

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.



Easter

SUNDAY

March 31, 2024

Our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.
Therefore, let us celebrate the feast.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

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On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

[John 20:1-9](#)

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

EASTER SUNDAY of the Resurrection of the Lord

The passage from John's Gospel takes place *on the first day of the week*. This is reminiscent of the Creation account in Genesis which narrates the events of creation and the Fall in a garden. So, now again, God brings life in the garden where Jesus' tomb was located. Mary Magdalene *came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark*. In John's Gospel, darkness represents a time of lack of faith. Mary is not expecting the Resurrection; she comes to mourn the death of Jesus. When she discovers that the tomb is empty, her first thought is that the body of Jesus has been stolen. She returns to the disciples and tells them, *we don't know where they put him*.

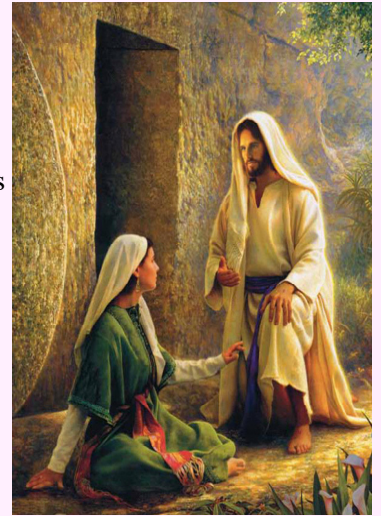
When the two disciples arrive at the tomb, they find it just as she described it. But while Peter seems to not understand, the *other disciple ... saw and believed*. He understands what the others will come to know when the risen Christ appears to them: Jesus is risen. The burial cloths that were left behind are of no need to one who has conquered death.

We have no burial cloths here – but we do have the bread and wine that will become the body and blood of our Lord. Easter is the oldest feast in the Church year. From that day of Resurrection, through this moment (and into the future), the disciples of Jesus gather to celebrate and remember the saving events of his death and being raised from the dead.

Saint Peter, at the house of the Roman centurion Cornelius, recounts *what has happened all over Judea* concerning Jesus. Peter's sermon describes the good deeds of Jesus, who was anointed with the Holy Spirit. But, *they put him to death by hanging him on a tree*. After God raised him from the dead, Jesus appeared to his disciples and commissioned them to preach the Gospel. This is what Peter is doing for Cornelius' household. We learn in subsequent verses that their response to Peter's words is to accept the faith and be baptized.

Saint Paul tells the Corinthians that Christ is our Paschal Lamb who *has been sacrificed* for us. This imagery, reminiscent of the first Passover, indicates that the shedding of Jesus' blood has redeemed us. In light of this, Paul calls us to live in newness of life, putting aside our old ways and embracing the *unleavened bread of sincerity and truth*.

From that first Easter moment, the Church began to grow. This is the core belief of our Christian faith: It is the risen Lord who gathers us together around his table to listen to the sacred stories about our faith, and then he gives himself to us in the form of bread and wine, as he did with his disciples on the night before he died. We share in the life of the risen Christ now, as Cornelius and his family did; as Paul and the Corinthians did; and, until Christ comes again, as our children will. God be praised for this gift of salvation to the world.



In our Gospel reading from John, we see much symbolism. Darkness often symbolizes evil, and it was still dark when Mary Magdalene had come to the tomb of Jesus. The darkness of evil still seemed to have the upper hand. Jesus, the beloved of Mary, had been killed by his enemies. The evil of death seemed to dominate the depressed and abandoned Mary. And she saw that the stone had been removed. What a surprise! And she presumed, of course, that someone had stolen the body. And she ran and told Peter and John: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid him." And the darkness seemed to prevail.

Then Peter and John rushed to the empty tomb, Peter, entering first, symbolically important as the leader of the apostles, and they saw the linen wrappings there. John saw and believed. The experience of his love for Jesus gave him insight, even though as yet, they did not understand that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

They began to reflect on the life of Jesus, that the mission of Jesus was going "about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him," as we heard today in our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. How could they have killed him, the one who was so good, the one who was the very contradiction and antithesis of evil?

And the struggle between good and evil persists even in our own day and in our own world, on a grand scale and in our own daily individual lives. The risen Jesus continues to go about doing good, and lifting the burden of evil in our own world and in our own lives. He invites us and urges us that we be the healing body of Jesus in our time. He continues to oppose the selfishness and lust for power between peoples and nations, the oppression of one tribe by another, the ludicrous superiority of one race over another. Jesus continues to touch us and our families in healing ways, calling us to strengthen our marriages and to provide homes that are places of nurture for spouses and children. Jesus calls us to care for the homeless, the unemployed, the hungry, the addicted, the dehumanized, and all those who experience oppression and failure. The struggle goes on, and we are part of the struggle of the risen Jesus, to be ministers of hope, ministers of light in the midst of darkness. This is our noble calling and so we give thanks for the one who gives us the strength and loving power to proclaim in our lives the truth of our risen Lord and his triumph over death and the oppression of evil.

Al Grosskopf, S.J.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Apr 1

8:00 a.m.

† **Paul Cardozo**
(By: Philomina Cardozo)

Tuesday, Apr 2

8:00 a.m.

Mary Molly Mullaney Sp. Int
(By: Fr Michael and Parish Staff)

Wednesday, Apr 3

8:00 a.m.

Charlotte Bautista Sp. Int
(By: Bautista family)

Thursday, Apr 4

8:00 a.m.

† **Peggy Clifford**
(By: Marilyn Knight)

Friday, Apr 5

8:00 a.m.

Robert Liam Sp. Int
(Lolo & Lola Cags)

Saturday, Apr 6

8:00 a.m.

† **Apolinario Reyes**
(By: Liberty Mungcal)

4:30 p.m.

† **Leonard Stefanelli**
(By: Virginia Stefanelli)

Sunday, Apr 7

8:00 a.m.

† **Claudio Hrvatin**
(By: James & Patricia Hargarten)

10:30 a.m.

† **Helen Wester**
(By: Jim & Colleen O'Meara)

6:30 p.m.

St Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Peter is an eyewitness: The Lord is risen (*Acts 10:34a, 37-43*).

Psalms — This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (*Psalms 118*).

(1) **Second Reading** — All who are baptized, set your hearts in heaven (*Colossians 3:1-4*) or

(2) **Second Reading** — Christ our Passover is sacrificed; therefore let us celebrate (*1 Corinthians 5:6b-8*).

Gospel — Three witnesses, Mary, Peter, and John; each responds to the empty tomb (*John 20:1-9*)

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord; Julian Calendar Palm Sunday**

Monday: **Monday within the Octave of Easter**

Tuesday: **Tuesday within the Octave of Easter**

Wednesday: **Wednesday within the Octave of Easter**
Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)

Thursday: **Thursday within the Octave of Easter**

Friday: **Friday in the Octave of Easter;**
Julian Calendar Good Friday

Saturday: **Saturday within the Octave of Easter**

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.



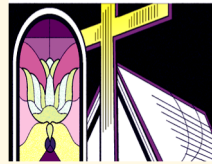
EASTER EGG HUNT
Today! Sunday, March 31st
9:15a.m. (after the 8:00 a.m. Mass) in Donworth Hall
All are welcome



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

March 31, 2024

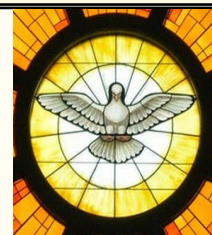
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. *Acts 10:34*



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.



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

Additional Reasons to Believe in the Resurrection

The Tomb had a stone in front of it

Most scholars put the weight of the stone at about 2 tons (4000 pounds), probably at least seven or eight feet high. This was definitely a “team lift” or “team roll,” not movable by just one or two men.

There were post-resurrection appearances, to hundreds

Over a span of six weeks, He appeared to a variety of groups of various sizes in different locations. He appeared to over 500 at one point – a huge number to be an outright fabrication. Not to mention, the people whom He appeared to didn’t just see Him, but ate with Him, walked with Him, touched Him. Jesus even made breakfast ([John 21:9](#)) at one

The martyrdom of witnesses offers proof

Would people leave their businesses, careers, homes and families, go to the ends of the earth, die horribly gruesome and painful deaths and forsake their previous religious beliefs about salvation all to protect a lie? Not one of them, while being beheaded, fed to lions, boiled in oil, crucified upside down or burned alive changed their story. Instead, they sang hymns of trust and praise, knowing that the Lord who defeated death would raise them up, too.

There is still a Church

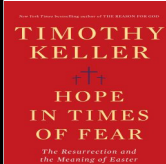
If the Resurrection were a lie it would have died off centuries ago. The Christian Church is the largest institution of any kind in the history of humanity. This Church began with the apostles following Pentecost, the year Christ rose. It has conquered empires, withstood attacks (inside and out) and grown in spite of the sinfulness of its members, because it was founded by Christ, Himself, and is guided and protected by the Holy Spirit. The Church, like Christ, is both human and divine.

Jesus prophesied that it was going to happen

Jesus told people that it was going to happen. It didn’t take Him by surprise. And He didn’t just say “I’m going to be killed” (which others might have seen coming) but also that “I’m going to rise on the third day.” Those details aren’t ironic, coincidental or fortune-telling — they’re called prophecy and true prophecy comes from God, Himself.

It was prophesied in the Old Testament

It was foretold centuries before Christ, Himself, was born or lived it out. Hundreds of prophecies about the Messiah, what He would say, do, live like and how He would die.



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.

Significance of Easter

Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church for three reasons:

1) The Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian Faith. It is the greatest of the miracles, for it proves that Jesus is God. That is why St. Paul writes: *"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your Faith is in vain" (1 Cor 15:14).* *"Jesus is Lord, he is risen" (Rom 10:9),* was the central theme of the *kerygma* (or "preaching"), of the Apostles because Jesus prophesied his Resurrection as a sign of his Divinity: *"Tear down this temple and in three days I will build it again" (Jn 2:19).* The founder of no other religion has an empty tomb as Jesus has. In addition, neither Jews nor the Romans could disprove Jesus' Resurrection by presenting the dead body of Jesus. The Apostles and the early Christians were absolutely sure that Jesus had risen from the dead. They would not have faced martyrdom for a dead leader lying in the tomb. The sheer existence of a thriving, empire-conquering early-Christian Church, bravely facing and surviving three centuries of persecution, supports the truth of Christ's Resurrection.

2) Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection. Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: *"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies..." (Jn 11:25-26).*

3) Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living. It is our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in our souls, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament and in Heaven that gives meaning to our personal as well as our communal prayer and gives us strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. The prayer of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, reads: "Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part."

The Whistler

Have you heard the story of the man whose hobby was growing roses? When he worked in his rose garden, he always whistled. It seemed to everyone that he was whistling much louder than was needed for his own enjoyment. One day a neighbor asked him why it was that he always whistled so loudly. The man then took the neighbor into his home to meet his wife. The woman was not only an invalid but was completely blind as well. The man, you see, was whistling, not for his benefit, but rather for the benefit of his wife. He wanted his blind wife to know that he was nearby, and that she was not alone. That story is a wonderful illustration of the significance of Easter Day. The affirmation, "Christ is risen!" reminds us that God is near, and the experiencing of His presence strengthens us in our weakness.



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/>

Class Topics:

Apr. 9 - The Big Question: "Who am I?" - Catholic
teaching on the person v Ideology - Irreconcilable
anthropologies

Apr. 16 - "Transgender Tipping Point: 10 Years
Later" - Trajectory – Roots, Cultural Changes, Fu-
ture Challenges – religious liberty

Apr. 23 - The LGBTQ Generation: The Influences
on Youth - Vulnerabilities, Vectors/Influencers –
schools, parental rights, counselors

Apr. 30 - What About "Transgender" Body Modifi-
cations? - Medical/Surgical Interventions and
Catholic Teaching

May 7 - Gender, Mental Health, and Suicide: The
Facts - "Gender dysphoria" and Co-morbidities;
Suicide risks and Realities

May 14 - The Catholic Response: Truth and Chari-
ty - Principles – summation - Cases – business,
family members, peers, experts

Sacristans Needed for the 10:30 Mass

We are looking for sacristans to help after the 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Mass. The tasks are pretty easy cleaning up the
items used for the celebration of the Mass. Training will
be provided. It should take
only 15 minutes of your time
once mass is over. (And it is
okay to perform the tasks
during or after the coffee/
donut time.)



Please contact the Parish
office if interested.

(415) 681-244 x4



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!

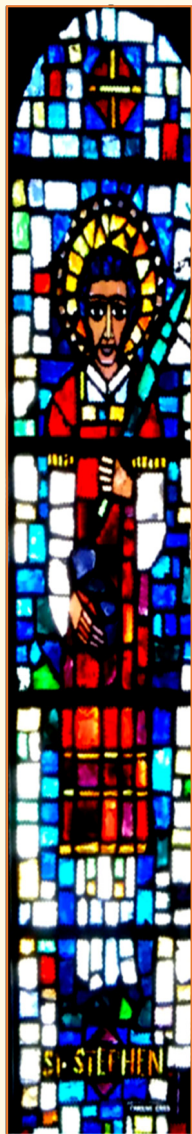
Saint Stephen Church is left open Monday
through Saturday from after the morning
Mass until 4:00 p.m. This gives you the op-
portunity to stop by and make a personal/
private visit with the Blessed Sacrament and
to offer your prayers in a quiet, warm and
comfortable atmosphere

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
deacon@SaintStephenSF.org

Sharon McCarthy Allen
Principal

Carol P Cagalingan
Parish Manager, ext. 3
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Mary Molly Mullaney
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Teresa Devincenzi
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teresa@SaintStephenSF.org

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: **Jesus Christ Is Risen Today #172**

Preparation: **At The Lamb's High Feast #179**

Communion: **O Sacrament Most Holy #346, Behold the Lamb #341**

Sending: **The Day of Resurrection #177**