

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

Daily Mass: Mondays thru Saturdays 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.



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 28, 2024

The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching (*Mark 1:21-28*).



St Stephen Parish Community's Annual Fundraising Event

info@saintstephensf.org
415-681-2444

SATURDAY,
February 3, 2024
6:00 pm — 9:00 pm

Donworth Hall
473 Eucalyptus Drive
San Francisco, CA 94134



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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 95; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21



In last week's Gospel from Mark, we heard the call of the first disciples, and today those new disciples were with Jesus on the Sabbath as he *entered the synagogue [in Capernaum] and taught*. While Mark does not record *what* Jesus taught at this particular time, he does tell us the reaction to it: *The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.*

This moment is followed by Jesus' expulsion of an unclean spirit from a man, and Jesus' interaction with the demon is telling. Jesus recognizes the demon as the very antithesis of the kingdom and the demon recognizes Jesus as the *Holy One of God*. While the demon taunts Jesus, Jesus silences the demon in response and orders

him to come out of the man. Once more, the people are affected: they are amazed and question one another as to what is happening.

Writing for a community suffering under the oppressive regime and power of imperial Rome, Mark is encouraging his listeners by reminding them of Jesus' power and promises. Two millennia later we, too, are challenged by our own demons, personal and communal. We, too, desire words of encouragement and a reminder that Jesus is the Holy One who liberates and acts with true compassion. This Gospel serves as a reminder of that.

Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians today can be of help in this as well, when he says, *Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties*. Most, if not all of us, would agree with him! Writing for a community that expected the Second Coming to happen imminently, Paul is communicating a message of hope. He is telling them that the circumstances and conditions of earthly existence (being married or unmarried in this case) are important, but they are of less significance than the new life we are all called to in Christ.

In other words, he is reinforcing for them – and therefore for us – the transitory nature of this life. And as such, our state in life should be of less concern than our state in the kingdom. Wherever we find ourselves, we are to answer God's call and *[adhere] to the Lord without distraction*.

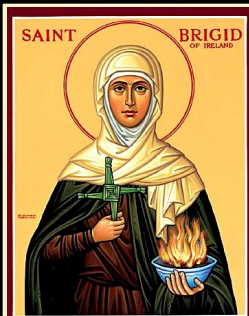
Paul's message of hope, along with Mark's encouraging message of Jesus' power and promises, are a reminder that the *Holy One of God* has liberated us from death and sin – that the difficulties and trials of this life are, in the end, overcome. We have certainty that with faith in the risen Lord, we are destined for an eternity with him.

So let us go forward to the Eucharist in faith and *sing joyfully to the Lord*, as our psalmist says, *coming into his presence with thanksgiving ... For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.*



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"God WILL answer all our prayers. But you never know if it's gonna be a 'yes' or a 'no.'"

February 1, Our Saint of the Week: **St. Brigid**



Saint Brigid is the patron saint of fire, healing, midwives, and childbirth. She's a bit of a busy bee. We celebrate her feast day on February 1st, which is known as *Imbolc*, one of the great fire festivals of the Irish.

As the shamrock became associated with [Saint Patrick](#), a tiny cross made of rushes was linked with Saint Brigid. And they are made for her feast day traditionally throughout Ireland. One of my favorite poems celebrates this weaving as Brigid wove a cross by the bedside of a dying chieftain's bed. Here's how it goes:

Brigid wove a cross of rushes by a dying chieftain's bed. "Brigid, what's that you're making there in the rushes?" the chieftain said.

Brigid said, "It's a cross I'm weaving, the cross where Jesus died."

"Who was this Jesus?" asked the chieftain, "And why was this man crucified?"

So Brigid told the Gospel story to the dying pagan king. Silently he listened, never saying anything. Then he kissed the cross of rushes, saying, "Brigid, thanks to you, I've come to love this Jesus. I will follow his way too!"

Well, lest you think that Saint Brigid is just for the Irish or perhaps even just for Christians, let me tell you that she is a woman for every age, for her legacy can be found right down in every marriage today. What do I mean by that? Well, during the age of chivalry, Saint Brigid was so revered as a model for women of every age for her wisdom and her courage, that gentlemen, knights, and nobles began to call their sweethearts their "brides," or their "Brides," a nod to Saint Brigid.

You can learn lots more about Irish customs, Celtic wisdom, and how to create a space for grace in your life in the book, [Braving the Thin Places](#). *Lá Fhéile Bride*.

Happy Saint Brigid's Day!

2023 AAA Update

We have been blessed with some very generous responses to the Appeal and we would like to thank parishioners who participated and shared their treasures to meet our goal of \$86, 973.00.

Unfortunately, we are short of our 2023 AAA Goal by **\$4,526.00** which shall be taken out of our savings. However, your support is truly amazing! THANK YOU! *Fr. Michael*

We Rent Our Hall

FOR ANY OCCASION
USE OUR PARTY ROOM!

Our 20,000 Sq. Ft. Parish Center

Available to Rent For info, call Shay at 415 681-2444 x7 or

donworthevents@saintstephensf.org

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Jan 29

8:00 a.m.

Rey & Elvie *Sp Int*
(By: Rey & Elvie Ysip)

Tuesday, Jan 30

8:00 a.m.

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

Wednesday, Jan 31

8:00 a.m.

† **Ella & Derek Osborne**
(By: Carolyn Yiu)

Thursday, Feb 1

8:00 a.m.

† **Dorothy Montgomery**
(By: Bill Montgomery)

Friday, Feb 2

8:00 a.m.

† **Susie Haughey**
(By: Bosco)

Saturday, Feb 3

8:00 a.m.

† **Josie Fernandes**
(By: Parish Staff & Volunteers)

4:30 p.m.

† **Denis O'Connor**
(By: Rose O'Connor)

Sunday, Feb 4

8:00 a.m.

St Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)

10:30 a.m.

† **Anna Thompson**
(By: Charlotte Bautista)

6:30 p.m.

† **Brian Early**
(By: Ann Marie Burns)



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2024

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. *Psalm 95:6*

Today's Readings

First Reading — Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you" (*Deuteronomy 18:15-20*).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (*Psalm 95*).

Second Reading — Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties (*1 Corinthians 7:32-35*).

Gospel — The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching (*Mark 1:21-28*).

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week**
 Wednesday: **St. John Bosco, Priest;**
 Thursday: **St. Bridgit; Groundhog Day**
 Friday: **The Presentation of the Lord; First Friday**
 Saturday: **St. Blaaise, Bishop and Martyr; Blessing of Candles**
 Sunday: **S. Rabanus Maurus; St. Paul Miki and companions; First Saturday**



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.

Things About To Become Extinct

Among the many predicted extinctions are the imminent demise of the Yellow Pages, movie rental stores, phone landlines, VCRs, Ham radio, incandescent light bulbs, cameras that use film, and the milkman. In fact, some extinctions are good. When things are no longer useful, when things do not function in a helpful way, or just aren't sensible anymore, they should become extinct.

In today's Gospel text Jesus acted as an agent of extinction. When Jesus entered into the local synagogue in Capernaum it was time for the unclean spirit inhabiting that a person in that place to go elsewhere. The presence of Jesus, whom the unclean spirit declared to be "the Holy One of God," left no room for the unholy attitude and actions of that demon. Go exorcize some demons this week! Make a list of things you want to go extinct in your life, and then stop feeding them: greed, jealousy, anger, hypocrisy, selfishness Change the climate in your home and in your heart. Make the climate in which you live inhospitable to hatred, a wasteland for bigotry, a desert for envy.

If the only prayer you said in your entire life is 'thank you' - That would suffice



Join the FUN!

Monday, February 5, 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.

Ricardo Taylor, 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 of people that we should pray for this month.

Additional Thoughts on Today's Gospel

Jesus and the disciples that chose to follow him in last week's Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus' teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus' authority and contrasting it with the scribes'. Early in Mark's Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem..

After Jesus' preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus' identity better than his disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark's Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus' ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of his power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but he heals with unique authority and connects his healing activities with the words of his preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of his authority. Jesus' power to heal gives greater credence to his teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through his words, which are manifested with power in his deeds. Mark's Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which he healed, Jesus' fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

JESUS, OUR DIVINE TEACHER

Teachers are powerful because they change lives. They have within their grasp the power over young lives to hurt them terribly or heal them wonderfully. Most of us are deeply and forever indebted to some caring teacher in our past. Some people never get over the damage done to them by some cruel or uncaring teacher. So today, when we hear that Jesus entered the synagogue at Capernaum and began to teach, we need to take note: Jesus was a teacher. They never called him "Reverend," or "Father," or "Priest." They called him "Rabbi," which means "teacher." Let us all become good teachers and use our authority to mold young lives in the right way.

TEXT to GIVE

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



St. Stephen Catholic Book Club

February book: **"Wake Up With Purpose!: What I've Learned in My First Hundred Years"** by Sister Jean Schmidt

Known to millions as simply "Sister Jean," the Loyola Chicago matriarch and college basketball icon invites you into her remarkable memoir filled with history,

wonder, and common-sense wisdom for this century and beyond. As Sister Jean wisely says, "I've seen so many changes in the last 102 years, but the important things remain the same."

Part life story, part philosophy text, and part spiritual guide, Sister Jean's wit, wisdom, and common sense has broad appeal and application that transcends religious creed, belief. The driving force inside *Wake Up with Purpose!* is the narrative of Sister Jean's fascinating life--from teaching at a Catholic school during the Second World War to serving on a Chicago college campus in the sixties and beyond to cheering from the sidelines of a men's basketball tournament in March 2018.

Book Club meets Sat., Feb. 10, 10:00 a.m. in the parish office. Contact Mary Molly for more info.

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

St. Stephen Parish Presents
Culinary Culture 2024

A Taste of the *Philippines*

Traditional Filipino Cuisine featuring
Folk dance group - Parangal Dance Company



St. Stephen Donworth Hall
Saturday, February 3, 2024
6:00 - 9:00 pm

EVENT SOLD OUT

Dress for the occasion! We can't wait to see you!

General timeline:

5:30 pm – Registration and doors open. Early seating available for guests with special needs.

6:00 pm – Event officially opens for general seating. Appetizers served and bar opens.

6:30 pm – Dinner buffet area opens. Guests with special needs can request table service upon checking in.

Donated prizes will be called out throughout the evening.

Help In Facing Our Fears

Leslie Weatherhead once told a parable of a little boy who fled from a witch who had turned herself into a cat. As the boy ran, he kept glancing fearfully over his shoulder. The first time he looked back, the cat was the size of a calf. The next time he looked, it had grown to the dimensions of an elephant. Then the boy fell, and was unable to go farther. Resolutely he got up and faced the pursuing horror. It stopped. So he took a step toward it. It backed away. As he continued to advance toward it, it began to shrink in size as it retreated from him. Finally it changed into a mouse and ran under the door of the witch's cottage to be seen no more.

The moral is clear: it pays to face up to your fears. But sometimes that is hard to do. That is when we need to turn to Christ. He can help us stand up to our fears and conquer them. He can cast out demons. - adapted from Leslie Weatherhead



My BEST DEMONS

Kathleen Norris writes, "When I think of the demons I need to exorcise, I have to look inward, to my heart and soul. Anger is my best demon, useful whenever I have to go into a Woman Warrior mode, harmful when I use it to gratify myself, either in self-justification, or to deny my fears. My husband, who has a much sweeter nature than I, once told me that my mean streak grieved him, not just because of the pain it cause him but because it was doing me harm. His remark, as wise as that of any desert Abba, felt like an exorcism. Not that my temptation to anger was magically gone, but I was called to pay closer attention to something that badly needed attention, and that was hurting our marriage. It confirmed my understanding of marriage as a holy act: one can no more hide one's true faults from a spouse than from God, and in exorcising the demon of anger, that which could kill is converted, transformed into that which can heal."

What are your best demons? To name them for what they are and how they bring suffering, is half the battle.

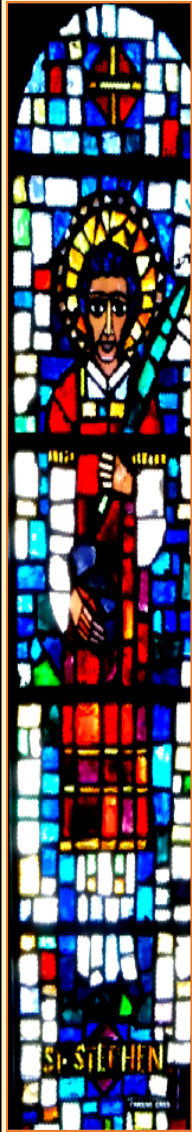


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GIVING**
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St Stephen Church provides Online Giving--
a convenient and safe way to make a one-
time or recurring donation. When you
participate, your gift will be securely
transferred directly into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

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)



PASTORAL STAFF

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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!

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!