

St. Stephen Parish

SaintStephenSF.org | 451 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco CA 94132 | Church 415 681-2444

StStephenSchoolSF.org | 401 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco 94132 | School 415 664-8331

Weekday Mass: 8:00 a.m. Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 p.m. or 30 min. before each Sunday Mass

Vigil Mass Saturday 4:30 p.m. Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 7, 2024



*Behold, the star that they had seen
at its rising preceded them,
until it came and stopped over
the place where the child was.*

Matthew 2:9

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

Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading (Isaiah 60:1-6). Psalm (Psalm 72). Second Reading (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6). Gospel (Matthew 2:1-12).

Matthew's Gospel provides a fair amount of information about Jesus' life. His first chapter begins our Christmas season, as we read his genealogy account at the Christmas Vigil Mass.

This genealogy links Jesus to the patriarchs – as the fulfillment of the great promise of one to come, the Messiah. Matthew structured the genealogy into three blocks of figures that correspond to epochs of Israel's history: From Abraham to David, from David to the exile in Babylon, and from the exile in Babylon to the Christ (1:17).



Today's feast of the Epiphany is a major event in Jesus' life story, and in our own salvation history. The magi, men from the east – that is, not from the Israelite people – followed the star to find ... *the newborn king of the Jews!* What a startling thing. They knew something profound had happened in the world, even if it had not been part of their own heritage to expect such a thing. Yet, they were *overjoyed at seeing the star*, and upon finding Jesus, *they prostrated themselves and did him homage*. To this baby they offer gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and we see the connection to what is foretold in today's first reading. *Rise up in splendor! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you ... All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the Lord.*

It is also in this moment of God leading non-Israelites to seek out this baby and acknowledge his reign that we see the connection to us: The Son of God has come for all people, Jews and Gentiles alike.

Saint Paul explains this in our second reading today, saying, *the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus*. The light of Christ beckons all, and all are welcome to follow it to where Christ may be found. For those of us baptized into this light, we – like the magi – bring gifts, in this case the gifts of our lives and our faith. We offer our very selves for Christ in honor of his kingship, priesthood, and sacrifice. And we are to go out into the world that still needs that light, and direct others to it.

The feast of Epiphany reminds us that the glory of the Lord indeed shines upon us. Jesus has come into the world. We should all bow and do him homage.

The Epiphany reminds us that with all the gifts the Lord has given us this Christmas and always, what gift (s) have we given in return. As we begin this New Year together, may your journey be faith-filled, full of happiness and blessed with good health.

Liturgy and Life

- How has Christ been manifested in your life?
- When has another's actions pointed you to Christ?
- How can you observe the Epiphany in a celebratory way?

Our Saint of the Week

January 13, 2024 - **Saint Hilary**



Hilary was born to pagan parents of Poitiers, France, in 315. After training in the classics and philosophy, Hilary married. He and his wife had one daughter, Afra. All who knew Hilary said he was a friendly, charitable, gentle man. Hilary's studies led him to read Scripture. He became convinced that there was only one God, whose Son became man and died and rose to save all people. This led him to be baptized along with his wife and daughter.

The people of Poitiers chose Hilary to be their bishop in 353. He spoke out against Arianism, a heresy that denied the divinity of Christ. When Emperor Constantius II wanted him to sign a paper condemning Saint Athanasius, the great defender of the faith, he refused. The emperor was furious and exiled Hilary to Phrygia. In exile, he preached, wrote, and suffered, and even asked to debate the Arian bishops. Fearing Hilary's arguments, Arian's followers begged the emperor to send Hilary home. The emperor, believing Hilary was also undermining his authority, recalled him. Hilary's writings show that he could be fierce in defending the faith, but in dealing with the bishops who had given in to the Arian heresy, he was charitable. He showed them their errors and helped them to defend their faith. Though the emperor called Hilary "disturber of the peace," Saints Jerome and Augustine praised him as "teacher of the churches."

The Gifts



Gold, frankincense and myrrh may be thought of as prophesying Jesus' future.

Gold was a gift for Kings; frankincense (an ancient air purifier and perfume), was offered to God in Temple worship (Ex. 30:37); and myrrh (an oriental remedy for intestinal worms in infants), was used by the High Priest as an anointing oil (Ex. 30:23), and to prepare bodies for burial. These gifts were not only expensive but portable.

Perhaps Joseph sold the gifts to finance the Holy Family's trip to Egypt. The gifts might have been God's way of providing for the journey that lay ahead.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Jan 8

8:00 a.m.

† **Prudencio B Cagalingan**
(By: Ding & Siblings)

Tuesday, Jan 9

8:00 a.m.

† **Alberto Chua Sy**
(By: Shirley Dee)

Wednesday Jan 10

8:00 a.m.

† **Gerald Boyle**
(By: Frost Family)

Thursday, Jan 11

8:00 a.m.

† **Aquilino Mangoba**
(By: Cynthia Ferreira)

Friday, Jan 12

8:00 a.m.

Ding Cags Sp. Int
(By: Carol & Kids)

Saturday Jan 13

8:00 a.m.

Alan Dougherty Sp. Int
(By: Lisa)

4:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, Jan 14

8:00 a.m.

† **Klaus Reinsberg**
(By: Harvatin Family)

10:30 a.m.

St. Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)

6:30 p.m.

† **Jorge Illenberger**
(By: Marilu Illenberger)



The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

— Psalm 72:11



Today's Readings

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week; Julian Calendar Christmas**
Monday: **The Baptism of the Lord**
Tuesday: **First Week in Ordinary Time begins**
Friday: **Aelred of Rievaulx**
Saturday: **St. Hilary; Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Blessed Virgin Mary**



You're ALL Invited!

HOLY HOUR of EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION

Exposition, Adoration and Benediction

(Weekdays, right after the 8am Mass)

Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Knowing the Secret Right from the Start

In Princeton, New Jersey, there is a legendary tale about the eminent scientist Albert Einstein walking in front of a local inn and being mistaken for a bell boy by a dowager who had just arrived in a luxury sedan. She orders him to carry her luggage into the hotel, and, according to the story, Einstein does so, receives a small tip, and then continues on to his office to ponder the mysteries of the universe. True or not, the story is delightful, precisely because we savor from the beginning a secret the dowager does not know: the strange-looking, ruffled little man is the most celebrated intellect of our time. Some stories gain their power from our knowing the story's secret from the start.

The Gospel of Mark is just such a story. The secret of Mark's Gospel is the identity of Jesus Christ. In the very first sentence of the Gospel story, Mark lifts the veil and lets us know the secret when he says that this is "... the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Jesus is the Son of God, that's the secret, and lest we miss it, this hidden truth is confirmed in the story's opening episode, when Jesus, coming up out of the waters of baptism, sees the Holy Spirit descending upon him like a dove from the heavens, which have been torn open like a piece of cloth, and hears the very voice of God telling the secret: "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11). Only Jesus sees the Spirit; only Jesus hears the voice. This is, in the words of one commentator, "a secret epiphany."

Thomas G. Long, Shepherds and Bathrobes, CSS Publishing Company

Join the FUN!

Tomorrow, Monday, January 8, 2024

Doors Open 12:30pm

50+ Seniors are ALL INVITED!
Enjoy camaraderie, snacks, Bingo games, Bridge, etc

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



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.

Perry Young, Antoinette Mishirsky, Maggie Harbison, Danilo Dacasin, Greg Lorio, Adelle Caunan, Debbie Nunes, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton, Nestor & Nelson Plondaya, Marie Bachand, Francis Yiu, Edna Amora, Rodney Clark, Michelle Vicente,

Michelle Weeks, 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.

Please call the office to add or remove names

THE VISIT OF THE MAGI occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

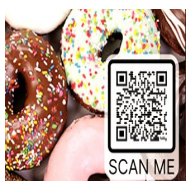
We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

5 Facts About Epiphany

- ◆ The Epiphany is celebrated on January 6. ...
- ◆ It marks the day Jesus was revealed to the world. ...
- ◆ In some countries, Epiphany is as important as Christmas Day. ...
- ◆ Some believe it is the wise men, not Santa, who bring gifts for children. ...
- ◆ Eastern Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on Epiphany.



Volunteers needed to help serve Coffee & Donuts after 10:30 Mass

<https://bit.ly/donutMass>

online GIVING
easy, fast, effective.

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

We Rent Our Hall

Our 20,000 Sq. Ft. Parish Center Available to Rent For info, call Shay at 415 681-2444 x7 or donworthevents@saintstephensf.org

St. Stephen Catholic Book Club



Our Book Club is open to anyone interested in reading and discussing books with inherent or implied Christian themes. We meet the second Saturday at 10:00 am in the Conference Room at the parish offices. Contact Mary Molly for more information.

Book we are reading for **November & December:**

Jesus: a Pilgrimage by James Martin, S.J.

January, 2024 - Searching for and Maintaining Peace
by Father Jacques Philippe

FINDING PEACE

If you want peace, work for justice. —Pope Paul VI

NOTICE to the PUBLIC

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

In re: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, Case No. 23-30564

Notice of Deadline for Filing Claims:
February 20, 2024

YOU MAY HAVE A SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM OR OTHER CLAIM AGAINST THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

On August 21, 2023, The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, a California corporation sole, aka Archdiocese of San Francisco (the "Debtor"), filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code")

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Debtor, you must file a claim so as to be received by February 20, 2024, or otherwise you will be forever barred, estopped, and enjoined from asserting such claim against the Debtor.

Claims based on acts or omissions of the Debtor that occurred before August 21, 2023, must be filed on or before February 20, 2024, even if such claims are not now fixed, liquidated, or certain or did not mature or become fixed, liquidated, or certain before August 21, 2023.

For more information on how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated documents, please visit <https://omniagentsolutions.com/RCASF>, or contact Omni Agent Solutions, Inc., the Debtor's claims agent via email at RCASFInquiries@omniagnt.com or by phone at 888-480-6507 (U.S. and Canada toll free) or 747-293-0084 (International), between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Pacific Time), Monday through Friday.

If you have questions about the bankruptcy case filed by the Archdiocese of San Francisco, please also visit the website at <https://sfarch.org> and follow the links for Chapter 11 Filing

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Where on earth would you go to honor the magi? Iran or Saudi Arabia, Tarshish or the Isles come to mind, but Cologne, Germany would be a good choice. There the Shrine of the Three Kings has been the centerpiece of the city's cathedral since the fourth century. Today it is the largest reliquary in the world: a gilded and ornamented triple casket gleaming high above the altar. In the fourth century, the supposed relics of the wise men were taken from Constantinople to Milan, where they remained until the German Emperor with the unlikely name Frederick Barbarossa (Red Beard) gave them to the Archbishop of Cologne. Ever since, pilgrims have streamed into the city to honor the magi, the first of all pilgrims, and thus the heavenly patrons of all who have some holy wanderlust.

This largest Gothic cathedral in Europe today was begun in the mid-1200s to house the relics. In medieval times, the relics in a city's possession were often the key to a sound international economy. The reliquary was last opened in 1864, and the remains of three men were indeed discovered. The cathedral is well worth a visit, with enormous twin spires forming the largest façade of any church in the world (it is the model for St. Patrick's in New York). Construction began in 1248 and ended in 1880, a six-hundred-year project.

Today, it is a World Heritage Site, described by the U.N. as "an exceptional work of human creative genius." This great treasure of our tradition suffered fourteen direct bomb hits in World War II but did not collapse. It survived while the city burned around it, preserved, the townspeople say, by three heavenly patrons—*Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

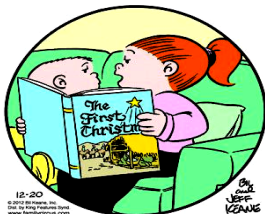


Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen. *Pope Leo XIII 1810-1903*

HUMILITY

No human being is too big to be humble, but some human beings are too small.
—Anonymous



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"Then the three wise men came to baby-sit Jesus so Mary and Joseph could finish Christmas shopping."



12-27 © 2010 by St. Stephen's Parish, All rights reserved. www.saintstephensf.org
"Boy, Grandma! Aren't you glad you have all of us to give presents to?"

TEXT to GIVE

Text "SAINTSTEPHENSF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

2023 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Campaign GOAL : \$ **86,973.00**
Total Payments Received : \$ 73,731.00
Campaign Goal Balance : \$ **13,242.00**

We thank the following parishioners who have shared their treasures with the parish **this week** as of 12.31.2023: (For a complete listing, refer to AAA Poster in Church vestibule.)

M/M James Maciel

A BIT OF "HUMOR"

"I want the big cow!"



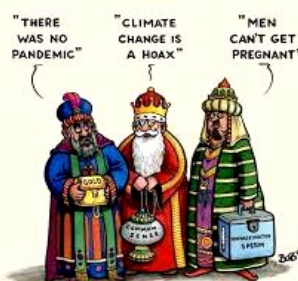
It was an excited little girl who told me this story. The first two wise men got down from their camels and offered their precious gifts to the Baby. He declined them.

When the Baby Jesus declined the gift of the third also, the exasperated wise man asked, "Then what do you want?" The Child Jesus answered quickly and with a warm smile, "Your big cow!"

2) Three Wise Women

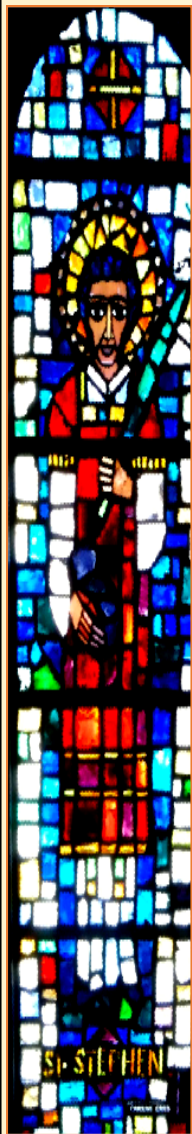
While they were talking about the story of the three wise men, a woman asked her parish priest, this question, "Do you know why God gave the star to the wise men?"

When he professed his ignorance, she told him: "God knows men are too proud to ask directions. If there had been three wise women instead of three wise men, they would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and given some practical gifts!"



SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, February 3, 2024
6:00 pm — 9:00 pm
Donworth Hall

St Stephen Parish Community's
Annual Fundraising Event
info@saintstephensf.org | 415-681-2444



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michael Lilledahl
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Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

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Parochial Vicar, ext. 8
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Rev. Mr. Manuel "Olet" Abad
Permanent Deacon
deacon@SaintStephenSF.org

Sharon McCarthy Allen
Principal

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ST STEPHEN PARISH 2023-2024

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 PreparationClergy | |
| • Men's Club | Marcus Lam |
| • Parish Council | Vicky Francisco |
| • RCIA | Mary Molly Mullaney |
| • St. Stephen Book Club | Mary Molly Mullaney |
| • Ushers | Jim Scheg |
| • Women's Guild | Jamie Allen |
| | 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, or by mailing it to the Parish Office, or by phone at 415-681-2444 or at www.saintstephensf.org

Name _____

Contact Phone (H W CP) _____

Email _____

Complete Mailing Address _____

_____ City/ZIP _____

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

You will receive in the mail within a week, a Parish Registration Form to complete the registration process. Or just get the paper Parish Registration in the vestibule. Thank you!

Be sure to REGISTER in the parish!

As we approach year-end, if you're a regular donor but not a registered parishioner, take a moment to be sure your giving history will be complete for your tax letter.

Go to <https://saintstephensf.org/parish-registration-form> to REGISTER ONLINE OR use the paper Registration Forms provided at the church's vestibule or drop by the parish office to inquire and familiarize yourself with the Pastor's office and his parish staff.

Your generosity makes a difference!

St Stephen Church is a 501C(3) non-profit corporation. Our TAX ID# 94-1156799

We are working to make your gift-giving easier. We're on the way to using VENMO and PAYPAL for your convenience. Stay tuned as we work on this process!