

# 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

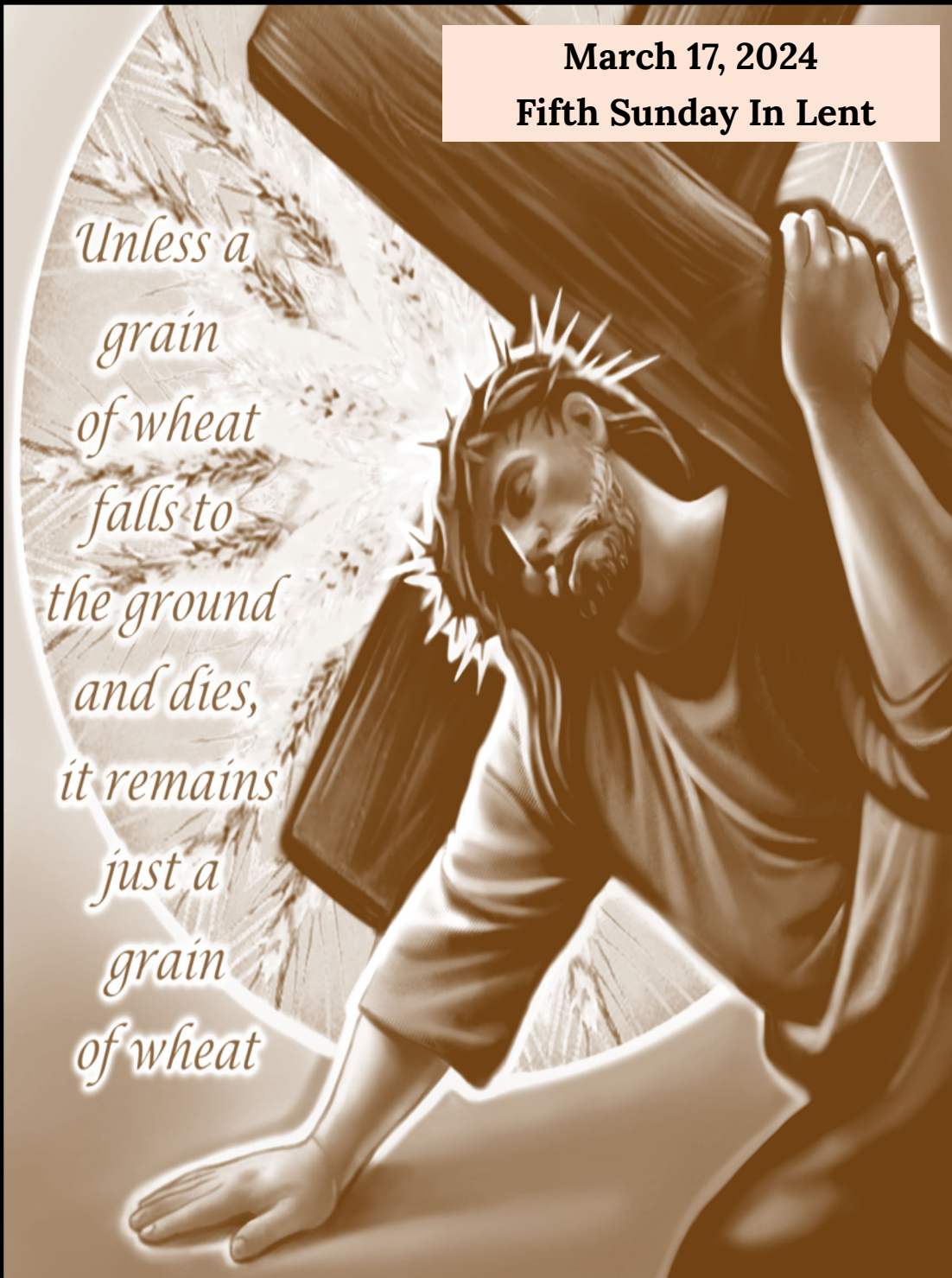
Daily Mass: Mondays thru Saturdays 8:00 a.m.

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 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday In Lent



*Unless a  
grain  
of wheat  
falls to  
the ground  
and dies,  
it remains  
just a  
grain  
of wheat*

## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday

March 24

Regular Mass Schedule  
(Confessions 30 min. before  
each Mass)

### Lenten Soup Supper

Wed., March 27  
in Hall

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Followed by  
Movie Screening  
*The Passion of Christ*

### Holy Thursday

March 28

7:30 p.m. Mass of the  
Lord's Supper

(Confessions 6:30-7:30 p.m.)

### Good Friday

March 29

1:00-3:00 p.m. Good  
Friday Devotionals

3:00 p.m. Good Friday  
Liturgy

(Confessions 12:00-3:00 p.m.)

Saturday

March 30

### Easter Vigil

8:00 p.m.

Sunday,

March 31

## EASTER

Mass 8:00 a.m. &

10:30 a.m.

(no 6:30 p.m. Mass)

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

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

**First Reading** (Jeremiah 31:31-34); (**Psalm** 51 or 130); **Second Reading** (Hebrews 5:7-9) ; **Gospel** (John 12:20-33) or John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20

In today's Gospel we encounter Jesus in Jerusalem. He knows that *the hour* is at hand, when he will drive out *the ruler of this world*, the devil.

Jesus knows he is about to die and he knows how it is going to happen, as he refers to being *lifted up*. *I will draw everyone to myself*, he says, a fitting reminder to us that he does not give his life only for the sins of a few, but so that all may be forgiven and redeemed. Jesus chooses to become that grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies that it may produce the fruit of salvation for all who believe. He tells us that if we are to serve him, then we must follow him, taking up our crosses and joining him at Calvary – that one day, we all may share in his victory.

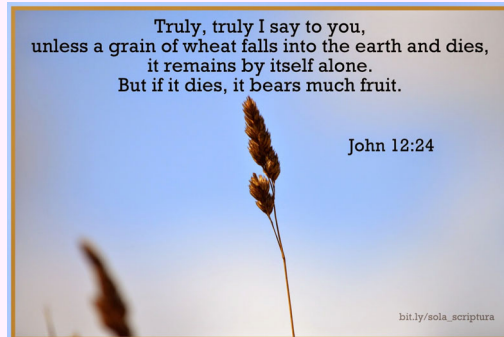
In our baptism, we, too, are like a grain of wheat: dying to sin, that we may come alive in Christ Jesus. As the Letter to the Hebrews tells us, on the cross Jesus *became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him*. The Lord teaches us about the cost of discipleship. Jesus held nothing back in obtaining salvation for us by defeating our greatest enemies of sin, Satan, and death. We are called, likewise, to make an investment in our salvation, to be willing to work for it and suffer for it just as he did.

On the cross, Jesus fulfills the new covenant called for by Jeremiah in today's first reading. No longer will God's law be carved in stone. Instead, in Christ, God's law is written on the human heart with the blood of Jesus. *I will be their God, and they shall be my people*, Jeremiah says, prophesying a new beginning and a fresh start for God's people: *I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more*. As God is so willing to freely and frequently overlook the wrongs we have done, so are we commanded to do the same.

As our Lenten journey inches closer to the events of Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we turn our focus to Jesus as he approaches "his hour" on the lonesome road to Calvary. As Jesus *offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears* for us and for our salvation, so, too, we join our pains and sufferings with his. We bring him our fears, faults, and failings, even our lack of forgiveness, that all might be washed away by the holy water and blood that flows from his side on the cross.

As we get closer to our Easter salvation, may the love of Jesus fill your heart each day. **Liturgy and Life**

- What does it mean to you that God forgives our sins?
- Who do you know who seems to have a "clean heart?"
- How do their actions reveal that?



*Feast Day March 19*

### St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

It was on December 8, 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph as the patron of the Universal Church. To mark the 150th anniversary of this declaration, Pope Francis announced the Year of St. Joseph with the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart) on December 8, 2020. The Year began on December 8, 2020 and concluded on December 8, 2021. Pope Francis established the year so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will."

Pope Francis wrote *Patris Corde* to share his personal reflections on St. Joseph in the backdrop of the Coronavirus pandemic which shows "how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked" like St. Joseph." Pope Francis writes, "Each of us can discover in St. Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation." Pope Francis wrote this

Apostolic Letter also to highlight the role of St. Joseph as a father who served his family with charity and humility. Saying that "our world today needs fathers," he presents St. Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a creatively courageous father, a working father, and a father in the shadows.

"The aim of this Apostolic Letter," Pope Francis says, "is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal." He says that "the proper mission of the saints is not only to obtain miracles and graces, but to intercede for us before God, like Abraham and Moses, and like Jesus, the one mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) who is our 'advocate' with the Father (John 2:1) and who 'always lives to make intercession for us' (Hebrews 7:2- 5)." As Pope Francis has reminded us, let us try to grow in our devotion to St. Joseph. Every year the month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph.




# Mass Intentions

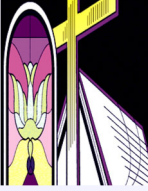
FOR THE WEEK



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.



**March 17, 2024**  
 I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.  
 — *Jeremiah 31:33*



### CONFESSION SCHEDULE


Palm Sunday, March 24—30 min. before each Mass  
 Holy Thursday, March 28 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
 Good Friday, March 29 — 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
 (No Confessions on Holy Saturday)

**NOTE: No 8:00 a.m. Mass on Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Holy Saturday**

### 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](mailto: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.



## 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.

**George Farralis, 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, 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.*

<b>Monday, Mar 18</b> 8:00 a.m.	† <b>Teresa Lobo</b> <i>(By: Maria Xavier)</i>
<b>Tuesday, Mar 19</b> 8:00 a.m.	† <b>Marta Ames</b> <i>(By: Laura West)</i>
<b>Wednesday, Mar 20</b> 8:00 a.m.	† <b>Mary &amp; Rocco Yiu</b> <i>(By: Carolyn Yiu)</i>
<b>Thursday, Mar 21</b> 8:00 a.m.	† <b>Renee Lobo</b> <i>(By: P. Teshara)</i>
<b>Friday, Mar 22</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Zeo Agoo</b> <i>Sp. Int. (By: Nerissa Ha)</i>
<b>Saturday, Mar 23</b> 8:00 a.m.	† <b>Joseph Mathew</b> <i>(By: Tresa Mathew)</i>
4:30 p.m.	<b>St Stephen Parishioners</b> <i>(By: Fr. Michael)</i>
<b>Sunday, Mar 24</b> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Griselda MacDonald</b> <i>Sp. Int. (By: Best Friend)</i>
10:30 a.m.	† <b>Evelyn Elchico Magie</b> <i>(By: Belinda Mistica)</i>
6:30 p.m.	<b>Yvette &amp; Janelle Labiaga</b> <i>Sp. Int. (By: Marilu Illenberger)</i>



**May they rest in peace**  
**Ricardo Taylor,**  
**Marino Tulao**


### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — I will make a new covenant; I will write my law upon their hearts *(Jeremiah 31:31-34)*.

**Psalm** — Create a clean heart in me, O God *(Psalm 51)*.

**Second Reading** — Christ learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation *(Hebrews 5:7-9)*

**Gospel** — If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit *(John 12:20-33)*.



### Saints and Special Observances

Sunday : **Fifth Sunday of Lent;**  
**Third Scrutiny**  
**St. Patrick Day**

Monday : **St. Cyril of Jerusalem**

Tuesday : **St. Joseph, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary**

Thursday: **The Annunciation of the Lord**

Friday : **Abstinence**

Saturday : **St. Turibius of Mogrovejo**

## Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus. Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him. In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

*Loyola Press*

## Easter Flowers

As we prepare for the solemnity of Easter, we look forward to the joy of the Resurrection. We hope to express our joy by filling our church with a bountiful display of Easter flowers.

If you would like to have a flower placed in our church in honor or in memory of someone, please fill out this form and return it to the O'Reilly Parish Office **not later than Wednesday, March 27, 2024.** Please include a contribution of \$20.00 per plant.

**I would like to have Easter flowers placed in the church in loving MEMORY of:**

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**I would like to have Easter flowers placed in the church in HONOR of:**

.....  
 .....

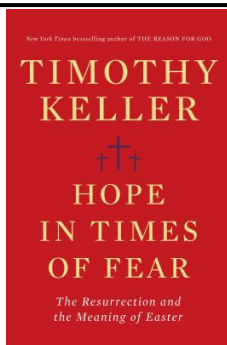
**My name**

.....

**My telephone #** .....

*Enclosed is my*

*donation of \$*.....



### St. Stephen Catholic Book Club

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.**

## 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

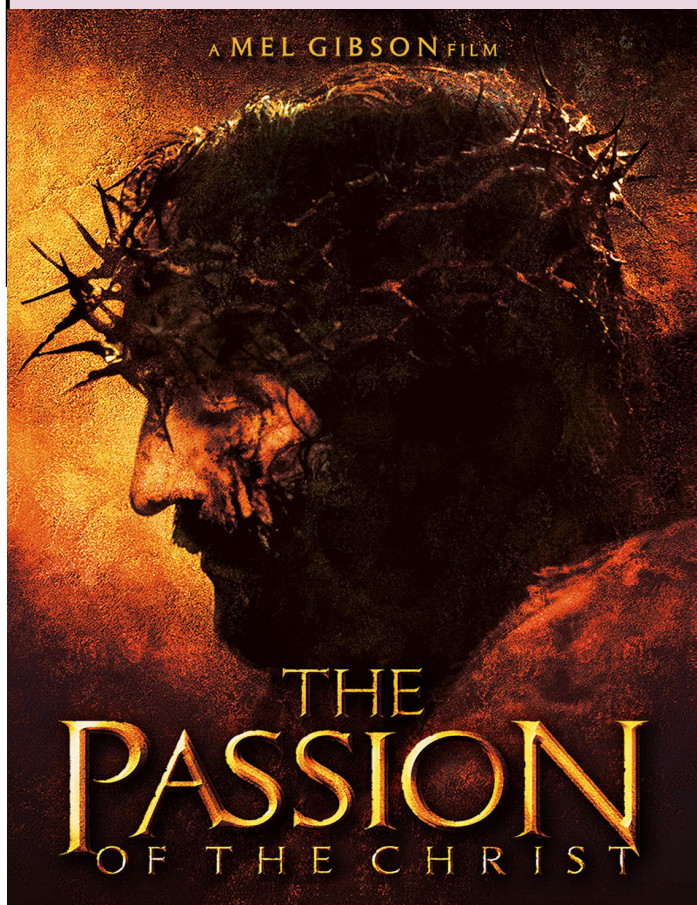
7:00-8:00 p.m.— Special Presentation

by Fr. Michael Liliedahl

We are called to remember a lot of things. The Church, especially in the Mass, calls us to remember a lot of things as well. But what does it really mean to remember? We'll look at the Jewish and Christian understanding of remembering through history and then look anew at what we are called to remember during Lent and especially during the Easter season.

*Following Fr. Michael's presentation we will be showing Mel Gibson's movie,*

*The Passion of The Christ.*



**TEXT to GIVE**

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

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

### 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](mailto:escobarj@sfarch.org)



**Join the FUN!**

**Monday, April 8, 2024**

**@ Donworth Hall**

**473 Eucalyptus Drive, SF, CA 94132**

**ALL INVITED!**

**Doors Open 12:30pm**

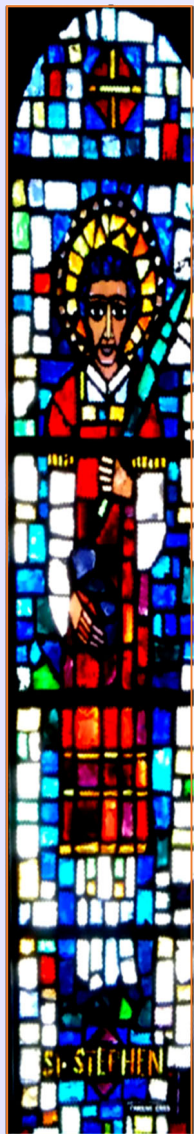
*50+ Seniors are invited to enjoy camaraderie,  
snacks, Bingo games, Bridge, etc.*

**For any questions call:  
Helga at 415-731-8211**



### 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.



## 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*  
 carol@SaintStephenSF.org

**Mary Molly Mullaney**  
*Faith Formation, ext. 4*  
 faithformation@SaintStephenSF.org

**Shay Ingelfinger**  
*Event Center Coordinator, ext. 7*  
 donworthevents@SaintStephenSF.org

**Teresa Devincenzi**  
*Bookkeeper, ext. 5*  
 teresa@SaintStephenSF.org

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

### *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!*

## 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<br>Naomi Kelly |

**Parish Office Phone 415.681.2444**

### **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:** What Feast of Love #367  
(Greensleeves)

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

**Communion:** Unless A Grain of Wheat  
#332, As Grains of Wheat #343

**Sending:** Beyond the Days #129