



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

October 18, 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 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. John Norman

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

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



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Repay to Caesar what
belongs to Caesar and to
God what belongs to God."
- Mt 22:21

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

GLP

Pastor's Message – From Father Dave

**"Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"...
Jesus said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs
to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."**



By asking this question, the Pharisees were not seeking legal advice from Jesus. Their true intent was to trap him. Either way He answered, Jesus would place Himself in grave danger with some authority. If He said, "No, you should not pay," the Roman police would arrest Him. If He said, "Yes, you should pay," He would be caught by His own people as one who collaborated with the Roman Empire. They wanted to catch Him, to find a reason to get rid of Him.

The answer that Jesus gave stays with us even today: "Give to the emperor what is of the emperor, and give to God what is God's." Jesus tells us that we must give to God what carries God's face; give to God what is created in His image. So, what IS created in God's image? What is imprinted with God's face? What does God expect us to give to Him? Not a Church, not money, not lists of prayers, not the countless meetings and activities that take place in the parish. God expects us to give Him ALL that is good; ALL that can help others; ALL that will make a positive difference in the world today. If there are starving children and refugees, sick people who are ignored, poor people who have no means of educating their children, people who are dying alone, we should not rest.

We must give to God what belongs to God, namely, our very lives. We are all created in the image and likeness of God. The face of God is imprinted on our hearts. Jesus tells us today that we must give ourselves back to God by serving the needs of others. We can only serve one master, and that Master is God, who has given us every good thing on the earth.

"Let all Christians appreciate their special and personal vocation in the political community. This vocation requires that they give conspicuous example of devotion to the sense of duty and of service to the advancement of the common good." – Vatican Council II, 'The Church Today'

*In Christ,
Father Dave*

Together,
A Community *for All*



**Make your commitment to St.
Stephen the Martyr today!**

Your participation strengthens our parish
family. Thank you for your involvement!

Turn in your commitment
card or visit stephen.org
to fill it out online



Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Lyla Ann Porter,
daughter of Dayne and Miranda
Sofia Isabella Karstrom,
daughter of Andrew and Belen

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.

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 10/6-10/12/2026:

Actual:	\$40,696
Budget:	\$52,688

FYTDA:	\$696,811
FYTDB:	\$790,323

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.



World Mission Sunday Collection

The first worldwide Mission Sunday collection took place October 1927. The annual collection is always held toward the end of October. The day is celebrated in all the local Churches, so Christians all over the world can recognize their common responsibility with regard to the evangelization of the world. Please place your contribution in the collection basket or scan the QR code to donate online. Thank you for your generosity!



Archbishop's
Annual Appeal

The 2026 Archbishop's Annual Appeal is beginning throughout our diocese. You will receive an invitation from Archbishop McGovern to support the work of the Church through a personal commitment.

The financial and participation goals for St. Stephen the Martyr this year is \$224,025.

As disciples of Jesus, we are invited to trust, to let go of fear and open our minds and hearts to God's saving work. What is holding you back from sharing your gifts?



Congratulations, Newly Married!

Emily Vanwerden and Elie Elkahwaji

Our faith community wishes you many blessings!

School News

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

- **Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences** are scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd. Find signups in the Martyr Messenger sent on Oct. 8th. We appreciate your collaboration and want nothing but the best for all our students. We look forward to meeting with you!
- **Fall Break:** There will be no school Oct. 22-26th. Classes resumes on Oct. 27th.
- **Fall Family Frolic:** Join us at Vala's Pumpkin Patch on Monday, October 26th from 11 AM-4 PM for our annual Fall Family Frolic, hosted by our Home & School Association. Your family is responsible for admission at the door, no advance ticket purchase is required. We have the Jack O'Lantern Party Barn reserved for a SSM meet-up space and we'll provide s'mores from 1-3 PM! Wear your SSM spirit or Martyr Marathon shirt, grab your friends and join us for lots of St. Stephen family fun!

Religious Education

- **Pancake Breakfast TODAY Sunday, Oct. 18th:** Support Religious Education! Stop in after Mass and enjoy breakfast with your family. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for your generous support of the Rel Ed program!
- **Raise some "dough" for Religious Education!** The Rel. Ed. department is selling frozen cookie dough from The Cookie Company now through November 11th. Scan the QR code to order online!
- **RSVP for Rel Ed Family Mass Oct. 27th & 28th:** All Religious Education families are asked to celebrate Mass together at 5:30 PM on Tuesday or Wednesday. Following Mass, families will gather in the Dining Room for a Pizza & Potluck dinner. Please RSVP and sign up to bring a side dish or to volunteer by scanning this QR code: This event replaces regular classes this week. Please join us on whichever evening works best for your entire family!



Youth Ministry

- **Witness Wednesdays:** Youth Night for High Schoolers: Join us on Wednesday, October 21st from 8-9:30 PM at Wenceslaus. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us every Wednesday! Learn more at stephen.org/witness-Wednesdays.
- **Middle School Youth Group:** All 6th-8th graders are invited to Middle School Youth Group on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8 PM! Join us October 20th to spend time with friends, grow in your faith, and have fun! No Youth Group October 27th due to RE Family Masses. Learn more at stephen.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER

ONLINE ORDER DEADLINE NOV. 11

\$20 PER TUB

TUBS OF COOKIE DOUGH COME IN SEVEN VARIETIES - OATMEAL CHOCOLATE CHIP, OATMEAL RAISIN, OATMEAL BUTTERSCOTCH, LOW-FAT LEMON OATMEAL, PEANUT BUTTER, GINGER, AND SUGAR COOKIE

NO PRESERVATIVES - JUST DELICIOUS, MADE-FROM-SCRATCH GOODNESS! READY TO BAKE, RIGHT FROM THE TUB TO THE OVEN. EACH TUB MAKES 3-4 DOZEN COOKIES!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO PLACE AN ORDER
QUESTIONS? CONTACT S.KIMMEY@STEPHEN.ORG





Together, a Community *for All*

It's Commitment Weekend! Join us in supporting our parish through our "A Community for All" renewal program. Your annual commitment helps bring life to our community and sustain the ministries that make St. Stephen the Martyr thrive. If you haven't yet completed your Commitment Card, you can scan the QR code to fill it out electronically or mail your card to the church.

Our goal is 100% participation! Thank you for your generosity and support of St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church!



American Red Cross



Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.
Help save lives.

Give blood.

Blood Drive Sponsored By Knights of Columbus

St Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church
16701 S Street

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

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)




TRIVIA NIGHT

NOVEMBER 14, 2026

REGISTER A TEAM

VOLUNTEER TO HELP

SPONSOR THE EVENT

THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN TRIVIA NIGHT!



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED OR VISIT STEPHEN.ORG/TRIVIA-NIGHT

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CARRIE ASHLEY
402-861-4541/C.ASHLEY@STEPHEN.ORG



ALL SOULS DAY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

Let's pray together for our deceased and current members. Coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship afterwards in the GPC

Christmas Party 2026
Thursday, December 10th | 6 PM

More information to come!

Help Build **COMMUNITY**

THIS ADVENT

This Advent and Christmas season, grow in faith, build meaningful relationships, and encounter Christ through our **Small Group Initiative** starting this Advent. Learn how you can facilitate a small group and create a welcoming space for connection, encouragement, and faith. No experience necessary—just the desire to build community at St. Stephen the Martyr!

Small Group Facilitator Training
Thursday, Nov. 5 | 6:30 PM
Parish Center

Questions? Contact Brooke Keller at bnkeller@stephen.org



You bring the heart to serve
We'll give you the tools to get started

RSVP
for the Small Group Facilitator Training



WEST OMAHA FAMILY OF PARISHES

YOUNG ADULT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

at St. Stephen the Martyr

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7TH
9AM START TIME

- For ages 21-39
- Teams of 6-8 people
- Lunch will be provided

*Each team must have at least 2 females on the court at all times
*2 games guaranteed per team

Scan to Register




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.



Breakfast at
St. Stephen the Martyr  kofc10160.org



Sunday, Oct. 18th
after the 7:30 AM Mass until 12 PM

Proceeds this week support St. Stephen Religious Education

Three menu options:
Pancake Breakfast, Eggs Breakfast, or Biscuits & Gravy
Cost: \$10.00/adult, \$7.00/child, or \$35 max for family

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

Registration Now Open!

2026 PARISH RETREAT
Unfolding the Journey

November 20th - 21st
Friday: 6-10 PM | Saturday: 8 AM-3:30 PM
St. Stephen the Martyr Dining Room

All adult parishioners - men and women - are invited to join us to meet Jesus in community and learn more about our faith.

Scan to Learn More & Register Now! 
Questions: bnkeller@stephen.org

WHY DO WE DO THAT?
Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Why don't Catholics add the "For yours is the Kingdom ..." prayer at the end of the Our Father like Protestants do? Where did it come from?

Answer: The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer that you refer to is called a doxology, which is a prayer of glory and praise. This particular doxology we do use in the Mass. After the Our Father, the priest prays the prayer that begins, "Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil..." and the people respond with the doxology. The doxology is not found in the Bible, but it is very ancient. It was first found in The Didache, also called "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles," which dates probably from about the year AD 90. It was a letter of instruction to early converts to Christianity. Protestantism dates only to the sixteenth century, so the doxology is actually a Catholic prayer. Some scholars and the catechism (#2760) indicate that the doxology was connected to the celebration of the Eucharist and was not used apart from it.

Remember, both the Lord's Prayer and the Eucharist were part of the "mysteries of faith," things taught only to believers. Ironically, a remnant of a prayer used during the celebration of the Eucharist has come to be used widely by many Christian churches that do not celebrate the Eucharist! Truth is indeed stranger than fiction! ©LPi



RECOGNIZING THE STRANGER
WITH FR. SCOTT HASTINGS

Sunday, October 25th | Noon
Dining Room

Join Father Hastings for an engaging talk exploring Catholic teaching, the rights and responsibilities of Catholics, and how our faith speaks to the immigration challenges facing our Nebraska neighbors today.

Light refreshments will be served.  **RSVP**

STRATEGIC PLAN SHARING NIGHT

Join us as we share our updated Strategic Plan. Come learn more about where we're headed and how you can be part of the mission!

 **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 | 7 PM**
ST. TERESA ROOM | PARISH CENTER

All are invited!

Questions?
Reach out to Brooke Keller at bnkeller@stephen.org



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 or (712) 551-6293.

"A Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration is the best way to grow spiritually (outside of Mass)." — St. Pope Paul VI

 **What Do We Do in Adoration?**
Scan to Learn More with Fr. Josh Johnson

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH

Lector & EMHC MINISTRY REFRESHER AND FORMATION WORKSHOP

All current Lectors and EMHCs are invited to a November refresher workshop featuring spiritual reflection and a review of Mass procedures.

Lector Workshops

- Wednesday, November 11, at 7 PM
- Sunday, November 15, at 1 PM

Lector RSVP: 

EMHC Workshops

- Wednesday, November 18, at 7 PM
- Sunday, November 22, at 1 PM

EMHC RSVP: 

Attend one session for each ministry that you serve



St John Paul II
Feast Day, October 22

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus,
whose right hand I grasp,
subduing nations before Him. (Is 45:1)

Psalm

Give the Lord glory and honor. (Ps 96)

Second Reading

We give thanks to God always for all of you,
remembering you in our prayers,
unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and
labor of love. (1 Thes 1:2-3)

Gospel

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21)

Observances for the week of October 18, 2026

- Sunday:** 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Mission Sunday
- Monday:** Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs; St. Peter of Alcantara
- Tuesday:** St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
- Thursday:** St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
- Friday:** St. John of Capistrano, Priest
- Saturday:** St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
- Next Sunday:** 30th 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 at stephen.org/prayer-line or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 17

8:15 AM † Cathy Burkhard (DB)
5:00 PM † Florence Moseke (JN)

Sunday, October 18

7:30 AM † Patty Zahm (JN)
9:00 AM † Joyce Murphy (DB)
10:30 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
6:00 PM † Charles & Marie Werp (DH)

Monday, October 19

6:30 AM † Robert Ward (JN)
8:15 AM † Marcy Lackovic (JN)

Tuesday, October 20

6:30 AM † Bill Knudsen (DB)
8:15 AM † Everett Lorkovic (JN)

Wednesday, October 21

6:30 AM † Jeffrey Kane, Jr (DB)
8:15 AM † Don Schaefer (JN)

Thursday, October 22

6:30 AM † Mary Grohmann (DB)
8:15 AM † Jane Schuyler (DB)

Friday, October 23

6:30 AM † Forrest Ramsey, Jr. (DB)
8:15 AM † Lisa Venner (JN)

Saturday, October 24

8:15 AM † Don Schaefer (JN)
5:00 PM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)

Sunday, October 25

7:30 AM † Don Schaefer (DB)
9:00 AM † Joyce Murphy (JN)
10:30 AM † Gene Zywiec (JN)
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; GO = Fr. Gary Ostrander; DH = Fr. 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:

Billie Watsabaugh, mother of Amy
Anthony "Gene" Fees, husband of Susan

Pray for those sick/injured/healing:

Brandon Visek, son of Gary & Teri
Lawrence Boettcher, husband of Judith
Jerry Armbrust, husband of Jane
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 Rauart

October is Respect Life Month

Visit stephen.org/respect-life for all Respect Life Month Activities

PRAY & TAKE ACTION

Saturdays in October

Rosary prior to 8:15 AM Mass: Join the Knights of Columbus every Saturday in October to pray the Rosary together as a community before 8:15 AM Mass in the Worship Space. We will follow the USCCB's meditations on the mysteries offered as a prayer for all life, from conception to natural death.

Respect Life Diaper Drive

Join us to collect diapers for local women & families in need. Sizes 4, 5, and 6, along with pull-ups, are the most needed. Drop donations in the Gathering Space or School Commons throughout October, placing diapers in the pack 'n plays. To contribute financially, scan the QR code. Diapers will be distributed to local pro-life organizations.



Oct. 22nd: 40 Days for Life Prayer Day

We will be taking part in the 40 Days for Life campaign to pray and fast for an end to abortion. Scan the QR code to sign up to pray from your home/work, in our Adoration Chapel, or outside Planned Parenthood on N. 93rd St.



Oct. 22nd-30th: Respect Life Novena

Pray for the protection of human life, from conception to natural death. Each day of the novena features a different pro-life prayer intention, accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.



Community News

Toastmasters: Join us for a special Halloween-themed Toastmasters meeting on Wednesday, October 21st, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the Parish Center. Guests are welcome! For more information, contact Tom Johnson at 402-598-4867.

Scholarship Opportunity: The Omaha Urban Area of Catholic Women (OUCCW) offers a \$500 scholarship and a \$250 honorable mention award for Catholic high school senior girls. The winning application will also compete for a \$750 archdiocesan scholarship. Applications are available through high school guidance counselors and must be mailed to Cathy Vak, 3255 S. 77th Street, Omaha, NE 68124, by January 15th, 2027. Questions? Call (402) 391-0484.

Serra Club Rosary & Mass to Pray for Vocations: All are invited to join the Serra Club of West Omaha at St. Stephen the Martyr on Monday, Oct. 19th, at 5 PM for a Rosary and Mass to Pray for Vocations, celebrated by Father Harry Buse with Deacon Tom Deall. A meeting and mixer will follow at 6:15 PM, featuring a talk by Deacon Tom on the North American Martyrs. Light refreshments will be provided. Help support vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life in the Archdiocese of Omaha.

"The Way" through Grief: If you or someone you love are going through the journey of grief, Catholic Cemeteries is offering a grief seminar "The Way" through Grief. This seminar consists of six two-hour sessions beginning at 10:30 AM on Saturday November 14th through December 19th. Through prayerful reflection and guided fellowship, we offer a journey from life in grief to the life our Lord wishes for each of us. To register or for more information, contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com. Catholic Cemeteries, our Faith is at the heart of all that we do!

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

FORGE
— O M A H A —

presents

Men in the
Spirit



Pete Burak

WHEN

Tuesday, October 27th

Doors open 7PM.
Talk begins at 8PM.

WHERE

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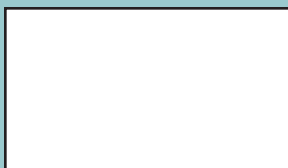
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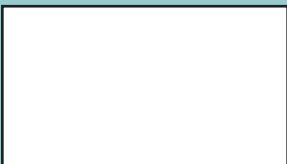
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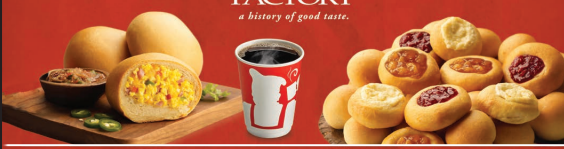
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