

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.

*He was lifted up,
and a cloud took him from their sight.*

— Acts 1:9

ATTENTION!

Effective June 1, 2023, there will be no more 9:30 and 11:30a.m. Masses. Sunday Masses will be 8:00, **10:30 a.m.** & 6:30 p.m.

Please be guided accordingly.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.

When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them,

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

“And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Mathew 28:16 - 20

May 21, 2023

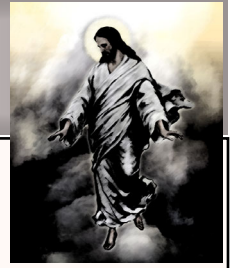
The Ascension of the Lord

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

May 21, 2023

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11, 2) Ephesians 1:17-23, 3) Matthew 28:16-20



In the prayer attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi, we ask God to grant that where there is doubt, we may sow faith. But the two are not mutually exclusive. They tend to co-exist in us because we are, after all, only human. We can't eliminate doubt from our minds completely, nor can we always live in complete faith.

It is comforting in a way, then, to hear that the disciples continued to doubt, even after the risen Christ appeared to them many times, broke bread with them and spoke to them. Even at the moment of his ascension, when Jesus commissions them to go into the world and *make disciples of all nations*, we are told that *they worshiped, but they doubted*. They witness the exaltation of Christ in all his glory, returning to sit at the right hand of the Father, and still they harbored doubts.

We may be tempted to think that it was easier for the disciples to believe, because they lived with Jesus and saw him face to face, even after the resurrection. But the Gospel reading today reminds us that even they had difficulty maintaining a strong faith in Christ. The key, however, is that even though they doubted, they continued to worship. We can't wait for our minds to be completely satisfied before committing ourselves to Christ. After all, isn't that what faith is: Giving ourselves to something, or someone, despite our doubts? If we were absolutely certain, we wouldn't need faith.

In a way, we are more fortunate than the disciples. As he promised at the ascension, Christ is with us continually in the Church, which is his body. He promised to send us the Holy Spirit, *a Spirit of wisdom and revelation* as we heard in the second reading, to guide and strengthen us in our faith. We have each other to lean on and to share our faith – and even our doubts. Most important, we have the sacraments. What a gift it is to have the opportunity to receive the Body of Christ daily to nourish and sustain us. He truly is with us, until the end of time.

Next week, on the Feast of Pentecost, Jesus will send us the Holy Spirit to be our guide, counselor and friend. This will conclude our Easter Festival, I pray that this journey has been one of comfort and joy and faith-filled for each of you. May the Lord bless you for being with us this day and praying with us. Have a great week!

Our Saint of the Week: St. Philip Nero



For forty-five years St. Philip Neri evangelized thousands of people at Rome, from the poor to the popes. Philip won their hearts with his consistent kindness and jovial sense of humor. He became known as the "Second Apostle of Rome." You can get a feel for the saint's attractiveness in his maxims, like these:

"The best preparation for prayer is to read the lives of the saints, not from mere curiosity, but quietly and with recollection a little at a time. And to pause whenever you feel your heart touched with devotion."
"He who does not go down to hell in his lifetime, runs a great risk of going there when he dies."
"Never try to evade the cross that God sends you, for you will only find a heavier one."

In 1533, after a dramatic personal experience of God, Philip went to Rome, where he lived in poverty. After several years of solitude and study he sold his books and hit the streets to do the grassroots work of leading people to Christ. Ordained in 1551, he went to live with a community of priests at San Giralomo. He and his associates held conferences in their oratory that gathered people for an evening of study and prayer that climaxed in music or a short pilgrimage to one of the ancient basilicas.

Soon Philip gathered about himself a small group of talented priests that he organized into the Congregation of the Oratory. Philip's informality characterized the foundation. For example, members were not required to take vows, but only to adhere to the gospel. "If you want to be obeyed," quipped Philip, "don't make commandments." Officially recognized in 1575, the Oratory spread throughout the world and attracted illustrious members such as John Henry Newman.

Philip Neri died on May 25, 1595, active till the end and celebrated as the most popular person in Rome. a general return to the Christian living.

50+ Club

Monday, June 5, 2023

Donworth Hall

Doors Open 12:30pm

New members are most welcome!

**For any questions/ concerns, please call:
Helga at 415-731-8211**

We Rent Our Hall

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for Special Occasions**

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at 415 681-2444 ext.7 or
donworthevents@saintstephens.org

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, May 22

8:00 a.m.

† **Paul McGloin**
(By: *Maria Guadalupe Chase*)

Tuesday, May 23

8:00 a.m.

Eduardo Juarez Sp.Int.
(By: *Juarez Family*)

Wednesday, May 24

8:00 a.m.

† **Jim McMullen**
(By: *Davey Family*)

Thursday, May 25

8:00 a.m.

† **M/M Cheng Lian Hong**
(By: *Shirley Dee*)

Friday, May 26

8:00 a.m.

† **Leon & Vicenta Dy**
(By: *Africa Dy*)

Saturday, May 27

8:00 a.m.

Marilyn Lee Sp. Int.
(By: *John Lee*)

4:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, May 28

8:00 a.m.

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

9:30 a.m.

Gulmohar Chayande
Sp Int (By: Asia Hara & PaMa)

11:30 a.m.

† **John Taylor Delagnes**
(By: *Marty Halloran*)

6:30 p.m.

† **Estela Rosillo-Jimenez**
(By: *Kirwan Family*)

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them... (*Acts 8:5-8*).

Psalm — "Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you, sing praise to your name!" Come and see the works of God,.. (*psalm 66*)

Second Reading — For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil. (*1 Peter 3:15-18*).

Gospel — "In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live" (*Mathew 28:16 20*)

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **Saint Constantine**
Monday **Saint Rita of Cascia**
Victoria Day, Canada
Tuesday **Saint John Baptist de Rossi**
Thursday: **Saint Vincent of Lérins**
Friday **Saint Gregory VII**
Saint Bede the Venerable
Saint Philip Neri
Saturday: **Saint Augustine of Canterbury**

Stewardship: A Way of Life

(April 2023 Report)

\$ 23,170.43 Sunday Collections (4/2, 9, 16, 23, 30)
\$ 7,429.00 Online Sunday Collections (4/1-30)
\$ 4,493.00 Donworth Hall April Rental Income
\$ 35,092.43 Total Income for April 2023

LESS:

\$ 52,148.67 Parish Maintenance for April
\$ 17,056.24 Over / UNDER

Please note that we were able to cover the negative income of \$17,056.24 this month from the remaining balance of Parish Dinner's Windfall Income (Taste of Spain) of \$16,482.27 and from our Ester Collection of 6,108.00 bringing the Easer balance to \$5,54.03.

Please continue to generously support your Parish !

We have our Rectory's 25 yr old Boiler & Heater starting to give problems and is diagnosed to be replaced as soon as possible.

ALTAR SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Altar Society consists of three groups of parish volunteers, who meet Fridays at 9:30a.m. to help keep our church clean. We bring the linens and towels home to wash and return.

The three groups rotate their duties every month. (Group 1 – January, April, July, October; Group 2 – February, May, August, November; Group 3 – March, June, September, December). We need two more volunteers for Group 1 and one more volunteer for Group 3. It only takes about an hour, or less, to complete our tasks.

Thank you for your willingness to serve our parish community. If you have any questions, please contact

Joan Leehane @ 415-606-4581
or joan@leehane.com

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.

Debbie Nunes, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton, Nestor & Nelson 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

2023 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Campaign GOAL : \$ 86,973.00
Total Payments Received : \$ 35,614.00
Campaign Goal Balance : \$ 51,359.00

We thank the following parishioners who have shared their treasures with the parish **this week** as of 5.16.2023:

(For a complete listing, refer to AAA Poster in Church vestibule.)

Ms Philomena Cardozo

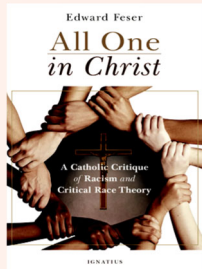
Ms Alicia De Jesus

Mrs Rica B Paraiso

St Stephen's Book Club

The Book Club will meet in person on Saturday, May 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the parish office conference room. We are reading:

All One in Christ - A Catholic Critique of Racism and Critical Race Theory by Edward Feser, Ph.D.



What does the Catholic Church teach about racism? What should Catholics think about Critical Race Theory, which is currently being widely promoted in the name of antiracism?

All One in Christ lucidly explains the Church's clear and consistent condemnation of racism, showing that the condemnation is not a recent development but deeply rooted in centuries of papal teaching and Scholastic theology.

This book also demonstrates that Critical Race Theory, far from being a remedy for racism, is, in fact, a new and insidious form of racism that cannot be reconciled with the social teaching of the Church and the call of Christ. Edward Feser exhorts Catholics to oppose Critical Race Theory — precisely because they are opposed to racial injustice. They must reaffirm that all human beings are rational creatures capable of knowledge and charity and redemption from sin through grace. (163 pages.)

Contact Mary Molly at the parish office for details. Phone - 415 681-2444x4

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.

**online
GIVING**
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.

Sunday Connection



God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly moves from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty tomb, to Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives his disciples in the Gospel.

The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout Scripture, the most important events happen on the mountaintop, and Matthew has used this motif throughout his Gospel. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Peter, James, and John had seen Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop (Matthew 17:1-8). Also in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the crowds from the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on the Mount.

Here we are told that the eleven disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (cf. Matthew 28:9-10). They see Jesus, and both worship and doubt at the same time. Jesus approaches them and commissions them to baptize and teach, "to make disciples of all nations." It is a task which Jesus had previously prepared his disciples for; recall that Jesus had sent the twelve apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal (cf. Matthew 10:1-15). However, earlier the Twelve were sent only to the House of Israel; in this Final Commission, the eleven are told to go to "all nations." The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people; the task now is to baptize and to teach. *Loyola Press*

Parental Rights and Religious Freedom Talk

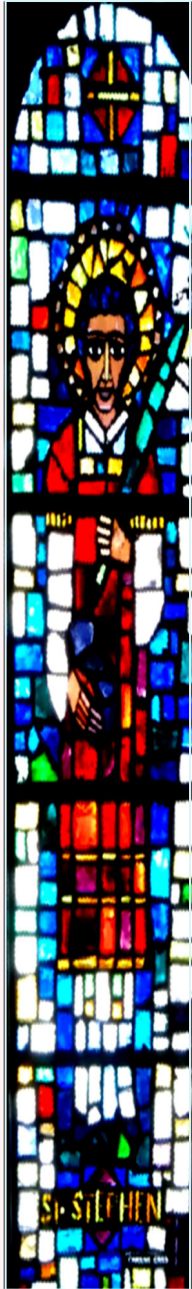
Thursday, June 22 - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Mater Dolorosa at 307 Willow Ave, South San Francisco, CA 94080

RSVP: <https://sfarchdiocese.org/event/parental-rights-and-religious-freedom-talk/>

Questions? Valerie Schmalz | 415-614-5571 or schmalzv@sfarch.org

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops designates June 22-29 Religious Freedom Week. This year we are offering several events in observance of the week. On Thursday, June 22 at 6 p.m. Mater Dolorosa Church in South San Francisco will host a talk on Parental Rights and Religious Freedom. Speakers: Lance Christensen, Vice President, Education Policy & Government Affairs at the California Policy Center, Sacramento, and Ryan Mayer, Director of the Office of Catholic Identity Formation & Assessment. RSVP at the link above.



PASTORAL STAFF

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Priest in Residence, SFSU Chaplain

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Priest in Residence

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Ed Prete

Bulletin Editor, ext. 6

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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.

Lyrics for Music for 9:30 am Mass

Entrance - Opening Song- "Here I am to Worship"

Refrain

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that you're my God; You're
altogether lovely, altogether worthy; altogether
wonderful to me

King of all days, oh how highly exalted, glori-
ous in heaven above; Humbly you came to the
earth you created, all for love's sake became
poor

Refrain

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my
sin upon that cross (x2)

Offertory- Purify My Heart

Purify my heart, let me as gold and precious
silver; purify my heart, let me as gold, pure
gold

Refrain

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire, is to be
holy; Set apart for you Lord; I choose to be ho-
ly, set apart for you my master, ready to do
your will

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within, and
make me holy; purify my heart, cleanse me
from my sin, deep within

Refrain (x2)

Communion - How Great is Our God

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light.
Darkness tries to hide
And trembles at his voice
And trembles at his voice.

Refrain:

How great is our God (sing with me)
How great is our God (and all will see)
How great...how great is our God.

And age to age he stands

And time is in his hands

Beginning and the end

Beginning and the end

The Godhead three in one

Father, Spirit, Son

The lion and the lamb

The lion and the lamb

Refrain

Bridge: Name above all names

Worthy of all praise

My heart will sing how great is our God

Refrain

Recessional - Shout To The Lord

My Jesus, my savior,

Lord there is none like you.

All of my days, I want to praise

The wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter,

Tower of refuge and strength;

Let every breath, all that I am,

Never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing.

Power and majesty praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar

At the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands

Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in
you.