



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

November 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 (<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

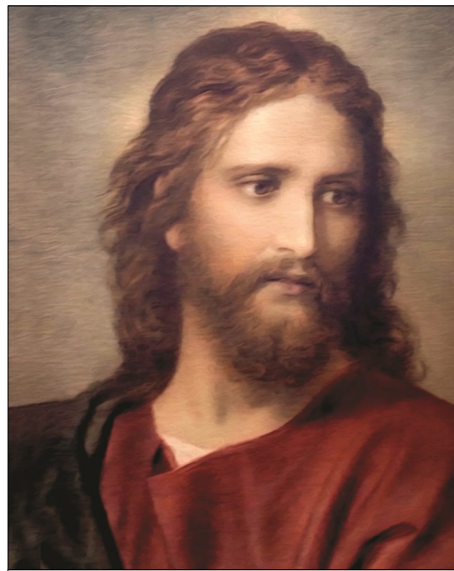
Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Matthew Pohlman

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Rachel at r.cooley@stephen.org.



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."
- Mt 24:44

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

Pastor's Message — From Father Dave

Brothers and sisters: You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light...



Welcome to Advent! We have come once again to the Season of waiting, expectation, and preparation. What are we waiting for, expecting, and preparing for? St. Bernard of Clairvaux once noted that we celebrate three arrivals in Advent: the coming of the Christ child, which happened in the past; the coming of Christ in the last days, a future event; and the third arrival, between the other two, which is the arrival of Jesus in our lives every day. Jesus comes to us in the Sacraments, in the Word, and in our acts of mercy and forgiveness toward one another.

The third arrival, where Jesus comes to us every day, is perhaps the one to which we should give our attention this Advent. The mangers that we set up remind us of the original coming in the past and the judgment at the end of time will mark the final coming. But the one in between is where the conversion of our hearts and minds takes place and hope is born once again. The Scripture readings in the next four weeks will call us to prepare the way of the Lord, and the only way that we can do that is by clearing out the obstacles of sin that prevent us from following the Lord when He does come.

In these great days of anticipation and preparation, I ask you to contemplate the great events of the Lord's coming into the world that first Christmas and His future coming, when He will break into human history once again and bring us all to the Judgment seat of the Father. Looking back and looking forward, we also look into every moment of life today and see that Jesus continues to break into our lives to bring us the gift of His forgiveness and peace.

Are you ready to welcome Jesus into your life? What is standing in the way? What do you need to do to prepare yourselves to welcome Him at Christmas? At the end of time? Every day, every moment of your life?

"In rivers, the water that you touch is the last of what has passed and the first of that which comes: so with present time." -Leonardo da Vinci

*In Christ,
Father Dave*

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Monday, December 8th * Holy Day of Obligation



HOLY DAY MASS TIMES

DEC. 7 AT 6 PM

DEC. 8 AT 6:30 AM, 8:15 AM*,
12:05 PM, 5:30 PM

*ALL SCHOOL MASS, LIMITED SEATING. THIS MASS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED.

PLEASE NOTE: DEC. 7TH MASS AT 6 PM CAN EITHER FULLFILL YOUR OBLIGATION FOR SUNDAY MASS OR THE HOLY DAY, BUT NOT BOTH AT THE SAME MASS.

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED DECEMBER 8TH



Advent is four weeks of preparation that directs our hearts and minds both to remembering Christ's birth and to Christ's second coming. It's a reminder to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Advent is a time of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. We await in quiet anticipation for the beginning of the best thing to ever happen in the world - the coming of our Salvation, Jesus Christ.

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 11/11-11/17/2025:

Actual:	\$43,801
Budget:	\$53,506

FYTD Actual:	\$1,003,732
FYTD Budget:	\$1,047,189

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.



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 10th. Thank you for supporting our Catholic school educators! 
- ⇒ **Registration for Alice in Wonderland, Jr. is Now Open!** Register now for the School Musical! The Musical is open to school students in grades 1st-8th. All registrants will be given roles, but Middle Schoolers must attend auditions. Scan the QR code for more information & to register! 

Religious Education

- ⇒ **Feast of St. Nicholas:** The Feast of St. Nicholas for Catholics is celebrated on December 6th and honors the historical bishop known for his generosity and charity. Traditions often include a vigil on the eve, December 5th, where children leave out their shoes to find small trinkets, left by St. Nicholas. It is an early Advent celebration that focuses on giving to others, much like Saint Nicholas himself did. All the students will receive a candy cane this week celebrating St. Nicholas. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for providing the candy canes.
- ⇒ **First Reconciliation, December 1st & 2nd:** Please keep our students in your prayers and they prepare to receive their First Reconciliation this week. Heavenly Father, fill their hearts with Your peace and love as they take this important step in their journey of faith.
- ⇒ **Volunteer Needed:** Do you have an hour available to help in a 7th grade class on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM? We are looking for an assistant to help the catechist in this larger 7th grade class. Please contact us if you are available to volunteer at e.smith@stephen.org or 402-896-5683.

Youth Ministry

- ⇒ **Witness Wednesdays: Youth Night for High Schoolers:** Join us Wednesday, December 3rd from 8-9:30 PM for Scripture Study 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.
- ⇒ **Our Middle School Youth Group is coming soon!** Planning is well underway so stay tuned for more information! There are still volunteer opportunities for interested adults as well as for high school and college students. For more information, please contact Mike Kennedy at m.kennedy@stephen.org.



Christmas Flower Memorials

We are collecting donations for Christmas Flowers for our Worship Space.

You may place your Offertory Envelope in the basket during Mass or give online using the QR code. **Please add your loved one's name in the special intention field.** To be included in the Dec. 28th bulletin, submit your donation by Dec. 16th.



"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

-Matthew 24:42

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences generally have a greater appreciation for each day being a gift from God. The rest of us usually take for granted that we will be around tomorrow. But when you start to look at each day as a gift, you realize all the little miracles that happen daily and you begin to see God's active presence in your life. You grow in gratitude, each day, for all that we have been given.

#stewardshipreflection

Sisters in Christ
Christmas Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1
7PM - 9:30PM @ ST. STEPHEN'S GPC
OPEN TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Christmas Movie
WEAR YOUR JAMMIES OR COZIEST GEAR
BLANKETS & PILLOWS WELCOME

Christmas Cookie Swap: Bring a dozen cookies to share and take some home too!
Questions: Contact Julie at Jhannibalshaner@gmail.com.



Breakfast in Bethlehem

Sunday, December 7th

Following the 9 AM & 10:30 | Masses in the Dining Room

Come celebrate the beginning of Advent and the Feast of St. Nicholas with a morning filled with the Knights of Columbus' famous pancake breakfast and Home & School hosted festivities including a specialty coffee cart, hot cocoa, fun activities for the kids, and a visit from St. Nicholas himself!

*Knights of Columbus Breakfast Proceeds will go toward SSM School Teacher Fund
St. Nicolas wants to be prepared!
Scan the QR to RSVP



Catherine of Siena Institute presents **CALLED & GIFTED WORKSHOP**

*Discover God's Call — and the Gifts
He's Placed Within You to Fulfill It*

**Feb. 7th, 2026
9 AM - 3:30 PM
Parish Center**

Price: \$73/participant*

*Includes sessions, workshop materials, online inventory and follow-up interview with a trained coach



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
16701 "S" St. | Omaha, NE 68135
Encounter, Know, Proclaim



Questions? a.ybarra@stephen.org

Register

WE'RE BOTTLING UP FUN AT SOIRÉE ROSÉ!

The Soirée Rosé is getting even more fun—with a Wine Pull! While you're stocking up on your holiday favorites, please think of our Dinner & Auction and donate a bottle. Thank you for your support!



VIEW
SIGNUP
GENIUS



First Saturday Rosary

Saturday, December 6th

Prior to
8:15 AM Mass
Worship Space

Food Pantry Curbside Drop-off

Saturday, December 6th | 10 AM - noon

**Knights of Columbus will collect
donations in front of the Parish Center**



Needed hygiene items:
Cleaning supplies, kleenex,
and shampoo

Needed Food Items:
Snacks, cake mix & frosting, brownie mix,
cooking oil, ready to eat soup, and
canned chicken or tuna

**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!



Scan to
Give Online

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.



Blessing of Expectant Mothers

"BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB,
I KNEW YOU..." - JEREMIAH 1:5



**AFTER
MASSES ON
DEC. 6TH & 7TH**

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE
DAILY MASS CHAPEL
AFTER MASSES THIS
WEEKEND TO
RECEIVE A BLESSING.

Pray for those receiving First Reconciliation

Young people of our parish will receive God's loving mercy for the very first time!

Please pray for them as they take this special step in their relationship with Jesus.

"Let the children come to me..."
Mt. 19:14



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

Answer: Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness. ©LPi

FAMILY PRAYER & PIZZA

Sunday, Dec. 7th
4 PM | Worship Space

Family night made easy! Join us for a Family Rosary in the Worship Space followed by pizza in the Dining Room. Faith, food & fellowship for the whole family!

*Don't know the rosary? No problem! We'll have booklets.
Need to feed your kids Sunday night? We'll have pizza! This is a great opportunity to pray as a family and enjoy your parish community.
We hope to see you there!*

Questions? Contact Patrick at patrickj.cooley@gmail.com.

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*.

To sign up for a regular Holy Hour, please contact Glea at gleahamik@hotmail.com (712) 551-6293.



Angel Tree Project

Nov. 8th - Dec. 7th

Hosted By: St. Stephen the Martyr Social Justice Ministry



This holiday season, help us support those in need through the Madonna Ability Alliance & the Holy Family Lunch Program.

There are Three Ways to Participate:

- Take one or more ornaments from one of the trees and return the unwrapped item(s) under the trees.
- You can donate \$10 or \$25 gift cards (Walmart or Target or Amazon) 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.
- Scan the QR Code to give online or visit Stephen.org/angel-tree.



Questions? Contact Loni Burger 402-896-4446, Linda Hendricks 402-699-1911, or Teresa Ziska 402-960-8618.



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isa 2:5)

Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

Second Reading:

You know the time;
it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.
For our salvation is nearer now than when
we first believed. (Rom 13:11)

Gospel:

"So too, you also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come." (Mt 24:44)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"You do not know on which day your Lord will come," Jesus says. He is reminding us that we do not know the mind of God. But we do know the heart of God, and we know that it is filled with mercy for those who heed the warning: Stay awake!

Observances for the week of November 30, 2025

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent; Respect Life Sunday
Wednesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Thursday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
Next Sunday: 2nd 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, Nov 29

8:15 AM † Mary Azara (DB)
5:00 PM † Ron & Rita Hruska (MP)

Sunday, Nov 30

7:30 AM † Jeanette Wieseler (MP)
9:00 AM SI Deacon Denny & Janice Dethlefs (DB)
10:30 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
6:00 PM † Bernie Trausch (AS)

Monday, Dec 1

6:30 AM † Barbara Wzorek (MP)
8:15 AM † Dave Mandel (MP)

Tuesday, Dec 2

6:30 AM † David Ward (DB)
8:15 AM † Albert & Marian Berning (MP)

Wednesday, Dec 3

6:30 AM † Liz Gulizia (DB)
8:15 AM † Jane Schuyler (MP)

Thursday, Dec 4

6:30 AM † Jerry Paulsen (DB)
8:15 AM † Ann Tiesi (DB)

Friday, Dec 5

6:30 AM † Marie Werp (DB)
8:15 AM † Marjorie Vandenack (MP)

Saturday, Dec 6

8:15 AM † Patricia Paulsen (MP)
5:00 PM † Dave Wesely (DB)

Sunday, Dec 7

7:30 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
9:00 AM SI Terry & Marie Zrust (MP)
10:30 AM † Jim Sautter (MP)
6:00 PM † Chuck Hervert (AS)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; MP = Fr. Matthew Pohlman;
AS = Fr. Andrew Sohm

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



Pray For...

Pray for deceased souls of our parish:

Mary Higgins, mother of John
LaVern Straka, husband of Pamela
Richard Benda, husband of Rose
George Pfeifer, uncle of Cheri Johnson

Pray for those sick/injured/healing:

Lawrence Boettcher, husband of Judith
Angie Wingert
Norman Thomas
Jim Kjosa, husband of Jan
Allen Cole, father of Amy Jones
Christine O'Malley
Dot Schaecher
Fr. Jim Tiegs, former pastor of SSM
Zongo Gisele, wife of Alexis Yaméogo
Joyce Murphy, mother of Peg (Rick) Thiesen
Brenda Kreber, wife of Dave
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
Molly Felker, daughter of Mike and Stacy

Primetimers Glitz & Glimmer Christmas Gala



Join the Primetimers (55+) for an evening of sparkle and celebration at our Glitz & Glimmer Christmas Gala on Thursday, Dec. 11th, in the Parish Center. The evening begins with Happy Hour at 6 PM, followed by dinner at 7 PM.

An entrée and a dessert will be provided; please bring a side dish to share. This event is B.Y.O.B., and the cost is \$15 per person. We also suggest bringing a few one-dollar bills for some lighthearted fun throughout the evening. In the spirit of the season, we'll be donning our festive best—feel free to add a little sparkle to your attire! Please RSVP by Monday, Dec. 1st, to Peg, Moe, Pat, or Rosemary. Cash is preferred and may be given to any of them, or checks can be made payable to Pat Miller. Questions? Contact Pat at 402-201-7945.



Apply now for college scholarships from the Council of Catholic Women

The Omaha Urban Deanery Council of Catholic Women (OUCCW) is offering a \$500 scholarship to a High School Senior Catholic young woman. There is also a \$250 Honorable Mention award. The winning application will be forwarded to compete for the \$750 scholarship offered by the OACCW (Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women). All senior Catholic girls are encouraged to apply. If you have questions about the application or the process, please call Cathy Vak at 402-590-1238. Applications for the OUCCW Scholarship must be submitted by **January 15, 2026**. Completed applications are to be sent to: Cathy Vak 3255 S. 77th St. Omaha NE 68124.

Join the Council of Catholic Women! 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 us for a Tom & Jerry Party

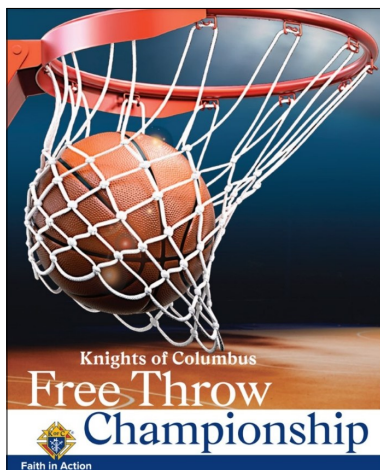


Saturday, Dec. 13th | 9-11 AM
Parish Center

(Adults Only!)

Join us for a Midwest Christmas Classic! This cocktail is a warm spicy, rum/brandy based cocktail using eggs, butter, sugar and spices (vanilla, nutmeg & cinnamon). Originally a publicity stunt in 1821 for a book and play about Tom & Jerry, Life in London.

Hosted by friends of St. Stephen the Martyr



FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
Age 9—14
SAINT STEPHEN THE MARTYR Gym

JANUARY 9
REGISTRATION AT 6:30 PM
SHOOTING WILL BEGIN AT 7PM

This is a fun activity for families,
where boys and girls shoot 15 free throws.

CONTACT Kevin Rempe
krempe82@gmail.com

With questions, no RSVP required

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., 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.

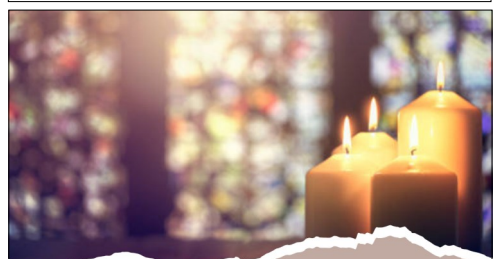
Fri: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m.

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



HOPE THAT SETS US FREE

AN ADVENT RETREAT

Open to all Young Adults (ages 21-39)

Organized by the West Omaha Family of Parishes

Led by Fr. Ben Holdren

at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church



DEC 6, 2025 | 8:15 AM - 12:00 PM



REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY DEC 1

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT DRUE PIEPER
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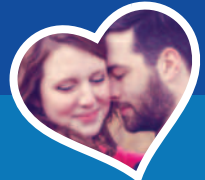
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