

# The Family Connection



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

## August 26, 2011

- Sept. 17/18: Catechetical Sunday
- Sept. 10/11: Mass of Enrollment, gr. 7 & 8; all Masses
- Sept. 18: Mass of Enrollment, gr. 7 & 8; 9 am Mass only Sept. 30: Gr. 8 Confirmation Retreat, GPC; 6-9 pm
- 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

## Confirmation Mass of Enrollment

**CONFIRMATION MASS OF ENROLLMENT FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS — September 10/11** — There will be a special blessing for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the parish School and Religious Education at all Masses next weekend. The enrollment blessing will also be given at the 9:00 am Mass (only) on Sunday, September 18.



National Grandparents Day is the first Sunday after Labor Day each September.

Treat your grandparents to a delicious and nutritious treat that you can make yourself.

What you need:

- 1 banana
- ice cream in your favorite flavor
- 1 cup milk
- blender
- ice cream scoop or large spoon
- tall glasses



How to make it:

1. Check with parents before you start!
2. Peel the banana, break it into 3 or 4 pieces.
3. Put the pieces in the blender along with a scoop of ice cream and 1 cup of milk.
4. Be sure to put the lid on the blender!
5. Blend it together and pour it into a tall glass.
6. Serve it to your grandparents!

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

Want to add something to the newsletter?  
Contact Eileen at: 861-4513,  
[e.smith@stephen.org](mailto:e.smith@stephen.org)

## Sunday School Lessons

*Reminder: No Sunday School this weekend; September 4.*

*Enjoy your Labor Day Weekend!*



## Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

The K of C is sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive:

**Saturday  
17 September 2011  
St. Stephen the Martyr Dining room**

Please contact Jason Castor at 402-850-7369 to schedule an appointment, or online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

## Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Our Oakview Cookie Company cookie dough fundraiser began this week. An informational letter and form was sent home with each child. Please support our program by purchasing cookie dough from an R.E. student!

Additional cookie dough order forms are available in the R.E. Office kiosk.



## Children's Stewardship

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

### Time:

- Took my neighbor to the festival. Michael
- I help take care of my pets. Mady
- I do my own laundry to help my mom. Lucas

### Talent:

- I was the Wheeler Wildcat of the week. Brooke
- I learned to tie my shoes. Alex
- Helping at birthdays. Ella

### Treasure:

- I donated items to the food pantry. Erynn



## St. Stephen's Pantry Needs Your Help

Due to the large number of families accessing our pantry, we are running low on just about everything. We would appreciate your donations of food items, paper goods and toiletries. Bring donations to the GPC.

Thanks for your generosity.

## PAL Basketball

### PAL Basketball Sign-ups extended

PAL Basketball sign-ups for 5th - 8th grade boys & girls has been extended to September 11. Registration forms can be found on the SSM Website under Sports Club. Please mail completed forms to: Mike Foster 18609 Chandler St. Omaha, NE 68136. Also on September 11 after the 9:00 am and 10:30 am masses you will be able to visit the table in the dining room to sign your child up. Questions call Mike 402-895-2975.



## Project HOPE

### Do the Math! It's a simple fundraising idea:

- 1.) Stores, restaurants and movie theatres sell their gift cards to SSM at a discount,
- 2.) SSM sells the gift cards to our parishioners at face value,
- 3.) Parishioners redeem the gift cards at their favorite stores or give them as gifts, and
- 4.) SSM earns a small profit on each sale.

### And it adds up:

If 200 families purchased a \$100 Hy-Vee gift card every week for a year, SSM would earn \$31,200 on those purchases alone.

**Welcome our newest vendors:** Costco (\$50 and \$100), Discover Card (\$25, \$50 and \$100) and McDonald's (\$10 and \$25). Gift cards are available in the parish office from 8:30 am—4:30 pm or at the Project HOPE table following all weekend masses. You can also place an order online at [www.stephen.org](http://www.stephen.org) and arrange to pick up your order in the Religious Education office during your child's class time. Thank you for supporting the work of the parish through the Project HOPE program.

## Gospel Reflection for Families

### Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus teaches his disciples how to settle disputes in the Church.

### Family Connection:

Conflict and disagreements are a natural part of family life. Yet, within our family, we have an important opportunity to learn how to resolve disagreements fairly by treating people with love and respect.

As you gather as a family this week, discuss the procedures for resolving disputes in your family. What kinds of things produce disagreements in your family? Do children frequently request the assistance of the adults when a disagreement arises? How do the adults respond? In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples the way in which they are to handle conflict within the Christian community of the Church. Read together this Gospel, Matthew 18:15-20. Invite family members to summarize the steps that Jesus proposes for resolving conflict. How might today's Gospel inform your family's handling of disagreements? If you have time, your family might choose to role play how Jesus' teaching about conflict resolution might be applied to a disagreement that sometimes occurs in your household.



In today's Gospel, Jesus also promises that he will help those who pray to him with their needs. Pray together that each member of your family will learn to handle conflict in a Christian manner. Pray together the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.

## Music Ministry

**TEEN CHOIR** — Calling all teens! Jim Farley, our teen choir director, is looking for teens interested in singing at the 6 PM mass once a month. If you like to sing and/or play an instrument, please contact Jim at [j.farley@tconl.com](mailto:j.farley@tconl.com) for more information.



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** — Fall Session starts Thursday, September 8, at 6 p.m. in the Worship Space. Sing once a month for our 12 Noon Mass! All children are welcome! No tryouts. Rehearsals are informative and fun. Come and give it a try. Contact Paula at [p.bonkiewicz@stephen.org](mailto:p.bonkiewicz@stephen.org) or Judy at [j.dughman@stephen.org](mailto:j.dughman@stephen.org) for more information.

## 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**-You know you've missed us, Middle School! But never fear...Edge will resume with our "Minute to Win It" Kick-Off Party on Tuesday, September 13. Join us in the dining room from 6:30-8:00 PM!

**LIFE TEEN**-It's time to buckle in for another driving year, High School Teens! Join us for yet another wild and zany Kick-Off Party on Sunday, September 11 from 7:00-8:45 PM in the Parish Center. Let's show our new freshmen how we roll! As always, food and fun provided.

**YOUCAT WEDNESDAYS**-On Wed. nights from September-May, we have a small group open to all high school teens. 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...come when you can, and join in on the faith-sharing and friendship. Each week we will discuss a different section of the Catechism. YouCats will be provided!

**Teen Trivia Night** — Why should the grown-ups have all the fun of Trivia Night? Now it's OUR turn! Bring your friends and join us in the Parish Center on Sunday, August 28 from 7:00-8:45 PM for our 1st Annual Teen Trivia Night. Wear your hilarious hats and your wild wigs, and let's get quizzical! Food and fun will be provided...all teens are invited!

## Girls Religious Awards

"Girls' Religious Awards" is a national award program for girls ages 8-18 and is open to all Catholic girls of the Archdiocese. While many girls working on medals are members of Girl Scouts or Camp Fire Girls, this is not required. This program is available to any Catholic girl in the Archdiocese and is divided into the following grade levels:

Grades 2-3	Family of God
Grades 4-6	I Live My Faith
Grades 7-9	Marian
Grades 10-12	Spirit Alive

Although all girls in these grades are invited to participate, The Archdiocese requests that girls do not work toward medals during the year they prepare for sacraments (First Holy Communion and Confirmation) as this is a special year for concentrating solely on this preparation.

The Girls' Religious Awards program allows Catholic girls to explore and become more involved in their Catholic faith under the administration of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis and the guidance of a trained Catholic adult advisor. The program is designed to support and complement the catechetical efforts of Catholic parishes and schools. To participate in the program, girls work individually or in a group with their adult advisor through study and associated activities.

Adult Catholics who wish to facilitate this program must attend one of two meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 20 or Thursday, September 22. Both meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis located in Building A of the Sheehan Center, 3212 N. 60th St.

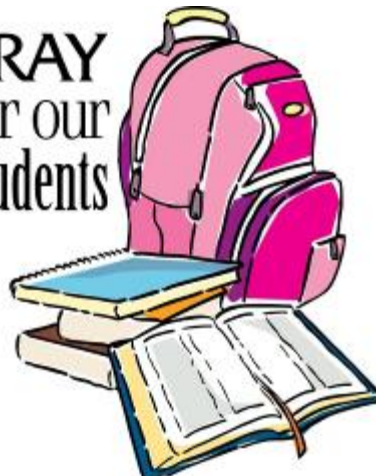
Those interested in being an advisor to girls in the rural area, should contact Cathi Snyder for the guidelines and requirements to begin working with girls. Cathi can be reached at 402 557 5610 or [cmsnyder@archomaha.org](mailto:cmsnyder@archomaha.org).

## Safe Environment Certification

Volunteers who have regular contact with children or youth are required to obtain Safe Environment Certification. This applies to all school volunteers, coaches, catechists and parish volunteers. St. Stephen the Martyr is offering a training course free of charge to our parishioners on September 8, 2011, at 7:00 pm in the Dining Room. Pre-registration is required.

Contact Cindie at [c.maddock@stephen.org](mailto:c.maddock@stephen.org) or call 402-861-4502 to register. Visit our website and click on the link to Safe Environment for more information.

**PRAY**  
for our  
Students



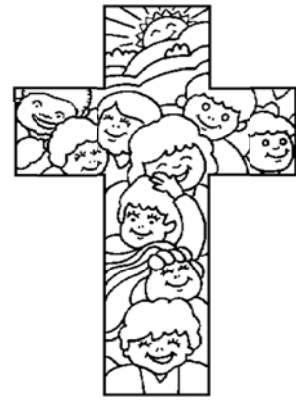
We are collecting empty paper towel tubes for a craft project for the 1st grade ('Say Yes to Jesus' bracelets!). We need them brought in by Nov. 15th (for a Dec. 6th craft).

Thanks!!



**St. Stephen the Martyr  
Religious Education**

16701 'S' Street  
Omaha, NE 68135  
(402) 896-5683  
FAX: (402) 861-4590  
Email: m.maguire@stephen.org



"Let the children come to me...  
for the kingdom of heaven belongs  
to such as these." (Mt. 19:14)

Sept. 1, 2011

Dear Parents,

Sacraments are shared celebrations for the family and the parish community at St. Stephen the Martyr. We are pleased to announce the schedule for the celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion.

Following is the calendar of dates and times for parent meetings, rehearsals, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Please note that First Holy Communion Masses will be at 9 am, 12 pm and 3 pm this year. Sacrament assignments are made by class, and are listed by the teacher's name throughout the following schedule. It is required that at least one parent attends the Reconciliation and First Communion Parent meetings.

**In order to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist, we must have a copy of your child's Baptism certificate on file in the Religious Education office.** If your child was not baptized at St. Stephen's, please have a copy of your child's Baptism certificate turned into the Religious Education office by Nov. 30, 2011. Many parishes will fax a copy of the baptism certificate to us, at your request. Our fax number is (402) 861-4590.

Thank you for allowing us to assist you in the religious formation of your child. We look forward to celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion with your family. If you have any questions, please contact the Religious Education office at 896-5683.

In Christ's love,

Rev. James Tiegs  
Pastor

Mary K. Maguire  
Director of Religious Education

Dr. Roseanne Williby  
Principal

## **Reconciliation Parent Meeting**

**(Parents only)**

**Sun., Oct. 9, 2011 at 7:30 PM (Dining Room)**

This informational meeting is for all parents of second graders in the school and Religious Education that will be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

First Reconciliation will be celebrated during the Parish Advent Reconciliation services. Family and friends are encouraged to celebrate the sacrament together. A reception will follow in the Dining Room.

**Mon., Dec. 5, 2012 at 7 PM**

(2A) Mrs. Angela Christensen  
(2B) Mrs. Marlene Roduner  
(2BT4) Susie Dotson/Michele Hybner  
(2AT5) Tammy Miles/Danielle Adair  
(2BW7) Daniel Clemens/Christine Wojtas  
(2AT4) Sue Knier/Karen Acri  
(RCIC) Mary Maguire

**Tues., Dec. 6, 2012 at 7:00 PM**

(2C) Mrs. Arlene Winkler  
(2AW4) Sara Klein/Jennifer Pieper  
(2BW4) Jennifer Hustedt/Amy Grennan  
(2CW4) Patricia Iske/ Patti Kankousky  
(2AW5) Christine Upah/Jonathan Maier  
(2BW5) Brian Fontana/Carrie McAdams  
(2CW5) Sandra Fleissner/Sarah Fleissner  
(2AW7) Heather DeMaria/Joseph DeMaria

## **First Communion Parent Meeting**

**(Parents only)**

**Sun., Jan. 22, 2012 at 7:30 PM (Dining Room)**

This informational meeting is for all parents of second graders in the school and Religious Education who will be receiving First Holy Communion.

## **First Communion Rehearsal**

Rehearsals will start right at the assigned time. A parent needs to attend the rehearsal with the child.

**Thurs., April 19, 2012 at 7:30 PM**

(2A) Mrs. Angela Christensen  
(2AT4) Sue Knier/Karen Acri  
(2BT4) Susie Dotson/Michele Hybner  
(2AT5) Tammy Miles/Danielle Adair

**Fri., April 20, 2012 at 6:30 PM**

(2B) Mrs. Marlene Roduner  
(RCIC) Mary Maguire  
(2AW4) Sara Klein/Jennifer Pieper  
(2BW4) Jennifer Hustedt/Amy Grennan  
(2CW4) Patricia Iske/ Patti Kankousky  
(2BW7) Daniel Clemens/Christine Wojtas

**Fri., April 20, 2012 at 7:30 PM**

(2C) Mrs. Arlene Winkler  
(2AW5) Christine Upah/Jonathan Maier  
(2BW5) Brian Fontana/Carrie McAdams  
(2CW5) Sandra Fleissner/Sarah Fleissner  
(2AW7) Heather DeMaria/Joseph DeMaria

## **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**

First Holy Communion is celebrated at special Masses in the Worship Space. Communicants sit with their families. Please have your child at church one hour before the First Communion Mass.

**Sun., April 22, 2012 at 9:00 AM**

(2A) Mrs. Angela Christensen  
(2AT4) Sue Knier/Karen Acri  
(2BT4) Susie Dotson/Michele Hybner  
(2AT5) Tammy Miles/Danielle Adair

**Sun., April 22, 2012 at 12:00 PM**

(2B) Mrs. Marlene Roduner  
(RCIC) Mary Maguire  
(2AW4) Sara Klein/Jennifer Pieper  
(2BW4) Jennifer Hustedt/Amy Grennan  
(2CW4) Patricia Iske/ Patti Kankousky  
(2BW7) Daniel Clemens/Christine Wojtas

**Sun., April 22, 2012 at 3:00 PM**

(2C) Mrs. Arlene Winkler  
(2AW5) Christine Upah/Jonathan Maier  
(2BW5) Brian Fontana/Carrie McAdams  
(2CW5) Sandra Fleissner/Sarah Fleissner  
(2AW7) Heather DeMaria/Joseph DeMaria