

The Family Connection



St. Stephen the Martyr Religious Education
Mary Maguire, Director www.stephen.org/reled

November 4, 2011

- Nov. 13: K.O.C. Pancake Breakfast; 8:30 am-Noon
- Nov. 15/16: R.E. Masses
- Nov. 22/23/27: No R.E. Classes- Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 5/6: First Reconciliation, 7 pm
- Dec. 18: Sunday School Christmas Programs; 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
- Dec. 20/21: Last R.E. class before break
- Jan. 4: Catechist Meeting

The Knights of Columbus Invite you to Join us at our Pancake Breakfast!!

Sunday November 13, 2011

Breakfast served after the 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 masses

Adults - \$6, children age 4-12 - \$4, 3 and under free

\$20 maximum for the entire family!!!

(Immediate family members only, please.)

We will be raising funds to support

St. Stephen the Martyr Religious Education



Trunk-or-Treat

Thanks so much to all of the families who came out and participated with our Trunk-or-Treat night! All of the boys and ghouls has lots of fun . . . and lots of candy. The night was definitely a real treat!



*Trunk
or Treat*

A special congratulations goes out to the **Kramer** family for winning the "Most Creative" car, to the **Hronek** family for the "Most Spooky" car, the **Kelly** family for winning the "People's Choice," and to the **Calpin** family for their "Honorable Mention." We hope you all will join us again next year for another terror-iffic time!

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,
- **Admin. Asst.:** Eileen Smith at 861-4513 e.smith@stephen.org
- **Confirmation:** Deborah Sheehy at 861-4510 d.sheehy@stephen.org
- **Sunday School/VBS:** Rhonda Richeson at 861-4511 r.richeson@stephen.org
- **Youth Ministry:** Laura Bogue at 861-4509 l.bogue@stephen.org

*Want to add something to the newsletter?
Contact Eileen at: 861-4513,
e.smith@stephen.org*

Sunday School Lessons

November 6, 2011

Intro: Thank You for Water and Food, Ch. 8

PreK: Jesus Help Us, Lesson 9

Kind: St. Bernadette
Prayer: Intercession to St. Bernadette

Tue/Wed Kindergarten: (Nov. 8/9)

Jesus Teacher, Ch. 8
Prayer: Dear Father I Heaven, Show God's Love



K.O.C. Breakfast

We could still use a few more volunteers!

The Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, November 13 will be raising funds for the R.E. Department. The Knights of Columbus are asking for volunteers within R.E. to help at the event. Help is needed in the morning between 8:30 am to about noon (*you don't need to be there the entire time*) to serve juice and milk as well as bus tables in the dining room. Contact the RE Office if you can help for an hour or so!



Keep them coming!

We need more empty paper towel tubes for a craft project.

**Please bring them in to the R. E. office by Nov. 15.
Thank You!**

Catechist Needs	Disciples of Christ	Youth Ministry News
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We have spots for 10 more volunteers! Co-catechist help is needed in the following classes:

Tuesday at 4:15 pm: Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8

Tuesday at 5:30 pm: Grade 8

Wednesday at 4:00 pm: Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 8

Wednesday at 5:30 pm: Grade 4,


Wednesday at 7:00 pm: Grade 5, Grade 8

If you are able to volunteer for one of these spots, please contact the Religious Education office 402-896-5683.

The following student's earned the Disciple of Christ Award from their Catechists:



Connor Kinnan	Kind.
Alexis Ladd	Grade 1
Amanda Collette	Grade 1
Hailey Manrose	Grade 4
Mary Rose Sharpenburg	Grade 4
Keifer Holder	Grade 5
Jocelyn Rock	Grade 5
Conor Flynn	Grade 5
Lauren Richter	Grade 5



Be sure to check our website at 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.

EDGE- Are you ready to pick up your Cross, Middle School? Because you won't want to miss this special evening where we dig deep and discover the Paschal Mystery! We'll meet in the dining room from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm on Tuesday, November 8.

LIFE TEEN- We've got a special message for you, High School Teens! Join us in the parish center on Sunday, November 6 from 7:00 pm-8:45 pm. IDK. MY BFF JC.


Project Hope



The weather is changing and the leaves are falling. Make sure you are prepared for the cooler weather. We carry gift cards for Cabela's, Kohl's and JCPenney. Prepare your home and garden, too. We have Lowe's and The Home Depot gift cards in stock every day.

New to Project HOPE: Discover Cards in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations, honored wherever Discover Cards are accepted. We now carry McDonald's gift cards, Costco gift cards and old favorites Hy-Vee, Walmart/Sam's Club and Target.

Visit the Project HOPE table following all weekend liturgies or stop in the parish office, Monday through Friday. If we all work together, we can do great things in our parish and our community. We count on you!



Advent Angel Tree Set Up We will be setting up for this year's Advent Angel Tree on Saturday, November 12. Anyone looking for service hours or wanting to help should meet in the dining room at 3:30 PM to help us assemble the Christmas trees, and decorate them with the donation ornaments.

Parent's Night Out

It's here again!

Parent's Night Out will be on **Saturday, December 3** from 5:00 pm-9:00 pm. All potty-trained children ages 3-11 are welcome! The cost is \$10 per child, or \$25 a family. We are currently looking for youth and adults to help with this event! Volunteer and registration forms may be found on-line or outside of the RE Office.

Gospel Reflection for Families

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13
 Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, teaching his disciples the importance of being prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven.



Family Connection:
 In the daily activities of family life, we can easily find excuses for not attending to our spiritual lives. If not given top priority, prayer and reading Scripture risk becoming occasional activities rather than daily practices. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that if we fail to give our spiritual life priority, we will find ourselves unprepared to receive Jesus. Daily prayer and spiritual practice keeps us ready to receive Jesus.

Gather together as a family and talk about some of the things our faith calls us to do every day and every week to keep God first in our lives. Talk about what might happen if we don't do these things regularly. Explain to your family that Jesus taught us that it is important to keep ourselves ready to receive him when he comes again. Tell them to listen as you read the parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel. Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13. Talk with your family about why Jesus says that it is so important to remain ready to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray together that your family will always keep God first in your lives so that you will all be prepared to receive Jesus when he comes. Pray together the Act of Hope. *O my God, relying on your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.*

Colors of Christmas

A special *Catholic Voice* art contest
for students in grades K-6

The overall winning entry will be published as the front page art in the Dec. 16 issue of the *Catholic Voice*! Eight other winners will be featured in that same issue!

Here's how it works:

- * Create Christmas art based on the Christmas story told in Luke 2:1-20: Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Jesus' birth in a stable and the announcement by angels to shepherds in the region, who visit the Savior wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.
- * Draw and color – using crayons, markers, glitter or oil paint, water color, pastels, whatever you want.
- * Use an 8½ X 11 sheet of paper
- * Submit your entry to the *Catholic Voice* at the address listed at right. Include a contest form, available on the *Catholic Voice* website – catholicvoiceomaha.com
- * Entry deadline: Dec. 5

Additional prizes, too!

The top three entries in each of three grade categories (K-2, 3-4 and 5-6) also receive gift certificates redeemable at participating book/gift stores:

- * \$50 gift certificate for first place
- * \$30 gift certificate for second place
- * \$20 gift certificate for third place

Plus: The overall winner will receive an additional \$25 gift certificate!

Send your entry (please don't fold), along with the entry form, to:

Colors of Christmas
Catholic Voice
P.O. Box 4010
Omaha NE 68104-0010

Parent's Night Out

*Saturday, December 3, 2011
St. Stephen the Martyr Dining Room
5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.*

Parents, are you ready for a break? Need to get some Christmas shopping done?

Leave your kids with us in the SSM Dining Room! We will feed them dinner, have games and crafts, have story time with St. Nicholas, and end the evening with a movie! Registration and payment due November 28th to the Religious Education Office.

\$10.00 per child or \$25.00 a family

Ages 3-11 welcome

*All children **MUST** be potty trained!



Child's Name	Age	Food Allergies

Parent(s) Name (Please Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Emergency #: _____

Photo Release: Pictures of my child(ren) taken during the event may be used in print or electronic media for the purposes of publicity for future events, unless I indicate to the Director of Youth Ministry in writing to the contrary.

Contact Laura at 402-861-4509 or at l.bogue@stephen.org with questions!

This event is sponsored by Youth Ministry and will be Adult Supervised.