

Saint Stephen Parish

SaintStephenSF.org | Church 415.681.2444

StStephenSchoolSF.org | School 415.664.8331



August 16, 2026
The Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1,6-7

The Lord reveals his salvation to all.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8

All the nations will praise God.

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15,29-32

God's favor to Israel is irrevocable.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus heals the daughter of the Canaanite woman because of her great faith.

Daily Mass: Mondays thru Saturdays 8:00 am.

Vigil Mass Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday Masses: 8:00 am | 10:30 am | 6:30 pm

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 pm or 30 minutes before each Sunday Mass



Getting to Know St. Stephen Together: A Parish of Generosity

Dear Parishioners of St. Stephen,

Peace and blessings to all of you!

As we continue getting to know St. Stephen together, I would like to reflect this weekend on generosity and stewardship, especially in connection with our Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, or AAA.

I know that whenever we hear about another appeal or another collection, it is easy to feel, “Here we go again.” I understand that. Many families have financial responsibilities, and many people are trying their best to manage their own needs. That is why I want to speak about the AAA not simply as a financial obligation, but as an act of faith, gratitude, and shared responsibility.

Every parish belongs to a larger family, the Archdiocese. Through the AAA, we help support ministries, services, and works of the Church that go beyond what one parish can do alone. In that sense, our generosity becomes part of something bigger than ourselves and bigger than our own parish.

Here at St. Stephen, we have a parish goal to reach. At this point in the year, we are already more than halfway through, but we still have some way to go. I would like to gently invite all of us to help our parish fulfill this responsibility together.

Generosity does not always mean giving a large amount. It means giving with a willing heart. For some, a generous gift may be a larger pledge. For others, it may be a smaller offering given with sacrifice and love. What matters is not only the amount, but the spirit behind the gift.

In the Gospel, Jesus praises not only those who give much, but especially those who give with faith. The widow’s small offering was precious because it came from her heart. That is the kind of generosity that builds up the Church.

So I ask you, if you have not yet contributed to the AAA, please prayerfully consider making a gift or pledge. If you have already given, thank you very much for your generosity. Your support truly matters.

When many people help, the burden becomes lighter. When many hearts respond, the goal becomes possible. When a parish comes together in generosity, it becomes a beautiful sign of faith.

As your Parish Administrator, even though I am here only for these six months, I would like to help St. Stephen reach this goal. Not because of numbers alone, but because this is part of who we are as a parish family. We pray together, we worship together, we welcome together, and we also share responsibility together.

May the Lord bless every gift, every sacrifice, and every generous heart. And may St. Stephen continue to be a parish that gives not out of pressure, but out of gratitude, faith, and love.

God bless you all,

Fr. Marvin Felipe

Parish Administrator

Archbishop Annual Appeal

Goal: \$86,589 Current: \$45,630

52.7%

Thank you for making a difference

Mass Intentions

Monday, Aug 17 8:00 a.m.	†	Cecilia Prete (By: Ed Prete)
Tuesday, Aug 18 8:00 a.m.	†	Paul Cardoza (By: Philomena Cardoza)
Wednesday, Aug 19 8:00 a.m.	†	Betty Kiac (By: Shirley Dee)
Thursday, Aug 20 8:00 a.m.	†	Cecilia Prete (By: Costa/Langley Family)
Friday, Aug 21 8:00 a.m.	†	Cecilia Prete (By: Francis Prete Family)
Saturday, Aug 22 8:00 a.m.	†	Richard Faziola (By: Hilda Faziola)
4:30 p.m.	†	Dennis O'Connor (By: Rose O'Connor)
Sunday, Aug 23 8:00 a.m.		People of the Parish
10:30 a.m.	Sp. Int.	Tony Devincenzi (By: Teresa Devincenzi)
6:30 p.m.	†	Rudy Villarta (By: Rowena Amora)

Remembering sick Family & 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.

Marie Bachand, Larry Barbiere, Ana Caballero,
Araceli Caparas, Sean Chan, Julie Burton,
Tony Devincenzi, Genevie Dy, Kenneth Fambrini,
George Farrales, Eden Finn,
Larry & Carmelita Gallagher, Mark Gutierres,
Robert Liam, Mary MacKinny, Tresa Matthews,
Glenda Miller, Antoinette Mishirsky,
Nestor & Nelson Plondaya, Byron Petty,
Joel Rivera, Al Vicente Jr, Michelle Vicente,
Gwendolyn Walsh, Michelle Weeks, Perry Young,
Jim Thompson, Jovita & Richard Thompson,
Franz Tittiger, Daniel W., Alex & Marie.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about *Jesus walking on the water* and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions, what comes out of us, make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

St. Stephen Parish 2026 – 2027 Pastoral Staff

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**Donate online
to
St. Stephen's
Parish**



Faith Formation for Children Registration is now open

Our parish offers religious education for children in our Faith Formation Program for students who attend public schools or non-Catholic private schools.

Children in grades 1st thru 8th meet Monday afternoons, 4:15-5:30 pm, during the school year. We also prepare students to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation (8th grade).

Please reach out to Mary Molly Mullaney in the parish for more information

email: faithformation@saintstephensf.org



Sunday Collections August 9, 2026

\$ 3,580.64 Sunday Offertory

\$ 2,862.42 Online Giving

\$ 260.00 Mission Appeal Diocese of
Kabale, Uganda

Thank you for your donation

Children's Liturgy for all children in preschool thru 1st grade begins Sunday, September 13th at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. No registration required.

Faith Formation for Children in grades 1st thru 8th who attend non-Catholic schools begins Monday, September 14th. Register online: www.bit.ly/FF26-27

Interested in becoming Catholic?

If you, or someone you know, is interested in the Catholic faith, or has been baptized but never completed the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation, you are encouraged to contact Mary Molly in the parish office to learn more about what our parish has to offer.

Our adult faith formation program (OCIA, the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) welcomes those who are exploring the faith, wanting to learn more, and/or seeking the Sacraments.

For more information, please call or email Mary Molly Mullaney:

Office: (415) 681-2444 ext. 3

Email: FaithFormation@SaintStephenSF.org

