

# 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.

## Third SUNDAY

of

## Advent

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Rejoice always.  
Pray without ceasing.  
In all circumstances  
give thanks,  
for this is the will  
of God for you  
in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### 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

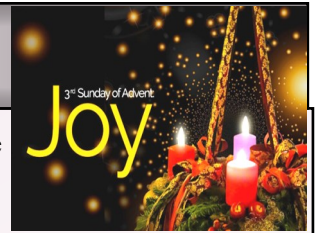
Sunday, Dec 31st  
Regular Sunday Schedule  
8:00 am, 10:30 am, 6:30 pm

Monday, January 1st  
Solemnity of Mary, Holy  
Mother of God  
10:30 am

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

# Third Sunday of Advent

(Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11). (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54). (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24). (John 1:6-8, 19-28).



The past two Sundays, our church was adorned in violet for Advent. Today, it is in rose for Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “rejoice,” and rose is a bright and beautiful color of rejoicing for this third Sunday of Advent, since we are more than halfway through our journey to Christmas.

But, did we not get the memo? Because it seems Christmas has already come. Outside of church there is no violet and rose, but red and green. There is Christmas music on the radio and Christmas specials on the screen. Our homes and communities are decorated. Stores have been decked out for Christmas for weeks. The rejoicing has begun. So, why Gaudete Sunday now?

First, Gaudete Sunday affirms the value of rejoicing. Isaiah, in the first reading, rejoices heartily in the Lord, who is the joy of his soul. In the responsorial, we acclaim together with Mary: My soul rejoices in my God. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice always and do not quench the Spirit. The rejoicing we are experiencing and sharing with others is a good and holy thing. We can enjoy these times, and give thanks for the gift of family and friends.

Second, Gaudete Sunday gives us reasons for rejoicing. Isaiah rejoices as he brings glad tidings of God’s vindication for his people. Mary rejoices in the fulfillment of God’s promise to send a Messiah. John the Baptist cries out in the desert because the Lord is on his way. Paul rejoices as God prepares his people for the return of the risen Lord. Through Isaiah, Mary, John, and Paul, God gives hope to his people waiting for redemption. Given this hope, they can wait with rejoicing. We are God’s people today, waiting with rejoicing in what God has already accomplished and will yet accomplish through Christ. The hope God gives prepares our hearts and makes straight the way for Christ.

Finally, Gaudete Sunday means that Advent waiting is joyful, hopeful waiting, for Christmas and more. Often, the day after Christmas, the music on the radio stops, the decorations in the streets and stores come down, and the trees get thrown to the curb. Post-holiday clean-up and blues begin. But for the Church, the rejoicing goes on. Our Advent rejoicing becomes

Christmas rejoicing up to the celebration of Jesus’ baptism, well into January. Rejoicing carries us into a new year, and new celebrations of God’s redeeming work.

No matter what the colors of the season – violet, rose, red, or green – every time we gather to hear God’s word and celebrate the Eucharist, we do so with rejoicing. Through the grace of Word and sacrament, our Lord sustains us in joyful hope, not only for Advent and Christmas, but for every season of the year as we await the coming of his Kingdom.



## December 23, 2023 - Saint John of Kanty

John Cantius, born in 1390, grew up in Poland and became a priest and teacher at the University of Krakow. He was a serious man and a good teacher. He ate no meat, slept on the floor, and rested little. Though John was hard on himself, he was patient and kind to his students, who loved him in return. Some jealous faculty members, however, had him removed. John was sent to do parish work, but he was not acquainted with such duties. Although the people liked him for his generous and energetic spirit, John was not successful as a parish priest.



John returned to the university to teach Scripture. The material he taught was not remembered as much as his holiness. He was known everywhere for his humility and spontaneous generosity. He gave everything to people who were poor and kept only the clothes he most needed. Four times he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, carrying his luggage on his back. When John died at age 83, people had already claimed him as a saint. He is the patron of Poland and Lithuania.

## 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](http://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](mailto:donworthevents@saintstephensf.org)

# Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



## Monday, Dec 18

8:00 a.m.

**Noel-Donna Ysip** *Sp. Int.*  
(By: Mon & Dad)

## Tuesday, Dec 19

8:00 a.m.

† **Naty Cheng**  
(By: Shirley Dee)

## Wednesday Dec 20

8:00 a.m.

**Kathleen Dowling** *Sp. Int.*  
(By: Maureen Dowling)

## Thursday, Dec 21

8:00 a.m.

† **Morrison Gardner**  
(By: daughter)

## Friday, Dec 22

8:00 a.m.

**Guevara Family** *Sp. Int.*  
(By: Griselda Family)

## Saturday Dec 23

8:00 a.m.

† **Vanessa L. De Guzman**  
(By: Alice Grimes)

4:30 p.m.

† **Larry L. Tucker**  
(By: Margarita Solis-Tucker)

## Sunday, Dec 24

8:00 a.m.

† **Boy Plandaya**  
(By: Carlota & Family)

10:30 a.m.


**Gulmohar & Aisa Hara** *Sp. Int.*  
(By: A & G Chayande)

4:30 p.m.

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

10:00 p.m.

† **Maria Del Carmen Alas**  
(By: Tom & Sheila Perlite)



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.

### Stewardship: A Way of Life

#### November 2023

\$ 21,295.17	Sunday Collections (11/5, 12, 19, 26)
\$ 7,071.00	Online Sunday Collections (11/1-30)
\$ 16,291.00	Donworth Hall NOV Rental Income
<b>\$ 65,932.55</b>	<b>Total Income for November 2023</b>
<b>LESS:</b>	
<b>\$ 23,145.51</b>	<b>Parish Maintenance for November 2023</b>
<b>\$ 42,787.04</b>	<b>OVER/ Under</b>

*Please continue to generously support your Parish!*

## ADVENT

### Dec 17th: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



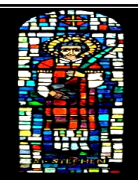
The THIRD candle of Advent symbolizes JOY. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. It takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem., even before the wise men. On the third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, it is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.

## 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.

**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.*



### Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.  
— 1 Thessalonians 5:16

### Today's Readings

**First Reading** — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).  
**Psalm** — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).  
**Second Reading** — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).  
**Gospel** — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday : **Third Sunday of Advent**  
Thursday : **St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins**  
Saturday : **St. John of Kanty**

### THE FOUNDATION

Wisdom is the foundation, and justice the work without which a foundation cannot stand. —St. Ambrose



## GAUDETE SUNDAY

The third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday" because the Mass for today (in its original Latin text), begins with the opening antiphon: "Gaudete in Domino semper" -- "Rejoice in the Lord always." To remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The common theme of the day's Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.

## SAINT THERESA OF CALCUTTA AND ADVENT JOY

Through her ministry in Jesus' name, Mother Teresa brought untold blessings and joy to the poor who lay unattended and forgotten on our streets. When asked the source of her joy, Mother Teresa replied: "Joy is prayer -- joy is strength -- joy is love -- joy is a net of love. . . A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love . . . loving as He loves, helping as He helps, giving as He gives, serving as He serves, rescuing as He rescues, being with Him twenty-four hours, touching Him in His distressing disguise." When Advent arrived every year, Mother Teresa's life, continued to witness the joy which is true hallmark of every Christian and the rightful inheritance of all the poor.

## Advent Meditation

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us during the season. We see joy in the faces of children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations, or old conflicts, push joy the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up with us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. So today we open ourselves to joy, knowing that God has already planted the seed within us, all we need to do is give it care.



## JOKE For GAUDETE SUNDAY

After the Baptism of his baby brother in Church one Sunday, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys!" Father got the message and they began to go to Church regularly... Needless to say, the family had a bit of catching up to do. One day the Sunday School Teacher asked Johnny, "Now, Johnny, tell me – do you say prayers before eating?" "No ma'am," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My Mom is a good cook."

## 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](mailto: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\*\***

## 2023 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Campaign GOAL : \$ **86,973.00**  
 Total Payments Received : \$ 65,856.00  
 Campaign Goal Balance : \$ **21,117.00**

We thank the following parishioners who have shared their treasures with the parish **this week** as of 12.12.2023:  
 (For a complete listing, refer to AAA Poster in Church vestibule.)

M/M Gregory Bayol	M/M Douglas Leury
Mrs Zenaida Cajilig	Ms Doris Martin
M/M Charlton Dee	Mr Lan Huong Nguyen
M/M James Gargan	Mr. Edward Reidy
Ms. Nathalia Hizon	M/m Daniel Salvemini
Ms Ma Luz Illenberger	Mr Richard Seguine
M/M Edward Jones	

### TEXT to GIVE

Text "SAINTSTEPHENSF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

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



## 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**



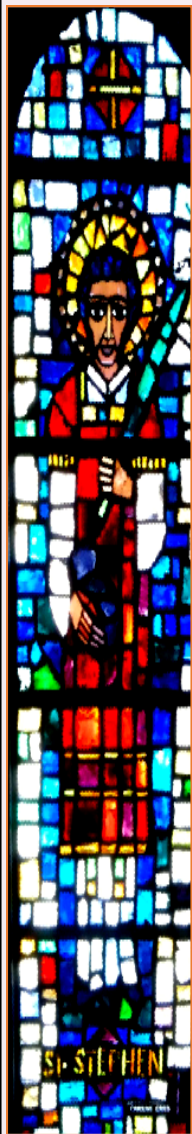
### HUMILITY

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

**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*  
faithformation@SaintStephenSF.org

**Shay Ingelfinger**  
*Event Center Coordinator, ext. 7*  
donworthevents@SaintStephenSF.org

**Teresa Devincenzi**  
*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 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<br>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](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. 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.

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Your generosity makes a difference!

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

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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!