

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 OF

Lent



**MARCH
10
2024**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life.

John 3:16

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

March 24

Regular Mass
Schedule

Wednesday

March 27

**Lenten Soup
Supper**

in Hall

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday

March 28

7:30 p.m. Mass

Good Friday

March 29

1:00-3:00 p.m.
Stations of the
Cross &

Reflections on
the 7 Last Words
of Jesus

3:00 p.m. Good
Friday Liturgy

Saturday

March 30

Easter Vigil

8:00 p.m.

Sunday,

March 31

EASTER

Mass 8:00 a.m. &

10:30 a.m.

(no 6:30pm Mass)

Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Reading (2 Chronicles 36:14-23) | **Psalm** (137) | **Second Reading** (Ephesians 2:4-10) | **Gospel** (John 3:14-21)

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy’s opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.



Today’s Gospel reading is taken from John’s Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus’ reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today’s Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses’ prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today’s Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus’ words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John’s Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John’s reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

- In what ways have I been like the Pharisees and have failed to see Jesus in the midst of my life?
- How have I been resistant to God’s grace (help, interior movements, inspirations) in my life?
- When have I learned to see people and events as God sees them?

Feast Day March 11 St. Eulogius

St. Eulogius’s friend and biographer Paul Alvarez affectionately described him as gentle, reverent, well-educated, steeped in Scripture, and so humble that he freely submitted to opinions of others less informed than he. He said that Eulogius had a pleasant demeanor and conducted his relationships with such kindness that everyone regarded him as a friend. A gifted leader, the most prominent among his charisma was the ability to give encouragement. As a priest serving in an occupied country, he used this gift to strengthen his friends in the face of danger.



In the ninth century, the Muslim conquerors of Spain made Cordoba their capital. They allowed Christians to live in relative peace and, subject to a monthly tax, permitted them to worship. Some, like Eulogius’s younger brother, even rose to high positions in the government.

However, in 850 the Muslims began to persecute Christians because some had spoken against Mohammed and converted Muslims to Christianity. They imprisoned the bishop and priests of Cordoba, including Eulogius. In jail, the saint read the Bible to his companions, exhorting them to faithfulness. He wrote to Flora and Mary, two young women who were threatened because they were converts. In the letter quoted below, he assured them that nothing done to their bodies could harm their souls: “They threaten to sell you as slaves and dishonor you, but be assured that they cannot injure the purity of your souls, whatever infamy they may inflict on you. Cowardly Christians will tell you, in order to shake your constancy, that the churches are silent, deserted, and deprived of the sacrifice on account of your obstinacy: that if you will but yield temporarily you will regain the free exercise of your religion. But be persuaded that, for you, the sacrifice most pleasing to God is contrition of heart, and that you can no longer draw back or renounce the truth you have confessed. . . You must fight till death and leave God to defend his church: you must fight till death because in such a struggle as this victory is won by death alone.”

In 859, Eulogius himself was arrested because he had protected and hidden Leocritia, a young convert. He was charged before a judge, who offered to let him off if he would soften his views. But Eulogius began to proclaim the Gospel to the court, so to silence him the judge hastily condemned him to death. He was taken out and beheaded on the spot.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Mar 11

8:00 a.m.

† **Laura Hosking**
(By: Cheryl Guirlani)

Tuesday, Mar 12

8:00 a.m.

† **Ronald Stock**
(By: Austin Stock)

Wednesday, Mar 13

8:00 a.m.

† **Con & Nora Finucane**
(By: O'Callaghan Family)

Thursday, Mar 14

8:00 a.m.

† **Mary Mernick**
(By: Ruby Roque)

Friday, Mar 15

8:00 a.m.

Lucia Isla Dacasin
Sp. Int. (By: Boquiren Family)

Saturday, Mar 16

8:00 a.m.

† **Celestina Milch**
(By: Marilu Illenberger)
Genevieve Dy
Sp. Int. (By: Africa Dy.)

4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Mar 17

8:00 a.m.

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

10:30 a.m.

† **Margaret M. Carion**
(By: Maria Xavier)

6:30 p.m.

St Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)



May they rest in peace

Martha Ames

Renee Eleanor Lobo

Anastasia (Annie) Sonza Esver

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The wrath and the mercy of the LORD are revealed in the exile and liberation of the Chosen People. *(2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23)*

Psalm — Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! *(Psalm 137)*

Second Reading — God, who is rich in mercy, brought us to life with Christ. *(Ephesians 2:4-10)*

Gospel The Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. *(John 3:14-21)*

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: **Fourth Sunday of Lent; Second Scrutiny**
Daylight Saving Time begins

Monday: **St. Eulogius** patron of carpenters

Tuesday: **St. Fina** patron of disabled people

Wednesday: **St. Gerald of Mayo** patron against plague

Friday: **St. Louise de Marillac** patron of social workers
Abstinence

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.



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2024

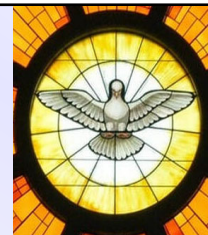
God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. — John 3:17

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS THE GOD / MAN

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

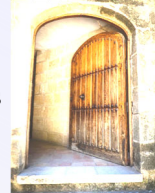
Also, please call or email Mary Molly Mullaney to learn more about what our parish has to offer for adult faith formation.



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.

Additional Thoughts on Today's Scripture

In the Star Wars movie "The Empire Strikes Back," the young Luke Skywalker asks the Jedi Master, Yoda, if the dark side of the Force is stronger than the light, and Yoda answers, "No, no, no. Quicker. Easier. More seductive."

Quicker, easier, more seductive. Isn't this the inherent challenge of the Christian life, struggling against the allure of the quicker, easier path. Today's first reading draws attention to this desire: *Early and often*, it says, *did the Lord, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to [his people]*, but they rejected them. Why? Because to accept the message would mean to change, to grow, to face their own wickedness. The people preferred the quicker path, the easier path. They chose their ways over God's ways.

In John's Gospel, Nicodemus has come to Jesus to ask him about the signs he is doing. What we do not hear today, but what John writes a few verses prior to this, is the time of Nicodemus' visit to Jesus. He did not come in the daytime, when anyone could see him. He came at night, under the cover of darkness. He could not step fully into the light, because he had not yet chosen God's way over that of his own religious cohorts. Jesus says to Nicodemus: *This is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.*

The people preferred their way; they preferred darkness to light; and their behaviors and works were evil. *Quicker. Easier. More seductive.*

Evil thrives in darkness. *Everyone who does wicked things hates the light*, because light exposes those deeds. But shadows and darkness make everything unclear and hard to navigate, and God's people were never going to find their way back to God without help. And so God sent his only Son into the world – as the light of the world – not to condemn it but to save it. For only light can lead us to truth; only light can show us a path; only light can dispel darkness.

In the quote above, Yoda did not say the darkness was stronger, only that it had more allure. This is analogous to the Christian life. All of us are familiar with the temptation and allure of sin. But Jesus Christ as the light of the world saves us from the darkness of sin and death. Freedom comes in knowing that the light is stronger; the yoke is lighter. The saving power of God brings love and mercy,



Additional "By-Products"

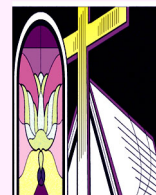
From Today's Scripture

We need to reciprocate God's love by loving others. God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving, and merciful. Let us try, with His help, to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities as we share our love with others during Lent, for in them we love and serve Him.

Our rebirth by water and the Spirit must be an ongoing process. As Christians, we are meant to lead a life of repentance and on-going conversion, bringing us to a renewal of life with the help of the Holy Spirit living within us. The renewal of the Spirit comes when we work with Him to be liberated from the bondage of evil habits by using the Divine strength we receive from Him through prayer, Bible reading and frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

Let us be bearers of Jesus' Light and carry it to other people. When we allow the Light of God's forgiveness to shine in our lives, it brightens up every corner, forgives every sin, restores our relationship with God, and renews our lives. Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness. We will experience the joy and peace of sins forgiven, of new attitudes and of new relationships with God, family and friends. Jesus' Light of truth, justice, holiness, and charity shining in our lives is meant to bring blessing to others. We are to let this Light of Christ shine through us into the lives of the people around us. The Light we give to others can dispel the darkness of their lives and bring them to a completely new outlook.

Let us not underestimate what the Light of Christ can do through us.



St. Stephen Catholic Book Club

Timothy Keller

HOPE
IN TIMES
OF FEAR

The Resurrection and
the Meaning of Easter

April book: *Hope in Times of Fear: the Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter* by Timothy Keller

"Hope in a Time of Fear explains the meaning of Jesus's resurrection. The followers of Jesus were unprepared for the event and failed to recognize him. All of them physically saw him and yet did not spiritually truly see him. It was only when Jesus reached out and invited them to see who he truly was that their eyes were open. This book offers a new way to look at a

story everyone thinks they understand."

Available from SF Public Library in book, eBook, or audiobook format.

Book Club meets Sat., April 13, 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!*



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

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 compassion
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)

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.

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



Join the FUN!

Monday, April 8, 2024

@ Donworth Hall

473 Eucalyptus Drive, SF, CA 94132

ALL INVITED!

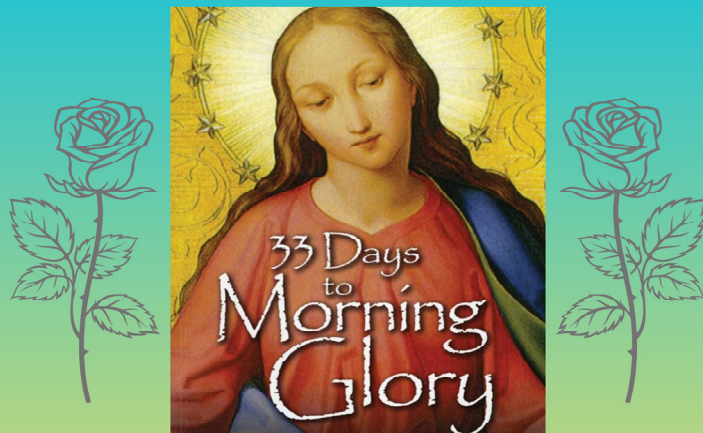
Doors Open 12:30pm

*50+ Seniors are invited to enjoy camaraderie,
snacks, Bingo games, Bridge, etc*

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

St. Stephen Parish Presents:

Lenten Marian Consecration



33-Day Marian Consecration

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

Intro Meeting: Friday, February 16*

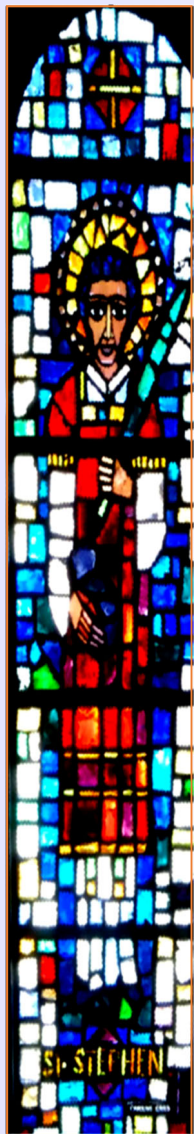
*Meetings Every Friday in Lent in the Marian Room

(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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Ed Prete
Bulletin Editor, ext. 6
e.prete@SaintStephenSF.org

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.

Today's Music

Gathering: The Glory Of These 40 Days #141

Preparation: Christ Be Our Light #599

Communion: I Received The Living God #347,
See Us Lord About Your Altar
#375

Sending: Led By The Spirit #128