



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

July 26, 2026

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 (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. John Norman

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

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



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The kingdom of heaven is
like a treasure buried in a
field, which a person finds
and hides again, and out of
joy goes and sells all that
he has and buys that field."
- Mt 13:44

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

OLPH

Pastor's Message – From Father Dave

"The kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age..."



Today's Gospel about the Kingdom of God is another blow to those who have a narrow understanding about who has a chance to make it into heaven. Jesus uses the image of a dragnet thrown into the sea, collecting fish of every kind, for the Kingdom of heaven. God will bring all kinds of people—saints and sinners alike—into heaven through His dragnet of love and forgiveness. The sorting will come later, and on God's terms, not ours.

God does not hope for our condemnation and punishment, but for the salvation and glory for all. And so, the Church, like God, must cast her nets far and wide, invite any, admit many, serve the poor and the stranger, and hope for the salvation of our souls. We cannot see with God's eyes, so we do not know how God will judge any of us. All we can do is live a life of faithfulness and stewardship, serving the Lord and His people through our generous sharing of the many gifts that have been entrusted to us. It is not up to us to judge one another to be worthy of heaven—that's God's work.

"According to our Lord and Savior, the kingdom of God does not come in such a way as to be seen. No one will say, 'Look here it is!' or, 'There it is': because the kingdom of God is within us. The Word is very near to us; it is on our lips and in our heart. It is clear from this that when a man prays that God's kingdom may come, he is praying as he should, for the kingdom of God which is within him, that it may rise, flourish, and reach its full growth." – Origen

*In Christ,
Father Dave*



**ANSWER
THE CALL**

to pass on the Catholic faith to children as a
**St. Stephen the Martyr
Religious Education
Catechist or Volunteer**

"Let the Children Come to Me"
Matthew 19:13-15

Go to the Religious Education page on our parish
website at www.stephen.org/re-registration, or
scan the QR code to explore our programs, learn
more, and register. Discover the many ways God
may be calling you to share His love with the
children of our parish!



Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Joseph Colin Gavin, son of Colin and Cailynn

Pray & Worship

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 Brooke Keller, Director of Evangelization, at (402) 861-4507 or bnkeller@stephen.org.

Financial Stewardship

Offertory & Online Giving 7/14 - 7/20/2026:

Actual:	\$38,523
Budget:	\$52,688

FYTD Actual:	\$121,022
FYTD Budget:	\$150,538

St. Stephen the Martyr operates on a Fiscal Year from July 1—June 30

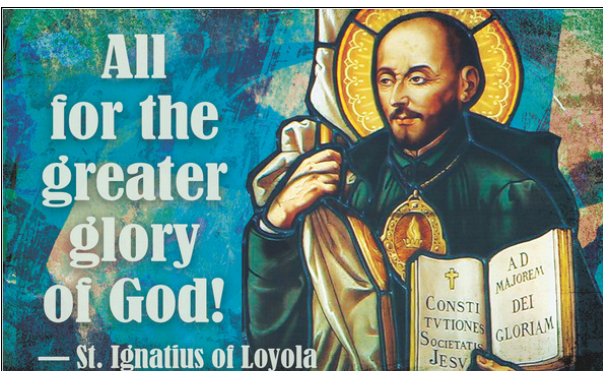
Thank you for your generous giving!

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.



Support Mary's Meals on July 26th

At Sunday morning Masses on July 26th, parishioners will have the opportunity to support Mary's Meals, a charity that provides meals at school to over 3 million children in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal brings hungry children into the classroom, where they can gain an education and better opportunities for the future. Donations will be accepted in the Gathering Space, and those who give are invited to take a handmade saint bracelet as a thank-you. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the hungry.



School News

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

- **Used Uniform Sale:** The Home & School Association is hosting a sale of used uniform items on Sunday, July 26th from 8:30 AM—Noon in the Dining Room. Learn more at school.stephen.org.
- **We still have room for your student!** We still have space in some classes for the 26-27 school year, including our afternoon PreK and Kindergarten classes! Request a tour or apply at school.stephen.org/admissions.



2026-2027 Afternoon Preschool & PreK Openings



Join our class!

- 3-Day Afternoon Preschool:
Monday–Wednesday from
12:25 – 3:15 PM.
- 5-Day Afternoon PreK:
Monday–Friday from 12:25–
3:15 PM.

Interested?

Visit school.stephen.org/preschool to learn more! To tour our school, please contact our school office at (402) 896-0754.

Religious Education

- **Help your child grow in relationship with the Lord and receive the sacraments!** Register your pre-k through 8th grade children in our after-school Religious Education classes. Classes will begin on Aug. 25th & 26th and do fill up, so please visit www.stephen.org/religious-education/ for more information and to register today!
- **Please prayerfully consider sharing your faith with the children of our parish as a Catechist or Volunteer in our Religious Education program!** Volunteers receive free or discounted tuition for enrolled children. All materials are provided and no experience is required. For more information about our many volunteer opportunities and to register, please visit www.stephen.org/re-registration. Our fall RE Volunteer Meeting will be held on August 16th at 2 PM in the school dining room. Call 402-896-5683 with questions!
- **Is your child over 7 and in need of Baptism or First Communion?** Register for our Sunday morning OCIA for Children class, for those new to the faith or missing sacraments. Visit stephen.org/re-registration/ for information on the OCIC program or reach out to Sandy Kimmey at S.Kimmey@stephen.org with questions.

Youth Ministry

- **Witness Wednesdays:** Youth Night for High Schoolers: Join us Wednesday, July 29th from 8-9:30 PM at St. Wenceslaus. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us every Wednesday! Learn more at stephen.org/witness-Wednesdays.



JOIN THE FUN THIS SUMMER AT MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



FOOD • GAMES • GOD • FRIENDS

TUESDAYS | 6:30 - 8 PM
STEPHEN.ORG/MIDDLE-SCHOOL-YOUTH-GROUP

LEARN MORE





ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR



FRIDAY, JULY 31 | 6-9 PM
MUSIC BINGO | COCKTAILS
FUN WITH FRIENDS!

LADIES' NIGHT OUT



RSVP HERE

MICRO SOCCER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

- Micro Soccer is for SSM Parishioners, ages 3-6
- Games will be every Sunday at Mission Park starting Sept. 13th
- Register by Friday, August 28th



Register & more information
at: stephen.org/sports-club
or scan the QR code.



Tailgate

Save the Date!
Saturday, August 15th
6 PM after Mass
In front of the Parish Center

Join us for a night of great food, drinks,
music, & fun activities for the kids!



Construction Notice

Ceiling Tile Replacement: Beginning Monday, July 27th, we will be replacing ceiling tiles in the main entrances of the church. Please use alternate entrances during this time.

Dining Room Restroom Renovation: We are continuing to renovate the Dining Room restrooms. During construction, please use the restrooms located in the north hallway.

Thank you for your patience as we complete these improvements!

Seeking Sports Club President

This volunteer position oversees Sports Club activities by coordinating with sport leaders, assisting with registrations, working with the Treasurer on the budget and purchases, leading 3-4 Advisory Board meetings each year, and serving as the main contact for coordinators, coaches, and parents. The time commitment is moderate and varies throughout the year. Interested? Contact Greg at g.verraneault@stephen.org.

Now Hiring



Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry

The Coordinator of Middle School Youth Ministry leads faith formation, service, and community-building for grades 6-8, supports High School Youth Ministry, and fosters a positive, Christ-centered environment while advancing the parish's mission. Email Brooke at bnkeller@stephen.org to apply!



CALL FOR 2026-2027 CORPORATE SPONSORS

LEARN MORE:
SCHOOL.STEPHEN.ORG/CORPORATE-SPONSORS

Support our Catholic School

Fundraiser - Martyr Marathon

Interested in supporting our school while promoting your business? Become a 2026-2027 St. Stephen the Martyr Corporate Sponsor! This year's fundraising efforts will help underwrite the cost of updating classroom equipment & technology, contributing to the cost of instructional materials, and providing teacher grants throughout the year. Additional funds raised will be used for security upgrades and technology subscriptions. The deadline for sponsorships is August 10th. Thank you for supporting our Catholic school! Questions? Contact the Martyr Marathon team at martyrmarathon@gmail.com.



Join our Parish Family

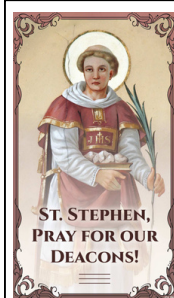
St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

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 Brooke Keller at bnkeller@stephen.org.



Thank You for an Amazing Week of Totus Tuus!

Thank You for a great week at Totus Tuus! This past week, St. Wenceslaus and St. Stephen the Martyr were blessed to host Totus Tuus, a vibrant Catholic summer camp for our young people. A team of college-age missionaries collaborated with our High School Youth Minister Mitchell Hochstein and many other volunteers, families, and staff hosted children in 1st-6th grade during the day for lessons, games, Confession, Adoration, and even a big party to end the week! During the evening, the missionary team hosted grades 7th-12th for prayer, food, Scripture and fun activities. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, talent, or prayers to make this week a success! You reflected the love of Jesus in countless ways. May the blessings of this week continue to bear fruit in the hearts of our young people and our parishes.



Come & See Event for Prospective Permanent Deacons

Catholic men ages 31-55 who are discerning a call to serve the Church as permanent deacons, along with their wives, are invited to a "Come and See" event on Tuesday, July 28th, at 6 PM in the St. Elizabeth Room at St. Wenceslaus Church. The evening will include information about the vocation and ministry of the permanent diaconate, formation requirements, the application and evaluation process for the class beginning in September 2027, and the four-year formation program. If you plan to attend, please notify Father Dave in advance at d.belt@stephen.org.

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Why are Catholics required to give money to the Church?

Answer: Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22). One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called "tithing," in which 10 percent of a person's goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God.

Today, the practice of tithing — giving 10 percent — is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that, "The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities" (no. 2043). This means that, although we are not bound to practice "tithing" in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us. Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees.

How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, "As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (4:10). ©LPi

Food Pantry Curbside Drop-off

Saturday, August 1st | 10 AM - Noon

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



Needed hygiene items:
Toilet paper, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, laundry soap, cleaning supplies

Needed Food Items:
Canned chicken/tuna, cake/brownies, canned fruit and vegetables, cereal, canned ravioli & spaghetti

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

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

Blessing of Expectant Mothers



AFTER MASSES ON AUGUST 1ST & 2ND

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

First Saturday Rosary

Saturday, August 1st
Prior to
8:15 AM Mass
Worship Space

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](mailto:gleaham@hotmial.com) at gleaham@hotmial.com or (712) 551-6293.

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

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart
to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong.
For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?" (1 Kgs 3:9)

Psalm:

Lord, I love your commands. (Ps 119)

Second Reading:

We know that all things work for good for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:28)

Gospel:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
(Mt 13:44)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Christ compares the kingdom of Heaven to
buried treasure — the find of a lifetime, one
you would risk everything to keep. Are we
doing all we can to hold onto this treasure
that we have been lucky enough to discover?
What is Heaven worth to us?

Observances for the week of July 26, 2026

- Sunday:** 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wednesday: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Thursday: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Friday: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Saturday: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Next Sunday: 18th 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, July 25

8:15 AM † Marlene Neesen (JN)
5:00 PM † Mark Mannino (DB)

Sunday, July 26

7:30 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
9:00 AM † Dee Oberst (JN)
10:30 AM † Gene Zywiec (JN)
6:00 PM † Lu Hill (AS)

Monday, July 27

6:30 AM † Astrid Ferony (JN)
8:15 AM † Judy Zegers (JN)

Tuesday, July 28

6:30 AM † Astrid Ferony (JN)
8:15 AM † Beatriz Gutierrez Puentes (DB)

Wednesday, July 29

6:30 AM † Bill Knudsen (JN)
8:15 AM SI Stamp Family (DB)

Thursday, July 30

6:30 AM † Gordon & Mary Lou Sechrist (DB)
8:15 AM † Mary Grohmann (DB)

Friday, July 31

6:30 AM † Astrid Ferony (JN)
8:15 AM † Florence Moseke (DB)

Saturday, August 1

8:15 AM † Mary Grohmann (DB)
5:00 PM † Clare M. Buresh (DB)

Sunday, August 2

7:30 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
9:00 AM † Dee Oberst (AS)
10:30 AM † Gene Zywiec (AS)
6:00 PM † John Synowicki (DH)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; JN = Fr. John Norman;
AS = Fr. Andy Sohm; DH = Denny Hanneman

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



Pray For...

Pray for deceased souls of our parish:

Cathy Loyett, sister of Paul and Carol Richter
Carole Stickels, daughter of Jen Smith
Kathleen Jorgensen, mother of Kaye John
Victoria Kreidler, child of Michaela & Tim
Mary Kosnjek, mom of Christina & sister of Susan

Pray for those sick/injured/healing:

Tom Johnson, husband of Cheryl
Randy Pfeifer, brother of Cheri
Lawrence Boettcher, husband of Judith
Jerry Armbrust, husband of Jane
Rebecca Updike, mom of Sandy (Kenny) Estee
Trish Gappa, wife of Brian Gappa
Isaac Speed, grandson of Jeff & Marlene Stumpf
Cecelia Nelson, sister of Mary Spangler
Zongo Gisele, wife of Alexis Yaméogo
Brenda Kreber, wife of Dave
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
Chris Sievers & family, **Norman Thomas**,
Jerry Smith & Ron Rauat

Congratulations, KOC Scholarship Recipients!

The Knights of Columbus received many applications for the 2026 Deacon Wesley Kreun Memorial Scholarship. We want to thank all of the students who applied. Our parish is blessed with many outstanding young people who serve our community in meaningful ways, and we were impressed by every applicant. After reviewing the applications, we are pleased to announce the following 2026 scholarship recipients:

\$500 Catholic High School Scholarships

Rylan Pearson | Landon Peacock | Delaney Schmitz | Ryland Smith

\$1000 College and Trade School Scholarships

Grant Venner | Zachary Pandorf | Ty Korensky | Lucy Shaner | Carter Willette

Please join us in congratulating these recipients and wishing them success in the coming school year.



Save the Date! Annual Golf Outing Sept. 13 | 2 PM Tiburon Golf Club

The Knights of Columbus Council 10160 will host its Annual 9-Hole Golf Scramble at Tiburon Golf Club on Sunday, Sept. 13 at 2 PM. All proceeds stay in our local community.

Event Highlights:

- 9-hole scramble (sign up as a single, twosome, threesome, or foursome)
- \$75 per golfer (includes golf, cart, and appetizers)
- Tee Box Events, raffle prizes, and auction items

Proceeds Benefit:

Project Harmony | Wreaths Across America | Veterans Stand Down | Project Pink'd | St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Support the Event!

Corporate Sponsorships | Support the Silent Auction

Contact: Dave Smith at 402-740-7128 or dcsmith37@icloud.com

Register after Masses August 2nd, 9th & 16th

Donate



Celebrate
MORE LIFE. GIVE BLOOD.



Blood Drive Sponsored By Knights of Columbus

St Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church
16701 S Street

**Saturday, August 15, 2026
7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:
StStephenOMA to schedule an appointment.

Questions...
Contact Tom Jaworski at (402) 469-5529



Come to give blood in August for a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. Terms: rcblood.org/August.



Scan to schedule an appointment.

Community News

Omaha Area Council of Catholic Women Summer Meeting

All women are invited to the OACCW (Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women) Summer Meeting on Tuesday, August 11th, 2026, at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church, 2005 Davis Dr. Blair, NE. Registration begins at 9:30 AM (\$10, includes coffee, rolls, and lunch), with the meeting at 10 AM. Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 AM, followed by lunch, guest speaker Sam Minarik, and commission reports. Come enjoy a day of faith, fellowship, and inspiration. Please RSVP by August 1st to Leonarda Arens at arensljrepair@hotmail.com or text 402-253-5120 for the lunch count.

A Knights Benefit Supporting the Holy Family Shrine

Join the Gretna Knights of Columbus on Sunday, August 23rd, at The Cloisters on the Platte in Gretna for an evening of faith, fellowship, and fine dining – all to support the Holy Family Shrine. The evening will begin with Mass, followed by a Social Hour and a chef-curated gourmet dinner. Funds will support the Holy Family Shrine as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. For more information or to register, visit <https://kofc-gretna.org/knights-at-the-cloisters/>.

West Omaha Family of Catholic Parishes

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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

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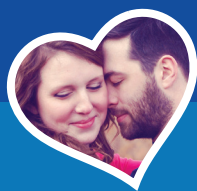
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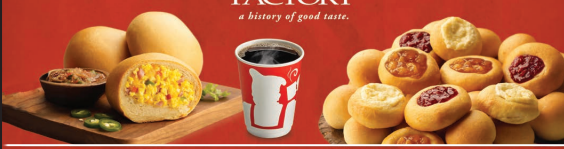
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