

# St. Stephen Parish

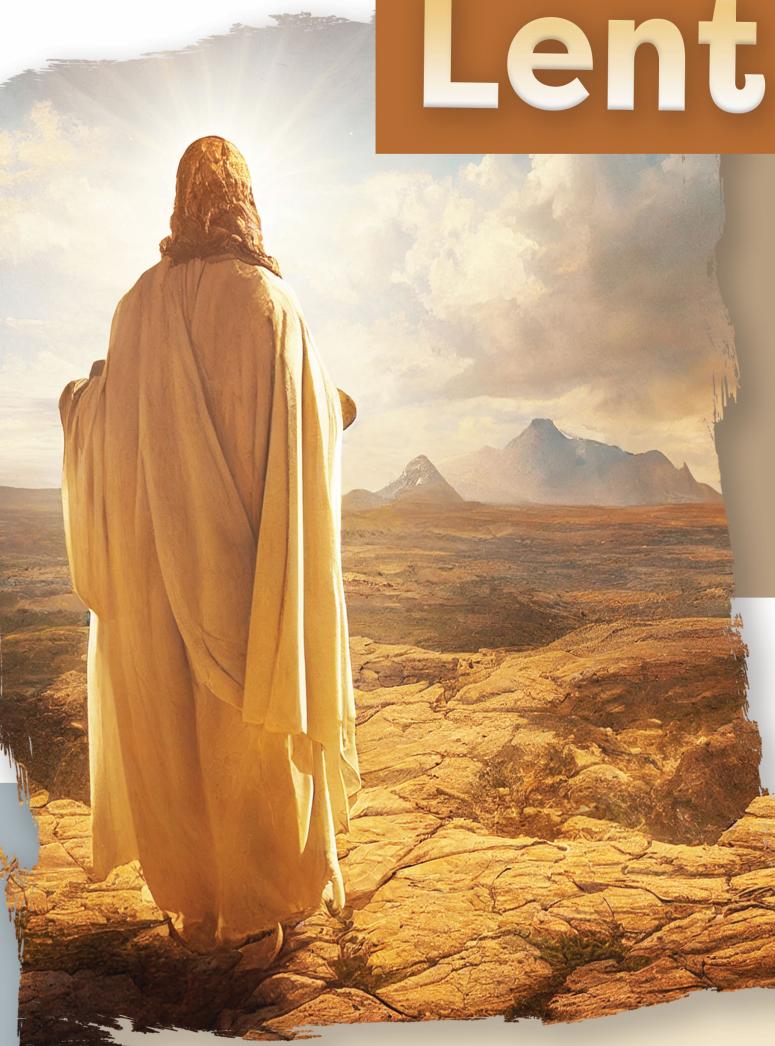
SaintStephenSF.org | 601 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco CA 94132 | Church 415 681-2444  
StStephenSchoolSF.org | 401 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco 94132 | School 415 664-8331

**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, 11:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF Lent

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

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At that time Jesus was let by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:1

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."

He said in reply,  
"It is written:

*One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."*

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.

For it is written:

*He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."*

Jesus answered him,

"Again it is written,

*You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."*

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."

At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: *The Lord, your God, shall you Worship and him alone shall you serve.*"

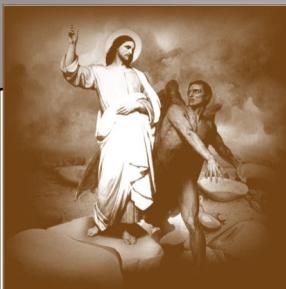
Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

**Mathew 4:1-11**

**Encounter Jesus Christ. Love Jesus Christ. Live Jesus Christ.**

February 26, 2023

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



Today's readings, as we begin the season of Lent, give us two special reminders that will help us on our journey: Who God is and who we are as human beings.

The reading from Genesis presents our creation story: The Lord God formed us out of the clay of the ground, and animated us by breathing life into us. Without God, we simply would not exist.

Yet from the very beginning, it has been hard for us as human beings to remember this basic fact. Like Adam and Eve, it is very easy for us to fall into the trap of wanting to be like God – wanting to be in charge of our lives and wanting to know good from evil. We certainly can go through our lives reacting to our problems and challenges as if we're in charge of everything, and forget to rely on the wisdom and guidance of God. Perhaps, however, as we begin our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, our focus should be to remember to put God first in our lives, and to wrest out of our lives anything we want to put before God.

Jesus gives us a masterful example of how to do just that in the Gospel, as he's confronted with various temptations by the devil. For every temptation that Satan puts before him, Jesus counters with a reminder that God comes first. Tempted to make stones into bread after 40 days of fasting, Jesus notes that we live not only on bread, but on the word of God. Tempted to fall down and let God save him, he reminds the devil that he is not to put God to the test. Finally, tempted with all the riches of the world if he only worships Satan, Jesus counters that God alone should be worshiped. Jesus gives us a clear model: In all temptations to hunger, power and wealth, we are to remember that God, our Creator, comes first.

As we begin our own challenging journey of Lent, let us be assured by the words of Paul in today's second reading. Although sin abounds in our world, God's grace abounds even more. As we struggle in the weeks ahead to put God first, to remove from our lives the obstacles to our union with God, God gives us graces to help us in our struggle. We are never alone on the journey when we strive to come closer to God – God is always waiting to give us any help we need, if only we remember to turn to him. Let us face the Lent ahead with the courage and strength of Jesus.

May you have a blessed, safe and healthy week ahead.

### Liturgy and Life

- How does pride influence your decisions?
- Where is your life, do you want to ask God for mercy?
- Satan tempts Jesus with power. What is your response to power given to you?

### Our Saint of the Week - Saint Katharine Drexel

Saint Katharine Drexel, 1858-1955  
Contemplation and generosity vied for first place in St. Katharine Drexel's life. The heiress from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, wanted most to withdraw to a cloister, but her circumstances and gifts pulled her to Christian service. Francis A. Drexel, a world-renowned banker and a man of faith, provided his family a life of ease. And Emma Bouvier, her stepmother, trained Katharine and her two sisters in generous giving. Mrs. Drexel believed God gave wealth to the family to aid others, and regularly involved her daughters in distributing food, medicine, clothing, and rent money to the poor. The experience shaped Katharine's future. Both parents died by 1885, leaving Katharine and her sisters to share the annual income from a fourteen-million-dollar estate. Right away Katharine began to donate thousands of dollars to the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions for the construction and staffing of schools for Native American children, which became her life's passion.



At this time, however, Katharine's spirit was in turmoil. Bishop James O'Connor, her spiritual director, thought she should remain a single woman serving in the world. But she wished to become a contemplative nun. *My heart is very sorrowful, she wrote him in 1886, because like the little girl who wept when she found that her doll was stuffed with sawdust and her drum was hollow, I, too, have made a horrifying discovery and my discovery like hers is true. I have ripped both the doll and the drum open and the fact lies plainly and in all its glaring reality before me: All, all, all (there is no exception) is passing away and will pass away.*

**LENTEN SEASON  
Began February 22nd!**

### **Lenten Soup Supper March 24**

Sign-up to help. Sheets are in the vestibule of the church.

**Forgiveness is not something we do for other people. We do it for ourselves to get well and move on.**

[www.livelifehappy.com](http://www.livelifehappy.com)

# Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

## Monday, Feb 27

8:00 a.m.

† Stefanie Snider

(By: Debby Diaz)

## Tuesday, Feb 28

8:00 a.m.

Fr. Bill Brady Sp. Int

(By: Ding, Carol & Kids)

## Wednesday, Mar 1

8:00 a.m.

Margarita Solis-Tucker

Sp. Int. (By: Parish Staff)

## Thursday, Mar 2

8:00 a.m.

Azaian Irac Sp. Int.

(By: Papa & Mama)

## Friday, Mar 3

8:00 a.m.

† Mary McDonagh

(By: Clodagh & John Cahalane)

## Saturday, Mar 4

8:00 a.m.

† Bartholomew Heavy

(By: Liam Frost)

† Dr. Tom Perlite

(By: Tina Holl)

## Sunday, Mar 5

8:00 a.m.

St. Stephen Parishioners

(By: Fr Michael)

† Louise Marcal

(By: Maria Xavier)

† Apolinario Reyes

(By: Liberty Mungal)

† Antonio Fortuna

(By: Ruby Roque)

## **TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (*Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7*).

**Psalm** — Have mercy on us sinners, O Lord (*Psalm 51*).

**Second Reading** — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (*Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]*).

**Gospel** — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (*Matthew 4:1-11*).

## **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: First Sunday of Lent

Monday: St. Gregory of Narek;

Julian Calendar Lent begins

Friday: St. Katharine Drexel;  
Abstinence;

First Friday; World Day of Prayer

Saturday: St. Casimir;  
First Saturday

## **THE WAY**

It's hard to train a child in a way the parents don't go themselves. — *Anonymous*

## STAY CONNECTED TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY!

FOLLOW St Stephen Church on SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram : @SaintStephenParishSF

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YouTube : @StStephenParishSF

## 2022 STATEMENT OF DONATIONS

### For TAX Purposes

Donation Statements shall automatically be mailed to parishioners with donations of at least \$250 & above starting February 1st on the mailing address on record with the Parish Office.

For any questions/ clarifications on your 2022 Donation Statement for tax purposes, email the parish bookkeeper

teresa@saintstephensf.org

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ST STEPHEN CHURCH has made the exciting decision to move to a more improved and updated REALM database system catered to the needs of the parish!

Go ONLINE at [www.SaintStephenSF.org](http://www.SaintStephenSF.org), click the GIVING tab then SIGN-UP and CREATE your Account Profile. You can also go directly at <https://onrealm.org/saintstephensf>.

Brochures shall be made available at the Vestibule for your guidance. For assistance, call Parish Office at 415-681-2444

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



February 19, 2023

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit .*1 Corinthians 2:9-10*

## Sick Relatives & Friends

Please 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, 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.



## 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 Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 4:1-11*

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after

Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted. Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.



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 regarding the hourly rate available for our parishioners.

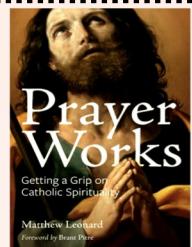


## St Stephen's Book Club

February 2023

### Prayer Works: Getting a Grip on Catholic Spirituality

by Matthew Leonard



If you've never read a book on prayer, you've got the right one. And if you've read lots of books on prayer, you've still got the right one. Prayer Works is a unique blend of great storytelling, laugh-out-loud humor, and rock-solid instruction. Matthew Leonard has the rare gift of making deep topics easy to understand and digest. Practical and inspirational, this book will set your heart on fire and teach you how to engage in a life of divine intimacy you never thought possible. Put simply, Prayer Works will radically transform your life.

Come join us as we meet the in person on the second Saturday of the month in the parish office conference room. Contact Mary Molly at the parish office for details. Phone - 415 681-2444x4

## CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

### Prayer during Lent

Holy God, now is the acceptable time to return to you. As we walk the path of these forty days, may we turn away from sin and embrace a life of goodness and truth. Strengthen us on our Lenten journey and keep us focused on the cross and resurrection of your Son, our Savior and Redeemer.

He is Lord forever and ever. Amen.



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## WHO WE ARE AND WHOSE WE ARE

The Lenten season is a fresh invitation to explore again who God is, who we are, and what it means to be human. We begin by hearing the tragic story of the first humans in the book of Genesis. As Paul describes in Romans, our struggles started when our ancestors broke the bond of unity with God, sought self-sufficiency, and grew apart from their true purpose and identity. In Matthew's Gospel, we see how Jesus resists the lure of living outside of unity with God. Jesus rejects false promises of possessions, power, and status. Instead, he puts his life in his Father's hands. As our model for living as a fully human person, Jesus demonstrates that we are created to live in relationship with and trust in God, and in harmony with and for all of creation.

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## EFFORTLESS

The only thing that comes to a person without effort is old age

—Anonymous



**St. Stephen Men's Club Presents**

## **St. Patrick's Day**

### **Celebration**

**&**

### **Corned Beef Dinner,**

**including Bag Pipes, Irish Dancers, and Live DJ.**

**Saturday, March 4th, 2023**

**Donworth Hall: 5:30-10 pm, following 4:30 pm Mass.**

*Bring the whole family for an evening of fun, music and friends  
as we discover the Irish in all of us!*

Please RSVP to the St. Stephen School office by **Monday, February 27th.**  
Checks should be made payable to:

### **St. Stephen Men's Club**

Payment via Venmo is acceptable - see reverse side for QR code.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Adults \_\_\_\_ x \$35/ea = \$\_\_\_\_\_

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#### **Catholic Relief Services**

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Earthquake Response

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#### **Boy Scouts - Troop 333**

**Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.** Scout Troop 333 is recruiting! Drop ins to Lakeside Landing (2504 Ocean Ave, San Francisco, CA) with your 5th, 6th or 7th grader or call or write Katherine Dulany with questions, 415-999-8603 or [katherinedulany@yahoo.com](mailto:katherinedulany@yahoo.com).

We'd love to see more St Stephen families in the Troop. For more information check out <https://sanfrancisco333.mytroop.us/>

#### **The Hibernian Newman Club**

cordially invites you to the annual

#### **St. Patrick's Day Luncheon**

**Friday, March 17, 2023 11:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Hilton Union Square

Supports the Newman Centers at SF State University  
and the University of California San Francisco.

#### **50+ Club**

**Monday, March 6, 2023**

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

New members are most welcome!

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

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In a few weeks' time, at the Chrism Mass of the diocese, fresh sacramental oils will be blessed and chrism consecrated for use in every parish. Olive oil is the main ingredient of chrism, but olive oil with some exotic additives that change its character and purpose. Rich balsam and perfumes separate chrism from the pantry. Food no longer, neither is this oil for grooming or toning muscles. It has a breathtaking aroma that is both alluring and enduring.

The prayer of consecration is a good meditation for the coming Lenten season since it focuses us on the goal of our journey, linking it with the olive-bearing dove at the end of Noah's stormy voyage of forty days. The dove signaled the birth of a new world, a society reborn from the wreckage of the old, drowned world of sin. At the end of our Lenten journey, the oil of chrism will be poured down in abundance on the brows of catechumens and infants, as well as on those to be confirmed or ordained. Lent puts us in touch with the hard edges of life in need of salvation, and the chrism of Easter joy redeems and restores.

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

## OUR FASCINATING FAITH

### Lent

One of the liturgical reforms mandated at the Second Vatican Council was that the focus of the season of Lent should be restored as a time of preparation for—or renewal of—baptism. The bishops at the Council were aware of the fact that the origins of Lent as a distinctive liturgical season lay in the early centuries when the Church celebrated the sacraments of Christian initiation only once a year, at the Easter Vigil. In order to prepare those who were to receive those sacraments, a special period of preparation (eventually lasting forty days) gradually developed.

By the time of the Second Vatican Council, the initiatory character of Lent had long been forgotten, and it had become simply a time of penance focused on individual spiritual renewal. The introduction of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and the revision of the Lectionary after the Council have changed all of that. Now the Sunday scripture readings during Lent are very carefully selected with an eye to the journey of those preparing to be initiated at the Easter Vigil. Once again, the entire community is asked to undergo penance in solidarity with the candidates for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Thus, in order to appreciate fully the meaning of the readings during this season, the “filter” through which they must be heard is always the knowledge that we are helping to prepare our sisters and brothers in the catechumenate for their initiation at the Easter Vigil.

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Thank  
You

### Feeding the Homeless

Our sincere thanks to Dan Holper and all our parishioners who helped with the Winter Shelter Program ; those who prepared the food, those who delivered the food and those who served the food. ( a list of names will appear in a future bulletin.) We thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth.



### A CHURCH ACCESSIBLE!

Saint Stephen Church is left open Monday through Saturday from after the morning Mass until 4:00 p.m. This gives you the opportunity to stop by and make a personal/ private visit with the Blessed Sacrament and to offer your prayers in a quiet, warm and comfortable atmosphere. So, when you are out for an afternoon walk or returning home from shopping or work -- feel free to stop by.



## PASTORAL STAFF

**Rev. Michael Liliedahl**

*Pastor, ext. 1*

Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

**Fr. Cameron Faller**

*Priest in Residence, SFSU Chaplain*

**Fr. Michael Healy**

*Priest in Residence*

**Rev. Mr. Manuel "Olet" Abad**

*Permanent Deacon*

deacon@SaintStephenSF.org

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*Principal*

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*Bulletin Editor, ext. 6*

e.prete@SaintStephenSF.org

## ST STEPHEN PARISH 2022-2023

### ORGANIZATION/MINISTRY      CONTACT PERSON

- 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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Complete Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Sunday envelopes , circle one: Yes No, but commit to participate thru Online Giving.

I am interested in assisting the Parish in an organization or ministry as (Please encircle your choice/s):

Acolyte/Altar Service, Altar Society, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Greeter/Usher, Hospitality after Mass/Special Events, Holy Communion Ministers to the Homebound, Music/Choir, Lector &/or Holy Communion Ministers, Parish Center Front Office Volunteer.

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