

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.

SECOND SUNDAY

OF Advent

A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!

Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Isaiah 40:3-4



DECEMBER 10, 2023

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2023 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Dec 16-24

*9-day Novena Dawn Masses
for Simbang Gabi
6:00 am*

Sunday, Dec 24th

*Regular Sunday Mass
8:00am & 10:30am*

Sunday, Dec 24th

*Christmas Vigil/Family Mass
4:30pm*

Sunday, Dec 24th

*Christmas Eve Mass
10:00 pm*

Monday, Dec 25th

*Christmas Day Mass
8:00 am & 10:30 am*

Sunday, Dec 31st

*Regular Sunday Schedule
8:00 am, 10:30 am, 6:30 pm*

Monday, January 1st

*Solemnity of Mary, Holy
Mother of God
10:30 am*

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

Second Sunday of Advent

(Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11). (Psalm 85). (2 Peter 3:8-14). (Mark 1:1-8).



John the Baptist is the last prophet before the coming of the Christ, and he is the first to recognize Jesus once he came. John fulfills Isaiah's prophecy as that voice crying out in the desert – prepare the way of the Lord. His clothing of camel's hair was traditional garb for prophets, and his diet of locusts and wild honey perhaps reflected either Jewish purity laws or a particular communal asceticism. As it was, it stood in stark contrast to the finery of the Jewish religious leaders and elders of that time, namely the Sadducees and Pharisees.

Yet John was drawing large crowds to the Jordan riverbank. Some likely came out of desire, believing he would lead them to the Messiah. Others perhaps came out of curiosity. John spoke like no one else, and called them to conversion, speaking with conviction. With such a following, it would have been easy for John to proclaim himself the Christ, and even easier for the people to believe him. Yet his humility and holiness meant that John could not lie or mislead them. He made it clear that his message and baptism were both inferior to the one, as he said, who is mightier than I.

John's preparation of the way for Christ is a model for us, especially in this Advent season. He challenges us to consider whether we lead others to Jesus, or whether our actions are motivated by a need for attention and affirmation. Is our lived faith attractive to those who have none? This last question is especially important, for while we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, we also prepare for his Second Coming. And, as Saint Peter says in our second reading, The day of the Lord will come like a thief.

Peter helps us regain the sense of urgency regarding our preparations for the return of our king, when he says, the Lord does not delay . . . he is patient with you . . . not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. Jesus is giving the whole world time for conversion; that we might play a part in sharing the Good News of Christ with the world, for the salvation of the world, is a great and weighty gift. And now is the time.

*Prepare ye
the Way of
the Lord*

Luke 3:4

As we await the new heavens and a new earth, Saint Peter tells us we get to choose what sort of persons [we] ought to be. We are given these days to grow in holiness and devotion so that we will be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace, when he comes. During this busy time of year, a time when we are doing so much to prepare for the coming of Christmas, let us make sure to heed the voice crying out in the wilderness – to prepare for the coming of the Christ, not just as a babe in Bethlehem, but his imminent return in glory as our King.



December 11, 2023 - Saint Damasus I

Damasus I was elected pope at a crisis-filled time in the Church during the fourth century. Soon after he had been chosen, a minority elected another man, Ursinus, to be pope. He and his followers carried out a plot to accuse Damasus of a serious crime.

Only by defending himself both in civil court and in front of 44 bishops at a Church synod did Damasus prove himself innocent. Damasus's faith in the risen Jesus shines out from the epitaph he wrote for his tomb:

He who walking on the sea could calm the bitter waves, who gives life to the dying seeds of the earth; he who was able to loose the mortal chains of death, and after three days' darkness could bring again to the upper world the brother for sister Martha: he, I believe, will make Damasus rise again from the dust.

His projects included encouraging missionaries, getting architects to build and restore churches, and developing the papal chancery. He reformed the liturgy, making Latin its official language, commissioned Saint Jerome to translate the Bible, and fought heresy. He restored and decorated the tombs of the early martyrs in the catacombs.

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.



Join the FUN!

Monday, January 8, 2023

Doors Open 12:30pm

50+ Seniors are ALL INVITED!
Enjoy camaraderie, snacks, Bingo games, Bridge, etc

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

**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
or donworthevents@saintstephensf.org

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Dec 11

8:00 a.m.

† **Thomas Cormarc**
(By: Dan & Sally Holper)

Tuesday, Dec 12

8:00 a.m.

† **Francis Fernandes**
(By: Joe & Josie Fernandes)

Wednesday Dec 13

8:00 a.m.

Patricia Dowling Sp. Int.
(By: Maureen Dowling)

Thursday, Dec 14

8:00 a.m.

AikaKyle & Melody Sp. Int.
(By: Papa & Mama)

Friday, Dec 15

8:00 a.m.

† **Mila Espina**
(By: Dorothy Over)

Saturday Dec 16

8:00 a.m.

† **Juan Carlos Apaneta**
(By: Katy Jison)

4:30 p.m.

† **Ireneo Cortez**
(By: Remy Jacinto)

Sunday, Dec 17

8:00 a.m.

† **Theresa Vogel**
(By: William Vogel)

10:30 a.m.

St. Stephen Parishioners
(By: Fr Michael)

6:30 p.m.

† **Erlinda Haire**
(By: Barbara Villanueva)



Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. — *Mark 1:3*

Today's Readings

First Reading — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (*Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11*).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (*Psalm 85*).


Second Reading — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (*2 Peter 3:8-14*).

Gospel — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (*Mark 1:1-8*).


SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **Second Sunday of Advent; International Human Rights Day**
Monday: **St. Damasus I, Pope**
Tuesday: **Our Lady of Guadalupe;**
Wednesday: **St. Lucy**
Thursday: **St. John of the Cross, Priest and doctor of the Church**
Saturday: **Las Posadas begins**

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.




Giving Tree
There is still time
Please return all gifts by tomorrow, Monday December 11.



ADVENT

Dec 3rd: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
The first candle on the Advent wreath represents HOPE—the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. It is purple, the primary color of Advent and a color symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle,” the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah’s foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.



Dec 10th: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
The second candle on the Advent Wreath represents PEACE and is also purple. Often called the “Bethlehem Candle,” this candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. It also builds on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, recalling that after the division, destruction and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth.

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.



Advent is a time to “Wake Up”!

Do you remember the movie *Awakening*?

Awakening is the story of a man who, for thirty years, does not move or speak. A particularly, sensitive and enterprising doctor tries out some new theories and lo and behold, the patient begins to move around, talk and feel. For a brief period he returns to this world and announces to those amazed folks around him that he is back: “I have been away for quite some time.... now I am back.” He becomes gradually aware of the love and concern that surrounds him and what is really alive inside of his heart and soul.

It is never too late to wake up. Morning is when you wake up. Advent is a nice time to wake up. Wake up to give an account of your stewardship. Wake up into a time for giving and sharing, a time that we are called to be thankful and prepare our hearts for the Christ child. Wake up and open your eyes in Faith to see God present and active in your life and in your world.

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

FINDING PEACE

If you want peace, work for justice. —Pope Paul VI

NOTICE to the PUBLIC

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

In re: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, Case No. 23-30564

**Notice of Deadline for Filing Claims:
February 20, 2024**

YOU MAY HAVE A SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM OR OTHER CLAIM AGAINST THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

On August 21, 2023, The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, a California corporation sole, aka Archdiocese of San Francisco (the “Debtor”), filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”)

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Debtor, you must file a claim so as to be received by February 20, 2024, or otherwise you will be forever barred, estopped, and enjoined from asserting such claim against the Debtor.

Claims based on acts or omissions of the Debtor that occurred before August 21, 2023, must be filed on or before February 20, 2024, even if such claims are not now fixed, liquidated, or certain or did not mature or become fixed, liquidated, or certain before August 21, 2023.

For more information on how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated documents, please visit <https://omniagentsolutions.com/RCASF>, or contact Omni Agent Solutions, Inc., the Debtor’s claims agent via email at RCASFInquiries@omniagnt.com or by phone at 888-480-6507 (U.S. and Canada toll free) or 747-293-0084 (International), between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Pacific Time), Monday through Friday.

****If you have questions about the bankruptcy case filed by the Archdiocese of San Francisco, please also visit the website at <https://sfarch.org> and follow the links for Chapter 11 Filing****

Prepare the Way



Prepare the Way

In Today’s Gospel, Mark does not include any details of Jesus’ birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday

of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark’s description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John’s continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark’s description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark’s Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist’s role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John’s preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus’ baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today’s Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

2023 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Campaign GOAL : \$ **86,973.00**
 Total Payments Received : \$ 58,862.00
 Campaign Goal Balance : \$ **28,111.00**

We thank the following parishioners who have shared their treasures with the parish **this week** as of 12.5.2023:
 (For a complete listing, refer to AAA Poster in Church vestibule.)

Ms Sheila Asfaha	Mr Tim T Nguyen
M/M Allan Ayson	Ms Myrna Orais
M/M Timothy Halloran	Mr. TJ O’Sullivan
Ms. Margareta Lim	Ms. Nanacy Tam
Mr. Kevin McIntire	



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

SIMBANG GABI

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

Prayer to St. Michael

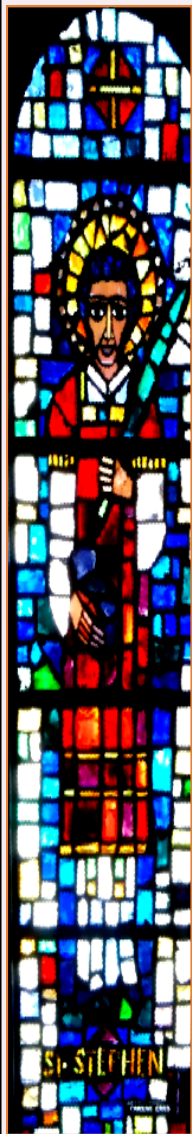


Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.
 (Pope Leo XIII 1810-1903)

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 Lilledahl
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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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 Lilledahl |
| • Marriage PreparationClergy | |
| • 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 (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. Thank you!

Be sure to REGISTER in the parish!

As we approach year-end, if you're a regular donor but not a registered parishioner, take a moment to be sure your giving history will be complete for your tax letter.

Go to <https://saintstephensf.org/parish-registration-form> to REGISTER ONLINE OR use the paper Registration Forms provided at the church's vestibule or drop by the parish office to familiarize yourself with the Pastor's office.

Your generosity makes a difference!

St Stephen Church is a 501C(3) non-profit corporation. Our TAX ID# 94-1156799

We are working to make your gift-giving easier. We're on the way to using VENMO and PAYPAL for your convenience. Stay tuned as we work on this process!