soldiers and something needed to be done, so they took Jeremiah and threw him into a cistern full of mud.



Being a prophet is tough work because they usually bring a message that people don't want to hear. The prophets of the Old Testament spoke the truth to the people about the way that they were living and what would happen to them if they did not repent and turn their lives around. Change is difficult—especially when change is expected in our own attitudes and actions.

The message of Jeremiah and the prophets still speak to us today. We must listen to the voices of God's messengers who spoke generations ago because their words still call us to examine our lives and make changes. None of us wants to change, but if we want to know the joy of eternal life, we have to change. Let us pray that we may be open to the difficult messages of the prophets—past and present—so that we may have a change of heart and draw nearer to the God who loves us.

"The church must suffer for speaking the truth, for pointing out sin, for uprooting sin. No one wants to have a sore spot touched, and therefore a society with so many sores twitches when someone has the courage to touch it and say: "You have to treat that. You have to get rid of that. Believe in Christ. Be converted." —Saint Oscar A. Romero

*In Christ,
Father Dave*



Please pray for our young people headed back to school and Religious Education. May God's love shine brightly in your hearts this school year!

Prayer for our Students

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.

Send your Spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Fall Tailgate

Saturday, August 23rd

**Join us for Mass at 5 PM, then head outside for the tailgate!
In front of the Parish Center**

See page 4 for more details

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.

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 8/5-8/11/2025:

Actual:	\$47,567
Budget:	\$51,780

FYTD Actual:	\$263,281
FYTD Budget:	\$310,680

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.



Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Ellis Murray Moreland,
son of Alexander and Ashley



Congratulations, Newly Married!

Kelly Lyn & Nicholas Ray Brummer

Our faith community wishes you many blessings!

“Do you think I have come to give you peace on Earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.”

~Luke 12:51

Many of us like to play it safe, not cause waves with our family and friends, especially when it comes to politics and religion. We don't want to cause any turmoil. However, many times this is at the expense of the truth. The truth being Jesus Christ. Too many people are misguided because they rely on their own limited human ability to reason and are not allowing faith in God to guide them. Form your conscience; take a stance for life, marriage, and religious liberty.

#stewardshipreflection

School News

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

⇒ **Welcome Back to School!** We are so excited to have our students back with us this week. Our staff is ready for a joy-filled school year, United in Christ! Find the Back to School information at school.stephen.org/backtoschool.

Religious Education

⇒ **Catechist Meeting Today, August 17th!** All volunteers should attend the meeting today at 2 PM. We will meet in the Dining Room. Please join us for our latest updates, meet the team, and collect your materials for the first semester.

⇒ **Religious Education Classes start this week!** Our first session with Parents & Students will be on August 19th & 20th. Please check your email for your child's class assignment that was sent earlier this week and plan to join your child/children on the first night of class. We will begin in the Worship Space at the beginning of each class session. Class assignments will also be posted in the commons and Gathering Space.

⇒ **New to the parish and have children in a public school?** We would love to share our Catholic faith and traditions with your family! Visit our Religious Education registration page at stephen.org/re-registration/ to learn more. We offer both traditional catechist-led classes and a parent-led, home-based program.

⇒ **Please consider being a Catechist/Volunteer/Campus Dad:** Assistant Catechist is a role which requires no outside preparation but is vital to providing a positive and constructive environment in our classrooms. Many classes could still use this extra hand! For Catechists, all lessons are planned, and materials are provided. Want to learn more about these volunteer positions? Please give us a call at (402) 896-5683.

The following classes need catechists:

Tuesdays:	4:30 PM – Grades 3, 5, & 6
Wednesdays:	5:30 PM – Grades K, 5, & 7 7:00 PM – Grade 3

Youth Ministry

⇒ **Witness Wednesdays: Youth Night for High Schoolers:** Join us Wednesday, August 20th for Eucharistic Adoration Night at St. Wenceslaus. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us every Wednesday! Snacks and drinks are provided. Learn more at stephen.org/witness-Wednesdays.

⇒ **Catching Fire for Middle School Seeking Volunteers:** Our Parish Middle School Ministry, CATCHING FIRE, will launch a youth group program in early 2026 and is looking for volunteers to join the core leadership team! If you are feeling the call to action with our Middle Schoolers, let's talk! No matter what your level of interest is, no matter what your skill set, no matter what your availability might be --- let's talk! Please contact Mike Kennedy, Coordinator of Middle School Ministry at m.kennedy@stephen.org or (402) 861-4509.

⇒ **NEW! Ascension Theology of the Body Discussion Group for High School Students:**

ASCENSION
The Faith Formation Leader

YOU.

LIFE, LOVE, AND THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Join us for High School Youth Group
10 Sessions
St. Wenceslaus School Community Room
Thursdays Sept 11th - Nov 13th
7:30-9:30 PM

Scan the QR to RSVP Before September 1st

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." - Rev 3:20

Are you ready to open the door?



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

Becoming Catholic!

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

- Are you seeking full communion with the Catholic Church?
- Are you a baptized Catholic needing First Communion or Confirmation?
- Do you have loved ones falling into any of these descriptions?

The *Becoming Catholic!* Program at St. Stephen the Martyr will help you **deepen** your **relationship** with Jesus Christ through a more intimate knowledge of **His Church** and **Holy Scripture**.



For more information, scan the QR code or contact **Deacon Scott & Julie Tylski** at tylskisj@outlook.com, 402-850-4501 (Julie) or 402-689-3387 (Dcn. Scott).

Book & Bible Studies

Many Bible/Book Studies are available to our parishioners as a way to encounter, know, and proclaim Christ. Additional opportunities will be announced in the coming weeks! Scan the QR code to see the latest information.



- ⇒ **Seeking Truth Bible Study on Psalms:** Everyone is welcome to join the 2025-2026 season of Seeking Truth Bible Study. This year, we will study the Book of Psalms. The study begins August 26th and meets every Tuesday from 9:15-10:45 AM in the Parish Center. The study has a winter break from December/January. Questions? Please contact Connie at ccinnamon47@gmail.com.
- ⇒ **The Book of Psalms Bible Study with Deacon Marty:** Deacon Marty will be offering study on the Book of Psalms. The group will meet on Wednesdays starting August 20th from 9:30-11:00 AM in the Parish Center. The textbooks will be the Bible and the Shepherd's Notes book on "Psalms". For more information or to register, email Deacon Marty at mwarwick3@cox.net.
- ⇒ **Women's Bible Study on 2nd Saturday Mornings:** Join other women of St. Stephen the Martyr parish once per month as we journey together through "Women in the New Testament" by Little Rock Scripture Study. We will meet on the second Saturday of the month from 9 - 11 AM beginning September 13th. To register and reserve your book, contact Janice Dethlefs 402-651-0153.
- ⇒ **Lectio Divina:** Come and learn the Lectio Divina way to pray! Lectio Divina means "Divine Reading". Our women's group invites you to learn the practice of scriptural reading, meditation, and prayer to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. We meet the First Thursday of each month from 9:15 - 10:30 AM, beginning September 4th in the Parish Center. Questions? Contact Nancy at wiederholtncancy@hotmail.com.



SACRAMENTS

for children ages 7-13

Order of Christian Initiation
for Children (OCIC)

Do your 7-13 year old children need to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, or Penance (Reconciliation)? Enroll in our OCIC/Sacrament Preparation class beginning this Fall! Our Director of Religious Education is offering a 45-min. weekly class for a multi-age group of children to learn/review the teachings of the Catholic Faith as well as to prepare them for and to receive the sacraments. Upon completion of this class, students will be prepared to enroll the following year in their own grade-level Religious Education class and continue growing with their peers in ongoing religious formation.

Register Today at:

<https://stephen.org/re-registration/>

Students will meet with the Director of Religious Education Sundays before the 10:30am Mass

9:30am - 10:15am

SSM School

For more information :

Reach out to Sandy Kimmey at s.kimmey@stephen.org
402.861.4510

walking with purpose

SO MUCH MORE THAN A BIBLE STUDY

Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Join Friday Faith & Fellowship!
Fridays | 9:30-11 AM | Starts Sept 5

For the 2025/2026 year, we will work through a 22-week study called Opening Your Heart from the Walking With Purpose program founded by Lisa Brenninkmeyer. This study invites us to explore how our Catholic faith can shape and guide our everyday lives.

No advance preparation is required, and you are welcome to join at any time.

Questions? Email Christie at czhinton@mac.com or scan the QR code to learn more.



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 a.ybarra@stephen.org.





Fall Tailgate

Saturday, August 23rd

Join us for Mass at 5 PM, then head outside for the tailgate!
In front of the Parish Center

Get ready for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship!

- Bring your lawn chairs or blankets (limited seating available)
- Inflatables for the kids (supervision provided)
- Chick-fil-A boxed meals
 - Your choice of sandwich or nuggets, with chips, a cookie, and a drink — \$6/meal
- Enjoy our \$5/drink bar – no outside drinks
- DJ playing family favorites all evening
- Card & cash payments accepted



Come hungry, bring your friends, and let's celebrate with our parish family!



CROSS COUNTRY REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

- Open to all registered parishioners in grades 5th-8th. \$60 fee/student.
- NEW! "Developmental Run Club" for grades 2nd-4th. They will join practices and do several Fun Runs during the season. \$20 fee/student.
- Register by August 19th

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTER AT STEPHEN.ORG/SPORTS-CLUB-CROSS-COUNTRY



MICRO SOCCER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



- Micro Soccer is for SSM Parishioners, ages 3-6
- Games will be every Sunday at Mission Park starting Sept. 14th
- Register by 5 PM on Friday, August 29th



Register & more information at: stephen.org/sports-club



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Why do we have a feast for the Queenship of Mary?

Answer: For many of us, the language of kings and queens may seem like they belong to history or a medieval movie. Royalty have absolute authority over a kingdom and their subjects, a concept that is foreign to many of us today. While Jesus doesn't rule a political kingdom, we honor and recognize him as the King of Kings, Lord of Heaven and Earth. To God alone belongs absolute authority over all of existence.

We may think of queens as the spouse of the king, but there is another key relationship: the king's mother. In Biblical history, we see instances where the mother of the king is given due as a queen herself, complete with a throne! Mary's guiding influence over her Son is seen most notably in the Wedding Feast at Cana. Mary is not Queen on her own merit. She is "full of grace" and "blessed" in "all ages" because of the reign of her Son. ©LPi

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



Join us in the quiet to worship Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Mondays | 7 PM | Worship Space

Join us in the Adoration Chapel 24/7. The code for access is 9675*.

"The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny, white host."
- Venerable Fulton Sheen

Welcome to our new Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Mitchell Hochstein



Welcome!
Mitchell Hochstein
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Welcome to the new Director of Youth Ministry, Mitchell Hochstein, who will now oversee Witness Wednesdays for High Schoolers. From Mitchell: *"I grew up in the country outside of Seward, Nebraska and went to Wayne State College for Exercise Science and Business Administration. College is really where my faith took off as well as my love for the outdoors! One of my favorite Scripture passages is John 10:10: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." A few years ago, in the mountains of Colorado at a place that is very dear to my heart, I for the first time in my life felt fully and truly alive in Christ. I believe the Lord calls us to do our best to remain in this place and to make the places we live and go, a true place of constant prayer and worship so that we may all be alive in Christ and live abundantly through him."*

You are invited to

Gather:
A Dinner Group
for Widows &
Widowers

**Thursday, August 21st
Dinner 6 PM**

**Lazlo's Brewery & Grill
192nd & West Center Rd.**

Questions? Scan to join our email group!
Contact Colleen, St. Stephen Pastoral Care Coordinator, at (402) 861-4538.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite to take three men along with him, and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he should die. (Jer 38:10)

Psalm:

Lord, come to my aid! (Ps 40)

Second Reading:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us. (Heb 12:1)

Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Lk 12:49)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus tells us that he has come to set fire to the earth. What can we give him as kindling? Let us look into our souls and see where the fire of Christ can be ignited, and pray that our souls may be consumed by its life-giving flames.

Observances for the week of August 17, 2025

Sunday:	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	St. John Eudes, Priest
Wednesday:	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	St. Pius X, Pope
Friday:	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday:	St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
Next Sunday:	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



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, Aug 16

8:15 AM † Randy Figura (MP)
5:00 PM † James Goodhard (DB)

Sunday, Aug 17

7:30 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
9:00 AM † Jerry Goldsberry (MP)
10:30 AM † Paige Roesner (MP)
6:00 PM † Chuck Hervert (AS)

Monday, Aug 18

6:30 AM † Mary Fulkerson (MP)
8:15 AM † Linda Lichter (MP)

Tuesday, Aug 19

6:30 AM † Irene Hosier (DB)
8:15 AM † Erin Doll (MP)

Wednesday, Aug 20

6:30 AM SI Celeste Baumert (MP)
8:15 AM † Patty Greving (MP)

Thursday, Aug 21

6:30 AM † Leonard Kruse (DB)
8:15 AM † Larry Ware (DB)

Friday, Aug 22

6:30 AM † Lyle Samuelson (DB)
8:15 AM † Bob & Sue Mathine (MP)

Saturday, Aug 23

8:15 AM † Jerrene Langel (DB)
5:00 PM † Herman Weist (MP)

Sunday, Aug 24

7:30 AM † Claudia Britten (MP)
9:00 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
10:30 AM † Dave Wesely (DB)
6:00 PM † Marie Werp (MP)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; MP = Fr. Matthew Pohlman
GO = Fr. Gary Ostrander; AS = Fr. Andy Sohm
DK = Fr. Dan Kampschneider

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



Pray For...

Pray for deceased souls of our parish:

Linda Palensky, wife of Terry

Pray for those sick/injured/healing:

Anne Audas, wife of Dick

Joyce Murphy, mother of Peg (Rick) Thiesen

Don Perrault, father-in-law of Gabriel Newbold

Brenda Kreber, wife of Dave

Mary Risavi, cousin of Nancy Major

Doris Braun, mother of Rich Braun

Ron Rauart

Maurice O'Toole, brother of Sharon Pratt

Rocky Epperson, brother-in-law of Lisa Goldsmith

Larry Comer, husband of Janie

Rod Heng, husband of Carol

Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim

Molly Felker, daughter of Mike and Stacy

COR Men's Group

Wednesdays at 6 PM | Parish Center

Beginning September 10th

Cor



Men of St. Stephen are welcome to join our new COR Men's Group. The goal of the group is to strengthen the men of the parish through prayer, formation, and fellowship. Each hour will include prayer, formation content, and discussion.

Learn More



Questions? Contact Brian at blangel101@gmail.com



Join our Monthly Events!

Monthly Meeting & Fellowship September 2nd 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.



Join the PrimeTimers

Cards and Games Thursdays: Stop by and see what's happening at Cards and Games Thursdays! Join us on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 1PM in the Parish Center.

Mark Your Calendars – Hillbilly Party! Get your hillbilly clothes out of mothballs and into the wash tub—we're having a party! Thursday, September 11th, 6 PM in the Parish Center.

- ⇒ Happy Hour at 6 PM – enjoy a drink and mingle
- ⇒ Dinner & Dessert served at 7 PM
- ⇒ Cost: \$20 per person
- ⇒ BYOB – and bring a few \$1 bills for fun!

RSVP by Monday, September 1st to Peg, Moe, Pat, or Rosemary. Cash preferred (give to any of us) or checks payable to Pat Miller. Questions call Pat at 402-201-7945.



Annual Golf Outing September 14 at 2 PM Tiburon Golf Club

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a 9-hole scramble golf event at Tiburon Golf Club on Sunday, September 14th beginning at 2 PM.

- Sign up as a single, double, three or foursome
- Registration fee is \$75: includes a cart, golf, and appetizers
- Afternoon will include Tee Box Events, Raffle and Auction Items
- Proceeds will benefit a Veteran Stand Down event, Wreaths Across America, Project Harmony, and Landscape Ministry.
- If you are interested in supporting the event or have questions Steve Cinnamon at 402-669-3441.



Register after Masses on
Sundays from August 3rd-18th

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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., 11 a.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

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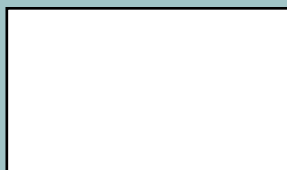


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