

The Family Connection



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

October 9, 2011

- Oct. 9: Reconciliation Parent Meeting, DR; 7:30 pm
- Oct. 11/12: No R.E. Classes

We will not have classes this week because so many of our catechists are teachers and parents in the Millard Public Schools. This allows them to attend conferences for their children and students.

- Oct. 19: Journey of Faith due-gr. 8.
- Oct. 25/26: No R.E. Classes (Parish Mission)
- Oct. 30: Sunday School Festival of Saints

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*

Need To Fill Two Board Of Ed. Positions

The SSM Board of Education has two positions open for those who would like to serve their parish. We are in particular need of candidates who have an interest in our Religious Education Department, either as a catechist or parent.

Candidates should apply for this position by completing the following form:

http://www.stephen.org/school/forms/Board_of_Education_Bio_Sheet.pdf

Send your completed application to t.jorgensen@stephen.org.

The Board of Education provides recommendations to the pastor and advisement to the administrators of the Parish School, Religious Education and Kid Zone programs. The Board meets 6 times a year on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.



Thank you for your consideration in this valuable ministry in the education of our students at St. Stephen the Martyr.

Sunday School Lessons

October 9, 2011

Intro: Jesus Feeds the Crowd, Ch. 3

Pre-K: Jesus is God's Son, Lesson 6

Kind.: You Care, Ch. 6

Prayer: Good Morning God



Tue/Wed Kindergarten: (Oct. 11/12)

No Classes this week.

Pancakes!!

The Knights of Columbus invite you to the first Pancake Breakfast of the season!

Sunday October 9, 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 Boy Scout Troop 494.

Disciples of Christ

The following students were given the Disciple of Christ Award from their Catechists:



Kindergarten

Brody Ronk
 Megan Kopocis
 Jonas Richmann
 Miles Petersen

2nd Grade

Jessica Cunliffe
 Joslyn Vetock

4th Grade

Chase Hall
 Sydni Miklas
 Carole Ciesielski
 Sydni Hall
 Macy Cummins
 Christina Wagner

5th Grade

Emily Conry
 Jocelyn Rock
 Lauren Richter

We need lots more!!

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!



Master Servers Commissioned

We are excited to have several of our 8th grade R.E. students being commissioned as Master Servers this month: Laura Ecklund, Jakob Fontana, Madison Kalvoda, Trevor Kathol, Sarah Kreber, Erica Little, William Marble, Conrad Sandoz and Mary Ellen Turgeon.

We are so proud of these servers and their willingness to serve our parish through liturgies and mentoring younger servers.

We also have 9th graders who will be commissioned as new Senior Servers: Kellie Ecklund, Kaitlyn Malesker, Taylor Novotny and Katie Schulz.



Right to Life Committee

Saturday, October 15 -Pro-life Conference, Building a Civilization of Love & Life: With featured homilist and banquet speaker Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop Emeritus of New York. See SSM ProLife website (www.ssmprolifecommittee.org) for details on Mass, conference and evening banquet.

Every Saturday at 10:00 to 11:00 am - Prayer vigil at the new Planned Parenthood. The facility is located at 3105 N. 93rd St. The prayer service will consist of the Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Scripture Readings, Intercessory Prayers, Litanies, a couple of hymns, and moments for personal prayer and reflection. It is recommended that you park in the protestant church lot (permission has been granted) that is just on the left (west side) as you turn onto 93rd from Maple.

4th Annual Adult Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. -January 21–24, 2012. Please consider joining Nebraskans United for Life (with partnership of the Omaha and Lincoln dioceses) in a pilgrimage to D.C. as they travel to meet with Nebraska representatives, tour a bit of the D.C. area, and most importantly, remember our unborn brothers and sisters and the 38th anniversary of Roe v. Wade at the March for Life. Cost includes airfare, lodging, local transportation, and some meals. We need a \$350 down payment per person by Oct. 26, 2011 to reserve a space on this pilgrimage. Please call (402) 399-0299 for information about travel details.

For more info., visit www.ssmprolifecommittee.org or Bob Finger at 402-953-5806.

Gospel Reflection for Families

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast.

Family Connection:

Today's Gospel reminds us that God invites all of us to his kingdom. How do we respond to this invitation? In theological terms, God has granted us free will to accept or reject salvation. The parable of the wedding feast reminds us that God desires our wholehearted acceptance of his invitation to salvation.

As you gather as a family, discuss what you consider appropriate attire for various occasions. For example, if your family were invited to a neighbor's barbecue, what would you wear? If you were planning to attend the symphony, what might you wear? If invited to an evening wedding, what might you wear? Discuss how our preparations for an event and our choice of attire indicates the importance and value we place on the occasion. In today's Gospel Jesus uses this metaphor to talk about the kingdom of heaven. Read Matthew 22:1-14. Discuss why the guest was thrown out of the wedding feast. What does Jesus expect of those who accept his invitation of salvation? What would be the evidence of our conversion to God's salvation? Pray together as a family that you will respond wholeheartedly to God's invitation to salvation. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 23.



Kids Against Hunger

Thanks to the generosity of so many of you during the past weeks and last Sunday after all of the Masses, we have collected over \$3,000.00. We are so grateful to all who have contributed. We will now be able to send our initial payment of \$2,500.00 by October 13 in order to get the food ordered. This amount also gives us a start on the additional \$2,500.00 that will be due on our packaging date, November 13. If you did not have the opportunity to contribute last Sunday, and still wish to do so, you can drop off or send your donation to the parish office or the GPC. Checks should be made payable to "Kids Against Hunger".

If you have other questions, please contact Sister Clarice at 402-861-4508 or c.faltus@stephen.org.

The Cookie Company has offered a cookie party for any Religious Education class collecting \$50 in donations for Kids Against Hunger.

Project HOPE

Project HOPE provides a way for you to help your parish financially without costing you anything.

As a non-profit organization, we are able to purchase gift cards at a discount and re-sell them to you at face value. You receive the full value of your gift card when you shop, dine out or go to the movies. The parish retains the difference.

We offer gift cards from grocery stores, discount and department stores, home improvement stores, restaurants and specialty retail and clothing stores. No matter what you do during the week, we have a card for that!

Make it a family tradition to stop by the Project HOPE table weekly following mass. If we all work together, we can do great things in our parish and our community.

Priest Visits with Fr. Joseph on Oct 18/19: Gr. 4, 5 and 8

All visits are in the Daily Mass Chapel, except for the ones that are noted.

(Nov. 1/2: grades K, 2, and 6 will meet with Fr. Joseph.)

(Nov. 8/9: grades 1, 3, and 7 will meet with Fr. Joseph)

Tues. at 4:15 pm:	4:20– Gr. 4 (DMC)	4:40– Gr. 5 (DMC)	4:55– Gr. 8 (DMC)
Tues. at 5:30 pm:	5:35– Gr. 4 (DMC)	5:55– Gr. 5 (DMC)	6:10– Gr. 8 (DMC)
Wed. at 4 pm:	4:05– Gr. 4 (DMC)	4:20– Gr. 5 (DMC)	4:40– Gr. 8 (DMC)
Wed. at 5:30 pm:	5:35– Gr. 4 (DMC)	5:55– Gr. 5 (DMC)	6:10– Gr. 8 (DMC)
Wed. at 7 pm:	7:05– Gr. 4 (DMC)	7:25– Gr. 5 (DMC)	7:40– Gr. 8 (DMC)

Reminder: Fr. Joseph will be meeting with a section of students weekly with every grade visiting him every third week.

Catechist Needs

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

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.

Notes of Interest

- ◆ Area Catholic High Schools have requested names of Religious Education students in 5th to 8th grade to send school entrance/recruitment information. Please contact our office if you would not like to receive this information.
- ◆ If you have some free time on Thursday afternoons or Fridays, the Parish Office could use help stuffing the weekend bulletins. Contact Judy Kirst at 896-9675 if interested.
- ◆ 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 Amy Cowman guides students during retreat.

Confirmation Coordinator, Deborah Sheehy and Fr. Jim prepare for the three retreats serving over 200 students preparing for Confirmation.



Thank you so much to all of the catechists who helped lead groups and prayer experiences during the retreats. It was a beautiful weekend!

Lily Dotson's Care Page



This is the care page for Lily. You need to be registered on this site to see her updates: <http://www.carepages.com/carepages/lilydotson>

You can sign up for e-mail alerts when Susie or David update the page.

Parent Meeting

FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENT MEETING

OCTOBER 9, 2011

7:30 P.M.

Parents of children who will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will need to attend an informational meeting with Fr. Jim Tiegs on Sunday, October 9 at 7:30 pm in the Dining Room.

First Reconciliation will be held during the Advent Reconciliation services on Monday, December 5 and Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm, followed by a reception in the Dining Room.

If your child was not baptized at St. Stephen the Martyr, a copy of their baptismal certificate needs to be turned in to the Religious Education office by October 31.

Please see the *Sacrament Preparation* page of our website at www.stephen.org/reled for more information.



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- Sorry, Middle School Teens...No Edge this week! Join us in the dining room next time on Tuesday, October 18 from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. After dinner and our service project, we'll head down to the gym for some free time!

LIFE TEEN- Hi, High School Teens! Have you ever wondered what the difference was between faith and religion? Or hey...what does infallible mean? And why is service and stewardship so important, anyway? Come find out on Sunday, October 9 in the Parish Center! We'll meet from 7:00 pm-8:45 pm.

JR. HIGH YOUTH RALLY – All 7th & 8th grade teens are invited to attend this year's youth rally, "The Underground Church." It's time for an extreme game of hide & seek as we learn the value of freedom of religion! Cost is \$15 and includes snack and a t-shirt. Rally will be at St. Robert's (120th + Pacific) on Sunday, October 16 from 2:00 pm-6:00 pm. See pages 4 & 5 of this newsletter for registration information!

Theology of the Body for Teens Retreat - Hey, High School Teens! Be sure to mark your calendars for our Theology of the Body for Teens Retreat November 18-20 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.

The Playground "Facelift" Completion

We Need Your Help!!!

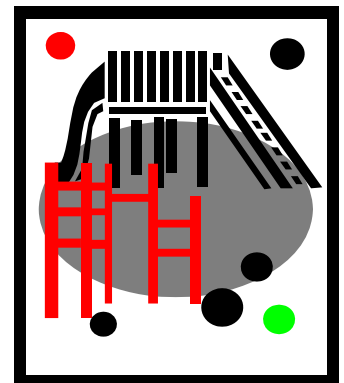
October 8th and 9th

We made great progress last weekend, but in order to complete the playground we need more volunteers.

We could use your help!

Saturday and Sunday: We are in need of adults and kids with shovels and rakes to spread mulch. Saturday start time in 9:00 am. Sunday start time is 12:00 pm.

If your are able to help, please contact Stacy Watson at swatson@lutzcpa.com.



Sunday School News

Please let the RE office know if your child will not be attending class Sunday morning. This helps us to prepare enough supplies for that day's class. We also have a few students registered for Sunday School that have not been to class yet. We have openings during both Mass times if you want to switch to a different class at a different time.

We register new students all year.

Contact the RE office the RE at 402-896-5683 or e-mail Rhonda at r.richeson@stephen.org.



Sunday School Offering

Stewardship envelopes are available to all our Sunday School students in a basket in the Religious Education office. There is also a large basket of children's stewardship envelopes in the gathering space by the fireplace. Each week during Sunday School two of the Sunday School kindergarten students will bring the Sunday School offering to the priest during Mass. They will only miss a few minutes of class time, but in return they get to participate in the Mass.

Lesson Calendars

Each Sunday School student was given a lesson calendar and a take home activity to reinforce the day's lesson. Our Intro class has a set of Scripture Cards with a picture, story, prayer and some ideas for family sharing. The Pre-K class has a set of Activity Sheets with lesson reminders, prayers, a Saint of the Week and parent notes. Our Kindergarteners have a Prayer Book with the prayers that they are learning during the year. Keeping this book at home is a great way for the students to share their prayers with their families.

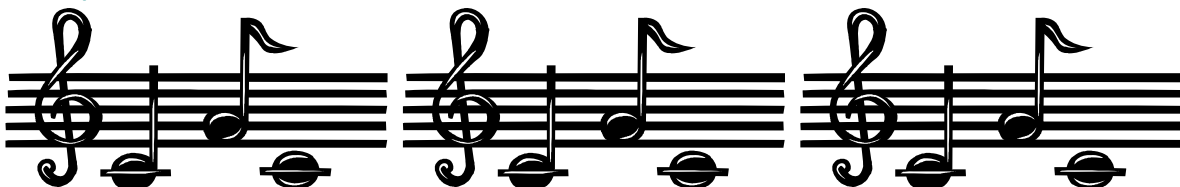
Christmas Program

The children are beginning to practice their Christmas songs for this year's Christmas Program. We will have one rehearsal on Saturday December 17th and the program will be Sunday December 18th.

More Information to follow



Our Pre-K class is using a new curriculum called "Allelu!". Music is one of the components of this curriculum. The CD can be copied. Please provide a blank CD to the RE office if you would like a copy of the songs. Go to the website <http://allelu.com/> for more information.



Trunk or Treat



Friday, October 28th

6:00 PM (set-up at 4:30 PM)

South Parking Lot of St. Stephen's

This event is fun for the whole parish! Join us for a night full of entertainment, from car decorating contests and trick-or-treating, to hot chocolate and more!

All Parish Kids: Come in costume and enjoy some fun, safe

Trick or Treating around our parking lot.



All Parish Grown-Ups: We need your help! Decorate your car or trunk and bring candy for our boys & ghouls. There will be a decorating contest for the best themed vehicles! Some electrical outlets will be available for decorations.

Please call Laura at 402-861-4509 or at l.bogue@stephen.org to RSVP!

Set-up begins at 4:30 PM. Sorry, no Booououoze Allowed.



This spooktacular event is organized by the SSM Youth Ministry.

Trunk-Or-Treat Help

Friday, October 28th



4-8 PM in South Lot of St. Stephen's

Come help us prepare for and host this year's Trunk-Or-Treat ! Meet us in the Youth Ministry Office at 4 PM to help us make hot chocolate, posters, move tables, etc., and then stay to help make sure the little boys & ghouls have a nice evening.

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

YOUTH: I understand that I am a representative of St. Stephen the Martyr Parish and the parish youth program. I will conduct myself in a manner, which will reflect a positive image of the parish, the youth program, and myself. If I behave inappropriately, I understand that my parents may be called and asked to take me home early.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return forms to the RE Office by Wednesday, October 26th.



Questions? Concerns?

Contact Laura at 402-861-4509 or at l.bogue@stephen.org for more information.

Sunday School Saint's Day Skit

Sunday, October 30th

8:15-11:45 AM in the SSM School Commons



Do you have an "acting bug?" Then we could use your help!

Come portray a Saint for our Sunday School program on Sunday, October 30th. We will perform a skit on saints for the children, then lead stations for the kids to visit to "meet the saints" and play fun games.

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

YOUTH: I understand that I am a representative of St. Stephen the Martyr Parish and the parish youth program. I will conduct myself in a manner, which will reflect a positive image of the parish, the youth program, and myself. If I behave inappropriately, I understand that my parents may be called and asked to take me home early.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return forms to the RE Office by Wednesday, October 26th.



Questions? Concerns?

Contact Laura Bogue at 402-861-4509 or at l.bogue@stephen.org for more information.

Quick A Journey Through the Bible

DVD
Study

An 8-Part Introduction to the Bible Timeline

DATE, TIMES & LOCATION:

Tuesdays beginning January 10, 2012
6:30-8 pm
St Stephen the Martyr Parish Center

COST/REGISTRATION:

\$20 per study guide
Register online at stephen.org or contact
facilitators below

Join us for a light, but spiritually rich study
of the basic tenets of our Faith in 8 quick
lessons!

CONTACT:

Facilitators: Bob & Wendy Synowicki
402-896-2218
wendysynowicki@aol.com

ABOUT THE DVD PRESENTER:

JEFF CAVINS served as a Protestant minister for twelve years before returning to the Catholic faith. His dramatic story is chronicled in his autobiography, *My Life on the Rock*. Jeff is best-known as the founding host of the popular EWTN television program, *Life on the Rock*. He is also the co-creator of the *Amazing Grace* series and the creator of *The Great Adventure* Bible study program.



Learn the Bible ...from Jeff Cavins, Renowned Bible Teacher & Evangelist!

A Quick Journey through the Bible is an 8-part introduction to the *Bible Timeline* learning system. This study is designed to give the student a brief overview of salvation history, from Genesis through the resurrection of Christ and the establishment of the Catholic Church. Students will learn about the spiritual benefits of Bible study and how to enter deeper into "His-story" as they begin their study of the Scriptures.

The topics covered in the 8-part study:

- Talk #1 — How to Read the Bible and Explanation of Materials
- Talk #2 — Early World
- Talk #3 — The Patriarchs
- Talk #4 — Egypt & Exodus and Desert Wanderings
- Talk #5 — Conquest & Judges and Royal Kingdom
- Talk #6 — Divided Kingdom and Exile
- Talk #7 — Return from Exile and Maccabean Revolt
- Talk #8 — Messianic Fulfillment and The Church

For use with the *Quick Journey Through the Bible* Student Pack, which includes:

- Student Workbook
- Bible Timeline Chart
- Color-Coded Bookmark
- Memory-Bead Wristband

Be sure to attend this extraordinary seminar!

Bring your Bible!

