

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.

ZION GATE
JERUSALEM

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord!

MATTHEW 21:9

April 2
2023

Palm
Sunday

OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD

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

April 2, 2023

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



Palm Sunday

Today is one of those unique days in the Church calendar when we hear two Gospel passages very different in tone and sentiment, and certainly in content. We begin the liturgy with a presentation of an enthusiastic and exuberant crowd as Jesus enters Jerusalem, the capital of David's kingdom. Along the way he is regaled and hailed as *Son of David*; the *prophet, from Nazareth*; and the one *who comes in the name of the Lord*. He gets the red-carpet treatment: cloaks and *cut branches from the trees* strewn on the dusty road; cries of Hosanna piercing the air; the crowd swelling, their voices crying out in a mixture of scriptural quotations and messianic aspirations.

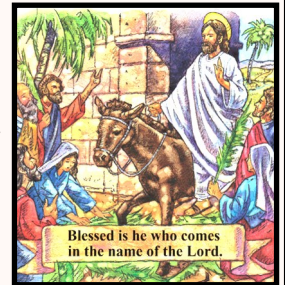
Then, as the Mass progresses – and somewhat all of a sudden – the mood changes: Our Gospel announces that the king has been degraded to the level of a common criminal. The victory confetti is replaced by whips, spitting, and choking dust. Jesus the prophet and Davidic Savior is

now Jesus the criminal, the blasphemer, the rebel. The donkey that once carried him in triumph has disappeared, and on his own back he now carries the heavy and awkward cross. Cries of celebration have turned to calls for death; shouts of joy have given way to the sound of the lash; the parade has become an execution march.

It is enough to make our spiritual head spin. For in this yearly remembrance of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are well-reminded of the nature of our own temptations and sins. We can often find ourselves with Jesus for the easy part of the journey, but then vanish like the wind when the pressure rises and the threats of death fill the air. We examine how deep is our own loyalty to Christ in a world where faith is so easily mocked and the name of Christ so easily denigrated. We think about the times when we want to skip ahead to the empty tomb without first walking to Golgotha. As Jesus tells us, the human spirit can be very willing, but the flesh very weak. But there can be no resurrection without the cross; there can be no new life without first dying to oneself. There is no Easter without Good Friday.

Let us not be like the crowd: Fickle, inconsistent, swaying with the latest wind of popularity and fame, afraid to stand up for justice and truth – for the innocent one. But as we journey this Holy Week, let us keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus. Let us take note of his patience, his total and unyielding dedication to doing the will of the Father fully and completely. Then let us take up our cross and follow him, so that having shared in his cross, we might share in his resurrection.

As we enter the holiest of weeks, even if it be in the confines of our own homes, let us pray for ourselves, our friends and family and in thanksgiving for the gift of this week that leads to the gift of eternal life for those who follow the Lord.



Our Saint of the Week St. Isidore of Seville

St. Isidore of Seville is sometimes called "the schoolmaster of the Middle Ages" because his books and schools helped shape the education and culture of medieval Europe. For ten centuries, Isidore's voluminous works were among those most quoted by other writers. And his establishment of cathedral schools laid a foundation for the medieval universities.



In 599, Isidore became bishop of Seville and for thirty-seven years led the Spanish church through a period of intense religious development. Isidore also organized representative councils that established the structure and discipline of the church in Spain. At the Council of Toledo in 633 he obtained a decree that required the establishment of a school in every diocese. Reflecting the saint's broad interests, the schools taught every branch of knowledge, including the liberal arts, medicine, law, Hebrew, and Greek.

Shortly before his death, Isidore had two friends clothe him in sackcloth and rub ashes on his head so that he could come before God as a poor penitent. He died peacefully at Seville in 636.

50+ Club

Tomorrow, Monday, April 3, 2023
Donworth Hall, Doors Open 12:30pm

New members are most welcome!

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

We Rent Our Hall

FOR ANY OCCASION
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**Our 20,000 Square Foot Parish
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Special Occasions**

call Shay Ingelfinger at 415 681-2444
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donworthevents@saintstephensf.org

Palm Sunday Humor

Little Johnny was sick on Palm Sunday and stayed home from Church with his mother. His father returned from Church holding a palm branch. The little boy was curious and asked, "Why do you have that palm branch, dad?" His father explained, "You see, when Jesus came into town, everyone waved palm branches to honor Him; so we got palm branches today." "Aw, shucks," grumbled Little Johnny. "The one Sunday I can't go to Church, and Jesus shows up!"

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Apr 3

8:00 a.m.

Charlotte Bautista *Sp. Int.*

(By: Bautista Family)

Tuesday, Apr 4

8:00 a.m.

Joe McCarthy *Sp. Int.*

(By: Peggy O'Driscoll)

Wednesday, Apr 5

8:00 a.m.

Robert Liam *Sp. Int.*

(By: Lolo & Lola Cags)

Thursday, Apr 6

8:00 a.m.

† **Apolinario Reyes**

(By: Liberty Mungcal)

Friday, Apr 7

Good Friday

Saturday, Apr 8

8:00 p.m.

† **Leonard Stefanelli**

(By: Virginia Stefanelli)

Sunday, Apr 9

8:00 a.m.

† **Bill Herbert**

(By: Ed & Cecelia Prete)

9:30 a.m.

† **Pat & Betty Moriarte**

(By: Kirwan Family)

11:30 a.m.

† **Albert Gragnani**

(By: Diane Gragnani)

6:30 p.m.

† **Yolanda Thompson**

(By: Vicky Francisco)

TODAY'S READINGS

Gospel at the Procession with Palms — Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (*Matthew 21:1-11*).

First Reading — In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (*Isaiah 50:4-7*).

Psalms — O my God, why have you cast me off? (*Psalms 22*)

Second Reading — Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (*Philippians 2:6-11*).

Gospel — The account of Christ's passion according to Matthew (*Matthew 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;**

Monday: **Monday of Holy Week**

Tuesday: **Tuesday of Holy Week**

Wednesday: **Wednesday of Holy Week;**

Passover (Jewish celebration)

Thursday: **Holy Thursday; The Sacred Paschal Triduum**

Friday: **Friday of the Passion of the Lord; Fast and Abstinence; First Friday**

Saturday: **Holy Saturday;**

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 2

Reconciliation, Saturday 3:30-4:00pm

Vigil Mass (*Saturday*) 4:30pm

8:00, 9:30*, 11:30am & 6:45pm

Holy Week Masses, April 3-5

8:00am (*Mon., Tue., Wed.*)



Holy Thursday, April 6

(*No morning Mass*)

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30pm*

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament until 10pm

Good Friday, April 7

(*No morning Mass, Confessions Available 1:00-3:00pm*)

Stations of the Cross, 12:00pm

Spiritual Reflection, 12:30pm

Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord, 3:00pm*

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, April 8

(*No morning Mass nor Reconciliation*)

Vigil Mass, 8:00pm*

Easter Sunday, April 9

8:00, 9:30*, 11:30am & 6:30pm

Easter Egg Hunt following 9:30am Mass

NOTES:

There will be no confessions on Holy Saturday, but confessions will be available on Good Friday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

***LIVESTREAM** on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram

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.

Patricia Tarango Cruz, 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 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.

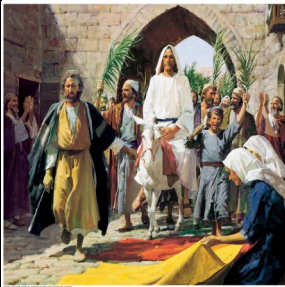
2023 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Campaign GOAL : \$ 86,973.00
Total Payments Received : \$ 18,574.00
Campaign Goal Balance : \$ 68,399.00

We thank the following parishioners who have shared their treasures with the parish **this week** as of 3.28.2023:
(For a complete listing, refer to AAA Poster in Church vestibule.)

Anonymous	M/M Brian McCarthy
Mr. Frank Cassinelli	Sean McGrillen &
Ms. Buena Cuevo	Sarah Barca
M/M Gerard Fernandez	M/M Thomas Tuohy
M/M Darius Garcia	
Mr. Damien Madden	

Reading Living Stewardship Now



On the whole, we don't think too highly of donkeys. Nevertheless, these animals have served humans for the last six thousand years, as pack animals or for people transport, and for all kinds of heavy agricultural work. Donkeys work very hard but they have a reputation for being stubborn and unintelligent.

In ancient Israel a person riding on a donkey indicated wealth and status in much the same way luxury cars might do today. Ordinary people went everywhere on foot. Horses at that time were used solely for war, and only powerful kings such as Solomon could afford them.

Jesus is described as riding on a young donkey into Jerusalem, which would have been appropriate for him as a descendant of the royal House of David. As we walk through this week, following Jesus to Calvary and beyond, we know that his suffering mirrors our own, but we also know that we are the sons and daughters of the heavenly king who has ransomed us from death and sin. Take time this week to walk with Jesus in prayer until you stand in your heart at the foot of the cross, where you can say like the centurion, "Truly, this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54).

The crowd, if only temporarily, acknowledged Jesus as king, probably hoping he would start a violent revolt and overthrow their Roman conquerors. In later times, this same account of the Messiah riding on a donkey came to have the opposite emphasis, indicating Jesus' simple, sober way of life, avoidance of luxury and status, and his perfect humility. The truth is that Jesus is both. He is the one who took "the form of a slave . . . humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death," and also the one whom "God greatly exalted" in kingly glory (Philippians 2:7, 8, 9).

Today We Begin Holy Week

Palm Sunday

[The Paschal Triduum (TRID-oo-um), Latin for "three days", commemorates Christ's redemptive journey through death, burial and resurrection to new life. The Church observes the Triduum as a single event made-up of three distinct parts]:

Throughout the season of Lent we are struck by the contrasts of temptation and transfiguration; of Jesus accepting the gift of water in the desert; of the darkness and light in the man born blind; and of the ultimate struggle between life and death with the death of Jesus' friend Lazarus. (YRA)

As we begin this holiest of weeks we experience the triumph of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem in the same liturgy in which we read of the passion and death of Jesus. In our finite begins we cannot grasp the height nor the depth of this contrast. It is for this reason that the life of Jesus truly reflects his humanity and his godliness. Only he can hold within himself these two extreme experiences.

Holy Thursday

The first day of the Triduum is filled with the action of Christ's self-gift. The Mass of the Lord's Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday commemorates Christ's command that we "love one another." symbolized in the washing of the feet, the great commission of Christ is made concrete in the Eucharist as well as in Jesus' crucifixion on Calvary. The liturgy ends with a procession as consecrated hosts are set aside for Holy Communion on Good Friday.



Good Friday

Although no Mass is celebrated on Good Friday, the liturgical celebration concentrates on the reading of the passion story from John's Gospel, the veneration of the cross by the assembly, and the reception of Holy Communion from the hosts that were consecrated on Holy Thursday.



Easter Vigil

This day is filled with the silence of the tomb as the faithful deepen their understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and prepare for the Easter Vigil in the evening which officially begins the Easter celebration. The Easter Vigil is the high point of the liturgical year. The drama of the lighting of the new fire, the blessing of the Paschal Candle and the Easter proclamation in the candlelit church set the stage for the recounting of the story of salvation in the Scripture readings. "Alleluia" once again greets the Gospel, and following the homily, we celebrate baptism and renewal of our baptismal promises. The Paschal Triduum officially concludes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday, but the wonder of Easter Season extends for a full 50 days.



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Most Christians today receive a bunch of palm fronds, olive branches, pussy willow, or forsythia (a relative of the olive) to carry in procession and to bear home in blessing. Some even offer sprigs of palm or other branches as a gesture of peace to those they have offended. The desire is to make a clean sweep of your spiritual house before the Easter feast. Accepting the branch is a token of the bearer's willingness to journey with the Church through a grateful remembrance of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and life-giving resurrection. Traditionally, the plants associated with today's feast are planted in cemeteries as a sign of Christ's victory over death and the promise of new life.



The joy of this day's opening procession soon gives way to a solemn reading of the Passion, this year according to Matthew. The ritual is meant not only to strengthen us to hear this account, but to stir us up to accompany the Church on this journey through Holy Week. It also prepares us for next Sunday's joyful renewal of our baptismal vows.

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

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

ENCOUNTER WITH THE CROSS

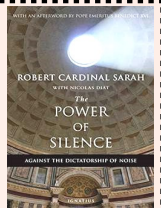
The journey of Lent brings us to an encounter with the cross. During Lent, we have been led more deeply into questions at the heart of our faith: Who is God? And who are we, the Church? The Gospel of Matthew indicates that, in the crucifixion, God's true nature is most fully revealed in Jesus. In Jesus, God is the self-emptying One, who embraces humility and suffers rejection, as Paul tells the Philippians. God's power is redefined, present not in coercion and violence, but in Jesus' unbounded love. We the Church can learn who we are, the followers of the Crucified One, when we bear crosses that offer life and hope to the world. We more fully become the Church when we empty ourselves by sharing in others' sufferings, rejecting violence, and taking risks for justice and reconciliation. Like Jesus, we may reveal God's power as compassion and mercy.

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St Stephen's Book Club

Book for April:

***"The Power of Silence Against the Dictatorship of Noise"* by Sarah, Cardinal Robert**



In a time when technology penetrates our lives in so many ways and materialism exerts such a powerful influence over us, Cardinal Robert Sarah presents a bold book about the strength of silence. After the international success of *God or Nothing*, Cardinal Sarah seeks to restore to silence its place of honor and importance. "Silence is more important than any other human work," he says, "for it expresses God. The true revolution comes from silence; it leads us toward God and others so as to place ourselves humbly and generously at their service."

Nicolas Diat is a French journalist and author. His previous collaboration with Cardinal Sarah was on his book, *God or Nothing*. 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

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.

FORGIVENESS

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner is me. —Anonymous

NEW WAYS TO

GIVE

AVAILABLE NOW!

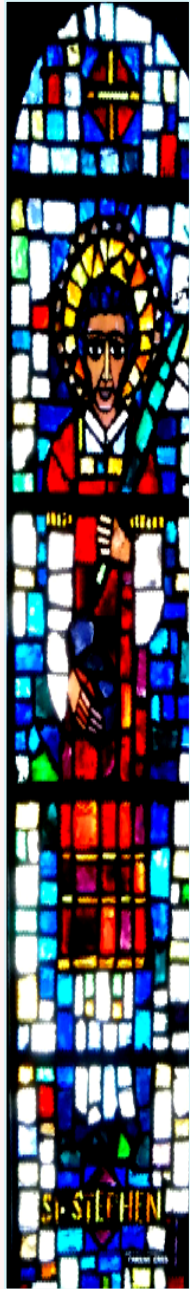


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GIVING
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TEXT TO GIVE

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.



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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.