

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, 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

July 16, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots.

Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it.

But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted.

To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.* Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: *You shall indeed hear but not understand, and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them. you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes* **Mathew 13:1-14**

THE SEED SOWN ON RICH SOIL

is the one who
hears the word
of the kingdom
and understands it,
who indeed bears fruit
and yields a hundred
or sixty or thirtyfold.

Matthew 13:23

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

July 16, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23



No matter how many advances modern technology affords to farmers, they face the same challenges and obstacles experienced by their ancient counterparts, not the least of which is the weather, something no one can accurately predict or control.

Isaiah compares the farmer's efforts to yield a bountiful harvest with that of the preacher and prophet attempting to sow the seeds of faith in the hearts of believers. God promises rain to moisten the ground, making it fertile and fruitful. As he gives us bread to satisfy our physical hunger, we are also given the living Word to answer our spiritual hungers.

The Apostle Paul described the process of cultivating growth in the faith to the groaning experienced by women in labor. We long to be set free from slavery to sin. In Christ, humanity has received salvation for the soul and the promise of the resurrection of the body. Paul, like the long-suffering farmer, willingly endured all kinds of suffering in order to plant the seeds of faith in the early Christian communities, giving them the promise of freedom and new life.

In his parables, Jesus often spoke in agricultural terms, making himself easily understood, as most people in his time had to live off the land. Like the farmer's seed, our faith must be nurtured and fed, protected and cared for.

And, just as the farmer separates the wheat from the chaff, and prunes his larger plants for a more bountiful harvest, we, too, must learn to separate the good from the bad in our own lives. We submit ourselves to the pruning, purging, and purifying of our sins so that we also may experience the glory of God in this life and in the next.



The seeds of our faith must be so deeply rooted in Christ and his Church that nothing can cause them to waste or wither – not the temptation to do wrong, not wealth or power, not pride or prejudice.

The farmer understands better than most that all things come from God, belong to him, and should be used to give him glory, honor, and praise. That is why the farmer always offered up the first fruits of the harvest as a sacrifice in thanks to God. When the Word takes root in our lives and our faith grows, we can offer ourselves back to the One who first gave all to us. We do so in acts of love for him and for each other. Just as Christ did for us.

Our Saint of the Week **St. Macrina**



With charm and grace, St. Macrina ruled the roost in a family of saints. St. Basil the Elder and St. Emmelia, her parents, had ten children including the younger St. Basil, St. Gregory of Nyssa, and St. Peter of Sebaste. As the eldest child, Macrina exercised a formative influence on her more famous brothers and even on her mother.

A beautiful young woman, Macrina had been betrothed at age twelve. But when her fiancé died, she chose to remain single to devote herself to Christian service. Emmelia had given her daughter a Christian version of a classic education, training her in Scripture instead of Greek literature. In turn, Macrina conducted the early education of her younger brothers and sisters and formed them in piety.

Gregory of Nyssa, her biographer, reported that when Basil returned from Athens University all puffed up with self-importance, Macrina put him in his place—as only an older sister can. Apparently she persuaded her extremely talented brother to become a monk and subordinate his gifts to God's purposes.

When Naucratus, the handsome and athletic family favorite, died suddenly, Macrina supported Emmelia through her grief. Later she persuaded her mother to join her in renouncing their high standard of living and embracing the simpler life of their servants. Together they formed a small monastic community of nuns under the younger Basil's direction on the family estate at Annesi in Pontus in present-day Turkey.

In 379, shortly after Basil died, Macrina fell ill. Gregory came to visit her and found her in a very weakened condition, lying on two planks. Even though Macrina could barely talk, she spoke eloquently with her brother about death and the future life.

50+ Club

**Monday, Aug 7th
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

**FOR ANY OCCASION
USE OUR PARTY ROOM!**

**Our 20,000 Sq. Ft. Parish Center
Available to Rent**

For more information, call Shay at
415 681-2444 ext.7 or
donworthevents@saintstephensf.org

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, July 17

8:00 a.m.

† **Ray Farren**
(By: Anonymous)

Tuesday, July 18

8:00 a.m.

† **Eulalia Cortez**
(By: Remedios Jacinto)

Wednesday, July 19

8:00 a.m.

† **Guido Salomone Jr**
(By: Parish Staff & Volunteers)

Thursday, July 20

8:00 a.m.

† **Margaret Casey**
(By: Julie O'Callaghan)

Friday, July 21

8:00 a.m.

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

Saturday, July 22

8:00 a.m.

† **Rita Childs**
(By: Friezische Family)

4:30 p.m.

† **Mary O'Leary**
(By: RCLA Club)

Sunday, July 23

8:00 a.m.

† **Jim McMullen**
(By: Davey Family)

10:30 a.m.

† **Daniel Illenberger**
(By: Marilu Illenberger)

6:30 p.m.

St. Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr. Michael)



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 16, 2023

You have crowned the year with your bounty,
and your paths overflow with a rich harvest.

— Psalm 65:12

Today's Readings

First Reading — My word will achieve the end for which it was sent (*Isaiah 55:10-11*).

Psalm — The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest (*Psalm 65*).

Second Reading — We, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves awaiting the redemption of our bodies (*Romans 8:18-23*).

Gospel — Some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit (*Matthew 13:1-23 [1-9]*).

Saints & Special Observances

| | |
|------------|--|
| Sunday: | Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Tuesday: | Saint Camillus de Lellis |
| Wednesday: | St. Macrina |
| Thursday: | Saint Apollinaris |
| Friday: | St. Lawrence of Brindisi |
| Saturday: | Saint Mary Magdalene Bonaventure |

STOP COUNTING SHEEP

When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the Shepherd and stop counting sheep. —Anonymous



You're ALL Invited!
**HOLY HOUR of
EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION**
Exposition, Adoration and Benediction

(Weekdays, right after the 8am Mass)

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

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Parishes follow the pattern of the school year - i.e. the life of the parish and its organizations start up each September and continue into the following June. The three months of Summer usually means a diminished Sunday Mass attendance at St. Stephen. Many of you have been blessed by God with a second home elsewhere. As you look forward with eager anticipation to getting away for some weeks, please remember your summer contributions to St. Stephen. Bills to be paid will continue to come in daily over summer.

Also, during this time, there is less St. Stephen news in your Sunday Bulletin. We welcome your articles regarding an anniversary, wedding, baptism, your favorite poem or a memory of St. Stephen happening in the past.



***Just a reminder** that our monthly maintenance costs DO NOT include the significant deferred maintenance that needs to be performed at the parish and rectory. Things like 1) the leaky roof in the church, 2) a broken water pipe underneath the rectory that was flooding the rectory garage with sewage that needed to be fixed, and 3) a 25-year old water heater that finally stopped working and needed to be replaced. Also NOT included in this parish maintenance monthly amount is the 4) yearly payment of a) \$66,000 that the parish must make on the Gym/Hall debt, b) 61,000 General Insurance & Property Liability, among others.

With this in mind, in the fall, we will be starting to learn about being a Stewardship Parish, where we live out our discipleship of Jesus Christ as good stewards of the gifts we have been given, which includes our financial gifts. If you are interested in taking a leadership role with this initiative, please email Fr. Michael –

fr.michael@SaintStephenSF.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.

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, 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



St. Stephen Parish presents

A "day camp" experience for Grandparents and their Grandchildren

DATE: TIME: LOCATION:

Sunday, July 23, 2023 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

St. Stephen's Donworth Hall

In honor of grandparents we are offering a special event for Grandparents and their Grandchildren

Register online: <https://bit.ly/agrand-day> <https://bit.ly/agrand-day> or contact Mary Molly in the parish office:

Phone: (415) 681-2444 x4

2023 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| Campaign GOAL | : | \$ 86,973.00 |
| Total Payments Received | : | \$ 41,305.00 |
| Campaign Goal Balance | : | \$ 45,668.00 |

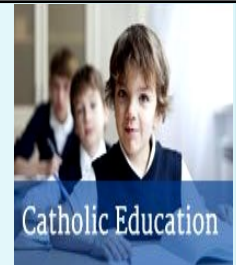
We thank the following parishioners who have shared their treasures with the parish **this week** as of 7.11.2023: (For a complete listing, refer to AAA Poster in Church vestibule.)

- Mrs. Fely Boquiren
- Mrs Sandra Frietsche
- Ms Joanne Hayes-White
- Mrs. Antoinette Mishirky

PARISH SUMMER COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Fr. Jose Mas Izquierdo**- Arrived from Spain on June 15 for two months to stay at the parish and work on his English skills. Leaves August 15.
- Fr. Ben Rosado**- Arrived at St. Stephen's on July 1 to begin his new assignment as parochial vicar at St. Stephen.
- Fr. Michael Healy**- Gone on vacation July 3- August 9
- Fr. Michael Liliedahl** - Leaves July 8 for STL studies in Detroit, returns to parish August 12.

Religious Education for 1st to 8th Grade Students attending non-Catholic Schools



Would you like your children to learn more about our Catholic faith, or to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation? Please consider sending them to our St. Stephen Faith Formation Program.

Our Faith Formation Program runs from mid September and ends in May. We meet once a week on Monday afternoons, 4pm to 5:15 pm (except holidays).

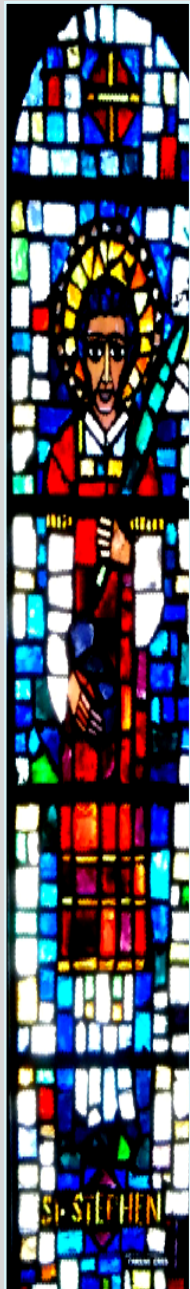
This program is supported by a group of experienced and dedicated religious education teachers. They not only teach the knowledge of the Bible, the sacraments, and the church, but most importantly, they teach the students how to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Their goal is to teach the students to become Christ-like.

Registration forms are available online or in the vestibule (bulletin board on south-side). Website:

saintstephensf.org/childrens-faith-formation.php

For more information contact Mary Molly Mullaney at FaithFormation@SaintStephenSF.org or phone

415.681.2444 x4.



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michael Liliedahl

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Rev. Ben Rosado

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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 Liliedahl
- 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.

Song Lyrics for 10:30 am Mass

Sweet Redeemer

King of Kings, blessed Jesus
Hand of mercy, giver of grace
I have come to sing glory
To lay my heart before you in this place.

Refrain: Sweet Redeemer, I surrender

All I am to you

Sweet Redeemer, I surrender

All I am to you

I was lost and you found me
In the darkness you were my light
When I fell down you forgave me
Lifted me up and held me to your side

Refrain

Bridge: From the shadows of the tomb

You called me

You rolled away the stone

From the burden of my sin

You saved me

You made my heart your home

Refrain

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes Lord, help me to see your face
Open my eyes Lord, help me to see
Open my ears Lord, help me to hear your voice
Open my ears Lord, help me to hear
Open my heart Lord, help me love like you
Open my heart Lord, help me to love

And the first shall be last

And our eyes are opened

And we'll hear like never before

And we'll speak in new ways

And we'll see God's face

In places we've never known

I live within you, deep in your heart O love

I live within you, rest now in me

Open my eyes Lord, help me to see your face

Open my eyes Lord, help me to see

You Alone

Refrain:

You alone are holy, you alone are Lord

You alone are worthy

To be honored and adored

Mercy you have given

Kindness you have shown

Love is you alone

Who of us is sinless in this place?

Who of us deserves your saving grace?

Who of us is good at all,

Without your blessed love that falls

Upon our hearts to heal this broken-ness

Refrain

What is there to do but thank you then,

For the gift that we might call you friend?

Greater love has not been known

Than that for which you gave your only Son

That you might see us pure and blessed

Refrain

Love Has Come

With one voice the angles sing

Songs that make creation ring

Prophets hear and call us

To live in spirit and in truth

God the Father Elohim

Voice of thunder, spirit wind

Breathe on me your very life

Grace will make the darkness bright

Refrain: Word of God enthroned,

Dwell in us forever more

Love has come to show the way

Hallelujah peace be with us

Love has come to show the way

God of covenant divine,

Lead us to the end of time

Beyond sorrow, beyond fear

Beyond pride and earthen tears

Refrain (repeat last line)