

# St. Stephen Parish

*SaintStephenSF.org* | 451 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco CA 94132 | Church 415 681-2444

*StStephenScholSF.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.

## *The kingdom of God*

is like a mustard seed that is  
the smallest of all the seeds.

But once it is sown,  
it springs up and becomes  
the largest of plants.

Mark 4:31-32



June 16, 2024

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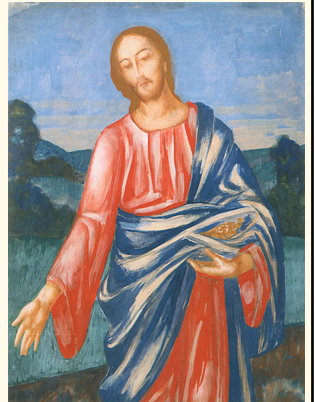
*Encounter Jesus Christ. Love Jesus Christ. Live Jesus Christ.*

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary time

Last weekend we returned to Ordinary Time having celebrated Lent and Easter. But *Ordinary Time* should not be understood as unimportant time but rather that, for the next twenty-one weeks, we will mine the riches of the mystery of Christ in an ordered way, ponder all that we have celebrated in Easter and perhaps even reflect on those long- forgotten Lenten resolutions. And we will continue to give thanks for God's faithfulness and presence in our lives and in the life of his Church.

There's a phrase that could summarize today's readings: Small is beautiful! Indeed, as we survey the life of faith, it is often the small or insignificant that is the focus of God's presence. The young David slayed Goliath and became a great king; Paul, whose name means small, became a celebrated evangelist and preacher; Teresa of Calcutta began with a few rupees and a mission and became a saint whose work continues to inspire millions. Yes, small is beautiful!



Jesus uses the images of the sower and the small seed to help explain the kingdom. Despite our illusions, the work of faith is ultimately God's work – as silent and unseen as the growing seed. We are called like the sower to prepare the ground and to be generous in sowing, but then to step back and allow the Lord to bring forth the harvest. Jesus takes this image further – small though it may be, the mustard seed has the potential to be the largest of all shrubs. In other words, one cannot judge the size and potential of anything by its initial size, least of all the kingdom of God! Like the mustard seed that grows to be a large shrub in which the birds will find shelter, so the kingdom must grow to offer shelter to all nations. It must become like Ezekiel's tree in the first reading – majestic and full of the fruits of the kingdom.

Saint Paul reminds us in the second reading to be courageous – to remember that our ultimate destiny is not of this world. We are to walk by faith and not by the passing ways of this world, no matter how tempting or convenient they may be. Aware that we must all give an account of our lives, we must be people of prayer, who are constantly growing in our faith. We must know that our efforts, even if they seem small and insignificant, will be blessed by the Lord.

### LITURGY AND LIFE

- Do you pause in your day to give thanks to God?
- How have you walked by faith when troubled?
- To what do you compare the Kingdom of God?

*Our Saint of the week:* Feast day June 21

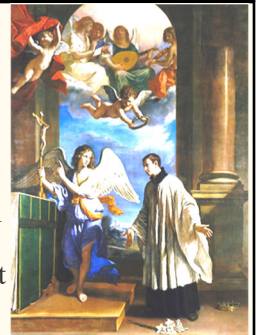
## Saint Aloysius Gonzaga

Do your parents have plans for you? As soon as Aloysius was born, his parents began planning for his future. His mother wanted him to be a priest. His father was determined to have his oldest son become a military leader or famous political figure—anything but a priest.

At the age of five, Aloysius was sent to a military camp to get started on his career. His father must have been very pleased to see his son marching at the head of the platoon of soldiers around the campgrounds. His mother and his tutor were extremely displeased, however, when Aloysius came home using the rough, coarse language of the camp. At the age of seven, Aloysius received a special insight from God. While other boys were dreaming about being military heroes or heads of wealthy estates, Aloysius thought of other matters. He decided to become a saint, and he began acting on that decision. He prayed long hours at night and fasted several times a week.

While he was on a visit to Spain with his parents, Aloysius read the lives of saintly Jesuit missionaries, and he decided to become a Jesuit. His father and some other relatives tried hard to change his mind. It was a fierce battle of wills, but after several years, Aloysius won. With his father's permission, Aloysius gave his large inheritance to his brother and joined the Jesuit order at 17 years of age. The novice director, who was in charge of training Aloysius, told him to cut down on his long hours of prayer and to give up some of his fasting and other penances. Aloysius obeyed willingly. He understood that obedience was better than "doing his own thing."

When Aloysius was 23, a serious epidemic broke out in Rome. Aloysius volunteered at once to help in the hospital. At that time hospitals were not the clean, orderly places with which we are familiar today. It was very easy to catch an illness. That is what happened; Aloysius became very ill. No medicine could help him. Aloysius was not afraid to die. Aloysius shows that young people are not too young to become saints. During his life he had focused on doing what God wanted—serving and loving God and his neighbor.





# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



## Monday, June 17

8:00 a.m. † **Beatrice Abraham**  
(By: Carolyn Yiu)

## Tuesday, June 18

8:00 a.m. † **Maria Cecilia G. Choa**  
(By: Dorothy Over)

## Wednesday, June 19

8:00 a.m. † **Sean Barry**  
(By: Tom & Becky Parini)

## Thursday, June 20

8:00 a.m. † **Arturo Boquiren**  
(By: Fely Boquiren, Lisa & Lynn)

## Friday, June 21

8:00 a.m. † **Jeanne Scanlon**  
(By: Jessica Montgomery)

## Saturday, June 22

8:00 a.m. † **Christopher Anthony Flack**  
(By: Josie Flack)

4:30 p.m. **St Stephen Parishioners**  
(By: Fr. Ben)

## Sunday, Jun 23

8:00 a.m. **Special Intentions**  
(By: G & Aisa)

10:30 a.m. **Jovita & Richard Thompson**  
Wed. Anniv. (By: Charlotte Bautista)

6:30 p.m. † **Mae Moriarty**  
(By: Kirwan Family)

## Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 16, 2024

They that are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. *Psalm 92*



## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — I have lifted high the lowly tree (Ezekiel 17:22-24).

**Psalm** — Lord, it is good to give thanks to you (Psalm 92).

**Second Reading** — Whether we are at home or away, we aspire to please the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6-10).

**Gospel** — It is the smallest of all seeds, and becomes the largest of plants (Mark 4:26-34)

## Saints and Special Observances

Wednesday **Saint Romuald**

Thursday **Saint Alban**

Friday **Saint Aloysius Gonzaga**

Saturday **Saints John Fisher and Thomas More**  
**Saint Paulinus of Nola**

## Parish Potluck

### To Thank Fr. Ben Rosado

**Sunday, June 30, 11:30 a.m.**  
(following the 10:30 a.m. Mass)  
**In Donworth Hall**

Fr. Ben has been serving St. Stephen Parish for only a year but has made such a positive impact. We thank him for his commitment and service, and wish him well as he assumes his next assignment at St. Monica/St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

Please bring food to share.



**The 50+ Club**  
does not meet in July.  
Next meeting is August 12.

For any questions call Helga at 415-731-8211

The SFSU Newman Club has finished their meetings for this semester and will begin again when classes start up in mid-August.



## 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.

**Pacita Calimlim-Sagun, Araceli Caparas, Ana Caballero, 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.

## Background on the Gospel Reading

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable's meaning, and he does this in private at a later time.

Today's Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. *Loyola Press*

### St. Stephen Catholic Book Club

#### **July Book: *Mind of the Maker***

by Dorothy L. Sayers In her most profound work, Sayers investigates the nature of God and creativity. From the first pages of Genesis, it is clear that God and man share one vital trait: the ability to create great works out of nothing. More than any other group, artists feel impelled to create, and this urge brings them closer to God. By contemplating the creative drive of humanity, we can better understand the works of God, and by reading deeply into the tenets of Christianity, we can better understand the creative spirit of man. Dorothy L. Sayers explores the concept of the Holy Trinity within the context of invention: the creative idea, the creative energy, and the creative power. In this searching, wide-ranging treatise, one of the greatest minds of the twentieth century shows us what it means to be an artist-and what it takes to make humankind.

**Book Club meets Saturday, July 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the parish office.** Contact Mary Molly for more info.



**A Father's Love  
is patient.  
A Father's Love  
is kind.**

**Fathers do not envy, they are not rude.  
Fathers are not self-seeking.  
Fathers are not easily angered,  
they keep no records of wrongs.  
Fathers do not delight in evil  
but rejoice with the truth.  
Fathers always protect, always trust,  
always hope, always persevere.  
A Father's Love never fails.**

Inspired by 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

**Happy Father's Day to all Fathers, Grandfathers, Stepfathers, Foster Fathers, and Godfathers.** May God bless you and give you courage, patience, and gentleness to care for the people you have been given to love.

## **The Harmony of Modern Science and the Catholic Faith**

**with  
Professor Stephen Barr, Ph.D.**

**School of Pastoral Ministry Online Class**



The School of Pastoral Ministry presents:

### **The Harmony of Modern Science and the Catholic Faith**

A 5-week Tuesday night series with Stephen Barr, Ph.D.  
Dates: (7 pm – 8:30 pm – Pacific Time on Zoom)

- 5/28 – God and Cosmic Order: how nature points to God
- 6/4 – Is the Universe Designed for Life?
- 6/18 – How Adam and Eve, Original Sin, and Evolution go Together
- 6/25 – Extraterrestrials and Catholic Teaching
- 7/2 – Does Science Disprove Free Will?

Presented in clear language, Professor Barr will try to explain modern physics without oversimplification, try to reveal that modern scientific discoveries and religious faith are deeply consonant.

Classes are presented live on Zoom with the ability to interact with the professor. If you cannot join the class live, the classes are recorded and available to view on the classroom webpage later in the week for registered students.

<https://sfarchdiocese.org/modern-science-and-catholic-faith-course/>



## National Eucharistic Pilgrimage



Our seminarian, Dereck Delgado, is one of the pilgrims walking the St. Junipero Serra western route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. They are making their way across the country to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the National Eucharistic Congress in July.

The Pilgrims on the Junipero Serra Route are currently in Nebraska. This week they will be in: North Platte, Lexington, Grand Island, with a Eucharistic Procession across the Platte River, Holdrege, Hastings, Doniphan, Lincoln, and Gretna, NE. Check out the map in the church vestibule to see the progress of the pilgrims as they make their way across the country to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Dereck Delgado, Jack Krebs and other National Eucharistic Procession pilgrims attend Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver on June 9, 2024. Photo credit: Kate Quinones/Catholic News Agency

### Got Faith?

Is there someone in your life who is wondering what the Catholic faith is, or is thinking about becoming a Catholic? Perhaps that someone just needs a little push from you to embark on this faith searching journey.

The RCIA Program - the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** - welcomes anyone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or would like to receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation. The program will begin in mid-September. Participants will receive the sacraments of initiation during the Easter Vigil in April 2025. For more information please contact Mary Molly Mullaney, phone: 415.681.2444 x4 or email:

[FaithFormation@SaintStephenSF.org](mailto:FaithFormation@SaintStephenSF.org).

## THE TINY MUSTARD SEED

We need to cooperate in the growth of God's Kingdom: The Kingdom of God is the growth of God's rule in human hearts that occurs when man does the will of God and surrenders his life to God. The seed of Faith lies dormant within each of us. When we permit the Holy Spirit to nurture it with TLC (tender loving care), it grows miraculously into gigantic proportions. The growth is slow and microscopic in the beginning. But the seed grows by using the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us through the word of God, the Mass, the Sacraments and prayer. As we learn God's will from His words and try to put these words into practice, we participate in the growth of God's Kingdom on earth, a growth which will be completed in our Heavenly life. But since we need the special anointing of the Holy Spirit to be doers of the word of God, let us offer our lives before God every day, asking for this special anointing.

We need not get discouraged: Since the acceptance of God's rule by human beings is a very slow process, there is the danger of discouragement and hopelessness among preachers, evangelizers and believers. The conviction that growth of the Kingdom of God is the work of the Holy Spirit with our humble cooperation should make us optimistic in continuing our work of witnessing. We should continue sowing tiny seeds in the form of words of love, acts of encouragement, deeds of charity, mercy and forgiveness.



Sunday, July 28  
1:00-3:00pm

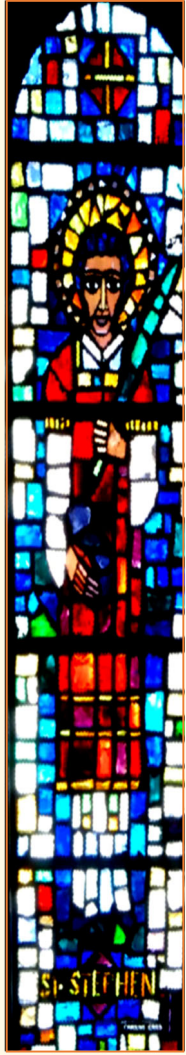
### "A Grand Day"

A special "day camp" experience for Grandparents and their Grandchildren to come together and have fun.

Location: Donworth Hall  
473 Eucalyptus Dr, SF

Register online:  
<https://bit.ly/a-grand-day>

Contact Mary Molly for info:  
[FaithFormation@SaintStephenSF.org](mailto:FaithFormation@SaintStephenSF.org)  
(415) 681-2444 x4



## PASTORAL STAFF

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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 Lilledahl      |
| • 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

## Today's Music

June 16, 2024, Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Gathering:** For the Fruits Of This Creation #212

**Preparation:** Eye Has Not Seen #475

**Communion:** As Grains Of Wheat #343,  
Behold the Lamb #341

**Sending:** In Christ There Is No  
East or West #589



## 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!



## 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.