

# 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 Masses: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF

# Lent



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**FEBRUARY**  
**25** 2024

**From the cloud came a voice:  
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."**

**Mark 9:7**

**Stations  
of The Cross  
Fridays  
6:00 p.m.  
in Church**



**Join the FUN!**

**Monday, March 4, 2024**

**@ Donworth Hall**

**473 Eucalyptus Drive SF,  
CA 94132**

**ALL INVITED!**

**Doors Open 12:30pm  
50+ Seniors**

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

**For any questions please call:  
HELGA at 415-731-8211**

### Today's Music

**Gathering:**

**Forty Days and Forty  
Nights #130**

**Preparation:**

**In These Days Of Lenten  
Journey #131**

**Communion:**

**When We Eat This Bread  
#351,**

**Bread Of Life  
#328**

**Sending:**

**Beyond The Days  
#129**

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

## Second Sunday in Lent

**First Reading:** Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13 **Psalm:** Psalm 116 **Second Reading:** Romans 8:31b-34 **Gospel:** Mark 9:2-0

On the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This event is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year, in Lectionary Cycle B, we hear Mark's report of this event.

The context for Mark's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew's and Luke's Gospel. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion. After this, in each of these Gospels, there is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship.

In each case, Jesus takes three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospel, there is reference to a conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel includes the detail that this conversation is about what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem.

Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter's offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism.



In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' passion and death. (Loyola Press)

### Liturgy and Life

- When has trust in God been your response to a trial in your life?
- What helps you walk by faith when God's ways are hard to understand?
- At the Transfiguration, the three apostles' eyes were opened to who Jesus is. How have you responded to new perceptions of your relationship to God?

Feast Day February 27 **St. Gabriel Francis Possenti**

Hagiographers make sanctity seem impossible for us when they tell fanciful stories about a saint's early life. How little saint so-and-so was always rapt in prayer, worked miracles, undertook severe mortifications, never had a sexual thought, and so on. Thank God for St. Gabriel Francis Possenti and his biographers, who report that he had a normal childhood. The 11th child of a famous lawyer in Spoleto, Italy, Francis was characteristically cheerful. Although a diligent student as a teenager, he also enjoyed reading novels and attending plays. And his friends called the handsome youth damerino, a "ladies' man." As a teen at the Jesuit school in Spoleto, Francis felt a call to the priesthood. But he procrastinated deciding to act on it. Twice when he was ill he promised to become a priest if he recovered. But still he delayed. Finally in 1856, motivated by the death of a favorite sister, he entered the Passionist novitiate, taking the name Gabriel-of-Our-Lady-of-Sorrows.

Everyone who met Gabriel was impressed with his joyful submission to the humdrum routine of daily circumstances. No great achievement marked his short life, except that he did all that was expected of him with extraordinary patience and kindness. The following prayer displays the tenor of his bright spirit: Behold me at your feet, O my Lord, begging your mercy. What will you lose by granting me a deep love for you, a profound humility, a great purity of heart, mind and body, a brotherly charity, a sincere sorrow for having offended you, and the grace to offend you no more? What will you lose by enabling me to receive worthily your beloved Son in Holy Communion?



# Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



## Monday, Feb 26

8:00 a.m.

† **Fr. Dave Pettingill**  
*(By: Aisa & Siblings)*

## Tuesday, Feb 27

8:00 a.m.

† **Coralia Angulo**  
*(By: Margarita Solis-Tucker)*

## Wednesday, Feb 28

8:00 a.m.

**Fr. Bill Brady Sp Int**  
*(By: Aisa & Siblings)*

## Thursday, Feb 29

8:00 a.m.

† **Stefanie Snider**  
*(By: Debby Diaz)*

## Friday, Mar 1

8:00 a.m.

**Margarita Solis-Tucker Sp Int**  
*(By: Parish staff & Volunteers)*

## Saturday, Mar 2

8:00 a.m.

† **Seamus Naughton**  
*(By: Maureen Kirwan & Family)*

4:30 p.m.

**Azaian Irac Sp Int**  
*(By: Papa & Mama)*

## Sunday, Mar 3

8:00 a.m.

**St Stephen Parishioners**  
*(By: Fr. Michael)*

10:30 a.m.

† **Luise C. Marcel**  
*(By: Maria Xavier)*

6:30 p.m.

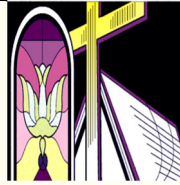
† **Josie Fernandes**  
*(By: Office Desk Volunteers)*

## Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

If God is for us, who can be against us?

— Romans 8:31b



### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith (*Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18*).

**Psalm** — I walk before the Lord, in the land of the living (*Psalms 116*).

**Second Reading** — God did not spare his own Son (Romans 8:31b-34).

**Gospel** — This is my beloved Son (Mark 9:2-10).

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **Second Sunday of Lent; Penitential Rite for Candidates for Full Communion**

Monday: **St. Alexander**

Tuesday: **St. Gabriel Francis Possenti, St. Gregory of Narek**

Wednesday: **St. Angela of Foligno**  
**Purim (Jewish observance) begins at sunset**

Friday: **St. John Cossian**

Abstinence: **First Friday; World Day of Prayer**

Saturday: **St. Katharine Drexel; 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.



## Transfiguration in Children

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement,  
he learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval,  
he learns to like himself.

**If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,  
he learns to find love in the world.**

## 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

**P**lease 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*

## Additional Messages from Today's Scripture

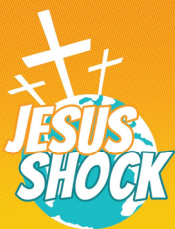
**1) The transubstantiation in the Holy Mass is the source of our strength:** In each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar are changed into the crucified and risen, living body and blood of Jesus. Just as Jesus' Transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each holy Mass should be our source of heavenly strength against temptations, and our renewal during Lent. In addition, our holy Communion with the living Jesus should be the source of our daily "transfiguration," transforming our minds and hearts so that we may do more good by humble and selfless service to others.

**(2) Each time we receive one of the Sacraments, we are transformed:** For example, Baptism transforms us into sons and daughters of God and heirs of Heaven. Confirmation makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and warriors of God. By the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God brings back the sinner to the path of holiness.

**(3) A message of encouragement and hope:** In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, the thought of our transformation in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to His consoling words: "This is my beloved son." Let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to our Lord so that, through these practices of Lent and through the acceptance of our daily crosses, we may grow closer to him in his suffering, may share in the carrying of his cross and may finally share the glory of his final "transfiguration," his Resurrection.

## Thoughts on "TRANSFORMATION"

You might remember comedian Yakov Smirnoff. When he first came to the United States from Russia, he was not prepared for the incredible variety of instant products available in American grocery stores. He says, "On my first shopping trip, I saw powdered milk: you just add water, and you get milk. Then I saw powdered orange juice: you just add water, and you get orange juice. And then I saw baby powder, and I thought to myself, 'What a country!'" Smirnoff is joking but we make these assumptions about Christian Transformation—that people change instantly at salvation. Some denominations make Christianity so simple: accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, confess your sins to him, you are instantly saved and born again. Some traditions call it repentance and renewal. Some call it Sanctification of the believer. Whatever you call it, most traditions expect some quick fix to sin. We go to Church as if we are going to the grocery store: Powdered Christian. Just add water and you get disciples! Unfortunately, there is no such powder, and disciples of Jesus Christ are not instantly born. They are slowly raised through many trials, suffering, and temptations. The word "transfiguration" is not often part of our vocabulary today. I can't image a mother coming to the table with a beautifully done casserole proclaiming that she had "transformed" the macaroni into this exotic dish. We might use it if someone goes to the beauty shop and gets a daring haircut. "Look how transformed she is!" we might say. Or we might use it in telling fairy tales to our children - someone was transformed into a princess-like Cinderella or a frog was transformed into a Prince. But despite the fact that it isn't a common word to use, what the word signifies does happen pretty often. Something is changed into something more beautiful or altered in some way, making it more "awesome" to use today's cliché. Lent is a transformational season in the Church. This is, of course, why we hear the story of the Transfiguration.



PETER KREEFT

### 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:ststephenmensclub) -



Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

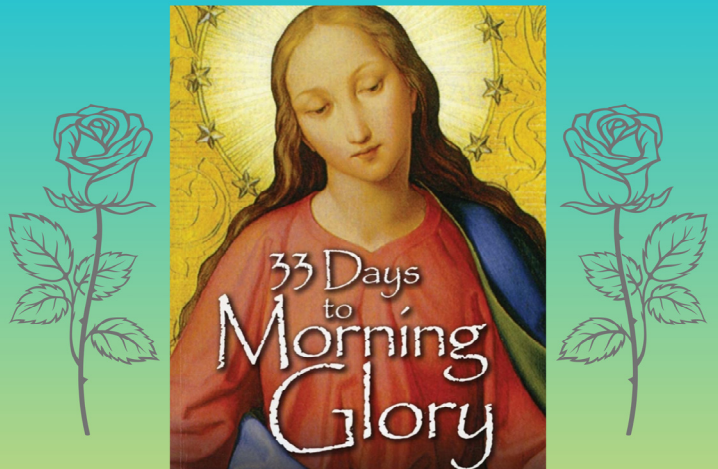
# Adults \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25/each: \_\_\_\_\_ # Children

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$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\*

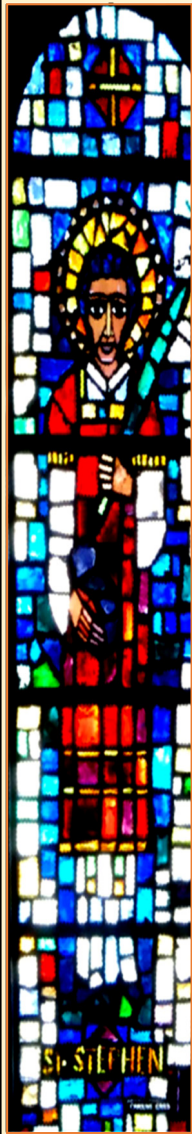
\*Meetings Every Friday in Lent in the Marian Room

(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**  
*Pastor, ext. 1*  
Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

**Rev. Ben Rosado**  
*Parochial Vicar, ext. 8*  
frbenrosado@gmail.com

**Rev. Mr. Manuel "Olet" Abad**  
*Permanent Deacon*  
deacon@SaintStephenSF.org

**Sharon McCarthy Allen**  
*Principal*

**Carol P Cagalingan**  
*Parish Manager, ext. 3*  
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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<br>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](http://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.

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Your generosity makes a difference!

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

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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!