



# The Family Connection



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

## September 23, 2011

- Oct. 1: Gr. 8 Confirmation Retreat, GPC; 8- 11 am
- Oct. 1: Gr. 8 Confirmation Retreat, GPC; 1-4 pm
- Oct. 9: Reconciliation Parent Meeting, DR; 7:30 pm
- Oct. 11/12: No R.E. (Conferences in MPS)
- Oct. 25/26: No R.E. (Parish Mission)
- Oct. 30: Sunday School Festival of Saints
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### 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

## St. Stephen's Parish Mission Coming Soon

### *Igniting the Light of Christ Within You' Parish Mission October 22 – 26, 2011*

Paul Koleske is a Contemporary Catholic Christian Speaker, Musician, Singer, Songwriter, and Recording Artist. He has 3 CDs to his credit.

He travels the United States of America conducting Parish Missions, Concerts & Reflections, Retreats, and Youth Ministry Events. He has been a guest on EWTN and several radio shows.

Saturday and Sunday - October 22 & 23, Paul will share his inspired music at all weekend Masses. On Sunday afternoon October 23 Paul will give a Parish Concert, at 3:00 p.m. in the church to kick off our Mission week. Then, over three evenings on October 24, 25, & 26.

Paul will be conducting a Parish Mission entitled; "Igniting the Light of Christ Within You" at 7:00 pm each night.

His Catholic Speaking & Music Ministry began after a miraculous experience on December 12, 1993. Paul's Mission Series has been called "very inspirational" by those who've experienced a lifting of heart, mind, and soul. His teachings and music will provide you with an increased sense of understanding, peace, insight and inspiration for your spiritual well-being.

## Sunday School Lessons

September 18, 2011

Intro: Jesus Invites Children, Ch. 1  
 Pre-K: We Thank You, God, Lesson 4  
 Kind.: God The Father, Ch. 4  
 Prayer: Our Father



### Tue/Wed Kindergarten: (Sept. 27/28)

You Care, Ch. 6  
 Prayer: Good Morning God

## Disciples of Christ

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

### Kindergarten

Emerson Renken  
 Teagan Lynch

### Grade 2

Blake Broady  
 Grant Tobaben



## COOKIE SMILE

Make these cheerful lollipop cookies to share.

### What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 roll of sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Cookie sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Cellophane treat bags
- Ribbon



### What you do:

1. Freeze the roll of dough.
2. Cut dough into ¼-inch slices.
3. Place slices 2 inches apart on cookie sheet.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for five minutes.
5. Remove cookies from oven and place a stick into the bottom of each cookie (about 1 inch into the dough).
6. Return cookies to the oven until done, three to five more minutes.
7. After cookies are cool, make a "face" on each one, using frosting and sprinkles.
8. Put cookies into bags and tie with a ribbon. Then give away these edible smiles!

## Cookie Dough Fundraiser Wrap Up

Our final pick-up for our Tues./Wed. classes and our cookie dough pick-up for Sunday School are nearly here! Thanks so much to everyone who supported the fundraiser by selling, purchasing, or helping fill orders for our students. Proceeds from the sale go to help the needs of the R.E. department, including new resources, new catechist manuals and student texts and tuition assistance.



**Cookies come frozen and we do not have room for storage. Please make sure you make arrangements to have your order picked up. They will be ready at the end of your students class period.**

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

## Right to Life Committee

The Right-to-Life Committee would like to invite you to take part in the following Pro-Life activities.

**September 28 thru November 6 - 40 DAYS FOR LIFE** St. Stephen the Martyr dates are Saturday, October 29 and Friday, November 4. Watch the bulletin for more information.

**Sunday, October 2** -Life Chain-Join fellow Catholics and Christians in an hour long vigil along Dodge Street to show our solidarity in prayer to end the scourge of abortion in our lifetime. St. Stephen the Martyr parish will be praying along the south side, in front of 8511 W. Dodge (Methodist Health Systems Corporate Center). We're just west of 84th.

**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](http://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 information, visit [www.ssmprolifecommittee.org](http://www.ssmprolifecommittee.org) or contact Bob Finger at 402-953-5806.

## Children's Stewardship

Thank you, Jesus for all you do for me.  
This week, I gave thanks to you by sharing:

### Time:

- I went up to the hospital to see my friend. Brooke
- I prayed the Rosary. Kalen
- I spent time praying. Aleah

### Talent:

- I like science. Amara
- I like to play soccer. Ella
- I made a touchdown in my football game. Alex



## Project HOPE

Have you heard the latest?

You can now help SSM when shopping at Costco, picking up lunch at McDonald's or visiting thousands of retailers here at home or across the country with Discover gift cards. No matter what you do during the week, we have a card for that!



Stop by the Project HOPE table following our weekend masses for a complete list of vendors. Make it a family tradition to stop by the Project HOPE table weekly or visit the parish office to make your purchases.

If we all work together, we can do great things in our parish and our community.

## Gospel Reflection for Families

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus poses a question to the chief priests and elders on the meaning of obedience.

### Family Connection:

The example Jesus poses in today's Gospel could have been taken directly from family experience. Each of us can recall instances in which family members spoke one thing but then did another. The point of Jesus' story is to show that our actions speak louder than words, even with God.



As you gather as a family, talk about times when a family member said one thing and then did another. Acknowledge that sometimes the action taken displays a true change of heart. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32. Observe that Jesus faulted the religious leaders for not allowing John the Baptist's message of repentance to change their hearts and actions. The word we sometimes use for this change of heart is *conversion*. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be transformed by his word.

Pray together that your family will experience a conversion to God and show evidence of this in both actions and words. Pray together today's second reading, Philippians 2:1-5.

## 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.

## Animal Shelter Fundraiser

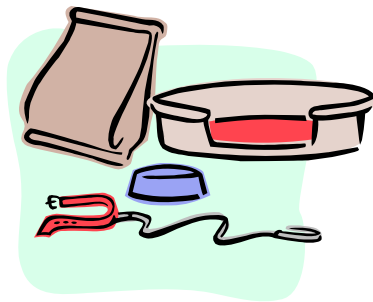
My sons are hosting a fundraiser to benefit a local animal shelter in conjunction with their birthdays. They are collecting donations (pet supplies) during the entire month of September and will be personally delivering items sometime during the first week in October.

The shelter called "Hands, Hearts and Paws", is near and dear to our hearts—it's the shelter from which we adopted both of our dogs.

Please bring donations to the Religious Education office and we will collect the donations from there.

Thanks in advance for your help!

Stephanie Bizoff



## Skutt Catholic Chic Boutique

**Saturday, October 8th, 2010**  
**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Admission - \$1.00**

- Over 100 crafters
- Breakfast and lunch available
- A craft show you don't want to miss this fall!

## 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**-Guess what, Middle School Youth? It's GYM NIGHT! Join us this Tuesday, September 27 from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm in the dining room. After prayer and pizza, we'll head down to the gym for some free time.

**LIFE TEEN**-Hey there, High School Teens! Join us from 7:00 pm-8:45 pm in the Parish Center this Sunday, September 25 as we hear some really big words and flesh out their definition. Then it's on to Son bathing...that's right, it's time for Eucharistic Adoration!

**JR. HIGH YOUTH RALLY** – All 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 (120<sup>th</sup> + Pacific) on Sunday, October 16 from 2:00 pm-6:00 pm. See pages 4 & 5 of this newsletter for registration information!

**YOUCAT WEDNESDAYS** – It's not too late to join our high school small group! Have you ever wondered what we believe as Catholics, and why? Then good news! This year we will be going through the YouCat! No need to worry about reading ahead of time, and feel free to come when you can. Each week we will discuss a different section of the Catechism. YouCats will be provided! We will meet every Wednesday from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm in the Staff Lounge.

Youth fan page link <https://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/Archdiocese-of-Omaha-Youth-Ministry-Youth/135013869845920>

Or the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry page: <http://www.nfcym.org/resources/specialissues/revisedmissal.htm>

## Kids Against Hunger

Join in our parish outreach project in conjunction with our Parish Mission. Visit the website – [www.kidsagainsthunger.org](http://www.kidsagainsthunger.org)

**GOAL:** Package 20,000 meals at 25 cents per meal = \$5,000.00

**OCTOBER 1-2:** Opportunity after all Masses to make a donation and sign up to assist with packaging the meals.

**OCTOBER 13:** Send \$2500.00 to KAH to begin purchasing the food.

**NOVEMBER 13:** Deliver the remaining \$2500.00 to KAH for food.

**NOVEMBER 13:** Package the meals at 13409 I Circle in Omaha. Need 40 people from 1:00 – 3:00 PM and 40 people from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Great family event—children as young as five years old can participate.

### MAKE A DONATION NOW:

Checks payable to KIDS AGAINST HUNGER. Drop off in the Parish Office or GPC.

### MORE INFORMATION AND/OR TO VOLUNTEER:

Contact Sister Clarice—402-861-4508 or [c.faltus@stephen.org](mailto:c.faltus@stephen.org)

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



**GO**

# **GROUND**

Matthew 5: 11-12

**AN “ALL PARISH  
EVENT” FOR 7<sup>TH</sup>  
& 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**

**EXTREME  
HIDE & SEEK  
THE EARLY CHURCH VERSION**

We take our religious freedom for granted. Come and experience what it is like to have to hide out to share faith.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16**

**2:00PM - 6:00PM**

**- MASS INCLUDED**

**ST. ROBERT'S CAFETERIA**

**11900 PACIFIC STREET**

EVENT COST: \$15 includes t-shirt & snack  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED through your parish contact.

SPONSORED BY:

The Omaha area Youth Ministers  
and DRE's.

**TOP  
SECRET**

# GO UNDER GROUND

**AN "ALL PARISH EVENT" FOR  
7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**

Underground Church is a fun game (like hide and seek but more intense), that opens the door to discuss persecution of the early and current church and talk about the value of faith that we have so often taken for granted.

**Event Details:**  
**Date:** Sunday, October 16th  
**Time:** 2:00 - 6:00pm (check-in starts @ 1:45 pm)  
**Location:** St. Robert's Bellarmine (119th & Pacific)  
**Cost:** \$15.00 includes T-shirt and snack  
**Return Registrations to:** Laura Bogue in the Religious Ed. Office  
**Registration Deadline:** Tuesday, October 4th  
**Contact Laura Bogue at l.bogue@stephen.org or at 402-861-4509 with any questions!**

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT PERMISSION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, grant permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_, to participate in this Youth Ministry event that requires adult supervision and is off campus. As parent or legal guardian, I remain legally responsible for any personal actions taken by the above named participant. I agree on behalf of myself, my child named herein, our heirs, successors, and assigns to hold harmless and defend St. Stephen the Martyr, its officers, directors, and agents; the Archdiocese of Omaha; chaperones or representatives associated with this event.

In case of an emergency, I give permission for medical treatment to be sought for my child.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact # \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt Size: \_\_\_ Adult Small \_\_\_ Adult Medium \_\_\_ Adult Large \_\_\_ Adult X Large \_\_\_ Adult XX Large

Chaperones are needed for this event: \_\_\_ Yes, I am available \_\_\_ No, I am not available

Please return this form and payment by Tuesday, October 4th to Laura Bogue in the Religious Ed. Office.

*Checks may be made out to St. Stephen the Martyr Parish.*

*The Underground Church is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Omaha's Youth Ministers and Directors of Religious Ed.*

**R.E. Parents:** SSM's Home and School would like to offer a \$20.00 Scheels gift card to the RE student whose name is drawn out of their promo weekend NEXT Saturday October 1st. If you attend the promotion you will be checked off and your name will go into a drawing for the Scheels card.

**On your current voting card, write your child's name on it and we will have a drawing with the bottom of those cards for just RE kids after the promotion and they can win another prize as well. After the promotion they need to turn their cards into an R.E. representative and we will draw the winner. They should vote daily on their cards until October 6th.**



## **Sunday, September 25th (Noon - 2 pm)**

**Calling all Creighton University – Blue Jay Fans!!!**

**Each Voting Card = 1 registration to win:**

**(4) Men's Basketball Tickets**

**(4) Women's Basketball Tickets**

**(4) Men's Baseball Tickets**

**Students register to win (AGAIN!!!):**

**\$20 Movie Theater Gift Card**

**\$20 Scheels Gift Card**

We are in 11<sup>th</sup> place and the highest Omaha Parish in the tally right now but others are moving closer!!!!

We are the largest  
**PARISH COMMUNITY** in Omaha  
and it will take the **ENTIRE**  
community to win the money for  
**OUR PARISH!**

# St. Stephen the Martyr Adult Education Classes

## Bible Study-The Bible Timeline

"We are offering a "Quick Journey", a eight week journey through the Bible based on the Great Adventure Bible Timeline concept. The Great Adventure Bible Timeline provides the student with the materials you need for enriching Bible study. The Bible Timeline is foundational to all other Bible studies because it focuses on the 14 narrative books of the Bible while it helps you learn the overarching story of God's plan of salvation and gives you an understanding of how the people, places, events, and themes of Scripture fit together. The Quick Journey through the Bible is offered on Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm beginning Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Bob or Wendy Synowicki at [wendysynowick@aol.com](mailto:wendysynowick@aol.com) or [click here](#) to register.

## Women's Bible Study

This class meets the 2nd Saturday of the month in the GPC beginning Sept. 11th at 8:00AM. You will be studying two books, "Jesus' Journey to the Cross" by Jeanne Kun and "Heart to Heart with God" by Ralph Torrelli. You may register via the SSM Website under Community Life or by contacting Jan Mitchell at [janmitchell@cox.net](mailto:janmitchell@cox.net) or Janice Dethlefs at 895-9039. (Book cost \$10) [Click here](#) to register or contact, [Jan Mitchell](#) at 895-3215.

## Mass As Prayer

This class will give you an opportunity to see how the mass form your prayer life and how your prayer life enriches your participation in the Eucharist. The different parts of the mass will be studied and You will also learn the changes to the mass that is coming soon. It is a five week class starting August 18 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Register [online](#) email [j.broudou@stephen.org](mailto:j.broudou@stephen.org).

## Introduction to the Spiritual Life

This class will challenge one to look at one's life as a Catholic and how to grow in the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ. You will get practical ways of how to grow in your faith. It will be over five weeks beginning on November 10. Register [online](#) or email [j.broudou@stephen.org](mailto:j.broudou@stephen.org).

## World Religions

Compare and contrast is helping when you teach children or young people. The class on World religions will help you refine your understanding of the Catholic faith. We will cover religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism and Christianity. The class will begin on September 22. The classes will be from 7:00- 9:00 pm. Register [online](#) or email [j.broudou@stephen.org](mailto:j.broudou@stephen.org).

## Bible Study -Revelation

"Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come" is the first on-going study of The Great Adventure Bible Study Series. In this intriguing look at one of the most talked-about books in Scripture, Jeff Cavins explores Revelation to demonstrate how the Kingdom established by Christ in His Church is intimately connected with the Kingdom of Heaven, especially through the celebration of the Mass. You will also learn what all the mysterious figures and images of Revelation represent, as well as what will happen during the Second Coming of Christ, what has already happened, and what is happening now in salvation history. Revelation is offered on Monday evening at 6:30 pm beginning Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Bob or Wendy Synowicki at [wendysynowicki@aol.com](mailto:wendysynowicki@aol.com) or [click here](#) to register."

## Bible Study-Genesis

"From the beginning of time, man has wondered 'Who are we? Where do we come from? Are we important? Is there meaning to our existence? Genesis is an ancient book , but it is written for modern times and it contains the answers that mankind asks in every age. As the first book of the Bible, Genesis is the foundation of the Torah, the first 5 books of the Old Testament. In Genesis we have the words of God himself giving us the answers we seek. Genesis will be offered on Wednesday beginning Sept. 14 at 9:30 am, with childcare, and 7:00 pm . The cost of materials is \$50. Please contact Deacon Marty at [m.warwick@stephen.org](mailto:m.warwick@stephen.org) or [click here](#) to register."

## Lectio Divina Prayer Group-The Gospel of Mark

We will use the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible "The Gospel of Mark" for this class. (Book cost \$10). This prayer group will meet in the Daily Mass Chapel every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Babysitting available. The group will also offer additional days of prayer and fellowship as, together, we will visit some of our beautiful Catholic Churches in Omaha and surroundings. The cost of the books is \$9. Contact Eva Winkeler at 964-2331 or Deacon Marty, 402-861-4506 or [M.Warwick@stephen.org](mailto:M.Warwick@stephen.org) to register.

## Bible Study-Breaking Open the Word

This Bible Study will discuss the Weekend Mass readings as they are presented in the Lectionary. This year is Church Liturgical Year A so we will study/discuss the Gospel of Matthew. We will meet in the GPC at 10:30 AM Thursdays during the summer session in the Board Room. You may register on the SSM website under Community Life or by contacting Deacon Marty at [m.warwick@stephen.org](mailto:m.warwick@stephen.org) or 402-861-4506. You may join this class at any time so just show up and bring your Bible.

# CONFIRMATION RETREAT

## PARENTS AND SPONSORS

Please join us!

We need your help and it is a great day to share with your candidate.

Parent or Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please circle one)

Parent or Sponsor phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's email address \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Retreat Date \_\_\_\_\_ Retreat Time \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to volunteer in the following ways:*

\_\_\_ Retreat setup- Help set up the Retreat (1.5hrs.)

\_\_\_ Snacks- I am willing to help set out, serve and put away snack (1.5 hrs.)

\_\_\_ Prayer Sharer-I can help by facilitating a prayer workshop. (1 hr.)

Examples: Meditation, Rosary, Nature walk, Adoration,

\_\_\_ Walk with the candidate-I can be there the day of the retreat to be with the candidate or to be on retreat myself.

\_\_\_ Sponsor-As a sponsor I can be there to experience the retreat with my candidate.

\_\_\_ Retreat cleanup-I can help take down the Retreat on Saturday afternoon. (1/2 hr.)

\_\_\_ I am unable to attend the retreat but I will be praying for the candidates.

*If you have any questions please call Deborah Sheehy at*

*861-4510 or email at [d.sheehy@stephen.org](mailto:d.sheehy@stephen.org)*