

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.

MARCH 3, 2024

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



Join the FUN!

TOMORROW!!

Monday, March 4, 2024

@ Donworth Hall

473 Eucalyptus Drive
SF, CA 94132

ALL INVITED!

Doors Open 12:30pm
50+ Seniors are invited to
enjoy camaraderie, snacks,
Bingo games, Bridge, etc

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

Today's Music

Gathering:

Create In Me
#784

Preparation:

Your Words Are Spirit
and Life
#606

Communion:

The Supper Of The Lord
#339,
Come To The Water
#617

Sending:

Abba! Father
#544

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

*Jesus found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves,
as well as the money changers seated there.*

He made a whip of cords and drove them all out.

John 2:14-15

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

Third Sunday in Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 | **Psalm:** Psalm 19 | **2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 | **Gospel:** John 2:13-25

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshippers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax. Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana.

We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus' relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel.

Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections of this Christian community in his narrative.

After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection. During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.



Feast Day March 3 Saint Katharine Drexel, 1858-1955

Contemplation and generosity vied for first place in St. Katharine Drexel's life. The heiress from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, wanted most to withdraw to a cloister, but her circumstances and gifts pulled her to Christian service.

Francis A. Drexel, a world-renowned banker and a man of faith, provided his family a life of ease. And Emma Bouvier, her stepmother, trained Katharine and her two sisters in generous giving. Mrs. Drexel believed God gave wealth to the family to aid others, and regularly involved her daughters in distributing food, medicine, clothing, and rent money to the poor. The experience shaped Katharine's future.

Both parents died by 1885, leaving Katharine and her sisters to share the annual income from a fourteen-million-dollar estate. Right away Katharine began to donate thousands of dollars to the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions for the construction and staffing of schools for Native American children, which became her life's passion.

At this time, however, Katharine's spirit was in turmoil. Bishop James O'Connor, her spiritual director, thought she should remain a single woman serving in the world. But she wished to become a contemplative nun. *My heart is very sorrowful, she wrote him in 1886, because like the little girl who wept when she found that her doll was stuffed with sawdust and her drum was hollow, I, too, have made a horrifying discovery and my discovery like hers is true. I have ripped both the doll and the drum open and the fact lies plainly and in all its glaring reality before me: All, all, all (there is no exception) is passing away and will pass away.*

In 1891, Katharine resolved the tension by founding a new religious community, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, that combined prayer and social action. By 1904, 104 sisters had joined her. Katharine established 145 Catholic missions and twelve schools for Native Americans and fifty schools for blacks. During her lifetime she gave away about twenty million dollars, mostly for these causes.

In 1935, Katharine suffered a severe heart attack. Two years later she retired and got her heart's desire—eighteen years of quiet contemplation before she died in 1955 at age ninety-seven.




Mass Intentions


FOR THE WEEK



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.




Third Sunday of Lent
 March 3, 2024,
 I, the LORD, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
 — Exodus 20:2a, 3



Interested in becoming Catholic?

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in the Catholic Faith, or have been Baptized but never finished receiving the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation, you are encouraged to contact Mary Molly in the parish office (415) 681-244 x4 or email: FaithFomation@SaintStephenSF.org

Also, please call or email Mary Molly Mullaney to learn more about what our parish has to offer for adult faith formation.



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 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 Scosseria, 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.

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| Monday, Mar 4 8:00 a.m. | SchuldtFamily <i>(By: Lupita Chase)</i> |
| Tuesday, Mar 5 8:00 a.m. | † Natividad Jordan <i>(By: Miranti Ojong-Jordan)</i> |
| Wednesday, Mar 6 8:00 a.m. | † Apolinario Reyes <i>(By: Liberty Munnngcal)</i> |
| Thursday, Mar 7 8:00 a.m. | † Jeremiah Murphy <i>(By: Brenda Kyne)</i> |
| Friday, Mar 8 8:00 a.m. | † Laura Hosking <i>(By: Peggy Teshara)</i> |
| Saturday, Mar 9 8:00 a.m. | † Jack Miller <i>(By: Kirwan Family)</i> |
| 4:30 p.m. | † Denis O'Connor <i>(By: Rose O'Connor)</i> |
| Sunday, Mar 10 8:00 a.m. | † Jack Hyland <i>(By: Liam & Mary Frost)</i> |
| 10:30 a.m. | St Stephen Parishioners <i>(By: Fr. Michael)</i> |
| 6:30 p.m. | Xerkes Treyes Sp Int <i>(By: Lynn)</i> |

 *May she rest in peace*
Beverly Desmond

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — God gives the law through Moses
(Exodus 20:1-17).

Psalm — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life
(Psalm 19).

Second Reading — We proclaim Christ crucified
(1 Corinthians 1:22-25).

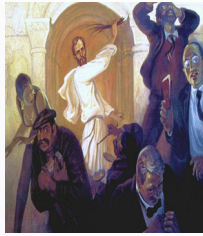
Gospel — Many began to believe in Jesus' name when they saw the signs he was doing
(John 2:13-25) .

Saints and Special Observances

| | |
|------------|---|
| Sunday: | Third Sunday in Lent First Scrutiny Saint Katharine Drexel |
| Monday: | Saint Casimir |
| Wednesday: | Saint Colette |
| Thursday: | Saints Perpetua and Felicity |
| Friday: | Saint John of God Abstinence |
| Saturday: | Saint Catherine of Bologna Saint Frances of Rome, 1384-1440 Saint Dominic Savio, 1842-1857 |

Additional Thoughts on Today's Readings

Each of us longs to know and love God better. Each of us needs the grace of God in our lives. Today's readings subtly teach us something important about receiving grace and instruction from God. First, he must cleanse us. First, he must make room in our hearts so that he can fill us with his grace.



We notice in today's first reading that, before God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments, writing his law on their hearts, he had to get them out of Egypt. He had to free them so that they could be free to love and serve him. In today's Gospel, Jesus cleanses the temple, making a *whip out of cords* and overturning tables! But then, he teaches. He prophesies his glorious resurrection.

Lent is a time for examining what obstacles to grace and instruction from God may be in our lives. Remember that God respects our free will, and so he doesn't "force" his grace upon us; we have to cooperate. And so we, in humility, ask ourselves: What do we need to "cleanse" in order to "make room" for God's abundant grace? What false idols might we rank higher than God, even unconsciously? We know that *the temple of [Jesus'] body* was destroyed and raised. Therefore, we can trust that the same God who raised Jesus from the dead can also cleanse and breathe new life into our hearts.

To the world, it may seem foolish to place God and his commandments first in our lives, above money, power, and pleasure. But Saint Paul reminds us that to unbelievers, the simple fact that we glorify Christ crucified – Jesus killed as a criminal – is foolish, at best. God, in his infinite wisdom, desired this to be the way humankind was saved, and so we proclaim with joy: Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.

As we approach the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, let our simple prayer be: Jesus, I want to cleanse my heart to make more room for you. And may His blessings BE always with you, especially as you continue your Lenten Journey.

PRAYER FOR LENT

Lord, Holy Father,
show us
what kind of man it is
who is hanging
for our sakes on the cross,
whose suffering
causes the rocks themselves
to crack and crumble
with compassion,
whose death
brings the dead
back to life.

Let my heart
crack and crumble
at the sight of him.

Let my soul break apart with com-
passion
for his suffering.

Let it be shattered
with grief at my sins
for which he dies.

And finally
let it be softened
with devoted love for him.

Amen.
(St. Bonaventure)

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.

Every Sunday 6:30 p.m. Student Mass, followed by FREE Sunday Supper at 7:30 p.m. *All SFSU and surrounding college students and college-age are welcome!* Contact Victoria with any questions!
victoria.connor@focus.org



LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Wednesday in Holy Week, March 27
in Donworth Hall
(473 Eucalyptus Dr., below the gym)
6:00-7:00 p.m.— Soup Potluck
7:00-8:00 p.m.— Special Presentation
by Fr. Michael Lilledahl

We need to remember that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit:

St. Paul reminds us that we are God's temples, **body and soul**, because the Spirit of God dwells in us. Hence, we have no right to desecrate God's temple by impurity and injustice. We are expected to cleanse our hearts of pride, hatred, jealousy, and all evil thoughts, desires, and plans. Reminiscent of what Jesus did in cleansing the Temple, we, as 21st century disciples, must, with His grace, cleanse ourselves of attitudes and behaviors that prevent us from seeing and responding to hurt wherever we find it. Let us welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives during Lent by repentance and the renewal of our lives. We will drive out the wild animals that do not belong in the holy temple of our body by making a whip of cords out of our fasting, penance and almsgiving during Lent, and by going to Confession to receive God's loving forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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@sfarch.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, 5:30PM

in Donworth Hall,

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: _____

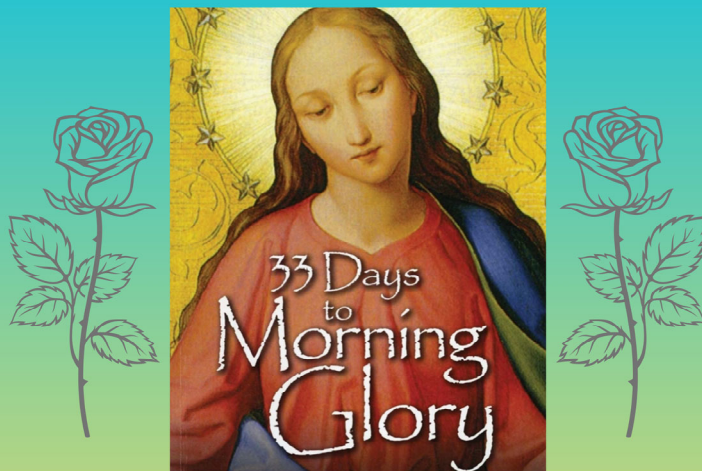
Adults _____ @ \$25/each: _____

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*

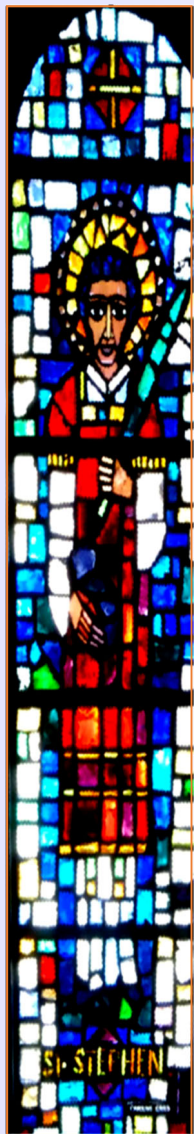
*Meetings Every Friday in Lent in the Marian Room

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

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

Rev. Mr. Manuel "Olet" Abad
Permanent Deacon
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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 Preparation | Clergy |
| • 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!