By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

For the 10th year, St. Patrick Catholic Church in Imperial will be hosting a Catechism kick-off program at Chase County Schools auditorium, to which area grade 7-12 students and adults are also invited.

This year's program will feature a nationally-known speaker and author, Chris Stefanick of Denver.

The kick-off will be held next Wednesday, Sept. 28, beginning at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

The subject of Stefanick's talk will be "The Gospel Unplugged."

Stefanick shares his love of the Father with tens of thousands of people both nationally and internationally every year at retreats, rallies and assemblies.

He is a 13-year veteran of youth and young adult ministry programs and served at a parish in the East LA area. He is currently director of youth, young adult and campus ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Denver.

Stefanick's programs are described as informative and entertaining, and he'll be bringing his electric guitar, too, according to organizers.

A regular on Catholic media and other programs, he also was a speaker during World Youth Day activities in Spain this past August. He has co-authored two books, "Do I Have to Go?–101 questions about the Mass, the Eucharist and Your Spiritual Life" and "Raising Pure Teens–10 strategies to protect (or restore) your teenager's innocence."

Parishes and their grade 7-12 Catechism students from a 90-mile radius have been invited, according to Bill Sullivan, who is helping organize the evening.

In addition to those in Imperial, students and adults are expected to attend from Wauneta, Grant, Elsie, Wallace, McCook, Stratton, Benkelman, Curtis/Wellfleet, Holyoke, Colo., and possibly others.

Cookies and drinks will be served after the program.