

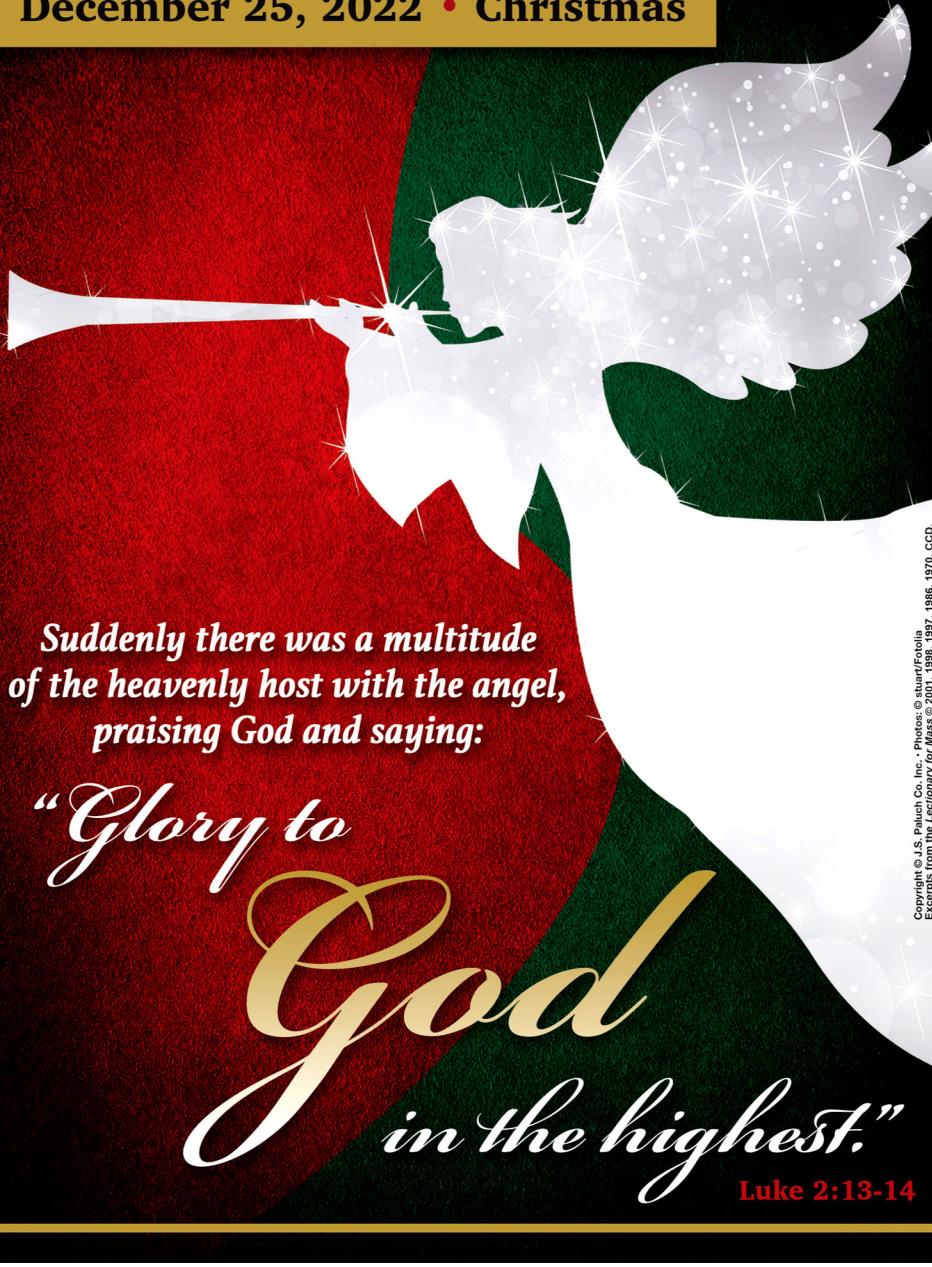
St. Stephen Parish

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.

December 25, 2022 • Christmas



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:1-14

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 Liliedahl

December 25, 2022

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

During Advent we prepared for the coming of Christ: All of our Scriptures are dedicated to this preparation. Thus far in Advent, the Scripture readings have been alternately full of consolation and challenge. They have spoken of God's fidelity, his mercy and his justice, and have called us to repentance and newness of life. They have scolded our indifference and reassured us of God's enduring love – a love that will become incarnate in Christ's birth.

Now we hear of the events surrounding that birth: the reason for our celebration of Christmas! Isaiah reminds us of the promise once made to the House of David that a maiden would bear a son who would be named Emmanuel – God is with us. Written about 700 years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah clearly speaks of something unique, even mysterious, something that only God in his power could bring about.

As devout Jews, Mary and Joseph would have known of this long-cherished promise at the heart of their faith. Today, Joseph is at the center of our Gospel. Today he is a *specific* recipient of God's promise, and given consolation and peace in the knowledge of Scripture being fulfilled. He obeys God's commands, takes Mary into his home and becomes the human father of the Son of God.

We are not called to such a mysterious and holy role as parents of the Christ child, yet we, too, are inheritors of this promise as it continues to unfold through the generations. Thus, God speaks to each one of us in specific ways, just as he did to Isaiah, to Mary, to Joseph – and to all who have come to accept God's promise of new life in Jesus Christ.

We must recognize that God will never force himself upon us. He will call and invite, but never demand. Joseph models a proper response to God's invitation. Even when he doesn't completely understand, even when he's confused about how or why God is acting in a certain way, he still chooses to obey. Because of this, Joseph took Mary into his home to care for her and protect her, and Jesus was born. The angel had promised him, *She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins*. When we participate and obey God's plan for us, amazing things will happen.

As we celebrate God's love for us during this Christmas season, we recognize that God wants to work in and through us like he did with Joseph and Mary. In following God's plan for our life, we are able to bring Jesus into the world.

May you and your families have a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023. Thank you for being part of our Saint Stephen family and for your constant support of our programs and ministries.



Our Saint of the Week Saint Stephen Feast day December 26

One of the first deacons of the Church was a man named Stephen, a man filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. Besides his job of overseeing the distribution of the poor, he also preached. A group of Jewish Hellenists strongly resented Stephen's preaching of salvation through Jesus. The situation became so tense that they found witnesses to falsely testify that Stephen had committed blasphemy. Stephen was arrested and brought to the court. The odds were against him and Jesus said, "When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your father speaking through you (Mathew 10:19–20). Stephen knew he would be helped by the Holy Spirit, and he wasn't afraid.



When Stephen testified in court, he made two major points. First he believed that God could be found everywhere, not just in a single place like temple or a single person like Abraham. Second he demonstrated how from the beginning, the Israelites had consistently rejected God's messengers, prophet's, and chosen servants. And now they rejected and killed God's Son who had been sent to them.

Those who had been listening to Stephen were blinded by anger so strong that they didn't even wait for normal court proceedings. They rushed toward him, dragged him out of town, and stoned him. Stephen was the first person killed for Christ. His last words were "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:60).

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Dec 26

8:00 a.m.

† Marygrace & Richard Dunn
(By: Marianne Dunn Daly)

Tuesday, Dec 27

8:00 a.m.

† Ella Osborne
(By: Carolyn Yiu)

Wednesday, Dec 28

8:00 a.m.

Ching Everisto Sp. Int..
(By: Elvie Y.)

Thursday, Dec 29

8:00 a.m.

† Teresa Dizon
(By: Adele)

Friday, Dec 30

8:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Mass
(By: Cagalingan of SF)

Saturday, Dec 31

8:00 a.m.

Rev. Tony P. LaTorre Sp. Int.
(By: Anonymous)

4:30 p.m.

† M/M Ed & Maura Tunney
(By: Monica Duffy)

Sunday, Jan 1

8:00 a.m.

† Basilio Sabisor
(By: Ding & Carol)

9:30 a.m.

† Guido Salamone Jr
(By: SS Parish Community)

11:30 a.m.

† John V. Prete
(By: Ed & Cecelia)

6:30 p.m.

St. Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)



December 25, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy ... Luke 2

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (*Isaiah 52:7-10*).

Psalm — The whole world has seen God's salvation (*Psalm 98*).

Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (*Hebrews 1:1-6*).

Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (*John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
- Monday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins
- Tuesday: St. John
- Wednesday: The Holy Innocents
- Thursday: St. Thomas Becket; Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
- Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Saturday: St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve



Christmas Schedule 2022

Simbang Gabi "Dawn" Mass,
Dec 16-24, 6:00am

Christmas Eve, Dec 24

4:30pm Family Mass
Prelude sing-along at 4:00 p.m.

10:00pm Vigil Mass of the Lord's Nativity
Prelude Music with Adult Choir at 9:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, Dec 25

Mass of the Lord's Nativity

8:00 & 10:00am
No 6:30pm Mass

New Year's Day, Jan 1

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 A.M. & 6:30P.M.

Parish Office Holiday Break

December 22 - January 2, 2023 the parish office will be closed. For sacramental emergencies, please e-mail fr.michael@SaintStephenSF.org

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

STAY CONNECTED TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY!

FOLLOW St Stephen Church on SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram — @SaintStephenParishSF

Facebook — @SaintStephenSF

YouTube — @StStephenParishSF

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.

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.



FAMILY CONNECTION

Sunday, December 25, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Mass During the Day

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-18 John announces that in Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

There are four Masses that are celebrated for the Feast of Christmas and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel, ending with the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the infancy narratives with which we are familiar.

The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this part of John's Gospel is not an infancy narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. John's Gospel, however, emphasizes that Jesus' birth was the divine intention from the moment of Creation.

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out in this Gospel is John's repeated references to "the Word" in the opening verse. This expression (*logos* in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. Jews used this phrase to describe God's action in the Creation story, for example, and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek thought, the logos was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the Trinitarian faith of Christians, the Word came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, we also hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witnesses to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. *Loyola Press*

GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today's first reading. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God's presence known.

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Symbols of the Season

Advent is rich with sacred symbols. The Scriptures are filled with images of light and darkness, cacophony and silence, waiting and fulfillment. The season's color is deep purple, reflecting the penitential and preparatory nature of the season. Watch for these symbols:

Candlelight – Christ is the light of the world

Evergreen – In Jesus, we are given the gift of eternal life.

Water – We recall our baptism and are born anew in Jesus.

Chant – We await the birth of the babe in the manger.

Angels – Witnesses to the Good News.

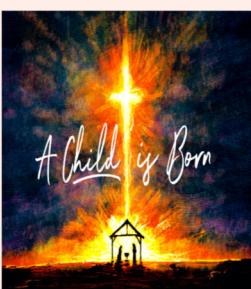
Star – The cosmic sign that the King of Kings has been born.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

A difficult challenge in many Christian circles is to attempt to read the whole Bible in a year. In doing this, a person begins with the Book of Genesis with the creation of the world and ends with the new heavens and the new earth in Revelation; they begin with Adam and end with Jesus. What becomes abundantly clear as a person works their way through the Bible is that this is a love story. The entire Bible is a love story, a real-life tale of God seeking after us. From the very beginning of time, God has had a plan — a plan to offer us salvation and to fill us with his love. That plan finds its realization today. God has entered into human history, He has taken on our nature; he is Emmanuel — God is with us.

Today we celebrate the fact that God has pursued us with reckless love. That throughout all of human history, he never gave up on us, but continued to call us into a relationship with him. The glory that we experience today is that Jesus freely chose to take on our nature in order to offer us salvation. *No more shall people call you*

"Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," Isaiah says, *but you shall be called "My Delight", and your land "Espoused."* *For the Lord delights in you.* This delight is not just a feeling or sentiment, but has resulted in action — today Jesus Christ is born for us.



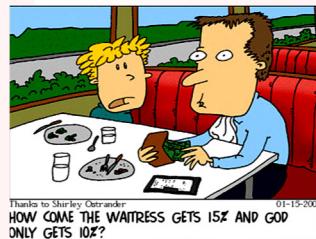
Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA)

Campaign Goal : \$ 96,916.00
Total Amount Recd : \$ 55,079.00 (171 Households as of 12.12.22)
Campaign Balance : \$ 41,837.00

Our thanks to those households who have already made their pledge/donation to the Appeal.

(Pls note that there may be a delay in posting an updated Donor List from the Archdiocese by a week or two after receiving your donation)

Anonymous	MM John Celedon	Ms. Linda Grimes	Ms. Lori Mazzola	Ms. Lutzie Sotto
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donworthevents@saintstephensf.org

"What does love look like?

**It has the hands to help others.
It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.
It has eyes to see misery and want.
It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men.
That is what love looks like."** St Augustine of Hippo

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late! —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Christmas Time

The feasts that make up Christmas Time all illuminate in their own way the fundamental mystery of the Incarnation that stands at the heart of this sacred season. Each celebration sheds its own distinct light on our conviction that, in the birth of Jesus, earth and heaven have been wedded together for the sake of our salvation. The feasts of the Holy Family, Mary the Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord all have their own particular histories. But they have been joined together in a single seasonal flow that invites us to trace the unfolding meanings of the Incarnation from myriad perspectives. As we follow the successive meanings of Jesus' birth, his participation in family life, the meaning of Mary's motherhood, the significance of the Magi's visit, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, we are invited to explore in deeper and deeper fashion the staggering truth that Jesus has shared completely in our human experience, has truly become one with us, fully human while remaining fully divine.

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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:

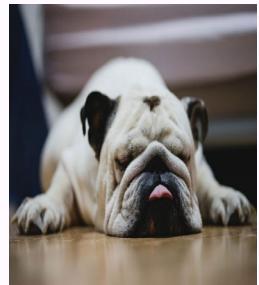
1. Only registered Parishioners can request up to a maximum of 10 masses/year.
2. Only 2 of those Masses may be on weekends depending on availability - this makes it fair to all parishioners who wish to have a weekend Mass.
3. Mass intentions cannot be reserved by phone or via SMS. Requests must be submitted in writing or e-mail.

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share With all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into our hearts this peace For which we sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give us. Help us know one another better, and live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to us also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in our hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join us all together in your love, and give us your heavenly peace. (Saint Pope John XXIII)



Did you know that.....If you can start the day without caffeine, if you can get going without pep pills, if you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains, if you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles, if you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it, if you can understand when your loved



ones are too busy to give you any time, if you can take criticism without resentment, if you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him, if you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend, if you can conquer tension without medical help, if you can relax without liquor, if you can sleep without the aid of drugs, ...Then you are probably the family dog!



CHRISTMAS HUMOR



8th Grade FundRaiser

\$25 St Stephen Portable Charger

*Bonus—iPhone Charging Cable Included

Need more info? Email annadunne75@gmail.com



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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 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
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- Grief Support Clergy
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- 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

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.

AD PAGE

500 copies

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