

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

Weekday Mass: 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.

First SUNDAY of Advent

DECEMBER 3, 2023

Oh, that you would
rend the heavens
and come down,
with the mountains
quaking before you,
while you wrought
awesome deeds we
could not hope for,
such as they had not
heard of from of old.

Isaiah 63:19b; 64:2-3

*Feast of the
Immaculate Conception*

*Friday, December 8th
Masses at
8am, 11am & 6:30pm*



**Tomorrow, Monday,
December 4, 2023**

*Christmas Lunch
Doors Open 12:30pm*

**For any questions/ concerns,
please call:**

Helga at 415-731-8211

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

First Sunday of Advent

(Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7). (Psalm 80). (1 Corinthians 1:3-9). (Mark 13:33-37).

1ST SUNDAY



1st SUNDAY
ADVENT

Today we begin the season of [Advent](#), which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.



Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

December 4, 2023 - Saint John of Damascus (late 600s-mid 700s)



John grew up in the rich, luxurious court of the Muslim ruler of Damascus, where his father was a wealthy Christian court official. In order to make sure John had a solid Christian foundation, his father employed a brilliant Sicilian monk named Cosmos, who was a war captive, to teach John. Cosmos schooled the boy in science and theology, in the Greek and Arabic languages, and in the culture of Islam. Then John was ready to assume a high place in the government, which he did. But the spirit of the Muslim rulers was turning against

Christians, so John left his position in the government and became a monk in Jerusalem. The date of his death is uncertain. Some think he may have lived to be 104 years old.

We know about John's faith through his writings. In them John explained the mysteries of the Christian faith, such as the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Real Presence in the Eucharist, and Mary's Assumption. One book he wrote is an important source on the teachings of the Greek Fathers of the Church. John was also a poet and hymn writer. Some of his songs are summaries of the truths of faith.

Perhaps John is most famous for his opposition to the heresy of the Iconoclasts. The Iconoclasts claimed that is superstitious to have religious images. They wanted to destroy all religious icons, pictures, and statues. The Iconoclasts were supported by the Eastern Christian Emperor Leo III. John of Damascus defended the use of sacred images. He explained that the respect given to them is really given to the person they represent. If you look around an Orthodox Church today, you will see that John won the debate. For all of his efforts to defend the faith, John of Damascus was named a Doctor of the Church in 1890.

2023 AAA

The 2023 Annual Appeal is coming to a close. It is our hope that each household/parishioner will assist us by sharing their treasure as we move forward to reach our required tax of \$86,973. If you didn't receive a Donor Brochure in the mail or would like another, they are available on the tables in the vestibule. Know that no amount is too small and all gifts are received with great thanksgiving.

online
GIVING

St Stephen Church provides Online Giving - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. When you participate, your gift will be securely transferred directly into the parish. Visit www.saintstephensf.org, click on Giving link.

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 x7

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Dec 4

8:00 a.m.

† **Christine Pendegast**
(By: a friend)

Tuesday, Dec 5

8:00 a.m.

† **William B. Vogel**
(By: William P. Vogel)

Wednesday Dec 6

8:00 a.m.

Alan Dougherty Sp. Int.
(By: Lisa)

Thursday, Dec 7

8:00 a.m.

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

Friday, Dec 8

8:00 a.m.

Nestor Plondaya Sp. Int.
(By: Carlota & Family)

11:00 a.m.

† **Elena Villa**
(Boquiren Family)

6:00 p.m.

† **Denis O'Connor**
(Rose O'Connor)

Saturday Dec 9

8:00 a.m.

† **Michael Joseph Pennefather**
Dan & Sally Holper

4:30 p.m.

† **Thomas Cornuc**
(Dan & Sally Holper)

Sunday, Dec 10

8:00 a.m.

† **Tommy Yared**
(By: Dorothy Over)

10:30 a.m.

† **Albert Gagnani**
(By: Diane Gagnani)

6:30 p.m.

St. Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr Michael)



First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.— *Mark 13:33*

Today's Readings

First Reading — We are the clay and you, O LORD, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (*Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7*).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (*Psalms 80*).

Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*).

Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (*Mark 13:33-37*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: **St. John Damascene**

Wednesday: **St. Nicholas**

Thursday: **St. Ambrose;**

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Friday: **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Saturday: **St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin**



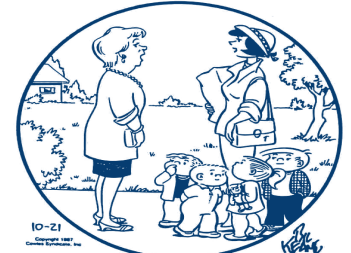
There is still time
The **Giving Tree Tags** are up on the church vestibule bulletin board by the center door. Please take a gift tag and donate the item to make some one less fortunate have a lovely Holiday Season.

Gifts are given to the Healing Well in the tenderloin which serves low-income and the homeless. They are required by Monday, December 11th.



11-16
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By
Dennis
LEE

"Well, YES, I'd like to be the ideal mother. But, frankly, I'm just too busy raising my children."

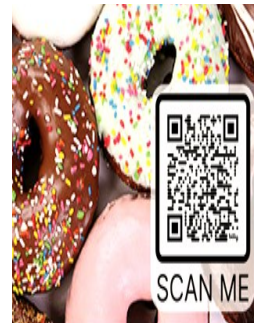


10-21
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By
Dennis
LEE

"How do you divide your love among four children?"
"I don't divide it. I multiply it."



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 a.m.



Volunteers needed
to help serve
Coffee & Donuts
after 10:30 Mass

<https://bit.ly/donutMass>

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.

Joan Gallagher, 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, Marino Tulao, 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.

SIMBANG GABI

at St. Stephen Church

451 Eucalyptus Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132

December 16-24, 2023 6 a.m.

Sponsor/ Celebrant Schedule

Sat	Dec. 16	Amora Family	Rev. Michael Liliedahl, St. Stephen
Sun	Dec. 17	St. Stephen	Rev. Ben Rosado, St. Stephen
Mon	Dec. 18	St. Gabriel	Rev. Charles Puthota, St. Elizabeth
Tue	Dec. 19	St. Brendan	Rev. Michael Oringa, St. Brendan
Wed	Dec. 20	Guest Priest	Rev. Francis Garbo Mission Dolores Basilica
Thu	Dec. 21	St. Finn Barr	Rev. Raphael Laizer St. Finn Barr
Fri	Dec. 22	Guest Priest	Rev. David Schunk, St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle
Sat	Dec. 23	Guest Priest	Rev. Joyson Thomas O.F.M. Cap. National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi
Sun	Dec. 24	Mungcal Family	Rev. Michael Liliedahl, St. Stephen

Gospel Themes

Dec. 16	"Elijah has already come and they did not recognize him..."
Dec. 17	"...I am the Voice of one crying out in the desert..."
Dec. 18	The Angel appeared to Saint Joseph in a dream
Dec. 19	The Angel appeared to Zechariah; rendered speechless
Dec. 20	The Annunciation
Dec. 21	The Visitation
Dec. 22	The Magnificat
Dec. 23	"John is his name."
Dec. 24	The Annunciation

Notes:

Dec. 16-23: Coffee and cookies for refreshment at the courtyard.

Dec. 24: Place your creche at the communion rail for blessing.

Dec. 24: Reception at Donworth Hall.

Responsorial Psalm

Dec. 16	Ps 80: Lord make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.
Dec. 17	Lk 1: My soul rejoices in my God.
Dec. 18	Ps 72: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.
Dec. 19	Ps 71: My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!
Dec. 20	Ps 24: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.
Dec. 21	Ps 33: Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song.
Dec. 22	1 Sam: My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.
Dec. 23	Ps 25: Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.
Dec. 24	Ps 89: <i>For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.</i>

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



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Wishing you
a happy
feast day!
On the
Feast Of The
Immaculate
Conception!

This Friday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A Holyday day in the life of the Roman Catholic Church. Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on this day.

**The Mass schedule at Saint Stephens' is:
8:00 and 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

We need to be thankful and humble. Mary's sinlessness was a gift from God, given to her right from the very moment of her conception. Equally, it is by the grace of God that we have received a new heart, a new spirit and the indwelling Holy Spirit to raise us to the level of holiness that the Blessed Virgin Mary enjoyed during her earthly life.

Through Faith in Jesus and through the Sacrament of Baptism, having been born again of water and Spirit, we have been adopted into the Body of Christ in the living Hope of receiving our salvation. Through our living Faith, including the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we restore the righteousness of our souls. Through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, we abide in Jesus and Jesus in us, this leading us towards our salvation. [Jn 6:56]. Hence, those of us who happen to be holy, who sin less than the average sinner, should regard our holiness as basically a gift of God and not our own achievement. Our attitude should then be characterized by two basic attitudes, thankfulness to God, and humility before those who are naturally and spiritually less-gifted than we are.

Like Mary, we need to say "Yes" to God: God invites each one of us to continue Mary's "Yes" by welcoming Jesus and making room for him in our lives. Let us ask her to obtain for us the grace to respond as generously to God's call as she did, and to be as faithful in discipleship to her Son as she was. On this feast day, let us ask her to be with us, to guide us, to protect us through her prayers of intercession with her Son, and to share her privilege with us, making our bodies worthy resting places for her son.

SAVE THE DATE!

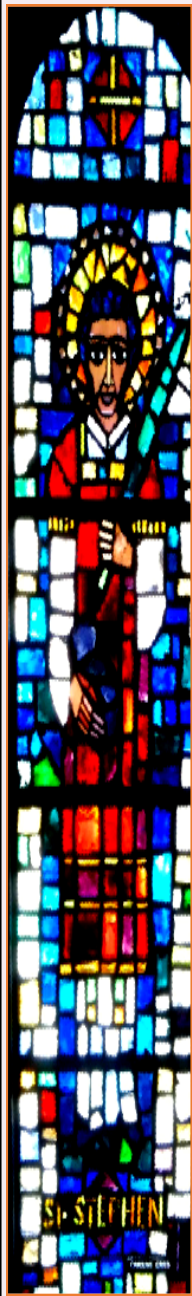
SATURDAY, February 3, 2024

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Donworth Hall



**St Stephen Parish Community's
Annual Fundraising Event**



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michael Liliedahl
Pastor, ext. 1
Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

Rev. Ben Rosado
Parochial Vicar, ext. 8
frbenrosado@gmail.com

Rev. Mr. Manuel "Olet" Abad
Permanent Deacon
deacon@SaintStephenSF.org

Sharon McCarthy Allen
Principal

Carol P Cagalingan
Parish Manager, ext. 3
carol@SaintStephenSF.org

Mary Molly Mullaney
Faith Formation, ext. 4
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Shay Ingelfinger
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Bookkeeper, ext. 5
teresa@SaintStephenSF.org

Ed Prete
Bulletin Editor, ext. 6
e.prete@SaintStephenSF.org

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 |
| • 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 _____

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, Holy Communion Minister, Parish Center Front Office Volunteer.

2023 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Campaign GOAL : \$ **86,973.00**
 Total Payments Received : \$ 54,432.00
 Campaign Goal Balance : \$ **32,541.00**

We thank the following parishioners who have shared their treasures with the parish **this week** as of 11.14.2023:

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

M/M Charles Barca	Ms. Nathalia Hizon
M/M Eugene Birsinger	M/M Claudio Hrvatin
Mrs. Nancy Buckley	M/M Ramon Marquez
Ms Isabella Cerri	Mrs Gayle Montalbano

USE YOUR TALENT

Having only modest talent is no excuse for not using it. Think what the morning would be like if only talented birds sang! —Anonymous

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

First Sunday of Advent



“People in love make signs of love,” wrote our bishops in a document guiding the renewal of liturgical music. They were not merely urging us to sing at Mass, but suggesting that the song itself is a sign

of the love of Christ. Love never expressed dies, as we know from experience. Flowers for no special reason, a caress, a hug, a turn around the dance floor, a note on the pillow or in the lunchbox, the aroma of fresh bread in the kitchen, all are signs of love’s vitality.

A significant treasure in our Catholic tradition is the place of the sacraments as signs of Christ’s love. We can trace the sacraments back to scriptural sources, through centuries of history They are woven through family tradition and our own life story. Sacraments are the way Christ makes signs of love for the Church. For twenty centuries, God has spoken to us in the arena of the sacraments, and we have responded.

For the next year of “Treasure” essays, we will explore the story of sacraments: their sources, their signs and rituals, and the way Christ nurtures and sustains us as we encounter him, the companion on our journey who loves us and faithfully makes signs of that love. —Rev. James Field



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, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen. *Pope Leo XIII 1810-1903*



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

As we prepare for the solemnity of Christmas, we look forward to the joy of the birth of Christ. We hope to express our joy by filling the church with a bountiful display of Poinsettias/Christmas flowers.

If you would like to have one or more Poinsettia/ Christmas flower placed in the church in memory of loved ones, or to honor someone special, please fill out this form and return to the O’Reilly Parish Office by:

Thursday, December 21

I would like to have a Poinsettia /Christmas flower placed in the church in loving memory of:

.....

In Honor of:

.....

My name is

.....

My phone no. is

.....

Enclosed is \$15.00 to cover the cost of each Poinsettia/Christmas Flower this year



HUMILITY

No human being is too big to be humble, but some human beings are too small. —Anonymous

St. Stephen Catholic Book Club

Our Book Club is open to anyone interested in reading and discussing books with inherent or implied Christian themes. We meet the second Saturday at 10:00 am in the Conference Room at the parish offices. Contact Mary Molly for more information. Book we are reading for **November & December:**

Jesus: a Pilgrimage by James Martin, S.J.

January, 2024 - *Searching for and Maintaining Peace* by Father Jacques Philippe

