

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.

50+ Club - Tomorrow
Monday, March 6, 2023
Doors Open 12:30 p.m.

SECOND SUNDAY OF

Lent
(Matthew 17:1-9).

MARCH 5, 2023

*From the cloud came
a voice that said,
"This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am
well pleased;
listen to him."*

Matthew 17:5

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here.

If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid.

But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

(Matthew 17:1-

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

March 5, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

These words from Saint Paul to Timothy in today's reading are a wonderfully encouraging summary of the Christian life. First, the Gospel is something we all share. While God calls each one of us to himself, and we each have a responsibility to respond in faith, we are not a group of discrete individuals, alone in our journey. Instead, we are baptized into a community, whose communal presence forms the Church. We celebrate together, worship together, pray together and for one another, and we literally grow the kingdom of heaven here on earth by loving one another as God loves us.



Second, there will be hardship in this life. While that is not news to us, Paul's words remind us that, as we share in the good news of the Gospel, we also share in the inevitable hardship that arises in being faithful to Christ's message and our call to holiness. Whatever the hardship is, we are called to share with one another. Sharing provides strength in numbers, and makes burdens easier to bear. And bearing one another's burdens is another command of the Gospel (Cf., Galatians 6:2). This is why we pray for one another, or offer material or financial assistance to one another. It's why we celebrate baptism, but also attend each other's funerals.

It is also why the sacrament of penance is more than "just" confessing our individual sins, and receiving absolution from God. The sacrament restores our relationship to the greater Catholic community which has (even in unseen ways) been broken. Just as every part of the human body is important and must be in perfect order for the body to function at its best, so every person of Christ's body is important and must be reconciled to the whole with forgiveness and grace in order for his body, the Church, to be at its best for the world.

Finally, we do all things fortified by the strength of God. God never abandons us, never leaves us to face things on our own. We can choose not to ask him for help; we can choose to ignore his commands or to cooperate with his grace. But God never withholds that grace when asked. Never withholds his strength. If we ever feel far away from



God, we can be sure that it is we who have moved, not him.

When Jesus took his disciples – James, John and Peter – up the mountain and was transfigured before them, they had a glimpse of the glorified future that awaits all who are faithful to the Gospel. We who celebrate this liturgy today also have a glimpse of that glorified future, as we literally and metaphysically share in the heavenly banquet with the communion of saints. So, as we strive in holiness to join them, in the fullness of time, may we take to heart the good news and encouraging words of Paul, sharing in the promise of God and knowing that the Lord gives us strength for all things.

Our Saint of the Week—Saint Perpetua

“When my father in his affection for me was trying to turn me from my purpose by arguments and thus weaken my faith, I said to him, ‘Do you see this vessel—water pot or whatever it may be? Can it be called by any other name than what it is?’ ‘No,’ he replied. ‘So also I cannot call myself by any other name than what I am—a Christian.’”



So writes Perpetua: young, beautiful, well-educated, a noblewoman of Carthage in North Africa, mother of an infant son and chronicler of the persecution of the Christians by Emperor Septimius Severus.

Perpetua's mother was a Christian and her father a pagan. He continually pleaded with her to deny her faith. She refused and was imprisoned at 22.

In her diary, Perpetua describes her period of captivity: “What a day of horror! Terrible heat, owing to the crowds! Rough treatment by the soldiers! To crown all, I was tormented with anxiety for my baby.... Such anxieties I suffered for many days, but I obtained leave for my baby to remain in the prison with me, and being relieved

of my trouble and anxiety for him, I at once recovered my health, and my prison became a palace to me and I would rather have been there than anywhere else.” Despite threats of persecution and death, Perpetua, Felicity—a slave woman and expectant mother—and three companions, Revocatus, Secundulus and Saturninus, refused to renounce their Christian faith. For their unwillingness, all were sent to the public games in the amphitheater. There Perpetua and Felicity were beheaded, and the others killed by beasts. Felicity gave birth to a daughter a few days before the games commenced. Perpetua's record of her trial and imprisonment ends the day before the games. “Of what was done in the games themselves, let him write who will.” The diary was finished by an eyewitness. *Loyola Press*

LENTEN SEASON

**Stations of the Cross
Fridays 6:00 p.m.**

Lenten Soup Supper March 24

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

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Mar 6

8:00 a.m.

Una & Pat Georg *Sp. Int.*
(By: Dan & Sally Holper)

Tuesday, Mar 7

8:00 a.m.

† **Helen Palabyab**
(By: Dennis Palabyab)

Wednesday, Mar 8

8:00 a.m.

† **Alice McEntee**
(By: O'Callaghan Family)

Thursday, Mar 9

8:00 a.m.

† **Marilyn O'Regan**
(By: Peggy O'Driscoll)

Friday, Mar 10

8:00 a.m.

† **Consuelo Torres**
(By: Gary & Lourdes Torres)

Saturday, Mar 11

8:00 a.m.

† **Cestina Milch**
(By: Marilu Illenberger)

4:30 p.m.

Alex & Lyn Bradshaw *Sp. Int.*
(By: John & Marilyn Lee)

Sunday, Mar 12

8:00 a.m.

† **Beverly & Jack LaRoca**
(By: Liam Frost)

9:30 a.m.

St Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)

11:30 a.m.

† **Michael Gragnani**
(By: Diane Gragnani)

6:30 p.m.

† **Joyce Patton**
(By: Vicky Francisco)

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD said to Abram: All the families of the earth shall find blessing in you
(*Genesis 12:1-4a*)

Psalm — We rely on you, O God; show us mercy
(*Psalm 33*).

Second Reading — God has called us to a holy life, not because of our works but according to grace
(*2 Timothy 1:8b-10*).

Gospel — Atop a high mountain, Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. (*Matthew 17:1-9*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **Second Sunday of Lent**
Monday: **Purim (Jewish festival of the story of Esther) begins at sunset**
Tuesday: **Ss. Perpetua and Felicity**
Wednesday: **St. John of God**
Thursday: **St. Frances of Rome**
Friday: **Abstinence**

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

Facebook : @SaintStephenSF

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, 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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



March 5, 2023

Christ Jesus . . . destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

— *2 Timothy 1:10b*

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 Barbieri, Carol Dominguez, Marc Gutierrez, Catherine Scossieria, 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 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

Background on the Gospel Reading

For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest. *Loyola Press*

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer during Lent

Act of Contrition

My God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you. I detest all my sins, because of your just punishment, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

Amen.



Our 20,000 Square Foot Parish Center Available to Rent for Special Occasions

call Shay Ingelfinger at 415 681-2444
For more information, ext.7 or
donworthevents@saintstephsnf.org
regarding the hourly rate available for



Thank You

Winter Shelter Dinner

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the Winter Shelter Dinner on Saturday February 18th, 2023, at the First Unitarian Universalist Society. We served up delicious dinners for 60 cold and homeless people. They were hugely grateful for what we did for them. The following are volunteers that helped out:

Sheila Astaha	Joan Leehane
Charlotte Bautista	Deborah Lobo
Nancy Buckley	Gabrielle Mab
Lupita Chase	Stephanie Mazzola
Barbara Conti	Pita McGloin
Debbie Diaz	Chris Milano
Christina Dyer	Jeannette Milano
Santiago Dyer	Renate Morlock
James Gargan	Mary Molly Mullaney
John Girish	Ceci Quintanilla
Trish Hargarten	Kathy Rogers
Dan Holper	Ruby Roque-Quan
Michael Holper	Lucille Sanchez-Corea
Peter Holper	Carol St. John
Rita Hock	Justin Simpson
Nancy Koch	Lisa Simpson
Karen Leach	Nancy Tam

TURNING POINTS

Our readings today describe turning points for those whom God has chosen. In Genesis, God calls Abram to leave his homeland, with the promise of forming a people in a new land. In the Gospel, the disciples see Jesus literally in a new light, the bright light of Jesus' transfiguration. They begin to see Jesus, and themselves, in a new way. These are times when God presents a new way forward, providing new purpose and energy. Our lives too have their own turning points, where God is working (usually in less spectacular fashion) to lead us into fuller maturity, and into deeper unity with God and others. The road ahead, as with Abram, Jesus, and the disciples, may be long and difficult. Lent can be a time when we reflect upon these turning points in our past, and consider how God may be stirring something new in us today.

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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 = \$ _____

Children ____ x \$10/ea = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Catholic Relief Services

**How to Help the Earthquake Victims
in Turkey & Syria**

Donate online:

<https://www.crs.org/earthquake-response>

Donate by phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS

Donate by check:

Earthquake Response

P.O. Box 5200, Harlan, IA 51593-0700

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.

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.

NEW WAYS TO

GIVE

AVAILABLE NOW!



**online
GIVING**
easy. fast. effective.

St Stephen Church provides Online Giving -- a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy. Visit www.saintstephensf.org, click on GIVING link. When you participate, your gift will be securely transferred directly into the parish.

TEXT TO GIVE

Text "SAINTSTEPHENSF space desired AMOUNT" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

The Scrutinies

Next Sunday, if your parish is blessed with catechumens (now called "elect" during Lent) who are preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil, you will likely celebrate with them the first of three scrutinies. These are rites integral to final Lenten preparations made by the elect, and they are celebrated on three successive Sundays, starting with the Third Sunday of Lent. The Church tells us that the scrutinies are meant to uncover and heal all that is weak and sinful in the lives of the elect. During the week leading up to each celebration, the elect engage in prayerful preparation involving deep reflection on their own lives and the new life to which they are called. The rites themselves use a special form of intercessions specifically directed to the lives of the elect, and include a prayer of exorcism.

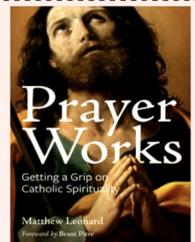
It is essential that these rites be celebrated in the midst of the community, so that the elect experience the support of the parish members on this profound journey of faith. But it is equally important that the parish members witness the growing faith of the elect so they may be inspired by it for their Lenten journey of reflection on their own baptism in preparation for Easter.

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St Stephen's Book Club

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 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

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 person/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 Lilledahl

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Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

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Priest in Residence, SFSU Chaplain

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Priest in Residence

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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 Lilledahl
- 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

Name _____ Contact Phone _____

Email _____

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.