

# St. Stephen Parish

SaintStephenSF.org | 601 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco CA 94132 | Church 415 681-2444

StStephenSchoolSF.org | 401 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco 94132 | School 415 664-8331

**Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 p.m. or by appt. and 30 min. before each Sunday Mass**  
**Weekday Mass: 8:00 a.m. Vigil Mass Saturday 4:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday Mass 8:00, 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.**

**January 8, 2023**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**



*They opened  
their treasures and  
offered him gifts of  
gold,  
frankincense,  
and myrrh.*

**Matthew 2:11**

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1996, 1972, 1966, 1965, 1941, CCC.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*"

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said,

"Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. ...

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Catholic Community that is called by God to follow Jesus Christ. We believe that we are called to worship God together, to lead God's people along the path of hope laid down by Jesus, to share his message through preaching, through the education and formation of our people, young and old, and through caring service and sensitive outreach to those in need.

**Rev. Michael D Lilledahl**

January 8, 2023

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

We have been hearing throughout this beautiful season of Christmas about the gift that God has given us – the gift of his only begotten Son, Jesus, as our Savior. Jesus, who is God Incarnate, born as a helpless baby. Today's Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the public "announcement," if you will, that the gift of salvation is available to all, not just those of the Israelite covenant with God.



Long before Paul tells the Ephesians in today's reading that *the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel*, the revelation of Jesus Christ is made to the Magi. These Magi were not Jewish, but men from the east – Gentiles – who have traveled to Bethlehem to see *the newborn king of the Jews*. They were somehow drawn to the gift, and Matthew's Gospel tells us how they respond.

Their response is a beautiful example of how we ourselves should respond to Jesus – and to any gift that God offers to us. They have the vision to see the star, to follow it a great distance from their homeland and to accept the simple gift that is revealed to them: a humble, simple child who does not radiate the majesty of a king. The Magi are able to see beyond the surface, to see this child for who he is, and without hesitation pay him homage and present him with their gifts. Finally, they are obedient to the voice in their dreams and go home a different way, avoiding Herod.

Matthew's Gospel also gives us a completely opposite response to this gift, carried out by Herod. King Herod, hearing of the newborn King of the Jews, responds defensively and in great fear. If what the wise men report is true, Herod reasons, he will lose his status and prestige. Rather than see this child as a gift, as the long-promised Messiah, Herod sees him as a threat that needs to be extinguished right away. He responds with deceitful cunning, planning to kill the child once the Magi reveal to him where the child is. Herod closes his heart to the gift of God, the Messiah, wanting to keep his own power and glory.

None of us would claim to want to follow the example of Herod – to close our hearts and minds to God and to resort to killing innocent children to keep our power. Yet, it helps us to think about how open we are to the many gifts that God presents to us throughout our lives – from the rainy morning that greets us upon our awakening; to the family God has placed in our lives; the work we are called to do; and the sufferings we are called to endure. Each of these is, in different ways, a gift from God – some more easily seen as gift than others. We can either reject them as Herod did, or follow the example of the Magi and accept them in humility, trust and obedience.

As we continue our celebration of the Eucharist, we pray for the grace to have the open-heartedness of the Magi throughout the coming year. All is gift from God. With the help of the Holy Spirit, may we greet the expected and unexpected gifts – the obvious gifts and those that are harder to understand – as truly gifts from our loving God. May we see the radiance and glory of Jesus in all we meet in the years ahead, and welcome them into our hearts with joy, reverence and trust.



### LITURGY AND LIFE

- When have you let the light of Christ guide you?
- What does it mean to you to be a copartner in the promise of Christ Jesus?
- How do you manifest the light of Christ to the world?

### Our Saint of the Week Saint Hilary

Hilary was born to pagan parents of Poitiers, France, in 315. After training in the classics and philosophy, Hilary married. He and his wife had one daughter, Afra. All who knew Hilary said he was a friendly, charitable, gentle man. Hilary's studies led him to read Scripture. He became convinced that there was only one God, whose Son became man and died and rose to save all people. This led him to be baptized along with his wife and daughter.

The people of Poitiers chose Hilary to be their bishop in 353. He spoke out against Arianism, a heresy that denied the divinity of Christ. When Emperor Constantius II wanted him to sign a paper condemning Saint Athanasius, the great defender of the faith, he refused. The emperor was furious and exiled Hilary to Phrygia. In exile, he preached, wrote, and suffered, and even asked to debate the Arian bishops. Fearing Hilary's arguments, Arian's followers begged the emperor to send Hilary home. The emperor, believing Hilary was also undermining his authority, recalled him. Hilary's writings show that he could be fierce in defending the faith, but in dealing with the bishops who had given in to the Arian heresy, he was charitable. He showed them their errors and helped them to defend their faith. Though the emperor called Hilary "disturber of the peace," Saints Jerome praised him as "teacher of the churches."



Loyola Press

# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



## Monday, Jan 9

8:00 a.m.

† **Cheng Lian Hong**

(By: Shirley Dee)

## Tuesday, Jan 10

8:00 a.m.

† **Julie West**

(By: Patty & Ramon Monguez)

## Wednesday, Jan 11

8:00 a.m.

† **Aquilino Mangoba**

(By: Cynthia Ferreira)

## Thursday, Jan 12

8:00 a.m.

**Ding Cagalingan** Sp. Int.

(By: Carol & Kids)

## Friday, Jan 13

8:00 a.m.

**Rhonds Smith** Sp. Int.

(By: Parish Staff)

## Saturday, Jan 14

8:00 a.m.

† **Mary Kiac**

(By: Shirley Dee)

**St. Stephen Parishioners**

(By: Fr. Michael)

## Sunday, Jan 15

8:00 a.m.

**St. Stephen Parishioners**

(By: Fr. Michael)

9:30 a.m.

† **Nancy Barragan**

(By: Elizabeth Kirwan)

11:30 a.m.

† **Fil Dacunha**

(By: Joe & Josie Fernandes)

6:30 p.m.

† **Teresita Agustin**

(By: Ruby Roque)

## The Epiphany of the Lord:



They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

— Matthew 2:11b

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (*Isaiah 60:1-6*).

**Psalm** — All the nations will worship you, Lord (*Psalm 72*).

**Second Reading** — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (*Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6*).

**Gospel** — Magi from the east arrive looking for the newborn king of the Jews (*Matthew 2:1-12*).

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **The Epiphany of the Lord**

Monday: **The Baptism of the Lord**

Tuesday: First Week in Ordinary Time begins

Friday: **St. Hilary**

Saturday: **Blessed Virgin Mary;**

**Julian Calendar New Year**

## The Gift of Generosity

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. Stephen Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead.



If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options.

As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit [saintstephensf.org](http://saintstephensf.org) or contact the church office for more information.

## 50+ Club

**Monday, January 9, 2023**

**Donworth Hall, Doors Open 12:30pm**

New members are most welcome!

For any questions/ concerns, please call:  
Helga at 415-731-8211

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**P**lease pray for the sick and homebound of our community and for all those written in our book of the sick. May they know the healing touch of Jesus.

Debbie Nunes, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton, Nestor Plondaya, Marie Bachand, Francis Yiu, Edna Amora, Rodney Clark, Michelle Vicente, James T. Brady, Michelle Weeks, Rev Bill McCain, Franz Tittiger, Carlota Plondaya, Robert Liam, Marino Tulao, Eden Finn, Edileide Jose Barbosa, Kenneth Fambrini, Larry Barbiere, Carol Dominguez, Marc Gutierrez, Catherine Scosseria, Gwendolyn Walsh, Joel Rivera, Jovita & Richard Thompson.

*Please call the office to add or remove names of people that we should pray for this month.*

A 19<sup>th</sup> century English carol, Christina Rosetti's *A Christmas Carol*, which begins, "In the bleak midwinter." The carol sums up, in its last stanza, the nature of "giving to the Christ Child."

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I could give a Lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I could do my part.  
What I can I give Him? Give Him my heart!"*



## FAMILY CONNECTION

God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

## Background of the Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana. *Loyola Press*



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## START WITH GRATITUDE

Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse.

—Henry Van Dyke

## Christmas Flower Program 2022

### IN LOVING MEMORY:

Aaron Dennis & Xyza Zyra  
Ana Vilma, Elena & Luis Alonso Arevalo

Betsy Barca

Ben & Betty Bayol

Prudencio & Gloria, Lei Ann Cagalingan

Andres & Beatriz Caunan

Agrifina Cercado

Jess De Jesus

Jerry & Julia Fitzgerald

Albert & Michael Gragnani

Liz Porter Gragnani & Child

Janet & Michael Kelly

Eugene & Dolores Koch

Christie, Danny, Patrick Linehan

Rosa & JP Lopez

Michael & Patrick Mangan

Marie Matelich

Leo T. McCarthy

Aquilino Manoba

Barbara Murray

Mary Burke Orizotti

Nerio Sr & Nerio Jr Plondaya

Ignacio Puent

Madlen Saver

Leonard Stefanelli

Ricardo A Sulayao

Loon Foon, John, Yu Chan Tam

Larry Teshara

Henry & Theresa Tran

Laura, Hank & Anna

Richard & Mildred

Thomas, Denis, Margaret

### IN HONOR OF:

St Anthony of Padua

Pete Diaz

Caunan Family

Fr. Michael

Fr. Tony LaTorre

Stefanie Snider

5th Anniversary of Christmas Together



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## **Additional “Insights” from this Week’s Scripture**

- a) Let us worship Jesus at Mass, every day if we can, with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility and the frankincense of our adoration. Let us offer God our very selves, promising Him that we will use His blessings to do good for our fellow men.
- b) Let us plot a better course for our lives as the Magi did, choosing for ourselves a better way of life in the New Year by abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits and selfish behavior and sharing our love with others in acts of charity.
- c) Let us become stars, leading others to Jesus, as the star led the Magi to Him. We can remove or lessen the darkness of the evil around us by being, if not like stars, at least like candles, radiating Jesus’ love by selfless service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate care. Like the Magi, let us offer Jesus our gifts on this feast of Epiphany. (a) The first gift might be friendship with God. After all, the whole point of Christmas is that God’s Son became one of us to redeem us and call us friends. God wants our friendship in the form of whole-hearted love and devotion. (b) A second gift might be friendship with others. This kind of friendship can be costly. The price it exacts is vulnerability and openness to others. The Good News, however, is that, in offering friendship to others, we will receive back many blessings. (c) A third gift might be the gift of reconciliation. This gift repairs damaged relationships.

## **2023 Mass Intention Book Now Open!**

Due to a large volume of Mass requests and in order to be fair to the needs of our parishioners, the following is the Mass Book Policy:

1. Only registered Parishioners can request up to a maximum of 10 masses/year.
  2. Only 2 of those Masses may be on weekends depending on availability - this makes it fair to all parishioners who wish to have a weekend Mass.
  3. Mass intentions cannot be reserved by phone or via SMS. Requests must be submitted in writing or e-mail.
  4. via email. You may drop your requests together with your donation payment at the Collection basket or at the Parish Mailbox or slow mail to the Parish Office.
  5. Not all dates are available, so we ask that you be prepared with alternate dates and times. If your requested date is not available, an alternate date shall be chosen.
  6. Mass Intentions are at least \$10 each. If you're paying by check, Check Memo should indicate - Mass intention on xx/xx/23 (date) OR Mass intention for xxx (name) OR No. of Mass intentions;
  7. Allow time for processing and provide your email or phone no. to confirm your masses
- For questions, please call Carol Cagalingan, 415-681-2444 x3 or email carol@SaintStephenSF.org.

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Life hands us many epiphanies or “wake-up calls.” A few years ago, a young couple adopted a two-year-old child in a morass of red tape, complications, and court hearings. At the baby’s baptism, the priest suggested appending an “adoption blessing,” wherein the new relationship was expressed and affirmed. There is a place in that rite for the child to speak, and instead the priest said, “Can you give Daddy a kiss?” Standing in the midst of his church, the young adoptive father suddenly welled up with tears as he embraced the child. Afterward, he explained that through all the hassles and legal struggles he never until that moment in church understood that he was the parent of this child. The ritual claimed them for each other, gave expression to their relationship that the legal documents never could, and firmly cemented this child into the heart of a community as everyone erupted into heartfelt applause. This assembly witnessed in a powerful way what happens in every baptism: the mystery of adoption, the free flow of grace, the overwhelming sense of God’s presence at the heart of our life’s journey.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## The Gifts

Gold, frankincense and myrrh may be thought of as prophesying Jesus’ future, gold representing his kingship as well as divinity, frankincense a symbol of his priestly role, and myrrh a prefiguring of his death and embalming.

Gold was a gift for Kings, accepting baby Jesus as the king of the Jews. Gold is also a symbol of Divinity and is mentioned throughout the Bible. Pagan idols were often made from gold and the Ark of the Covenant was overlaid with gold (Exodus 25:10-17). The gift of gold to the Christ Child was symbolic of His Divinity—God in flesh.

Frankincense is highly fragrant when burned and was therefore used in worship, where it was burned as a pleasant offering to God (Exodus 30:34). Frankincense is a symbol of holiness and righteousness. The gift of frankincense to the Christ Child was symbolic of his willingness to become a sacrifice, wholly giving himself up, analogous to a burnt offering.

Myrrh was used by the High Priest as an anointing oil (Ex. 30:23) Myrrh was used in ancient times for embalming the bodies of the dead before burial. It was a fitting “gift” for Jesus who was born to die. It was also sometimes mingled with wine to form an article of drink. Matthew 27:34 refers to it as “gall.” Such a drink was given to our Savior when he was about to be crucified, as a stupefying potion (Mark 15:23). Myrrh symbolizes bitterness, suffering, and affliction. The baby Jesus would grow to suffer greatly as a man and would pay the ultimate price when He gave his life on the cross for all who would believe in him. In addition, myrrh was used an oriental remedy for intestinal worms in infants, a useful gift for a new baby.



## ALL SHARE IN THE PROMISE

Picture a nativity scene in your mind’s eye. The scene likely includes figures arriving on camels, some elaborately dressed, with jeweled boxes containing precious gifts. These magi arrived from distant lands to pay homage to the Christ Child. We know little about the magi, but we do know that these visitors were not Jews. They represent people of all nations who will be drawn to the Lord. “Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.” The Good News of Jesus cannot be limited to one people; all share in the promise of God’s mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ.

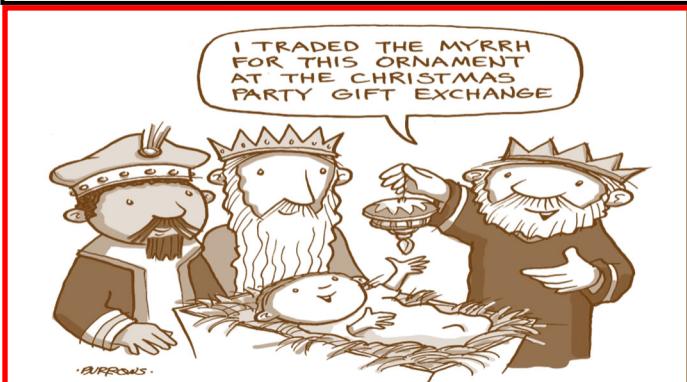
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## This Week's Epiphany Humor

**A husband asked his wife,** "Why would God give the wise men a star to guide them?" She replied, "Because God knows men are too proud to ask directions."

**Three Wise Women:** While they were talking about the story of the three wise men, a woman asked her parish priest this question, "Do you know why God gave the star to the wise men?" When he professed his ignorance, she told him: "God knows men are too proud to ask directions. If there had been three wise women instead of three wise men, they would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and given some practical gifts!"

**Epiphany of a pilot:** A helicopter was flying around above Seattle yesterday when an electrical malfunction disabled all the aircraft's electronic navigation and communications equipment. Due to the clouds and haze, the pilot could not determine the helicopter's position and course to steer to the airport. The pilot saw a tall building, flew toward it, circled, drew a handwritten sign, and held it in the helicopter's window. The pilot's sign said "Where am I?" in large letters. People in the tall building quickly responded to the aircraft, drew a large sign, and held it in a building window. Their sign said "You are in a helicopter." The pilot smiled, waved, looked at his map, determined the course to steer to Sea-Tac airport, and landed safely. After they were on the ground, the co-pilot asked the pilot how the "You are in a helicopter" sign helped determine their position. The pilot responded, "I knew that had to be the Microsoft building because, similar to their help-lines, they gave me a technically correct but completely useless answer."





## PASTORAL STAFF

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*Priest in Residence, SFSU Chaplain*

**Fr. Michael Healy**

*Priest in Residence*

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## ST STEPHEN PARISH 2022-2023

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- Altar Servers Giovanna Hrvatin
- Altar Society Joan Leehane
- Bridge Group Virginia Stefanelli
- Caritas Nellie Hizon
- Church Hospitality Mary Molly Mullaney
- Communion Ministers Mary Molly Mullaney
- Faith Formation Mary Molly Mullaney
- Fifty Plus Club Helga D'Arcy
- Finance Council Laura Birsinger
- Front Ofc Lead Volunteer Fely Boquiren
- Grief Support Clergy
- Head Sacristan Ed Quan
- Lectors Mary Molly Mullaney
- Liturgy Committee Fr. Michael Liliedahl
- Marriage Preparation Clergy
- Men's Club Martin Murphy
- Parish Council Vicky Francisco
- RCIA Mary Molly Mullaney
- St. Stephen Book Club Mary Molly Mullaney
- Ushers Jim Scheg
- Women's Guild Naomi Kelly

Parish Office Phone 415.681.2444

### ***Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us!***

You can **sign up** or **update** your information by completing this form & placing it in the collection basket, by mailing it to the Parish Office, by phone at 415-681-2444 or at [www.saintstephensf.org](http://www.saintstephensf.org)

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