

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.

**Stations
Of the Cross
Fridays
6:00 p.m.**



Join the FUN!

Monday, March 4, 2024

@ Donworth Hall

473 Eucalyptus Drive SF, CA
94132

ALL INVITED!

Doors Open 12:30pm

50+ Seniors are

*Enjoy camaraderie, snacks,
Bingo games, Bridge, etc*

*For any questions/ concerns,
please call:*

HELGA at 415-731-8211

Today's Music

Gathering:

*Lord Who Throughout
These 40 Days*

#139

Preparation:

*Again We Keep This
Solemn Fast*

#123

Communion:

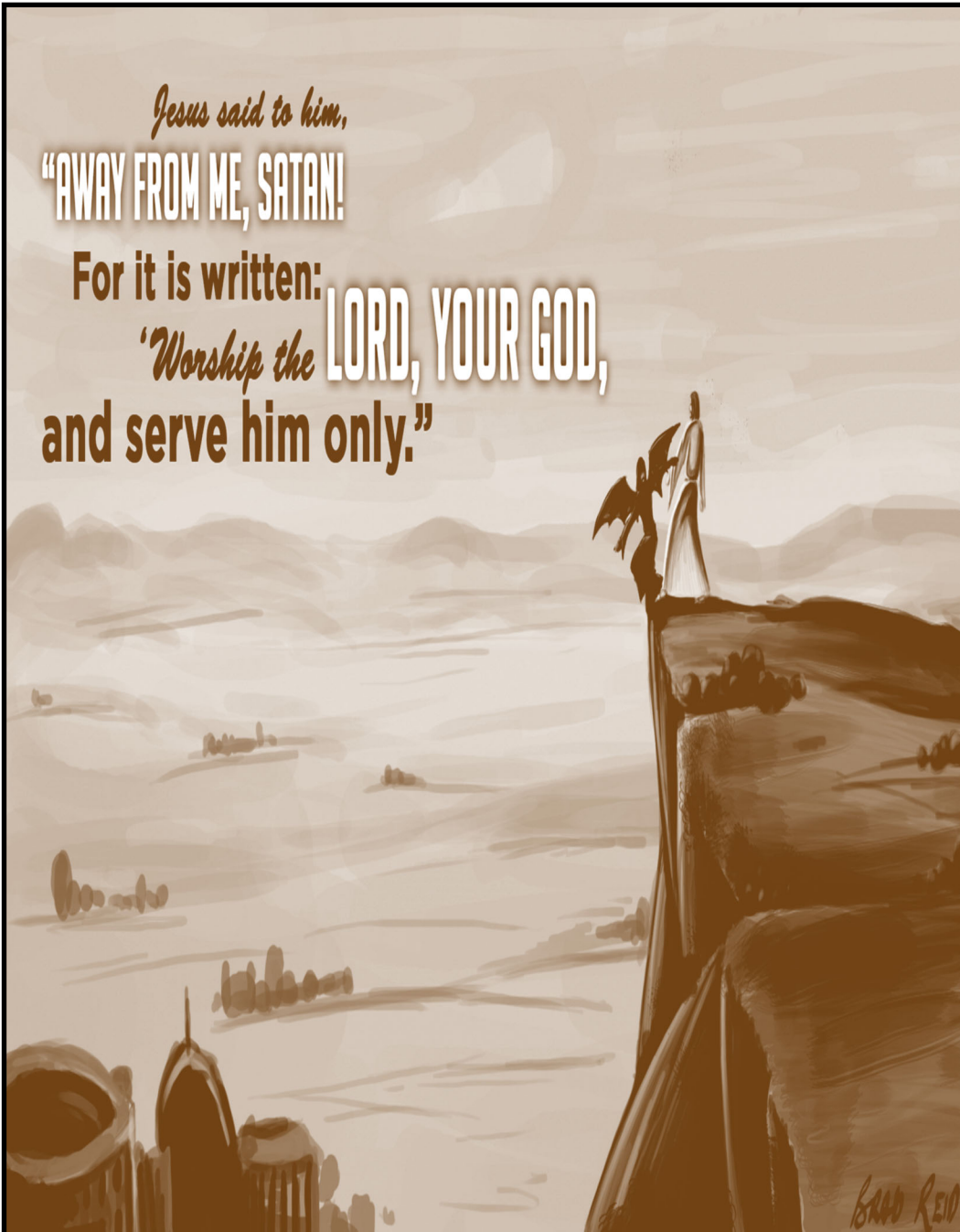
Come To Me And Drink

#352

Sending:

Led By The Spirit

#128



February 18, 2024

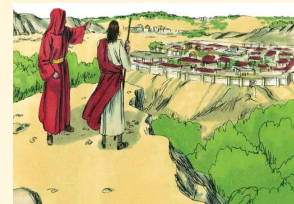
First Sunday In Lent

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

First Sunday in Lent

First Reading Genesis 9:8-15, Psalm 25:4-5-9, Second Reading 1Peter3:18-22, Gospel Mark 1:12-15

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading in each Lectionary cycle is about Jesus' temptation in the desert. This event in the life of Jesus is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—but it is not found in John's Gospel. This year we read Mark's account of this event.



Compared to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the details throughout Mark's narrative are sparse. This is evident in Mark's account of Jesus' temptation in the desert. Mark tells us only that Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and that for 40 days he was tempted by Satan.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke explain that Jesus fasted while in the desert, that Satan presented him with three temptations, and that Jesus refused each one, quoting Scripture. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark report that angels ministered to Jesus at the end of his time in the desert.

In each of the Synoptic Gospels, the temptation of Jesus follows his baptism by John the Baptist. In Mark's Gospel, we are told that Jesus went into the desert immediately after his baptism, led by the Spirit. Jesus' public ministry in Galilee begins after his temptation in the desert. Mark's Gospel makes a connection between the arrest of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus' preaching about the Kingdom of God is in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist, but it is also something new. As Jesus announces it, the Kingdom of God is beginning; the time of the fulfillment of God's promises is here.

The fact that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert is significant. This recalls the 40 years that the Israelites wandered in the desert after being led from slavery in Egypt. The prophet Elijah also journeyed in the desert for 40 days and nights, making his way to Horeb, the mountain of God, where he was also attended to by an angel of the Lord. Remembering the significance of these events, we also set aside 40 days for the season of Lent.

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

- In Genesis, God gives us a rainbow as a sign of God's identity, namely mercy and love. When have I experienced God's mercy and love personally?
- The psalmist, a faith-filled person, waits in confident trust in God's steadfast love. When have I found it difficult to trust in God's love and forgiveness? What did I do? Why was it so difficult?
- When have I been able to follow my conscience and live as a true disciple of Jesus? What happened? In what ways have I grown in living as a disciple of Jesus?
- The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. What is my Lenten resolution concerning prayer? What will I fast from this Lent: food, gossip, judging others . . . ? To what individuals or groups will I give alms this Lent?

Feast Day February 23

Saint Polycarp

The story of Polycarp's martyrdom is the earliest recorded account of a Christian martyr.

Polycarp was a disciple of St. John the apostle. While still quite young, he became the bishop of Smyrna and was one of the most respected leaders in the first half of the second century. St. Ignatius of Antioch and St. Irenaeus spoke highly of him, and people loved him very much.

Polycarp was a Christian leader in a pagan world. He spoke clearly and simply, fearless in love and defense of Christ, even though persecutions raged around him. He sought only to hand on the message he had been given by John. Even as Polycarp prepared for martyrdom, his joy and confident trust were evident to all.

Polycarp was seized for being a Christian. Persecution and death would not tear him away from Jesus now. Polycarp was led into the stadium of Smyrna. The crowd demanded that he be left to the lions, but instead he was sentenced to death by fire. An eyewitness account claims that the flames didn't harm him. He was finally killed by the sword, and his body was burned.

The community of believers celebrated the anniversary of Polycarp's death with great joy, for in him they had seen an outstanding example of love and patience. He had held strong and had won the treasure of eternal life. Polycarp is remembered as an Apostolic Father, one who was a disciple of the apostles.



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Feb 19

8:00 a.m. † **Joseph & William Osborne**
(By: Carolyn Yiu)

Tuesday, Feb 20

8:00 a.m. † **Ralph R. Montgomery**
(By: Bill Montgomery)

Wednesday, Feb 21

8:00 a.m. † **Arturo Boquiren**
(By: Lisa & Lynn)

Thursday, Feb 22

8:00 a.m. † **Otto Herber**
(By: A Friend)

Friday, Feb 23

8:00 a.m. † **McGloin Family**
(By: Lugita Chase)

Saturday, Feb 24

8:00 a.m. † **Pacita Chan Tiu Valles**
(By: Anthony Dee)
St Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)

Sunday, Feb 25

8:00 a.m. † **Teresa Ho**
(By: Viet Ho)
10:30 a.m. † **Robert B. Xavier**
(By: Maria Xavier)
6:30 p.m. † **Cynthia De Jesus Sp Int**
(By: CJCI)



May she rest in peace

Nancy Aileen Buckley

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth (*Genesis 9:8-15*).

Psalms — Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (*Psalms 25*).

Second Reading — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (*1 Peter 3:18-22*).

Gospel — Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels ministered to him (*Mark 1:12-15*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **First Sunday of Lent; Rite of Election; Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion; Rite of Sending**
Monday: **Presidents' Day; Julian Calendar Lent**
Wednesday: **St. Peter Damian**
Thursday: **The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle; Washington's Birthday**
Friday: **St. Polycarp; Abstinence (no meat)**



You're ALL Invited!
HOLY HOUR of
EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION

Exposition, Adoration and Benediction
(Weekdays, right after the 8am Mass)

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

THE BIG THREE

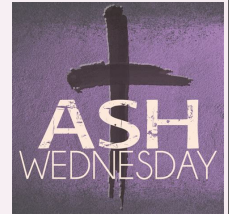
(*Matthew 6:3-4, 6, 27-18*)

We aren't just spiritual beings. We are also physical entities, and the way to the soul is through the body. That's why Lenten discipline has historically centered on the "Big Three" of Fasting, Almsgiving, and Prayer.

FASTING is not just a spiritual diet. By denying our bodies, our physical hunger reminds us of the hunger of our souls for God, our longing for a deeper relationship with our Lord.

ALMSGIVING teaches us to separate ourselves from material possessions. By freely giving of our money and possessions, we learn to trust the Lord more deeply for our own daily needs.

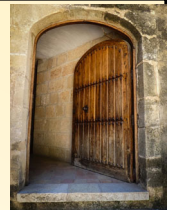
Finally, an emphasis on **PRAYER** during Lent is a way to stir up our love and ardor by having a deepening conversation with the Almighty. Remember that the light of God's love shines more brightly in the darkness of the recognition of our own sinfulness.



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 personal/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.



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 Plodaya, Marie Bachand, Francis Yiu, Edna Amora, Rodney Clark, Michelle Vicente, Michelle Weeks, Franz Tittiger, Carlota Plodaya, 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

6 FACTS ABOUT LENT (Jimmy Akins)

- 1. What is Lent?** According to the Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar Lent [is a liturgical season that] is ordered to preparing for the celebration of Easter, since the Lenten liturgy prepares for celebration of the Paschal Mystery both catechumens, by the various stages of Christian initiation, and the faithful, who recall their own Baptism and do penance.
- 2. When does Lent begin and end?** The forty days of Lent run from Ash Wednesday up to but excluding the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive. This means that Lent begins at 12:01 a.m. on Ash Wednesday and runs to just before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday. As soon as the Mass of the Lord's Supper starts, it's a new liturgical season: Triduum.
- 3. Is Lent exactly forty days long as currently celebrated?** No, it's actually a little longer than forty days. The number is approximate, for spiritual purposes.
- 4. Are the Sundays in Lent part of Lent?** Yes. See question 1 for the duration of Lent. It runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday. No exceptions are made for Sundays. Furthermore: The Sundays of this time of year are called the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays *of Lent*. The Sixth Sunday, on which Holy Week begins, is called, "Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord."
- 5. What are the rules for abstinence in Lent?** Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (as well as Good Friday). An exception is if a solemnity falls on a Friday, but no solemnities fall on Fridays in 2024, so all Fridays are days of abstinence. The law of abstinence binds those who are 14 years old or older. According to the Church's official rules: The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, the products of milk or condiments made of animal fat.
- 6. Do you have to give up something for Lent?** If you do, can you have it on Sundays? The traditional custom of giving up something for Lent is voluntary. Consequently, if you give something up, you set the parameters. If you choose to allow yourself to have it on Sundays as to promote joy on this holy day, that is up to you.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Holy Father usually marks the solemn opening of the Lenten fast with a procession and Mass on Ash Wednesday evening. He walks from the Benedictine monastery, San Anselmo, down the Aventine hill to the Dominican monastery of Santa Sabina. This very old tradition was revived by Pope John XXIII in the late 1950s. Have you ever wondered who gives the pope his ashes? It's the cardinal who has been given the "title" of the church of Santa Sabina. The pope's homily at this Mass states his theme for Lent.

Santa Sabina dates from the fifth century, and is one of the most beautiful churches in Rome. One of the panels on its main doors features the Crucifixion, a scene not normally depicted in art until much later. In the year 1219 the pope gave the church to Saint Dominic for his new religious order, the "Order of Preachers," commonly called the Dominicans, and it remains their world headquarters to this day. That pope, Honorius III, was a member of the Savelli family, and this church was their personal family chapel. Sabina was a wealthy Roman lady who became a Christian and was martyred, and whose home became a place of prayer. Later, the church built on that spot was dedicated to her memory.



St. Stephen Catholic Book Club

March book: **"Jesus Shock" by Peter Kreeft**

The life of Jesus Christ is indelibly engraved upon history. Some people thought he was crazy; others considered him a misfit, a troublemaker, a rebel. He was condemned as a criminal, yet his life and teachings reverberate throughout history. He saw things differently, and he had no respect for the status quo. You can praise him, disagree with him, quote him, disbelieve him, glorify him, or vilify him but you can't ignore him.

Jesus is the single greatest agent of change in human history. He made the lame walk, taught the simple, set captives free, gave sight to the blind, fed the hungry, healed the sick, comforted the afflicted, afflicted the comfortable.

But who is Jesus today? Who is Jesus to you? Get ready to discover Jesus like you have never known him.

Book Club meets Sat., March 9, at 10:00 a.m. in the parish office. Contact Mary Molly for more information.

Join the SFSU Newman Club for Newman Nights every Thursday from 6-8 pm. We will meet for Mass in the church and will move to the rectory for fellowship after.

Feb 22nd: Theology on Tap

Feb 29th: Leap Year Party

Every Sunday 6:30 p.m. Student Mass, 7:30 p.m. Free Sunday Supper. *All SFSU and surrounding college students are welcome!*

Contact Victoria with any questions!

victoria.connor@focus.org



LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Thursday, February 29

in Donworth Hall

(473 Eucalyptus Dr., below the gym)

6:00-7:00 p.m.— Soup Potluck

7:00-8:00 p.m.— Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker:
Joe Heschmeyer

Topic:
**The Heart of Worship:
Rediscovering the
Importance of the Eucharist**

Does God really care about how we worship Him, or is it a matter of our personal preference? And why doesn't the Catholic Mass look like the worship services you might find in a Protestant megachurch? In this talk, Joe unpacks the biblical difference between preaching, prayer, and worship, and our need (individually and collectively) to offer sacrificial worship to God.

Visit incarcerated young people 12 to 25 years old at San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center

Attend a 2-day training Saturday, March 23 and Saturday, March 31, 2024

Training location:

1 Peter Yorke Way, San Francisco, CA 94109,

Time: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

To schedule a screening interview, contact Julio Escobar at 415 614-5572 or online at

escobarj@sfach.org

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, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

St. Stephen Men's Club Presents
A St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Saturday, March 9 Donworth Hall, 5:30PM
featuring
Bagpipers procession from Church
Murphy Irish Dancers
Corned Beef Dinner
DJ Miguel "Hightop" Fonseca

Please **RSVP by Wednesday, March 6** BY check: payable to St. Stephen Men's Club or PayPal: to ststephenmensclub -



Family Name: _____

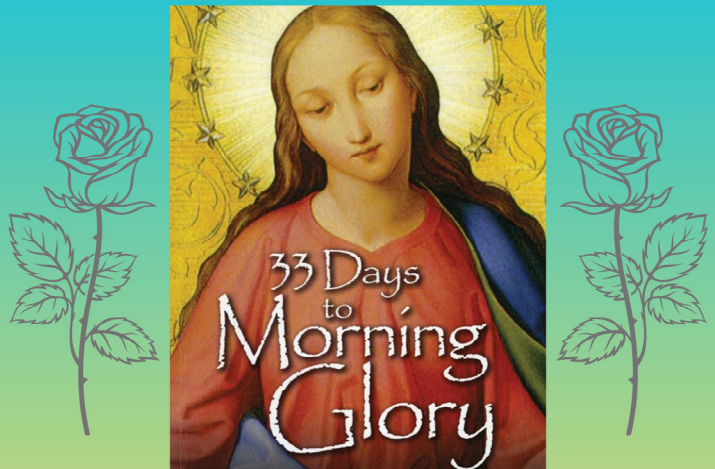
Adults _____ @ \$25/each: _____

Children _____ @ \$10/each: _____

Total _____

St. Stephen Parish Presents:

Lenten Marian Consecration



33-Day Marian Consecration

Consecration Start-End: February 21-March 25, 2024

Intro Meeting: Friday, February 16*

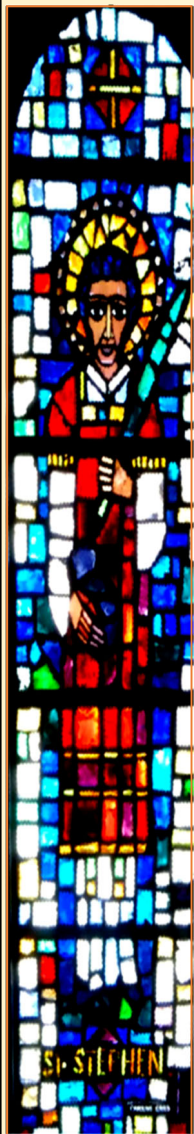
*Meetings Every Friday in Lent in the Marian Room

(Crying Room in Church)

after 6:00PM Stations of The Cross

TEXT to GIVE

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



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michael Lilledahl
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Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

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Permanent Deacon
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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 501(C)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!