

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.

Palm Sunday

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



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March
24
2024

Christ became obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Philippians 2:8-9

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.)

Holy Saturday

March 30

Easter Vigil

8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday,

March 31

Mass 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
(no 6:30 p.m. Mass)

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

Palm Sunday

1st Reading Isaiah 50:4-7; **Psalm** 22; **2nd Reading** Phil 2:60-11; **Gospel** Mark 14:1-15, 47)

This year, as we enter our holiest week, we read the account of the passion from the Gospel of Mark. In a few days, on Good Friday, we will read the account from John. Among all the cruel and violent persons we hear about in Christ's suffering last hours, perhaps it is easy to overlook those who were kind. At Bethany, Simon the leper offers him hospitality, and a (nameless to us) woman with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil anoints Jesus. Since Jesus will soon be executed as a criminal, with the possibility of no Jewish funeral rite or burial place, this was a tender moment of deep meaning. She put herself in danger to honor him and his sacrifice.



In Jerusalem there was Simon of Cyrene who helped carry his cross, and Joseph of Arimathea who courageously asked Pilate for the body of Jesus and laid him in a new tomb. All of these people, and perhaps more whom we do not know, were glimpses of light in a day of darkness. They were peace amidst the conflict; joy amidst the sorrow; celebration in the midst of tragedy. In other words, they are a sort of allegory to the hope of Easter that was present on Good Friday.

So why talk about this contrast, this dichotomy, today on Palm Sunday? Because this day itself is one of contrasts. Our liturgy, and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, began with palm branches and songs of joy and praise for Jesus as King. He is welcomed into the city with shouts of *Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!* He will soon leave the city walls as the lowest of the low: a scourged, half-dead wreck of a man; a criminal set to be executed. In our Mass today, we will re-present his sacrifice, uniting our sins to those of the whole world and uniting our suffering to his. And in the midst of all the horror, we will celebrate, for Christ will triumph over all of sin and death.

There is a catchy little phrase that we might hear spoken of by Catholics – “we are not an either/or people, we are a both/and people.” It generally means that we have the critical reasoning capacity, and the faith, to hold two things in tension without being confused. So, for example, Christ is both divine and human; the kingdom of God is both present and not yet fully realized; the Eucharist is both the appearance of bread and wine and truly Christ's body, blood, soul, and divinity.

And specific to our worship today, we are both an Easter people and we live in a Good Friday world. That is to say, we believe that Christ's death on the cross transformed all suffering and that by his resurrection, we have the promise of eternal life. But we live in the here and now, with all the suffering and evil still present in the world – a world in which we are called to be active witnesses to our faith. Every moment of our lives gives us a chance to be one or other of the type of persons we encountered in the passion narratives. With God's help, may we be like Simon and the woman at Bethany, Simon of Cyrene, and Joseph of Arimathea – signs of hope in a world that cries out for it.

Liturgy and Life

- What do you need to be emptied of so that you may more closely follow Christ?
- Where will you place your palms in your home so that they may inspire your prayer throughout the year?
- How can you make time for prayer throughout the Triduum?

Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday we celebrate three anniversaries: **1)** the anniversary of the first Holy Mass, **2)** the anniversary of the institution of ministerial priesthood in order to perpetuate the Holy Mass, convey God's forgiveness to repentant sinners and preach the Good News of Salvation, and **3)** the anniversary of Jesus' promulgation of His new commandment of love: “*Love one another as I have loved you.*” Today we remember how Jesus transformed the Jewish Passover into the New Testament Passover. The Jewish Passover was, in fact, a joint celebration of two ancient thanksgiving celebrations. The descendants of Abel, who were shepherds, used to lead their



sheep from the winter pastures to the summer pastures after the sacrificial offering of a lamb to God. They called this celebration the “*Pass over.*” The farming descendants of Cain, however, held a harvest festival called the *Massoth* in which they offered unleavened bread to God as an act of thanksgiving. The Passover feast of the Israelites (Exodus 12:26-37), was a harmonious combination of these two ancient feasts of thanksgiving, commanded by the Lord God and celebrated yearly by all Israelites to thank God for the miraculous liberation of their ancestors from Egyptian slavery, their exodus from Egypt and final arrival in the Promised Land.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Mar 25

8:00 a.m.

† **Peggy Clifford**
(By: Sanchez & Corea Family)

Tuesday, Mar 26

8:00 a.m.

† **Raul Delgado**
(By: Hugo Delgado)

Wednesday, Mar 27

8:00 a.m.

† **Katherine Herber**
(By: a friend)

Thursday, Mar 28

7:30 p.m.

Holy Thursday
Alaina Kyra *Sp. Int.*
(By: Papa & Mama)

Friday, Mar 29

Good Friday

Saturday, Mar 30

8:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday
† **Angelo Devincenzi**
(By: Teresa Devincenzi)

Sunday, Mar 31

8:00 a.m.

Easter
† **John Hyland**
(By: Gail & Kevin Cronin)
St Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)

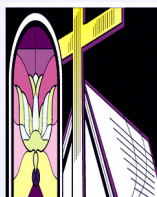


May she rest in peace
Alice Buckley

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

[Christ Jesus] humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

— *Philippians 2:8*



TODAY'S READINGS

Gospel at the Procession with Palms — Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (*Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:1, 12-13*).

First Reading — In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (*Isaiah 50:4-7*).

Psalm — My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (*Psalms 22*).

Second Reading — Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (*Philippians 2:6-11*).

Gospel — The account of Christ's passion according to Mark (*Mark 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]*).

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**
Monday: **Monday of Holy Week**
Tuesday: **Tuesday of Holy Week**
Wednesday: **Wednesday of Holy Week**
Thursday: **Holy Thursday;**
The Sacred Paschal Triduum
Friday: **Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday);** **Fast and Abstinence;** **Passover begins**
Saturday: **The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night;** **Holy Saturday**

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.



CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 24—30 min. before each Mass

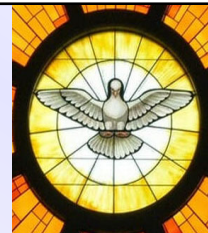
Holy Thursday, March 28 — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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,

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: FaithFormation@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 Farrales, 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 Scossieria, 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.

SUFFERING

Jesus did not come to do away with suffering or remove it. He came to fill it with his presence.

—Paul Claudel

Good Friday



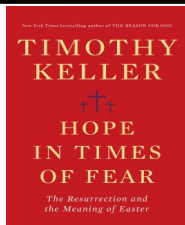
There were three crosses on Golgotha. On the right and on the left were two robbers being crucified for rebellion and murder. On the central cross, Jesus died for our sin. On one side of Jesus hung a criminal who taunted Jesus in disbelief; he died in sin. On the other side of Jesus, however, hung a criminal who believed in Jesus. He scolded the mocker and begged, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom." He died to sin and, Jesus promised would be with him in Paradise that very day. On the central cross (with its mocking title, "Jesus the Nazarene king of the Jews," in three languages) hung a sinless Sufferer! He was dying for the sins of the world. Hanging on that cross, Jesus spoke seven times during the closing moments of his earthly life. It has been an age-old practice in the Church to reflect on these last words of Jesus from the cross as an integral part of Good Friday observance so that we may repent of our sins and resolve to renew our lives and thus participate fully in the joy of Jesus' Resurrection.

The word of Forgiveness: *"Then said Jesus, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do'" (Luke 23:34).*

The word of Assurance: *"Then [the criminal who had scolded his fellow criminal for mocking Jesus] said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied to him, 'Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'" (Luke 23:42-43).*

The word of Comfort: *"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (John 19:26-27).*

The word of Desolation: *"From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" (Matthew 27:45-46).*



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.

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 \$.....



Background on today's Gospel Reading

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the *Triduum*—three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted "Hosanna!" This event is reported in each of the four Gospels.

At the Liturgy of the Word on Palm Sunday, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle B, we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. We will hear these events proclaimed again when we celebrate the Triduum later in the week. On Good Friday, we will read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' passion and death are presented as the consequence of the tension between the Jewish authorities and Jesus that had been building throughout his public ministry. This tension reached its breaking point when Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple. After this event, the chief priests and scribes began seeking a way to put Jesus to death, and yet, this is only the surface explanation for his death.

When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin—the council of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders—he was charged with blasphemy, citing his threat to the Temple. When he was brought before Pilate, however, the religious authorities presented his crime as a political one, charging that Jesus claimed to be king of the Jews. In continuity with a theme of Mark's Gospel, the messianic claim of Jesus is widely misunderstood.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are rarely models of faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue his ministry after his death. They fare no better in Mark's narrative of Jesus' passion and death. At the Last Supper, the disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other disciples protested vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prayed in agony over his impending fate while his disciples slumbered through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the disciples were absent during Jesus' passion and death. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been present at the Crucifixion, but they remained at a distance.

Throughout this Gospel, Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which the Gospel begins: Jesus is the Son of God. When we read Mark's account of the passion, we begin to comprehend the deeper theological statement being made about Jesus' death...



Loyola Press .

The School of Pastoral Ministry presents:

Gender Ideology: What Catholics Need to Know

A six-week series exploring "gender ideology" from a Catholic perspective with Mary Rice Hasson, JD
6 Tuesday Evenings beginning April 9 through May 14, 7:00-8:30pm online via Zoom.

Register online to join this series with Mary Rice Hasson, JD, exploring "gender ideology" from a Catholic perspective. \$25 for the 6-week course. Scholarships available. For more info or to register go to:

<https://sfarch.org/gender-ideology-course/>



Join the FUN!
Monday, April 8,
2024
Doors Open
12:30pm

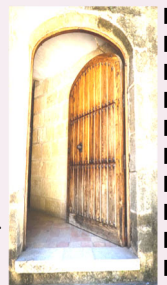
50+ Seniors are ALL INVITED!

Enjoy camaraderie, snacks, Bingo games, Bridge, etc For any questions/ concerns, please call: Helga at 415-731-8211

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

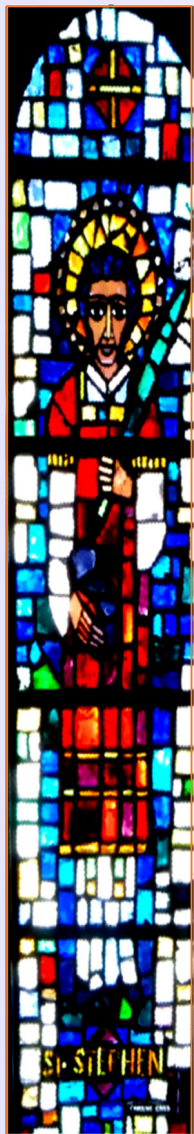
So, when you are out for an afternoon walk or returning home from shopping or work -- feel free to stop by.



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
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Principal

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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

Entrance: Hosanna On High #22

Preperation: All Glory Laud And Honor #143

Communion: In The Breaking Of The Bread #355, Gift Of Finest Wheat #344

Sending: Hosanna To The Son Of David #142