

The Family Connection



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



October 28, 2011

Catholic Voice Christmas Coloring Contest

- Oct. 30: Sunday School Festival of Saints
- Nov. 1: All Saints Day Holy Day of Obligation Mass, Tues. 5:30 p.m.
- 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

Presented by the Catholic Voice; a students' "Colors of Christmas" art contest. The theme: Jesus' birth as told in the Gospel of Luke.

The contest begins Oct. 21 and the deadline is Dec. 5. Entry forms will be available on the Catholic Voice website -- www.catholicvoiceomaha.com.

The overall winning entry will be published on the newspaper's front page Dec. 16, and eight other place winners in three categories will be published as part of that same issue's center spread. There are gift certificate prizes, too, redeemable at participating book/gift stores.

Who is eligible? Students in **kindergarten through sixth grade** across the archdiocese – whether they are in Catholic schools, parish religious education programs or schooled at home.

Three art teachers from archdiocesan schools will judge the contest. Any questions, contact Joe Ruff, news editor at the Catholic Voice, at 402-558-6611, or email at jmrruff@archomaha.org.



See rules on pg. 3 of Family Connection.

Halloween Pumpkin Bread

Ingredients

- 1/1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) melted butter
- 1 cup unsweetened pumpkin puree
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 cup mini chocolate chips

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine the all-purpose flour, wheat flour, salt, baking soda, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Set aside.
3. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs. Add the sugar and beat until light and fluffy.
4. Add the melted butter, pumpkin puree, water, and vanilla. Mix well.
5. Add the dry ingredients and stir until blended.
6. Add the chocolate chips.
7. Pour into floured and greased loaf pans.
8. For mini loaf pans, bake 35-40 minutes. For a standard sized loaf pan, bake 45-60 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Serve this recipe with warm caramel sauce and a dollop of vanilla ice cream. Yummy!

Yields 12 servings.

by Rondi Hillstrom Davis and Janell S. Oakes

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

October 30, 2011

All Saints Celebration

Sunday, Oct. 30, is Saint Day. All students and teachers may come dressed as a Saint. Students will be celebrating our annual Festival of Saints with skits and special activities. The S.T.O.N.E.S. drama team will also be on hand to perform for the children.

Tue/Wed Kindergarten: (Nov. 1/2)

Be Like God, Ch. 20
Prayer: Prayer of Saint Francis



K.O.C. Breakfast



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 to serve juice and milk as well as bus tables in the dining room. Contact the RE Office if you can help.

Catechist Needs

We have spots for 11 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, Grade 6

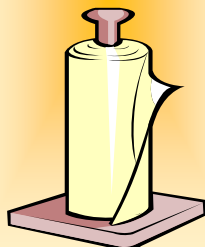
Wednesday at 7:00 pm: Grade 5, Grade 8

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

Keep them coming!

We are collecting empty paper towel tubes for a craft project.

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



Youth Ministry News



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- Calling all Middle School Teens! Be sure to come marching in on Tuesday, November 1 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the dining room...you won't want to miss our Saint's Day Celebration!

LIFE TEEN- We're back, High School Teens, and it's the night you've been waiting for...GYM NIGHT! Join us in the dining room at 7:00 PM on Sunday, October 30. After dinner, we'll head to the gym for free time until 8:45 PM.

Theology of the Body for Teens Retreat - Hey, High School Teens! If you've got a body, this theology is for you. Be sure to mark your calendars for Overnight Weekend Retreat November 18-20th at the Benedictine Retreat Center in Schuyler, NE. Cost is \$100 and covers 2 nights and 3 days at the retreat center, meals, and materials (your very own workbooks!). Registration forms may be found on-line, or at the Religious Ed. Office.

Stewardship Opportunity!

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.



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!

Gospel Reflection for Families

Gospel Reading: Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus warns against following the example of the scribes and the Pharisees and teaches that those who would be great must be servants.

Family Connection:

"Do as I say, not as I do." How many of us have been tempted to say this to our children? In today's Gospel we hear a resounding reply from Jesus, "Practice what you preach." Those who know us best, our family and especially our children, can identify the inconsistencies between what we want to teach and the example that we give. The challenge for all of us, especially for those of us who are parents, is to model with consistency the faith and the Christian way of life we wish to teach our children.

As you gather as a family, talk about what it means to practice what you preach. Identify some examples of people you know who practice what they preach. What do you observe about these people? What do you admire about them?

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus talk about the importance of acting in ways that are consistent with our faith. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 23:1-12. Talk together about ways in which your family might better practice the faith that you profess. Choose one action to take that will show your faith in action. Pray together that your family's faith will be shown consistently in your actions. Pray the Prayer for Vocations (See page 3).



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

Prayer For Vocations

Heavenly Father, bless your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Give those you have called to the married state and those who live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require.

Form us all in the likeness of your Son, so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere.

With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ALL SAINT'S DAY MASS TIMES



For All the Saints

Tuesday, November 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation. All Saint's Day Masses will be celebrated at 6:30 am, 8:15 am, 12 Noon and 5:30 pm. Please note that there is no vigil mass on Monday, October 31.

FREE CREIGHTON VOLLEYBALL TICKETS

Stop by the office to pick up a voucher for a Family Pass of 4 or less to Creighton vs. Wichita St., Friday, November 4, at 7 p.m. Limited quantities.

Happy Halloween

Theology of the Body for Teens

Life Teen over-Night Retreat

Friday, November 18th-Sunday, November 20th

If you've got a body, this Theology is for you! What makes a man a man, and a woman a woman? What's the difference between lust and love? And hey...what is our purpose in life? This retreat will answer all of these questions and more! Through a fun balance of activities, prayer experiences, stories, real-life examples and yes, even pop-culture references, come discover Pope John Paul II's beautiful and wonderful vision for love and life, as adapted by acclaimed speakers Jason & Crystalina Evert and Brian Butler.

PARENTS: *Come get the scoop on the Theology of the Body for Teens!* This special presentation will answer any questions or reservations you have, and will give you a sneak peek into our weekend. Join Dcn. Marty in the Parish Center on Tuesday, October 18th from 9:30-11 AM or from 7-8:30 PM. I also encourage you to visit www.thetheologyofthebody.com.

WHO: For all high school teens

WHAT: A special 2 night retreat to learn about the Theology of the Body in a safe, fun way

FACILITATORS: Dcn. Jay Reily and wife Mary Ann, both certified trainers, will lead this retreat!

WHERE: St. Benedict Retreat Center, 1126 Rd., Schuyler, NE-68661

WHEN: 4:30 PM on Friday, November 18th-11 AM on Sunday, November 20th

**We will meet at St. Stephen's for dinner and then adults will drive teens to Schuyler. We plan on returning home by 2 PM on Sunday afternoon.*

COST: \$100 (*Cost includes price of lodging, meals, and Theology of the Body for Teens handbook.*)

Name _____ Grade ____ Gender ____ Year of Graduation _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent's Name _____ Parent's E-Mail _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone Number _____

___ Enclosed is my payment of \$100! Please make checks payable to St. Stephen the Martyr.

___ Check here if you would like to order a Parent Handbook for an additional \$7.

***REMEMBER!** Your **deposit and consent forms are due Wednesday, Nov. 2nd!**
Consent forms may be found at www.stephen.org/youth.

Please bring consent forms and payment to the Religious Ed. Office.

Questions or concerns may be directed to:

Laura Bogue, Youth Ministry

at l.bogue@stephen.org or 402-861-4509.