

St. Stephen Parish

SaintStephenSF.org | 601 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco CA 94132 | Church 415 681-2444

StStephenSchoolSF.org | 401 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco 94132 | School 415 664-8331

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 p.m. or by appt. and 30 min. before each Sunday Mass

Weekday Mass: 8:00 a.m. Vigil Mass Saturday 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Mass 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

April 16
2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF *Easter*

(OR SUNDAY OF
DIVINE MERCY)

JESUS CAME AND STOOD
IN THEIR MIDST
AND SAID TO THEM,
"PEACE BE WITH YOU."

John 20:19

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

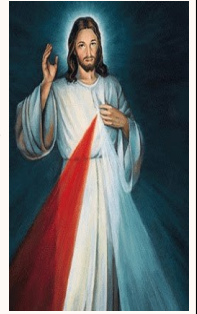
Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."... *John 20:19-31*

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

April 16, 2023
Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Today the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday. The central focus is our celebration of the resurrection of Christ and the floodgates of God's mercy being opened upon us, and is based both on Scripture and the revelations of Saint Faustina Kowalska.



Peter says in today's second reading, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.*

When our Lord appeared to Saint Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, he instructed her to paint what is now the famous image of himself with two rays coming from his heart, red and white for the blood and water that flowed from his side on the cross, with the inscription, "Jesus, I trust in you." The water stands for the washing away of our sins in baptism. Saint John Paul II, in his canonization of Sister Mary Faustina instituted this day into the Church calendar. In his homily, he said: "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday.' In the various readings, the liturgy seems to indicate the path of mercy which, while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings. Christ has taught us that "man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God, but is also called 'to practice mercy' towards others: *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Mt 5:7)*" (*Dives in misericordia*, n. 14).

That mercy is easily seen in the many healing miracles recalled in the Gospels. In each one, whether physical or spiritual, the power of Christ to renew, forgive, and heal bursts into the life of someone and, at times, even turns upside down the very laws of nature.

In today's Gospel, that specific ministry of forgiveness and mercy is passed to the disciples, when Jesus says, *Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them.* This is Divine Mercy.

When Thomas, broken and distraught at the death of Jesus cannot, or will not, bring himself to accept the Resurrection, Jesus gently takes him from obstinate refusal to a moment of faith. He coaxes from Thomas one of the great confessions of faith: *My Lord and my God!* In that moment, Thomas is healed and changed – healed of his grief and pain, changed from doubt to belief. This is Divine Mercy.

Having experienced that same forgiveness and healing in their own lives, the disciples now become carriers of these gifts for all who will hear and respond to their preaching. For what they say about the risen Christ is no mere fantasy. They witnessed his death on the cross, and now they witness with their very eyes and with the touch of their hands that he is fully alive. Divine Mercy.

Our Saint of the Week **Saint Conrad of Parzham** (Dec. 22, 1818 – Apr. 21, 1894)

Conrad spent most of his life as porter in Altoetting, Bavaria, letting people into the friary and indirectly encouraging them to let God into their lives. His parents, Bartholomew and Gertrude Birndorfer, lived near Parzham, Bavaria. In those days, this region was recovering from the Napoleonic wars. A lover of solitary prayer and a peacemaker as a young man, Conrad joined the Capuchins as a brother. He made his profession in 1852 and was assigned to the friary in Altoetting. That city's shrine to Mary was very popular; at the nearby Capuchin friary there was a lot of work for the porter, a job Conrad held for 41 years.



At first, some of the other friars were jealous that such a young friar held this important job. Conrad's patience and holy life overcame their doubts. As porter, he dealt with many people, obtaining many of the friary supplies and generously providing for the poor who came to the door. He treated them all with the courtesy Francis expected of his followers. Conrad's helpfulness was sometimes unnerving. Conrad also developed a special rapport with the children of the area. He enthusiastically promoted the Seraphic Work of Charity, which aided neglected children.

50+ Club
Monday, May 1, 2023
Donworth Hall, Doors Open 12:30pm
New members are most welcome!
For any questions/ concerns, please call:
Helga at 415-731-8211



Our 20,000 Square Foot Parish Center Available to Rent for Special Occasions

call Shay Ingelfinger at 415 681-2444
For more information, ext.7 or
donworthevents@saintstephensf.org
regarding the hourly rate available for our parishioners.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Apr 17

8:00 a.m.

Aikan Kyle *Sp. Int.*

(By: Papa & Mama)

Tuesday, Apr 18

8:00 a.m.

Daniel Haryasyah *Sp. Int.*

(By: Parish Staff)

Wednesday, Apr 19

8:00 a.m.

† **Raul Delgado**

(By: Hugo Delgado)

Thursday, Apr 20

8:00 a.m.

† **Rosa S. de Juarez**

(By: Elvia Juarez)

Friday, Apr 21

8:00 a.m.

Fr. Dennis Recio

(By: Alaina Kyra & Siblings)

Saturday, Apr 22

8:00 p.m.

† **Paul McGloin**

(By: Maria Guadalupe Chase)

4:30 p.m.

† **Denis O'Connor**

(By: Rose O'Connor)

Sunday, Apr 23

8:00 a.m.

† **Sison Del Ayre**

(By: Shirley Dee)

9:30 a.m.

† **Hermilo Rodis**

(By: Edna & Rodel Rodis)

11:30 a.m.

St. Stephen Parishioners

(By: Fr. Michael)

6:30 p.m.

Julian Kraynik *Sp. Int.*

(By: John & Marilyn Lee)

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All who believed were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread, and prayer (*Acts 2:42-47*).

Psalm — Be thankful to God who loves us forever (*Psalms 118*).

Second Reading — God has given us an undiminished inheritance, safeguarded for us in heaven (*1 Peter 1:3-9*).

Gospel — The risen Christ comes to his disciples with peace and the Spirit. The absent Thomas doubts (*John 20:19-31*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **Second Sunday of Easter**
(or Sunday of Divine Mercy);
Julian Calendar Easter

Monday: **Yom Ha-Shoa**
(Holocaust Remembrance Day)

Tuesday: **Income Tax Day**

Friday: **St. Anselm of Canterbury**

Saturday: **Earth Day**

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



April 16, 2023

Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? — *1 John 5:5*

Stewardship: A Way of Life

(March Report)

\$ 33,433.60 Sunday Collections (3/5,12, 19, 24)

\$ 8,515.00 Online Sunday Collections (3/1-31)

\$ 19,052.00 Donworth Hall March Rental Income

\$ 61,000.60 Total Income for March 2023

LESS:

\$ 66,799.14 Parish Maintenance for March

\$ 5,798.54 Over / UNDER

Please note that we were able to cover the negative income of \$5,798.54 this month from the remaining balance of Parish Dinner's Windfall Income (Taste of Spain) of \$16,482.27.

Thank you for continuing to generously support your Parish !

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 person/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.

Patricia Tarango Cruz, Debbie Nunes, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton, Nestor Plondaya, Marie Bachand, Francis Yiu, Edna Amora, Rodney Clark, Michelle Vicente, Michelle Weeks, Rev Bill McCain, Franz Tittiger, Carlota Plondaya, Robert Liam, Marino Tulao, 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

SPRING

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month. —Henry Van Dyke

2023 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Campaign GOAL : \$ 86,973.00
Total Payments Received : \$ 26,444.00
Campaign Goal Balance : \$ 60,529.00

We thank the following parishioners who have shared their treasures with the parish **this week** as of 4.11.2023:
(For a complete listing, refer to AAA Poster in Church vestibule.)

M/M Patrick J Casserly
Mr Robert Reidy

THE SHIP OF THE CHURCH

The Church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship, but to keep her on her course.

—St. Boniface

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

From Saint Patrick's Breastplate

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me,

God's might to uphold me,

God's wisdom to guide me,

God's eye to look before me,

God's ear to hear me,

God's hand to guard me,

God's way to lie before me,

God's shield to protect me,

God's hosts to save me from the snares of the devil.



Divine Mercy in Action

A TIME magazine issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat on metal folding chairs. The young man wore a blue turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white running shoes. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap on his head. They sat facing one another, up-close and personal. They spoke quietly so as to keep others from hearing the conversation. The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the pope's would-be assassin (he shot and wounded the Pope on May 13, 1981); the other man was Pope St. John Paul II, the intended victim. The Pope held the hand that had held the gun whose bullet had torn into the Pope's body. This was a living icon of mercy. John Paul's forgiveness was deeply Christian. His deed with Ali Agca spoke a thousand words. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him. At the end of their 20-minute meeting, Ali Agca raised the Pope's hand to his forehead as a sign of respect. John Paul shook Ali Agca's hand tenderly. When the Pope left the cell he said, "What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust." This is an example of God's Divine Mercy, the same Divine Mercy whose message St. Faustina witnessed.

Easter Flowers 2023

In Loving Memory Of

Aaron Denise	Rod Montgomery
Gabriel Agudo	Michael Mangan
Anisco Family	Patrick Mangan
Ana Vilma Arevao	McGloin Family
Elena Arevalo	Eleanor & William Nanry Jr
Luis Alonzo Arevalo	Ignace Puente
James Brady	Basilio Sabisor Jr
Carlos Cajilig Jr	RMF & MGF
Denis & Margaret	Leonard Stefanelli
Patricia A. Girish	John Tam
John	Lun Foon Tam
Eugene & Dolores Koch	Yu Chan Tam
JR & Rosa Lopez	Larry Teshara
Dorothy & Ralph Montgomery	



In Honor Of

Right to Life
Rev Dave Pettingil
Guido Salomone Jr



This Week's Humor

Humor vs Sense. It's better to grow old with a sense of humor than to grow old with no sense at all!



A priest was forced by a police officer to pull over for speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "Go, and sin no more."

Middle Age. That time when you finally get it together — then your body starts falling apart!

EXEMPLAR OF THE FAITH

Poor Thomas. Singled out from among the disciples because he refused to believe what they were telling him—that they had seen, in the flesh, their friend and their Lord, Jesus Christ. Can any of us really blame him? All of the disciples were terrified, crestfallen, hiding. But what of Thomas? Just where was he when Jesus appeared the first time to the group huddled in fear? He had gone "out"—out of the community where his faith had life. Maybe this was actually a blessing for Thomas and not the curse associated with the "doubting Thomas" moniker bestowed on him by tradition. Oh, the divine mercy of the Lord! Could Thomas be the forerunner of all of us who come in fragile hope and uncertainty to the Christian community, so beautifully described in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles? Could Thomas be an ultimate exemplar of the faith described in the First Letter of Peter?

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy

One of the great Easter traditions is “mystagogy,” an ancient word meaning “reflection on the mysteries.” It is a style of catechesis, or passing on the faith. People who have shared an experience, in this case those who have been baptized at Easter, are urged to recall their experience, reflect on its meaning, and apply their insights to their new way of life.

There is an aspect of an experience that is simply not available until you’ve had it. For example, you may think you know weddings inside out; you’ve been to dozens, seen hundreds in the movies or on television, but until you’ve said “I do” to another, there is a certain knowledge unavailable to you. Those who go down into the waters of baptism as adults have similar experiences; they have all taken baths before, but not like this one! Mystagogy helps such persons to uncover the deep meaning of the experience, their sense of a new beginning, of God’s abundant love, of forgiveness, of community. It takes time for the power of the Easter Vigil to work its wonders for us. Those who are newly baptized are called “neophytes,” meaning “newly planted.” The tender buds of spring need care and nurturing, and our new brothers and sisters need your prayer and your faithful example.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

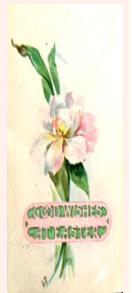
OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Divine Mercy

Saint John Paul II named the Second Sunday of Easter “Sunday of Divine Mercy” in response to Saint Faustina Kowalska’s Divine Mercy devotion, which offered spiritual comfort to hearts worldwide. But Pope Francis challenges us to make the comfort that we receive a gift we gladly share, saying that because mercy was first shown to us we are therefore called to show mercy ourselves. The clearest expression of merciful love, says Francis, is pardoning others. He acknowledges how difficult it can be to forgive sometimes, but if we are to achieve peace in our hearts, pardon is the tool that has been put into our very fallible hands. The necessary condition for living joyfully? We must let go of anger, hatred, revenge, and violence. A tall order in a world seemingly bent on the destruction of every peaceful impulse. May Divine Mercy Sunday remind us that Jesus made mercy our life’s ideal and a criterion for our faith’s credibility: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Matthew 5:7). —Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear;
so do one’s faults when one speaks.
As the test of what the potter molds is in
the furnace,
so in tribulation is the test of the just.
The fruit of a tree shows the care it has
had; so too does one’s speech disclose the
bent of one’s mind.

Praise no one before they speak,
for it is then that people are tested.



FORGIVENESS

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner is me. —Anonymous

NEW WAYS TO

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easy, fast, effective.

St Stephen Church provides Online Giving -- a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy. Visit

www.saintstephensf.org, click on GIVING link. When you participate, your gift will be securely transferred directly into the parish.

TEXT TO GIVE

Text "SAINTSTEPHENSF space desired "AMOUNT" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

EFFORTLESS

The only thing that comes to a person without effort is old age
—Anonymous

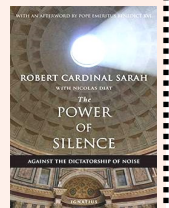
St Stephen’s Book Club

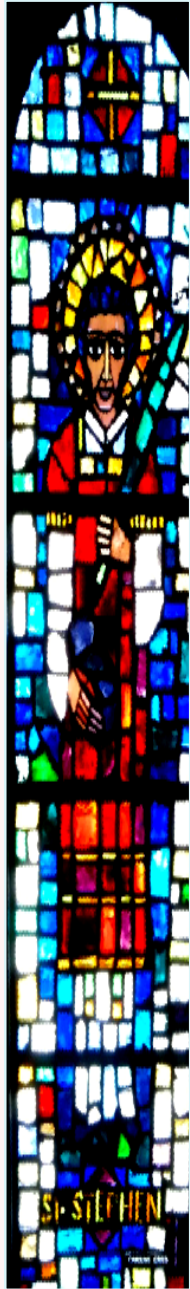
Book for April:

"The Power of Silence Against the Dictatorship of Noise" by Sarah, Cardinal Robert

In a time when technology penetrates our lives in so many ways and materialism exerts such a powerful influence over us, Cardinal Robert Sarah presents a bold book about the strength of silence. After the international success of *God or Nothing*, Cardinal Sarah seeks to restore to silence its place of honor and importance. "Silence is more important than any other human work," he says, "for it expresses God. The true revolution comes from silence; it leads us toward God and others so as to place ourselves humbly and generously at their service."

Nicolas Diat is a French journalist and author. His previous collaboration with Cardinal Sarah was on his book, *God or Nothing*. Come join us as we meet the in person on the second Saturday of the month in the parish office conference room. Contact Mary Molly at the parish office for details. Phone - 415 681-2444x4





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ST STEPHEN PARISH 2022-2023

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 Martin Murphy
- Parish Council Vicky Francisco
- RCIA Mary Molly Mullaney
- St. Stephen Book Club Mary Molly Mullaney
- Ushers Jim Scheg
- Women's Guild 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, by mailing it to the Parish Office, by phone at 415-681-2444 or at www.saintstephensf.org

Name _____ Contact Phone _____

Email _____

Complete Mailing Address _____ City/Zip _____

Weekly Sunday envelopes , circle one: Yes No, but commit to participate thru Online Giving.

I am interested in assisting the Parish in an organization or ministry as (Please encircle your choice/s):
Acolyte/Altar Service, Altar Society, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Greeter/Usher, Hospitality after Mass/Special Events, Holy Communion Ministers to the Homebound, Music/Choir, Lector &/or Holy Communion Ministers, Parish Center Front Office Volunteer.