



# The Family Connection



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



## January 6, 2012

- 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.

## Baby Shower Huge Success

Thank you to all who participated in the Baby Shower for Mary. The students returned many items that new mothers will be very thankful to receive. Essential Pregnancy Services provide pregnant women and mothers with the medical, educational, material, financial and emotional support they need to become healthy, knowledgeable, and caring parents. Once again our families pulled through with an overwhelming response. We are truly blessed to have each other.



*When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully,  
everyone is blessed.—Maya Angelou*

## Epiphany of the Lord January 8, 2012

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.



*Magi Bottle Craft*

You will need:

- 3 empty Dove travel size shampoo bottles
- Sequins, glue, sparkly sticky back foam, scissors

Start by peeling the labels off and decorate the bottles with the sequins. Let dry.

Cut crowns out of the foam as shown in picture.



Glue them on the caps. Let the glue dry and screw the caps on.

Use to decorate on your favorite shelf!

### 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)

## Sunday School Lesson January 8, 2012

**Intro:** Shepherds Hear about Jesus, Chapter 13

**PreK:** My Family Cares for Me, Lesson 12

**Kind:** Wise Men-Epiphany Sunday  
Prayer: Some Families Poem

**Tues./Wed. Kind.:** Wise Men-Epiphany Sunday  
Prayer: Some Families Poem



## 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 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).

## St. Stephen the Martyr 8th Grade Pasta Dinner

Join us for our Annual 8th Grade Pasta Dinner; provided by Mama's Pizza

**Saturday- January 21, 2012**

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

**St. Stephen the Martyr Dining Room**



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

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 (gluten free available)

**Can't stay to eat? Take out is available**

*All proceeds will go toward sending our 8th grade St. Stephen the Martyr students to Washington D.C.*

### 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 prayed for forgiveness. Jennifer

-I shared time with my older sister to show her I love her. Andrew

**Talent:**

-I had a good report card. Gabe

-I like to play soccer. Amanda

**Treasure:**

-I shared my money. Dana

### 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.

### Disciples of Christ

*The following students received the Disciple of Christ award from their catechists:*

Lucas Ballard      Grade 4

Landon Rief      Kindergarten



### 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.

## Free Throw Shooting Contest!

*The Knights of Columbus* will again be sponsoring their annual **Free Throw Shooting Contest** :

**Sunday**  
**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**12:15 pm**

### St. Stephen the Martyr Gym

All girls and boys ages 9 to 14 are eligible. Sign-up forms are available in the R. E. Office or you may complete a sign-up form immediately prior to the event.

## Pro-Life Mass & Walk for Life 2012

**January 28, 2012 Lincoln, NE**

### Pro Life Mass

9:00 am

St. Mary's Church, (14th & K)

Main Celebrant, Most Reverend William J. Dendinger,  
Bishop of Grand Island

Homilist, Rev. Sidney Bruggeman, Pastor, St. Libory Church,  
St. Libory, NE

### Walk For Life

10:00 am

14th & J—West side of Capitol

Key Note Speaker: Ryan Bomberger (Ryan was conceived in rape and adopted into a bi-racial family. He started the billboard campaign, *Too Many Aborted*, aimed at attacking Planned Parenthood's targeting of minority babies for abortion. He and his wife, Bethany, founded *The Radiance Foundation* to work on pro-life issues.)

## 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 7.

### 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 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

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

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

## Gospel Reflection for Families

### Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

### Family Connection:

The tradition of giving gifts at Christmas is thought by some to be rooted in the gift giving of the Magi. In many cultures, gifts are not exchanged at Christmas, but rather on the feast of the Epiphany. Whenever you exchange your Christmas gifts, take some time to reflect on this tradition of gift giving at Christmas. Think of the best gift you have received. What was it? What made it special? Was it the gift itself, the thought that went into it, or the person who gave it to you?

Read today's Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12. The gifts of the Magi—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—have come to be understood as symbols of Christ's royalty, divinity, and eventual suffering and death. They are special because in giving them, the Magi acknowledge who Jesus was to be: our Savior. We pray that we will acknowledge Jesus as Savior in all that we do and say. Conclude by singing together "We Three Kings."

