

The Family Connection



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

September 9, 2011

- Sept. 10/11: Mass of Enrollment, gr. 7 & 8; all Masses
- Sept. 17/18: Catechetical Sunday
- 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

Kids Against Hunger

Kids Against Hunger is our parish outreach project to coincide with our Parish Mission scheduled for October 22-26. Our goal is to package 20,000 meals at 25 cents per meal. This amounts to a total of \$5,000.00. Half of this amount (\$2500.00) must be sent to Kids Against Hunger by October 13 in order to purchase the food for our packaging date one month later. We are asking you to help by making a donation and/or assisting with packaging the food on Sunday, November 13 at 13409 I Circle. This is a great family experience—children as young as five years old can participate.. We need 40 people from 1:00—3:00 PM and 40 people from 3:00—5:00 PM. There will be an opportunity to make donations and volunteer for packaging after all of the Masses on October 1-2. However, you may make a donation before that time, if you wish.

Make checks payable to “Kids Against Hunger” and drop off in the parish office or at the GPC. For more information and/or to volunteer - Contact Sister Clarice - 402-861-4508 or c.faltus@stephen.org.



- 25 cents equals 1 meal
- 1 bag equals 6 meals
- 1 box equals 216 meals



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

September 11, 2011

Intro: God Created All Living Things,
Ch. 6

Pre-K: God Made Me Special, Lesson 2

Kind.: God Made You-God Made Me,
Ch. 2

Prayer: Grace Before Meals

Reminder: Next Sunday, September 18 is Pajama Day. All students and teachers can wear pajamas to class.

Tue/Wed Kindergarten: (Sept. 13/14)

God the Father, Ch. 4

Prayer: Our Father

Bring a current picture for a craft project.



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**

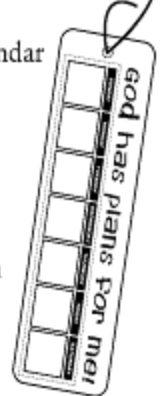
Please contact Jason Castor at 402-850-7369 to schedule an appointment, or online at www.redcrossblood.org

A daily reminder

Make this bookmark to remind you that God is with you every day.

What you need:

- An old calendar
- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Glue stick
- Pencil or marker
- Stickers
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn



What you do:

1. Cut out the first line of squares from an old calendar, including the days of the week along the top.
2. Cut the cardstock into a rectangle a little larger than the calendar section.
3. Glue the calendar section onto the cardstock.
4. Write “God has plans for me” (Jeremiah 29:11) on the bookmark.
5. Add stickers or other decorations on the back.
6. Punch a hole on one end of the bookmark.
7. Loop some ribbon or yarn through the hole.



Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Don't forget to order your cookies for your fall baking!

Our first order form turn in in this week. Return your order forms by Wednesday, September 14th and your order will be ready for pick up next week.

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.



Children's Stewardship

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

Time:

- Praying. Ella
- Helping my mom make cupcakes. Lizzi
- I walked our dog. Evan

Talent:

- I played well in my baseball game. Alex
- Learned to tie my shoes. Gabe
- Had an art show. Brooke



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

Throw a great tailgate party with Project HOPE! Pick up all the supplies you need to kick-off football season in style. Project HOPE offers gift cards for Wal-mart, Sam's Club, Costco, Target, Hy-Vee, Bag 'n Save, SuperSaver and Baker's.

Watching the game from the comfort of your family room? Order a pizza so you don't miss a minute of the action. We carry Pizza Hut, Godfather's and Papa Murphy's gift cards, too.

Make it a family tradition to stop by the Project HOPE table weekly following mass or send a Project HOPE order form to school with your child on Monday morning. If we all work together, we can do great things in our parish and our community.



Gospel Reflection for Families

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us

Family Connection: Children learn to trust God's mercy and forgiveness when they experience forgiveness from those closest to them. We hope that we model God's love and forgiveness within our family life. Today's Gospel reminds us that forgiveness is measured by its quality more than its quantity.

Invite your family to consider some recent times when family members sought the forgiveness of another. Ask if there were any statements made that put conditions on our forgiveness such as "I will play this game with you if you apologize for knocking over my blocks" or "I will accept your apology after you clean up your room." Do we sometimes "keep count" or put conditions on our forgiveness of one another? This is something we may be doing without realizing it.

Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35. Ask if we sometimes find ourselves sounding like Peter, concerning ourselves with quantity of forgiveness rather than offering forgiveness abundantly and unconditionally. Reflect upon the parable that Jesus tells. What does the servant do that makes the king so angry? He refuses to forgive his fellow servant the debt that he owes. Because we have all received God's forgiveness, God expects that we will also be forgiving toward others. Jesus' answer to Peter's question is found at the end of the parable. The number of times that we forgive one another is less important than the depth of our forgiveness. We must forgive one another from the heart.

Conclude in prayer together that God's love and forgiveness is evident in your family life. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 103, or the Lord's Prayer.



Stewardship Opportunity

Aldrich Elementary School (156th and Dodge) would like assistance with their fall carnival. The date is Friday, Sept. 23rd. Please call Deb Stroyley at 402-960-7224 for information or to sign-up.

Animal Shelter Fundraiser

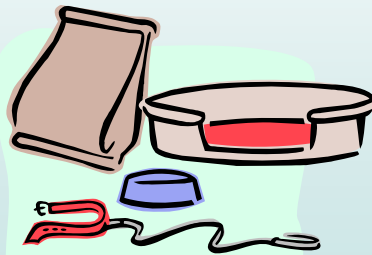
My sons are hosting a fundraiser to benefit a local animal shelter in conjunction with their birthdays. They are collecting donations (pet supplies) during the entire month of September and will be personally delivering items sometime during the first week in October.

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



Priest Visits



Fr. Joseph Broudou will be visiting our students throughout the year. Fr. Joseph has a lot to teach our children and we are excited to have him share his knowledge with them. Please talk to your children about being attentive and respectful when they meet.

This past week, he met with the Kindergarten, Multi age, 2nd grade and 6th grade classes. Next week he will be meeting with the 1st, 3rd, and 7th graders in the Daily Mass Chapel.

The following week will be the 4th, 5th and 8th grades.

Don't forget to ask your children what information he shared with them!



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-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!

Now posted on both the youth and adult Facebook fan pages is the Archbishop's monthly video message to young people. This month's topic (and for the next two months) will focus on the Revised Roman Missal.

Youth fan page link (pass this on to your youth) <https://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/Archdiocese-of-Omaha-Youth-Ministry-Youth/135013869845920>

Adult fan page link <https://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/Archdiocese-of-Omaha-Youth-Ministry/212668975529>

For a list of other resources regarding the new Roman Missal check out the last Youth Ministry Update: <http://archomaha.org/education/cffo/youth-ministry/index.html>

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

Bunco Night at St. Stephen the Martyr

St. Stephen's Council of Catholic Women will be hosting Bunco Night for adult women in the parish on Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 pm in the parish center. Make plans to join us for an evening of food, fun and fellowship. There is a \$10.00 entry fee and cash prizes for Bunco winners.

