

# The Family Connection



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

## June 10, 2011

- June 13-17: Vacation Bible School
- June 19: Fr. Chi's Farewell Reception, 2-4 pm
- July 14, 15, 16: Rummage Sale
- Aug. 3: Catechist Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Aug. 21: Sunday School Open House
- Aug. 23/24: R. E. Classes Begin. Parent Meetings

### Summer Office Hours:

Monday: 9 AM - 1 PM  
 Tuesday: 9 AM - 1 PM  
 Wednesday: 9 AM - 1 PM  
 Thursday: 9 AM - 1 PM  
 Or by appointment

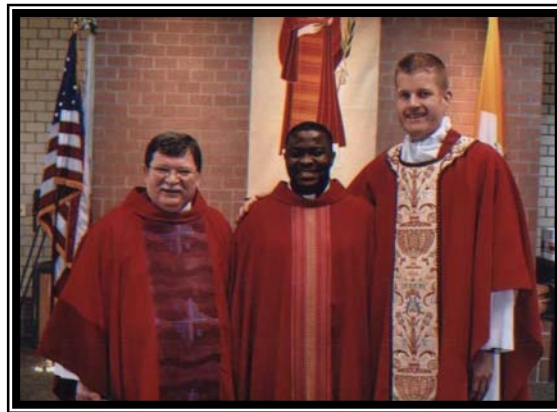
You can also call us at 896-5683.  
 Messages will be checked daily.  
 Fax number: 861-4590

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Editor: Eileen Smith  
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## Farewell Fr. Andrew & Fr. Chi

*It was surely God who gave you your  
 kind and thoughtful ways.  
 May he bless you and reward you with  
 His love all through your days!  
 Thank You-We will miss you!*



Fr. Jim, Fr. Chi, Fr. Andrew

## Youth Ministry News

**Faith Factor:** Hello, Teens! Middle school and high school youth are invited to join us for our 4th Annual Faith Factor Night on Sunday, June 12 from 7 pm-8:45 pm in the GPC. If you think things got crazy last year, wait until you see what we have in store for you this time! So bring your towels, dress for a mess, and come join in on the fun! And as always, friends are welcome.

**Youth Serve:** Current 7th and 8th graders are encouraged to join us for this summer's Youth Serve from Sunday, July 10-Tuesday, July 12. Youth Serve is a 3 day adventure that will give you hands-on experience serving our community doing various projects from home repairs and working at soup kitchens, to spending time with and taking care of the elderly. Learn about Catholic social teachings by living it! Cost is \$150, and includes registration fees, lodging at the St. Columbian's Retreat House (Bellevue), all meals, and a t-shirt! Forms are found on-line.

Check our website at [www.stephen.org/youth](http://www.stephen.org/youth) for more info on what our youth are up to. Contact Laura at 861-4509 or at [l.bogue@stephen.org](mailto:l.bogue@stephen.org) with any questions!

## Project HOPE

### Prepare for Father's Day with Project HOPE.

Celebrate Dad's special day with juicy steaks grilled to perfection from Omaha Steaks, Hy-Vee or Bag 'n Save.

Select a great gift from Cabela's, Dick's Sporting Goods or Lowe's.

Or treat Dad to a summer blockbuster with a gift card to AMC or Marcus Theatres.

He'll have a great Father's Day and you will be supporting the work of your parish while you shop.

Visit the Project HOPE table following all weekend liturgies or stop in the parish office for more information or to purchase gift cards for any of our participating vendors. You hold the power to make a difference!



## Fall Altar Server Training Dates

Any students who are in the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade or older are eligible to become Altar Servers at our weekend liturgies.

To provide a smoother and well-organized training session we are offering three sessions to divide the future Altar Servers into smaller groups.

We will begin in the Gathering Space. We will be signing up servers for the 5:00 p.m. Saturday; 7:30 a.m. Sunday; Noon and 6:00 p.m. masses. You will be scheduled at the 9:00 or 10:30 if you have another family member already serving in a liturgical role at that mass.

### Training sessions will be held on:

**Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>** from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (Parents should plan on staying for the first 20 minutes.)

**Monday August 22<sup>nd</sup>** from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (SSM 5-Day School Students with Last Name A-K) (Parents should plan on attending the last 20 minutes)

**Wednesday August 24<sup>th</sup>** from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (SSM 5-Day School Students with Last Name L-Z) (Parents should plan on attending the last 20 minutes)

If you have any questions regarding the training sessions please contact Karen Hardy at [k.hardy@stephen.org](mailto:k.hardy@stephen.org) or 402-861-4537.

## Rummage Sale

St. Stephen the Martyr Rummage Sale drop offs begin Saturday, June 25. The actual dates for the Rummage Sale are July 14-15-16 .

If you have any large items you are planning to part with this summer, we do have some additional space at our storage facility to accept some early items. Just give the Special Events Office a call at 402-861-4507 and we can make arrangements for drop-off of these items.

## Baby Shower

Baby Shower for Essential Pregnancy Services — St. Stephen's annual shower for items to assist EPS will be held from June 11-June 26. A playpen, in which to put your donations, will be set up in the Gathering Space. In the event that you have larger items that you wish to donate, contact

Wendy Synowicki at 402-896-2217 or [wendysynowicki@aol.com](mailto:wendysynowicki@aol.com).

## Youth Speaker at R.E.L.C.O.

**Thank you, Dana Kosalka!** Dana, daughter of Teresa and Bob Kosalka, was the guest speaker at the spring luncheon for R.E.L.C.O. (Religious Education Leaders and Coordinators of Omaha). Dana spoke about how Religious Education has helped to give her a strong foundation in the Catholic faith and encouraged her to become more involved in parish life. The luncheon was attended by Archbishop George Lucas, Archbishop Elden Curtiss, and priests, D.R.E.s, principals and parish staff from around the archdiocese. Dana will be a senior at Millard West, and has been a student in R.E. at St. Stephen's since she was in Sunday School. She is an active member in Life Teen, Youth Ministry and Teen F.I.S.H., as well as being a teen catechist in Sunday School and 6<sup>th</sup> grade R.E.

## CHANGE IN TUES. AT 4 PM CLASS TIME

In response to the change in ending time for the Millard Public Schools next fall, Religious Education classes that were scheduled to begin at 4:00 pm on Tuesday (only) will now have at 4:15 pm start time. This should help give parents enough time to pick their children up after school and bring them to R.E. The Tuesday at 5:30 pm class time will remain the same. Because of the early dismissal times in M.P.S. on Wednesdays, no other class times will be changed.

If this causes an inconvenience for anyone who has already registered for the Tuesday at 4:00 pm classes, please contact the R.E. Office at 896-5683 and we will help find another class time that works for you and your family.

## 7th & 8th Graders

### Confirmation Parent Meeting (Grades 7 and 8)

**Aug. 21, 2011**

Parents of students in both 7th and 8th grade will meet for a Confirmation Parent meeting on Sun., Aug. 21st at 7:30 pm in the Worship Space.

Confirmation preparation and information (including retreats, stewardship hours, how to choose a patron saint and sponsor) for students in both 7th and 8th grade will be discussed.

## Gospel Reflection for Families

**Gospel:** John 20:19-23

Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### Family Connection:

Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that the Church begins with the command to forgive. Within the family, the domestic Church, we learn how to forgive and how to accept forgiveness. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation.

As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting everyone to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or an issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time reflecting on how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23. Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's Psalm or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another a Sign of Peace.



*www.loyolapress.com from The Sunday Connection*

## EMHC and Lector Training Dates

We are in need of individuals to assist us with our EMHC and Lector Ministries. These individuals must be positive role models, understand how God works in their own individual lives, attend Sunday Mass on a regular basis, possess a spirit of generosity and a willingness to be of service to the community as well as having high moral standards and personal values. We are looking for ministers at all of our mass times, but have a great need at 5:00 p.m. 10:30 a.m.; Noon and 6:00 p.m.

Training involves three steps:

**Archdiocesan Training** (must attend one of three available sessions)

- Tuesday August 16, 2011 at St. Leo's Catholic Church (7:00 pm to 10:00 pm)
- Monday August 22, 2011 at St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church (7:00 pm to 10:00 pm)
- Sunday August 28, 2011 at St. Columbkille Catholic Church (1:30 pm to 4:30 pm)

**St. Stephen the Martyr Internal Training** – Tuesday August 30, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Worship Space

**Mandation Ceremony** – Thursday September 1, 2011 at St. Cecilia's Cathedral at 7:30 pm.

You must register with Karen at [k.hardy@stephen.org](mailto:k.hardy@stephen.org) or contact her at phone 861-4537 in order to reserve your spot at the Archdiocesan Training Sessions.

## Parent Meetings-Aug. 23/24, 2011

The first day of classes in the Fall begins on August 23/24, 2011. Please plan on attending the Parent Meeting during your child's class session after taking your child/children to class to meet their catechist.

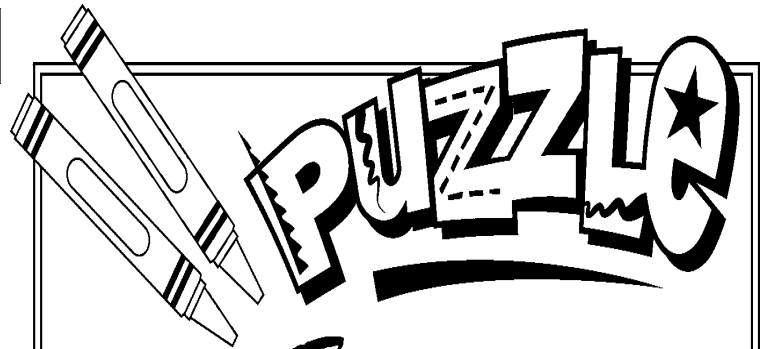
If you are unable to attend the Parent Meeting when your child attends R.E., please make every attempt to attend one at another time. The meeting times will be as follows:

- Tuesday at 4:15 p.m.
- Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday at 4:00 pm
- Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday at 7 p.m.



**\*Catechists/Child Care Helpers/Office Volunteers:** Please do not attend the Parent Meeting. We need you to be at your assigned station. Information from the meeting will be shared with you at a different time.

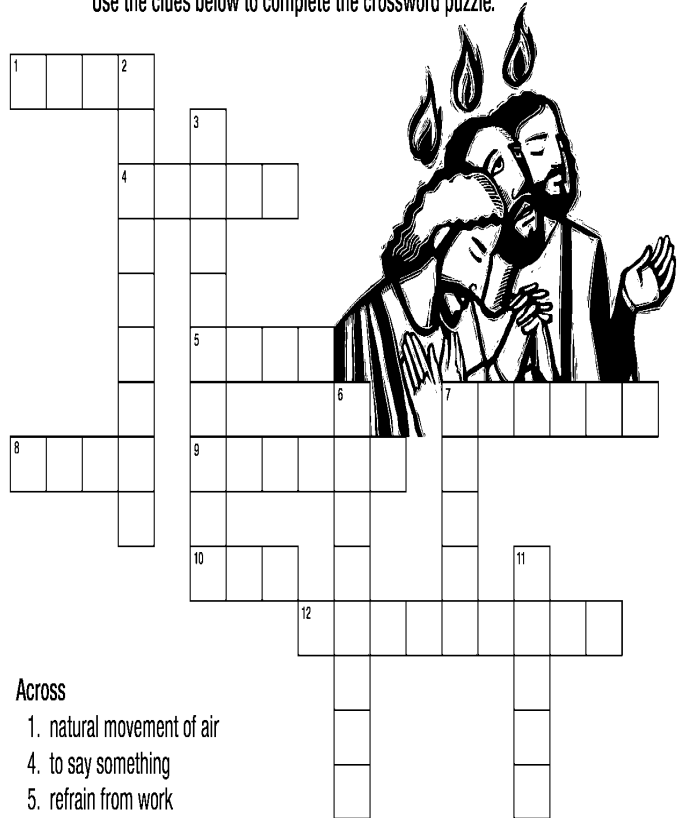
Sunday School families will not have a Parent Meeting on Sunday, but feel free to attend one of the Tue./Wed. evening meetings.



## The Spirit Comes

ACTS 2 TELLS ABOUT A SPECIAL DAY  
WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THE DISCIPLES.

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



### Across

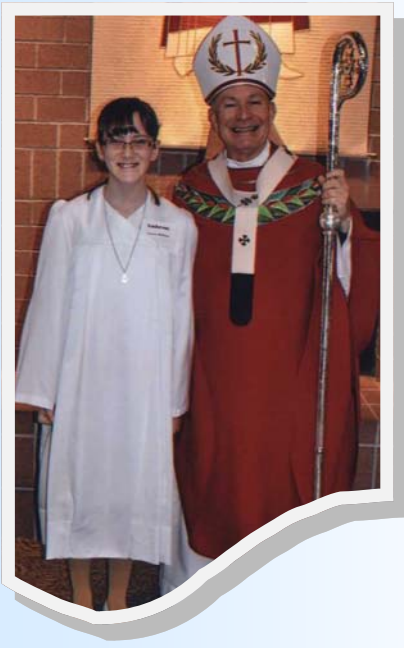
1. natural movement of air
4. to say something
5. refrain from work
7. place where God is
8. a combustion or burning that gives light, heat and smoke
9. part of mouth that can taste and lick
10. the time between sunrise and sunset
12. the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples

### Down

2. followers of Christ
3. moved apart
6. quickly and unexpectedly
7. a building where people live
11. vibrations that travel through the air

Answers: Across 1. wind, 4. speak, 5. rest, 7. heaven, 8. fire, 9. tongue, 10. day, 12. Pentecost; Down 2. disciples, 3. separated, 6. suddenly, 7. house, 11. sound

# Confirmation May 2011



# Youth Ministry Summer 2011 (Grades 6 - 12)

Just because school's out, doesn't mean we won't have things to do this summer! Check-out what we have planned over summer break:

## FAITH FACTOR

Sunday, June 12th

7-8:45 PM in Parish Center

Join us for our 4th Annual Faith Factor! Be sure to dress for a mess, because you never know what crazy things will be in store during this wild night of friendly competition...



## Movie Night

Sunday, July 10th

7-9 PM in Parish Center

Get comfy cozy and settle in for a night of snacks, friends, and our feature film!



## Paintball Expedition

Date and Location To Be Announced

Ok. So, we don't know when and where this adventure will take place. We just know to stay tuned for future updates!

## Brush-Up Nebraska

Saturday, August 13th & 20th  
8 AM -Noon

Team up with our youth and the Knights of Columbus to help a home in need in this year's paint-a-thon!!



## TEEN TRIVIA NIGHT

Sunday, August 28th

7-8:45 PM in Parish Center

Why should the grown-ups be the only ones to enjoy all the fun of Trivia Night? Now it's YOUR turn, so get your teams together!

## BEACH RETREAT

Sunday, August 7th

2-5 PM at South Bend Lake

That's right-what better way to end the summer then with some time in the sun...and sand? Join us for a picnic, sand volleyball, and swimming at the beach! It will be funzies!



**Questions?** You can always reach Laura at 402-861-4509, or at [l.bogue@stephen.org](mailto:l.bogue@stephen.org). Also, don't forget to check out our website: [www.stephen.org/youth](http://www.stephen.org/youth)