

# 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

# Easter

April 21, 2024



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I am the good shepherd.  
A good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

## Fourth Sunday of Easter “Good Shepherd Sunday”

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows us, who cares for us, and who willingly lays down his life for us.

There’s a saying that circulates among some parenting circles: “You don’t just love your children ... you *fall in love* with them.”

*Beloved*, our second reading says, *we are God’s children now*. We are God’s children now. Can we imagine a God who doesn’t just love us, but who is “in love” with us? A God who will do anything to protect and care for us?

Jesus, the Incarnation of God’s perfect and abundant love for us, himself provides an image for this love, an example that would be well understood at the time. *I am the good shepherd*, he says. A good shepherd is not a hired hand who, when trouble comes, flees from it rather than facing it, leaving the sheep exposed to danger and death.

No, the good shepherd is one who knows his own sheep; he cares for his own sheep and leads them to safety; and he never flees from danger. Rather, the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. In fact, in this relatively short passage, Jesus says five different times that the good shepherd “lays down his life” for his sheep.

As human beings, we face many dangers in our lifetime, many threats to our safety and well-being. We may face sickness, loss, fear. We may face ridicule, or we may worry for our loved ones; we may struggle with loneliness, have anxiety, or we may struggle with sin.

Yet Jesus knows us. We are the sheep of his flock. He “sees us” as we are, with all of our accomplishments and all of our failures. Jesus cares for us, and he shepherds us through this world, and our life of faith.

We can take comfort by trusting in God and in Jesus, the Good Shepherd; and by remembering these things: Jesus *knows* us; he knows what we face. He understands our fears, our loss, our struggles. He knows everything about us, and he does not flee from this information; he does not run away like the hired hand. Rather, our Good Shepherd cares for us and remains with us to protect us. Our Shepherd loves us, and is *in love* with us, so much so that he laid down his life for us.

### Liturgy and Life

- Who has shepherded you in the faith?
- How have you shepherded someone else in the faith?
- Even if you have been a lifelong Catholic, when have you needed someone else’s guidance in the faith? How did that help you stay with the flock?



## Jesus is the gate for his sheep

### Family Connection

Even though we have less experience with sheep and shepherds today in our society, we can still identify strongly with the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and as the gate for the sheep. *Psalms 23* remains a popular and favorite psalm for prayer. In the image of the Good Shepherd, we know ourselves to be protected and cared for by a loving God.

As your family gathers, ask what each person knows about sheep and shepherds. Recall that shepherds and sheep have a close relationship. Sheep will only follow their own shepherd; they recognize his voice and will not follow a stranger. The shepherd’s job is to protect his sheep. In some ways, the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep is like that of a parent and child. Read together this Sunday’s Gospel, *John 10:1-10*. Talk about how Jesus tells us that he is the gate for the sheep. The sheep enter the protection of the sheepfold through the gate. In Jesus we find protection and abundant life. Conclude by thanking Jesus for being our Good Shepherd and by praying today’s psalm, *Psalms 23*.





# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



## Monday, Apr 22

8:00 a.m.

† **Elena Ledesma**  
*(By: Fely Boquiren)*

## Tuesday, Apr 23

8:00 a.m.

**Rose Linehan** *Sp. Int.*  
*(By: Julie O'Callaghan)*

## Wednesday, Apr 24

8:00 a.m.

† **Remigio Jacinto**  
*(By: Remy Jacinto)*

## Thursday, Apr 25

8:00 a.m.

† **Marta Ames**  
*(By: Lupita Chase)*

## Friday, Apr 26

8:00 a.m.

† **Diana Lobo**  
*(By: Maria Xavier)*

## Saturday, Apr 27

8:00 a.m.

† **Elsie Vieira Ribeiro**  
*(By: Carolyn Yiu)*

4:30 p.m.

† **Jose Ysip**  
*(By: Ysip Family)*

## Sunday, Apr 28

8:00 a.m.

† **Rod Montgomery**  
*(By: Ms Jessica Montgomery)*

10:30 a.m.

**St Stephen Parishioners**  
*(By: Fr. Michael)*

6:30 p.m.

† **Ronnie Lazzeroni**  
*(By: Lydia Flocchini)*

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — There is no other name under heaven by which we are to be saved than the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene (Acts 4:8-12).

**Psalm** — The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone (Psalm 118).

**Second Reading** — See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2).

**Gospel** — I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11-18).

### Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Easter;
Monday:	St. Theodore of Sydon Earth Day; World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Tuesday:	St. George; St. Adalbert
Wednesday:	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
Thursday:	St. Mark; Administrative Professionals Day
Friday:	St. Aldobrandesca Arbor Day
Saturday:	St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignon de Montfort

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



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!* Contact Victoria with any questions!  
[victoria.connor@focus.org](mailto:victoria.connor@focus.org)

**Congratulations to our RCIA Participants  
who received the Sacraments of Initiation  
at the Easter Vigil:**

Joseph *Augustine* Colores  
Ezekiel *Tomás* Cortez  
Leilani *Dymphna* Liang-Funes  
Noa *Joan* Fernandez  
Roy *Christopher* Fernandez  
Tina *Catherine* Fernandez  
Yanelli *Josefina* Martinez  
Gladys *Maria* Partida Manzano  
Austin *Augustine* Stock

## 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 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.*

### TEXT to GIVE

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

*Our Saint of the week*

## **St. George** *Feast Day April 23*

George is thought to have been a soldier in the fourth century who courageously defended his faith and encouraged his fellow Christians. For this, he suffered martyrdom by beheading under Diocletian. He was a popular saint in the East.

By the sixth century St. George had become an ideal Christian knight, and the legend of his slaying the dragon had become a familiar story. George's fame spread to Europe, where stained glass windows from the seventh and eighth centuries depicted this legend.

The story tells of a dragon that terrorized the land and poisoned with its breath all who approached it. The dragon was fed sheep and then human beings chosen by lot. The day the king's daughter was to be served to the dragon, George came along. He slew the dragon and was offered anything he wanted for killing it. George refused any reward, but he made the king promise to build churches, honor priests, and show compassion to the poor. This act made George so popular that he came to reflect all the ideals of Christian chivalry.

When the English king Richard I led his soldiers in the Crusades, he placed his army under George's protection. In one famous battle, the Christians were losing until, as the army leaders later insisted, St. George rode forward and led the troops to victory. From then on, George became the patron of England. King Edward III founded an order of knights under his patronage, and his feast was kept as a national festival.

Although the stories of St. George may be untrue, no one can deny his real act of heroism: dying for Christ.



## **Let us become good shepherds and good sheep.**

Everyone who is entrusted with the care of others is a shepherd. Hence pastors, parents, teachers, doctors, nurses, bosses, government officials, and politicians are all shepherds. Since shepherding a diocese, a parish, a civil community, a workplace, or a family is very demanding, the shepherds need dedication, commitment, sacrifice, and vigilance every day.



We become good shepherds by loving those entrusted to us, praying for them, spending our time and talents for their welfare, and guarding them from physical and spiritual dangers. Parents must be especially careful of their duties as shepherds, becoming role models for their children by leading exemplary lives and living out what they are trying to teach their children.

### **Let us be good sheep in the fold of Jesus, the Good Shepherd:**

Our local parish is our sheepfold, and our pastors are our shepherds. Jesus is the High Priest, the bishops are the successors of the apostles, the pastors are their helpers, and the parishioners are the sheep. Hence, as the good sheep of our parish, **a)** Let us hear and follow the voice of our shepherds through their homilies, Bible classes, counseling and advice. **b)** Let us take the spiritual food given by our pastors through regular and active participation in the Holy Mass and by frequenting the sacraments, prayer services, renewal programs and missions. **c)** Let us cooperate with our pastors by praying for them always, by thanking and praising them for all they are doing for all of us, by giving them positive suggestions (rather than negative criticisms), for the welfare of the parish, and generally giving them friendly, supportive encouragement. Let us also cooperate in the activities of various councils, ministries and parish associations.

**Let us pray for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and the consecrated life, religious and lay** so that we may have more holy, Spirit-filled shepherds to lead, feed, and protect the Catholic community, and more responsive, loving, cooperative sheep. Christian thinking on vocation has been summarized in one profound saying: "*All are priests, some are priests, but only one is the Priest.*" Christ Jesus is *the Priest* in the full sense because he is the *one* mediator between God and humanity who offered Himself as a unique sacrifice on the cross. On this *World Day of Prayer for Vocations* we are asked to encourage and pray for our young men to respond to God's call to serve His Church in the ministerial priesthood.



**Join the FUN!**

**The 50+ Club will meet  
Monday, May 6, 2024**

**@ Donworth Hall  
473 Eucalyptus Drive,  
SF, CA 94132**

**ALL ARE INVITED!**

**Doors Open 12:30pm**

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

***Join us for a special 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration***

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





## **Anointing of the Sick** Sunday, May 5 10:30 a.m. Mass

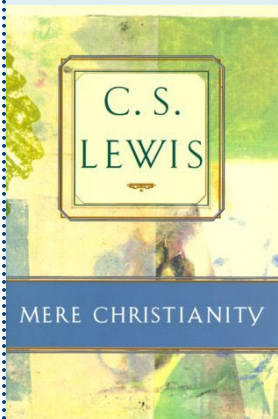
The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be offered during the regular 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. The anointing is for anyone seeking this special blessing. Not all ailments are visible, so no one will be turned away. The healing which Christ gave to those who sought Him

was not only meant to restore physical strength but also dispensed grace that helped strengthen the faith of the one who was healed.

Through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the infirm are given the spiritual strength from the Holy Spirit and are united in the prayers of the entire Church.

\*\*\* If you know someone who would like to attend but needs a ride to church, please contact the Parish Office. Phone: 415.681.2444 x4

### St. Stephen Catholic Book Club



May book:  
*Mere Christianity*  
by C.S. Lewis

Arguably the 20th century's most influential Christian writer, C.S. Lewis sought to explain and defend the beliefs that nearly all Christians at all times hold in common. His simple yet deeply profound classic, originally delivered as a series of radio broadcasts, is a book to be thoroughly digested by believers and generously shared with skeptics. Lewis argues for the logical validity of Christianity, defends the religion from its critics, and looks in detail at what the life of a Christian is like.

**Book Club meets Sat., May 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the parish office. Contact Mary Molly for more information.**

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

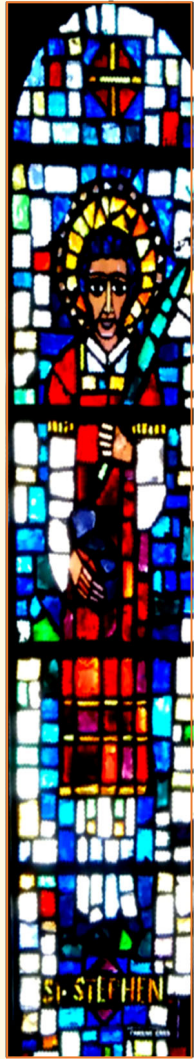
As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires. *Loyola Press*

### **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

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Ed Prete

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## 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 Liliedahl      |
| • Marriage Preparation     | Clergy                     |
| • Men's Club               | Marcus Lam                 |
| • Newman Campus Ministry   | Victoria Connor            |
| • 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

April 21, 2024, Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Gathering:** Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise #191

**Preparation:** Shepherd Me, O God #480

**Communion:** Ang Katawan Ni Kristo #357,  
Unless A Grain Of Wheat ##332

**Sending Forth:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise #180