



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

October 4, 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.



A Community *for All*

Over the next few weeks, you'll hear more
about our renewal program supporting the
mission and vision of St. Stephen the Martyr.

We invite you to pray and reflect with your
family on the impact of our parish ministries.

Commitment Weekend: Oct. 17-18

Questions? Carrie 402-861-4541 | c.ashley@stephen.org.

Learn more at

stephen.org/community-for-all



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The stone that the
builders rejected has
become the cornerstone."
- Mt 21:42ab

Pastor's Message – From Father Dave

"Let me now sing of my friend, my friend's song concerning his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside... What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?"



In the first reading this weekend, Isaiah's touching words are written as poetry. They portray God as a tender friend who lovingly cares for the vineyard. These words are deeply personal: Isaiah uses the word "friend" 3 times in the first 3 verses, which indicates God's deep love and affection for His people. The use of the "friend" image makes the betrayal in the final verses even more painful. Anyone who has ever been betrayed by a friend will understand the heartache that God experiences when His beloved people turn their backs on Him and the gifts that he provides for them. Despite all of the tender care that God puts into building and tending the vineyard, the people respond by allowing the vineyard to become overgrown with thorns and thistles, and the harvest rots in the field.

During our lives God prepares us to bring forth good fruit from our labors but many times our sinful attitudes and behavior render our work and devotion fruitless. We should think of the vineyard as valuable property which provides abundance for all people, especially those who are poor. But this really hasn't happened, and the poor continue to be poor while the rich continue to grow richer. Isaiah teaches in this parable that God's response is to bring ruin to the once fertile vineyard as a punishment for Israel's sinfulness.

We must realize that God continues to build and care for His vineyard and He gives the produce to us as a complete gift. In turn, He requires us to be responsible stewards of the gifts that He gives to us and to use those gifts to care for one another. But how often do we refuse to share what has been given to us because of our own selfishness and greed? How many people continue to go without companionship, food, clothing, and shelter in our community and in our world because we want to keep the wealth for ourselves?

God's abundant life and friendship come to us in so many ways. It is up to us to care for the gifts of the vineyard. At the time of the harvest, God will ask each of us, "What grapes have you yielded from the fertile vineyard that I built and entrusted to you?" How will we answer?

"Do not be afraid to refuse words, acts, and attitudes which are not in conformity with Christian ideals. Be courageous in rejecting what destroys your innocence or damages the freshness of your love of Christ."

—St. John Paul II

*In Christ,
Father Dave*



Respect Life Sunday

Today is Respect Life Sunday, which kicks off Respect Life Month. We consider more deeply why every human life is valuable and reflect on how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death. Find many ways to pray and take action this month on page 3 of this bulletin.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

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 9/22- 9/28/2026:

Actual:	\$39,918
Budget:	\$54,444
FYTDA:	\$610,255
FYTDB:	\$684,444

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

Thank you for your generous giving!

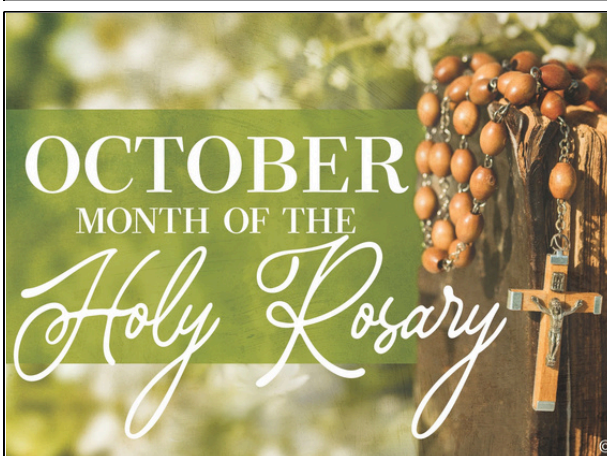
Your financial support is vital to the well-being of our church and school. To make a gift simply scan the QR code or go to stephen.org/give. Offertory envelopes may also be mailed to our office: 16701 S Street, Omaha, NE 68135.



Second Collection Supporting our Respect Life Diaper Drive

There will be a second collection at all Masses this weekend supporting our Respect Life Diaper Drive. Funds will be used to purchase diapers for area organizations that support mothers and families. To contribute, place your donation in the collection basket, or scan the QR code to donate online.

Donations of packages of diapers are also very welcome. Donations can be placed in the pack n' plays in the Gathering Space before Oct. 21st. Thank you for supporting families in need!



Message from Archbishop McGovern

Monthly Message from the Archbishop of Omaha



Dear Friends, I am writing to you asking for your prayers for peace. With the many conflicts around the world and the tensions we may experience in our daily lives, I encourage each of us to pray frequently, even daily, for the Lord to grant us the gift of his peace.

In a particular way we can promote peace by letting go of grudges we may have held for years, or to ask the Lord to free our hearts of feelings of hatred toward others. We can ask the Lord to bless the dialogues between nations that are necessary to open a path to peace. Whether you pray at home or in church, take the time to ask God specifically for the gift of peace.

May God make each of us an instrument of his peace, and where we encounter hatred and division, let us sow love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Archbishop Michael McGovern



Congratulations, Newly Baptized!

Chloe Jane Sempeck,
daughter of Alex and Kayla

School News

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

- **Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences** are scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd. Watch for signups coming in the Martyr Messenger on October 8th. Thank you for taking this opportunity to collaborate with our staff!
- **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!
- **Save the Date for our Annual Trunk-or-Treat!** Join us for a night of family-friendly Halloween fun on October 16th, 6:30-7:30 PM in the South Parking Lot. Watch for an RSVP, trunk signups, and more details for our sweet and spooky plans coming soon!

Religious Education

- **New to the parish and have K-8th grade children in the public school system?** We would love to share our Catholic faith and traditions with them! Visit our Religious Education registration page at stephen.org/reregistration/. We offer traditional Catechist-led classes, a Parent-led home-based program, as well as OCIC for children new to the faith or missing sacraments.
- **Trunk-or-Treat:** Religious Education is co-hosting our annual parish Trunk-or-Treat event on October 16th, 6:30-7:30 PM in the South Parking Lot. RSVP online or sign up to host a decorated trunk. Donations of extra candy are also needed. Visit stephen.org/trunk-or-treat to join in this fun, family-friendly event!
- **Family Mass & Potluck Dinner** for all Rel Ed students and families. Mark your calendars for 5:30 PM Mass on either Tuesday, October 27th or Wednesday, October 28th followed by a pizza and potluck reception! We look forward to sharing an evening of praise and community with you all!

Youth Ministry

- **Witness Wednesdays:** Youth Night for High Schoolers: Join us on Wednesday, October 7th from 8-9:30 PM in the Parish Center. 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 on October 6th to spend time with friends, grow in your faith, and have fun! Learn more at stephen.org.

“We cannot build a just society if we discard the weakest — whether the child in the womb or the elderly in their frailty — for they are both gifts from God.”

- Pope Leo XIV

TAKE ACTION



Oct. 4th: 2026 Life Chain

Join Catholics across Omaha in prayerful support of the unborn on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2–3 PM. St. Stephen parishioners and school families will gather on the south side of Dodge from 84th–87th Streets. Meet at 1:15 PM in the Gathering Space to carpool. Signs provided.

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. 25th: Fr. Scott Hastings on Immigration & the Catholic Faith

Noon | Dining Room

Fr. Scott Hastings will present on Catholic teaching regarding immigration, local demographics, and the personal stories of immigrants. Join us for an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic perspective on migration and the experiences of those in our community.

PRAY



Oct. 3rd & 4th: Expectant Mother Blessing

All Expectant Mothers are invited to the Daily Mass Chapel following all Masses this weekend for a blessing over them and their child.

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.

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.



October is **Respect Life Month**

Respect Life Diaper Drive: Oct. 10th-21st

Support Women & Families In Need

Diaper Drive Hosted in Partnership with St. Stephen the Martyr Council of Catholic Women, St. Stephen the Martyr Respect Life Ministry, Omaha Urban Council of Catholic Women

Diapers will be distributed to local pro-life organizations.

Please join us in collecting diapers for local women and families in need.

Needed Items:

Diapers (sizes: 4, 5 and 6, and pull ups are most needed)

How to Donate

- Drop donations in the Gathering Space or School Commons throughout October (place diapers in pack n' plays)
- Contribute financially online using the QR code.



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.

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.



Welcome, Deacon Mark & Therese Hoyle!



We are pleased to welcome Deacon Mark Hoyle and his wife, Therese, to the Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish family! They recently joined our parish and are excited to share their gifts and become more involved in our community.

Deacon Mark and Therese previously belonged to Saint Patrick Parish in Fremont, where Deacon Mark began his formation for the permanent diaconate and was ordained in 2021. Over the years, they have generously served in youth ministry, marriage preparation, annulment ministry, Bible studies, and other areas of parish life.

You will begin seeing Deacon Mark assisting at the altar at our 6:30 AM daily Mass and weekend Masses. Please join us in giving Deacon Mark and Therese a warm St. Stephen the Martyr welcome! We are blessed to have them as part of our parish family.



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 do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

Answer: The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: "Our Father who art in heaven..." In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — "Give us, this day, our daily bread" — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, "Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." ©LPI



DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT
NOVEMBER 14, 2026

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

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

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



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 or (712) 551-6293.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The Meaning of the Catholic Mass Explained

with Deacon Scott Tylski



Ever wonder why we do what we do at Mass? Every prayer, gesture, and tradition has meaning. Join Deacon Tylski to discover the beauty of the Catholic Mass—and experience it in a whole new way!

Thurs. Oct. 15th | 7-9 PM | Parish Center

Treats provided!

All are welcome

Event sponsored by
CCWIII
Council of Catholic Women

Hospitality Volunteers Needed

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH DONUTS & COFFEE AFTER MASS



Thank you for your generosity!
Scan to sign up to volunteer

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I had not done?

Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes,
did it bring forth wild grapes? (Is 5:4)

Psalm

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.
(Is 5:7a)

Second Reading

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4:9)

Gospel

"What will the owner of the vineyard do to those
tenants when he comes?"

They answered him,

"He will put those wretched men to a wretched
death

and lease his vineyard to other tenants."

(Mt 21:41)

Observances for the week of October 4, 2026

Sunday:	27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday
Monday:	Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest
Tuesday:	St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin
Wednesday:	Our Lady of the Rosary
Friday:	St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest
Next Sunday:	28 th 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 3

8:15 AM † Trinidad Richards (GO)
5:00 PM † Donald Wingert (JN)

Sunday, October 4

7:30 AM † Lewis Storm (JN)
9:00 AM † Jose Francisco Machuca (DB)
10:30 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
6:00 PM † Ginae Goldsberry Smith (TBD)

Monday, October 5

6:30 AM † Florence Moseke (JN)
8:15 AM † Roseann Frisch (JN)

Tuesday, October 6

6:30 AM † Hannah & Allen Perdue (DB)
8:15 AM † Mary Grohmann (JN)

Wednesday, October 7

6:30 AM Communion Service
8:15 AM No Mass due to priest availability

Thursday, October 8

6:30 AM † Michael Bazant (DB)
8:15 AM † Marcy Lackovic (DB)

Friday, October 9

6:30 AM † Jim & JoAnn Stachura (DB)
8:15 AM † Jon Evans (JN)

Saturday, October 10

8:15 AM SI Marla & Tom Rodis (GO)
5:00 PM † John Legel (DB)

Sunday, October 11

7:30 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
9:00 AM † William Hosier (JN)
10:30 AM † John Legel (JN)
6:00 PM SI Eunice Schmaderer (MS)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; JN = Fr. John Norman;
AS = Fr. Andy Sohm; GO = Fr. Gary Ostrander;
MS = Fr. Matt Spotts

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:

Anthony "Gene" Fees, husband of Susan
Scott Long, husband of Jane
Tom McLaughlin, husband of Terri
Gerald Trumm, husband of Roselyn Trumm
Cathy Loyett, sister of Paul & Carol Richter

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

Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Make authentic connections with other women | Learn more about God

Join us for *Living in the Father's Love* to discover just how much God loves us and how the Gospels are deeply relevant to our relationship with God and with those we love.



Friday Faith & Fellowship Bible Study

Friday mornings 9:30-11am in the GPC

Sept 25th--Faith Show & Share
Oct 2nd--Bible study begins

Questions? Contact Christie Hinton at czhinton@mac.com

St. Stephen
sisters of
faith

Calling all St. Stephen the Martyr women!
Mondays | 8 - 9 PM | Parish Center

All women of the parish are welcome! We range from young adult to retired women. We go through a variety of content designed to help us grow as women of faith throughout the year.

Questions? Contact Laura Ganow at (402) 450-5576 or lganow@outlook.com

Parish Office Construction Notice

Construction work will take place in the Parish Office over the next couple of weeks. New security cameras will be installed in the hallway and at the entrance to the Parish Office and additional projects will take place to give our Parish Office a welcoming refresh. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this work.

TRUNK or treat

Please join us for a family night of trick or treating!

October 16

6:30-7:30 PM

🎵 Music, Food & Cocoa to Keep You Cozy! 🍫

*A Food Truck will be in the South Parking Lot from 6-8 PM.

Brought to you by: Home & School Association & Religious Education

RSVP



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

COAT DRIVE

thank you for helping to keep others warm



Sept. 12th - October 5th
Collecting cash/checks or gently worn coats of any size. NEW scarves, hats, gloves, and mittens are needed too!

Look for containers for monetary donations and boxes in the Gathering Space and Parish Center.

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.

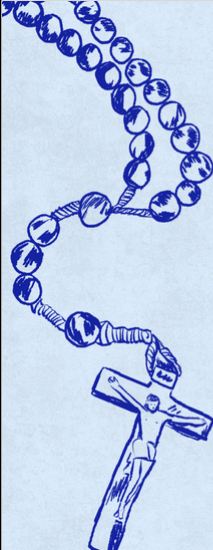
Confession

Mon - Thu: 5 PM until line ends
Sat: 9 AM until line ends; 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM
anytime by appointment

Rosary Rally

America stands at a historic crossroads. Our Lady has called us to "stop offending God" and return to Him in prayer.

Let us heed her maternal request and implore God's mercy and blessings upon our nation through the intercession of His Blessed Mother.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH | NOON

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR CHURCH
WEST SIDE ALONG 168TH ST.

MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
BOB IRWIN - CELL 402-968-9414
SUE HUETON - 605-691-9877

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Agent & Parishioner | tschmitz@farmersagent.com

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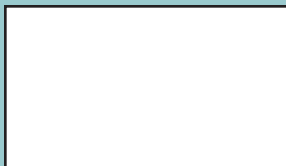
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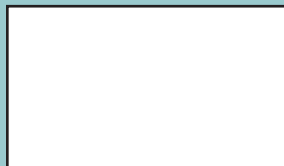
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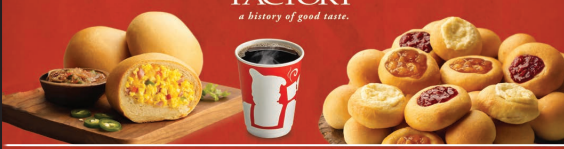
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