



# The Family Connection



St. Stephen the Martyr Religious Education  
 Mary Maguire, Director [www.stephen.org/reled](http://www.stephen.org/reled)

## December 30, 2011

- Jan. 4: Catechist Meeting, DR; 6:30 pm
- Jan. 8: Sunday School Resumes
- Jan. 10/11: R. E. Classes Resumes
- Jan. 20: 7th Grade Retreat; 6 p.m.
- Jan. 21: 7th Grade Retreat; 8:30 am
- Jan. 21: 7th Grade Retreat; 1:00 p.m.
- Jan. 22: First Communion Parent Meeting, DR; 7:30 p.m.

### Office Hours:

Monday: 9 AM – 3 PM  
 Tuesday: 9 AM - 6:30 PM  
 Wednesday: 10 AM- 8 PM  
 Thursday & Friday: Closed  
 Sunday: 9 AM-Noon  
 Or by appointment

You can also call us at 896-5683.  
 Messages will be checked daily.  
 Fax number: 861-4590

- **Director:** Mary Maguire at 896-5683 [m.maguire@stephen.org](mailto:m.maguire@stephen.org),
- **Admin. Asst.:** Eileen Smith at 861-4513 [e.smith@stephen.org](mailto:e.smith@stephen.org)
- **Confirmation:** Deborah Sheehy at 861-4510 [d.sheehy@stephen.org](mailto:d.sheehy@stephen.org)
- **Sunday School/VBS:** Rhonda Richeson at 861-4511 [r.richeson@stephen.org](mailto:r.richeson@stephen.org)
- **Youth Ministry:** Laura Bogue at 861-4509 [l.bogue@stephen.org](mailto:l.bogue@stephen.org)

Want to add something to the newsletter?  
 Contact Eileen at: 861-4513,  
[e.smith@stephen.org](mailto:e.smith@stephen.org)

## Special Mass Offered



St. Stephen the Martyr will be offering a Mass at 7:00 p.m. for the end of school violence in memory of the shooting at Millard South last January.

Please join us:

**Wednesday, January 4th  
 at 7:00 p.m.  
 St. Stephen the Martyr**

as we pray for an end to school violence. This event is opened to the public and all are invited to join.

## First Communion Parent Meeting

Parents of children in the school and R.E. who will be receiving First Holy Communion will meet on **Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 7:30 pm in the Dining Room.** First Holy Communion will be celebrated on April 22, 2012. Please contact Mary Maguire at [m.maguire@stephen.org](mailto:m.maguire@stephen.org) with questions or visit the Sacrament Preparation page at [www.stephen.org/reled](http://www.stephen.org/reled).



## 8th Grade High School Placement Exams

Metro Catholic High Schools will be hosting their eighth grade placement exams on **Saturday, January 14th.** This is an intensely important evaluation from which many high school scholarships will be determined and awarded. It is suggested that a good preparation includes a good breakfast and a good night's rest.



Please keep the intentions of our eighth graders in your daily prayers.

## NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF



Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

### What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

### What you do:

1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an over-hand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.

# Feast of the Solemnity of Mary

January 1, 2012

*“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” - Luke 2:19*

How lightly Mary held Jesus. She did not clutch Him to her but held Him out for the world to know. She knew that He did not belong to her alone. From the moment of His birth she was called upon to share Him with strangers who flocked to see Him. In the same way, we are also called to hold our blessings lightly, being willing to share what God has given to us with those whom God may lead to us. As this New Year begins, let us look to Mary as a grace-filled model of sharing all that God might ask of us.



**New Year’s Masses (follows Sunday schedule)—Feast of the Solemnity of Mary.**

**Saturday at 5:00 p.m.; Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 6:00 p.m.**

## Youth Ministry News

Be sure to check our website at [www.stephen.org/youth](http://www.stephen.org/youth) for more information on what our youth are up to. Contact Laura at 861-4509 or at [l.bogue@stephen.org](mailto:l.bogue@stephen.org).

**EDGE-** Happy New Year, Middle School! Enjoy this special holiday season with all of your loved ones. We will resume on Tuesday, January 10 from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm in the dining room. Be prepared for some “Sonbathing”!



**LIFE TEEN-** Joy to the world, High School! Take time to celebrate this wonderful Christmas season with all of your family and friends. We’ll see you in the GPC on Sunday, January 8 from 7:00 pm-8:45 pm. We want to tempt you to be ready to have an apple-riffic time.

## Church Decorating

**ORDINARY TIME DECORATING —** January 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Space: Come assist with taking down the Christmas Decorations and placing them in storage. Service hours are available for teenagers needing them.

For more information, contact Karen Hardy [k.hardy@stephen.org](mailto:k.hardy@stephen.org) 861-4537.

## Children's Stewardship

Thank you, Jesus for all you do for me. This week, I gave thanks to you by sharing:

- Time:**  
-I participate in the Children’s Choir. Megan  
-I pray nightly. Brian
- Talent:**  
-I sang at a retirement center. Jack  
-I drew some cards for friends. Sara
- Treasure:**  
-I return my envelope with my prayers and change. Andrew  
-I donated toys to a shelter. Macy

## National Vocations’ Week

Prayer Nights During National Vocations’ Week.

January 8 – 14th is this year’s observance of National Vocations Week. The SSM Vocations Committee will be holding a prayer hour each evening that week at 8:00 p.m. in the daily Mass chapel. We invite fellow parishioners to join us for an hour of devotion and meditation as we pray for vocations from our parish and for the archdiocese.

For additional information, call Dennis Riesselman at 402-895-8177.

## Catechist Meeting

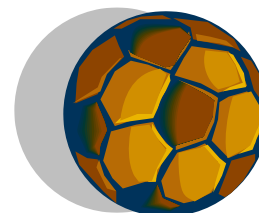
The mid-year Catechist Meeting will be on **Wed., Jan. 4, 2012 at 6:30 pm** in the Dining Room. All catechists should plan on attending. The meeting will only last about an hour. (We do not have class this week so catechists are able to come.)

Following the Jan. 4th meeting (about 7:30 pm), 2nd grade catechists will meet briefly to go over preparations for First Communion and 7th grade catechists will meet for a 7th grade retreat planning meeting.

There is an initial Safe Environment training for new catechists and volunteers at St. John Vianney on Thurs., Jan. 5th from 6:30- 8:30 pm. Please contact Margaret Iossi at [miossi@sjvomaha.org](mailto:miossi@sjvomaha.org) to register.

## Soccer Registration

Spring CYSL and Micro soccer registration will be held Saturday Jan 7th from 10 am-12 pm in the dining room. Any registered parishioner born after Apr 1 2008 is eligible to participate. Season runs from late March to mid-May. Forms are on-line at [www.ssmsportsclub.com](http://www.ssmsportsclub.com) and can be mailed in early to the address at the bottom of the form. Call Greg McHale at 895-0153 with questions.



## R. E. Advent Celebrations



Christmas Prayer Service



Baby Shower Gifts



Our Good Deeds



Shake the Bottles!



Kind. Jesse Tree



Dress the Baby Relay

### Project Hope



**Add Project HOPE to your New Year's Resolutions!** We carry gift cards for the restaurants, grocery stores and retail shops you visit on a regular basis. St. Stephen the Martyr purchases the gift cards at a discount, so you receive the full value of your purchase and SSM retains a portion of each sale.

We carry gift cards for just about everything you do or purchase during the week. A typical family, spending \$100 per week for groceries, \$50 at a discount store and \$50 for gas and \$25 for entertainment, could earn over \$500 for St. Stephen the Martyr in one year. Thank what that would mean if all of our 3000 families participated!

Please stop by the Project HOPE table in the gathering space after mass for more information about how the program works. Request a list of the gift cards we offer, pick up the gift cards you need for the week and start 2012 off with a bang!

### 7th Grade Retreats in January

There will be a 7th grade Retreat on **January 20 or 21, 2012**. This is part of the candidate's Confirmation preparation. There will be three retreats available for the students to attend here at St. Stephen's. We have divided the students by class. Please note which retreat your child has been assigned. If there is a conflict for your child, please call Deborah by January 6, at 861-4510 or email at [d.sheehy@stephen.org](mailto:d.sheehy@stephen.org). No changes will be made after January 6.

January 20, 2012 at 6PM-8:30 PM

- 7A Mrs. Mabeus
- 7AW4 Jerrilyn Anthonie/Natalie Bechtold
- 7BW4 Kathleen Meyer/Julie Riedel
- 7CW4 Arnold Ferry/Halle Hoge

January 21, 2012 at 1PM-3:30 PM

- 7C Ms. Carter
- 7AT4 Christie Wilken
- 7AT5 Michelle Schefcik/  
Kasey Volcelka
- 7AW7 Theresa Hobza/  
Cheryl Vanicek

January 21, 2012 at 8:30AM-11:00AM

- 7B Mrs. Jones
- 7AW5 Taylor Horton/Danielle Kosalka
- 7BW5 Kathleen Meyer/Melissa Bosselman
- 7CW5 Tina Anderson/Denise Frost
- 7BT4 Deborah Lewis/Alicia Sevcik

### Gospel Reflection for Families

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:16-21  
The shepherds find Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem.

**Family Connection:**

In today's Gospel, we learn that Mary honored her commitment to God by naming her child Jesus, the name given to him by the angel Gabriel. In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is told to name the child Jesus because he will save the people. The name Jesus means "God saves." Even in his name, Jesus announces the mission he came to accomplish.



Your family might use today's feast as an opportunity to talk about names. Reflect together on the name of each member of the family. What does each name mean? Why was each person so named?

Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:16-21. Recall that the name Jesus means "God saves." Think about how Jesus fulfilled the mission that his name suggests. Pray as a family that each family member will fulfill their mission to be faithful followers of Jesus, in whom we find our salvation. Pray for Mary's help by praying together the Hail Mary or singing together, "Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly."



## SAVE THE DATE

### *St. Stephen's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pasta Dinner*



Purchase tickets in  
JANUARY

after all 5:00 Saturday  
evening & Sunday 9:00  
& 10:30 a.m. masses  
and at all PAL games.

*Dinner is being provided by none other than:*

*Mama's Pizza*

*Date: Saturday- January 21, 2012*

*from 6:00 pm until 8:30 pm*

*Ticket prices: Age 13 and up \$7.00*

*Ages 4-12, \$5.00 and Ages 3 and under eat free*

*All meals include pasta, salad, bread & drink*

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARD SENDING OUR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR STUDENTS TO WASHINGTON D.C.