

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.



SIXTH SUNDAY OF

Easter

May 5, 2024

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

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Join the FUN!
The 50+ Club
TOMORROW!
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 100th
Birthday
Celebration*

For any questions
call Helga at 415-
731-8211

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading (Acts 10:25-26, 34-35). **Psalm** (Psalm 98). **Second Reading** (John 4:7-10). **Gospel** (John 15:9-

Wow, there is a lot of love in our readings today. In the First Letter of John, he writes that *God is love*. This is neither a description of an *attribute* of God, nor an assertion that God is just a name for capturing how we feel about things. It is a foundational doctrine that describes who and how God *is*: he is “be-ing.” He is active. God is, in the Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, a communion of persons united in perfect love. The Holy Trinity is the perfect example of giving and receiving love.



Through that active, continuous outpouring of love, God created the angels, the universe, and us. John again instructs us by stating, *In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us*. The Lord initiated a loving relationship with us by creating us and calling us into relationship. Of course, we sinned and damaged that relationship, but our loving God sent prophets and leaders to bring us back. Finally, the Father sent the Son to die for us and show us the perfect love of self-sacrifice. *He loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins*.

Like a passionate lover, God pours out abundant love for us, so that we will love in return. If we understand who God is and what he has done for us, the most natural and reasonable response is to love God completely. This is exemplified in our first reading, where Luke tells us that while Peter was speaking to Cornelius, *the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word*. These were Gentiles, not beholden to the Mosaic law, and not waiting for a messiah. Yet they responded to the love poured for them in the preaching of Peter, and glorified God.

To love God completely is to keep his commandments. Jesus says in today's Gospel, *If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love*. The first commandment is to love God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our strength. This requires humility and surrender. We have to be willing to follow the teachings of our Savior and live as his disciples to really demonstrate our love for him. This is a self-sacrificial love, one where we lay down our lives for one another, either metaphorically or literally. This is how we love one another. The Lord expects us to love in a way that sacrifices and suffers for the other. Parents make sacrifices because they love their children. Friends walk with friends through trials and sufferings. Jesus gave us the great example of love in his crucifixion. So, too, are we called to love one another even when it is painful and inconvenient. God is love, and his love calls us to the cross.

Liturgy and Life

- When have you noticed that your love for another has brought you closer to God?
- How does thinking of Jesus as your friend impact your relationship with him?
- What words would you use to describe your relationship with Christ? How could your relationship with Jesus be turned into a friendship?

Our Saint of the week

Saint Damien de Veuster (Martyr of Molokai)

Feast day May 10

Joseph de Veuster was born in Belgium on January 3, 1840. While at college, he decided God was calling him to be a priest. He joined the same community his brother had joined and took the name Damien. Damien's brother had dreamed of being a missionary overseas. But he became ill and was unable to go. Damien offered to go in his place. He traveled to Hawaii and was ordained in Honolulu. For nine years, Damien served the people in different villages around Hawaii. While working, he heard about a settlement of lepers on the island of Molokai. He was told that life on the island was terrible for the lepers. They were very poor, and there was not one doctor or priest on the island. Father Damien thought he was needed there. He went to Molokai to work with the lepers.



Those who could walk came to meet Father Damien's boat. They wanted to see this priest who had come to work with them. They were sure he wouldn't stay long when he saw what life there was like. Lepers often have unpleasant sores, and some even lose fingers and toes. Because there were no laws or police on the island, many who were not very ill lived wild lives.

Father Damien got busy right away. He cleaned up huts, nursed those who were very sick, and tried new medicines. Those able to help were put to work building better houses. Father Damien preached and offered Mass, but he also built roads, water systems, orphanages, and churches. He even started a choir and a band. He made the lepers feel that they were people with dignity. They learned to better respect themselves and one another.

Father Damien always began his homily with “My dear lepers.” One Sunday he stood before his congregation and began his homily by saying “My fellow lepers.” At first, it was very quiet. Then people began to sob. Their beloved Father Damien had gotten the disease. Even though he was ill, Father Damien carried on his work. Eventually, a group of Franciscan sisters from New York, under the leadership of Mother Marianne, came to help. Father Damien died when he was 49 years old.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, May 6

8:00 a.m.

† **Aaron Denise**
(By: Papa & Mama)

Tuesday, May 7

8:00 a.m.

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

Wednesday, May 8

8:00 a.m.

† **Martin Ho**
(By: Viet Ho)

Thursday, May 9

8:00 a.m.

† **Ali Massoumi**
(By: Lydia Flocchini)

Friday, May 10

8:00 a.m.

† **Emma French**
(By: Debby Diaz)

Saturday, May 11

8:00 a.m.

† **Mark Duder**
(By: Lydia Flocchini)

4:30 p.m.

† **Carlos Cajilig Jr.**
(By: Zenaida Cajilig)

Sunday, May 12

8:00 a.m.

St Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)

10:30 a.m.

† **Michael Gragnani**
(By: Diane Gragnani)

6:30 p.m.

† **Beatrice Abraham**
(By: Carolyn Yiu)

Sixth Week of Easter+
May 5, 2024

...I have called you friends because I
have told you everything I have heard
from my father...

John 15:9 - 17



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles also (Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48).

Psalm — The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power (Psalm 98).

Second Reading — Let us love one another, because love is of God (1 John 4:7-10)

Gospel — This is my commandment: love one another as I love you (John 15:9-17)

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Sixth Sunday of Easter
Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord
(unless transferred to Sunday)
St. Damien de Veuster
Saturday: Ss. Nereus and Achilleus; St. Pancras

*Volunteering is at the very core of being a human.
No one has made it through life without someone
else's help.*

-Heather French Henry

Volunteers Needed

The parish office needs volunteers to staff the reception desk. We are looking for people for afternoon shifts (12:30-4:00 p.m.) weekdays or substitutes for any shift. Shifts are 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Commitment is only requested for one day per week, but more if you choose.

Tasks include answering the door (buzzing people in), answering the phone, helping with Mass intention requests, and occasional light administrative duties such as stuffing envelopes for parish mailings.

Contact Carol for more info: (415)681-2444 x3 or
carol@saintstephensf.org

You're All Invited!

HOLY HOUR of

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION

Exposition, Adoration and Benediction

(Weekdays, right after the 8am Mass)

Mondays thru Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.



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

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 Gutierres, 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.

TEXT to GIVE

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

Farewell Party for Seminarian Dereck Delgado

Dereck has spent his Pastoral Year serving St. Stephen Parish. You may have noticed him serving at Masses, the children altar servers refer to him as the “professional altar server.” He has helped throughout the parish in many capacities, teaching in the school, Faith Formation and RCIA, serving on the Liturgy Committee, troubleshooting and solving issues that arise. (He rescued the new Easter candle through ingenuity) Our parish has been blessed to have him and he will be missed.

**We invite you to join our farewell party on Monday,
May 13, 5:00-7:00pm in Donworth Hall.
Potluck Party—bring something to share.**

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage launches soon!

We are days away from the launch of the St. Junipero Serra western route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage on Pentecost Sunday!

Our seminarian, Dereck Delgado, will be making this pilgrimage, walking across the country with other pilgrims to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the National Eucharistic Congress in July. His journey starts May 19.

Join us for the weekend's events including 11:00 a.m. Mass with Archbishop Cordileone on Sunday, May 19, at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption followed by a Eucharistic procession through the streets of San Francisco and across the Golden Gate Bridge. We are organizing a group from our parish to join the walk across the bridge, contact Mary Molly for more info.

When Dereck returns from the pilgrimage he returns to St. Patrick's Seminary, so his time serving St. Stephen Parish is coming to an end May 18, earlier than originally expected.

Catholic Vacation in Oregon. A group of people, originally through St. Dominic's Church in SF, has organized a family vacation at the St. Benedict's Lodge & Retreat Center in McKenzie Bridge, Oregon, located on the beautiful McKenzie River. People of all ages are welcome to join, families with children, singles, adults, seniors. Unwind and reconnect with nature surrounded by God's beauty. Plenty of recreational activities are available: hiking, river rafting, fishing, golf, or just relaxing on the patio next to the river. Daily Mass is offered in the Chapel. Owned and run by the Dominican order. **Dates are July 8 through July 15, 2024.**

Bring your own blankets/ sleeping bag/ pillow case, and transportation. Meals are cooked by the group. Cost of food and lodging is \$449 for the week.

<https://sblodge.opwest.org/>

Contact Mary Molly for more info or to register.

The Month of May Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary



May is such a beautiful month. The whole month is dedicated to our **Blessed Lady, Mother of God**. The pious practice of honoring the **Blessed Virgin Mary** during the entire month of May has been especially recommended by many Popes.

Mary is our loving mother. Her maternal heart is full of **love** and **mercy** for her beloved children. She is always waiting for us to turn to her for her motherly guidance. She constantly presents all our prayers to her dear son, Jesus. Mary is known as the “**Gate of Heaven**“. We need Mary to guide us to heaven so that we may not lose our way by falling into sin.

Keep the Rosary with you as a reminder, as we need to pray the **Rosary** every single day during the month of May. If you cannot pray the entire rosary with dedication, pray at least **one decade** with all your heart, and if a decade is not possible, recite at least one **Hail Mary** with complete devotion.

When we pray the **Hail Mary**, we ask our heavenly mother to intercede for us now and at the **hour of our death**. Yes, we need her powerful intercession during that fearful hour when all Hell itself will rise against us to grab our soul. Our merciful mother will help us during that fateful hour. We only need to pray to her without ceasing.

Some devotions to Mother Mary for the Month of May

1. Recite the Regina Coeli (during the Paschal Season) or Angelus (other days of the year) daily.
2. Recite the Rosary daily as a family. Remember to meditate on each mystery and to pray with all your heart and mind.
3. Attend Mass on First Saturday of the month or if not possible, on any other Saturday to honor our Mother.
4. Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13th. You can pray a Novena to Our Lady of Fatima in preparation for her Feast.
5. Prepare a Marian Altar in your home for the “Queen of May” with pictures/statues of Mother Mary and many flowers.
6. Celebrate May Crowning at your church or in your house by crowning a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a crown of flowers.
7. Celebrate the Feast of the Visitation on May 31st. Contemplate Mary's ardent charity as she hurried to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

EASTER FLOWER OFFERING

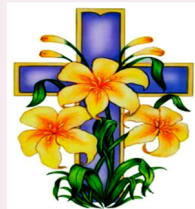
In **LOVING MEMORY** of:

Betsy Barca
Arturo Boquiren
Antonio & Conchita Diaz
Pete Diaz
Lucy Escobar
Jerry-Julia-Pat Fitzgerald
Guillermo & Aida Francisco
Consuelo Gaitan
Al Gragnani
Liz Porter Gragnani & child
Michael Gragnani
Claudio Hrvatin
Ignazio & Guiseppina
Hrvatin
Luciano Hrvatin
Amando Las Pinas
Rosa & JR Lopez
Eleanor Louis
Cornelius Maloney
James Maloney
Marilyn Maloney

Leo T McCarthy
Danny McGuire
Rod Montgomery
William Nanry Jr
Augusto & Cecilia
Norona
Mary Burke Orizotti
Fr. Dave Pettingill
Nilo & Angiolina
Seghetti
Stefanie Snider
Leonard Stefanelli
John Tam
Lun Foon Tam
Yu Chan Tam
Henry & Teresa Thran

In **HONOR OF**

Kathi Lee Jenks
All Mothers
Fr. Bill Brady



Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded. *Loyola Press*

St. Stephen Catholic Book Club

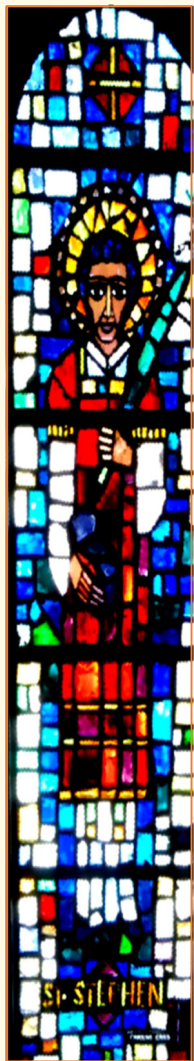
May book:
Mere Christianity
by C.S. Lewis

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 18, at 10:00 a.m. in the parish office. Contact Mary Molly for more information.

C. S.
LEWIS

MERE CHRISTIANITY



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Sharon McCarthy Allen
Principal

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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
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!

Today's Music

MAY 5, 2024, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Gathering Alleluia! Love Is Alive #171

Preparation Love Goes On #488

Communion See Us Lord, About Your altar #375,
Bread of Angels #372

Sending Forth: Glory and Praise To Our God #556



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.