

# Saint 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

Daily Mass: Mondays thru Saturdays 8:00 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30—4:40 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 1, 2024*

Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength  
to escape the tribulations that are imminent  
and to stand before the Son of Man.

Luke 21:36



## First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

This weekend, we begin the sacred season of Advent. We have included in the bulletin a brief reflection of this season from a former seminary professor and colleague of mine, Father Kurt Belsole, OSB, a Benedictine Monk of Saint Vincent's Archabbey in Latrobe, PA.

### Pastor's Corner

This week, our second-grade students will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time as they continue their preparations for the Sacrament of the Eucharist in the spring. Please keep them in your prayers as they and their families continue to grow closer to the Lord Jesus.

As I like to say, the Advent Giving Tree (or Advent Bulletin Board) is now in full giving-mode. Thank you very much for those of you who have participated already and for those of you who will be donating something in support of our charity this year, the Healing WELL.

I would like to call your attention to the announcement on the annual Winter Shelter Dinner in the bulletin. The Archdiocese of San Francisco has participated for years in the San Francisco Interfaith Council, a group that was formed by religious leaders in the City to help respond to the need for more shelters for the homeless. Our parish was asked to once again participate by preparing meals for guests on two evenings (Dec. 19 and Feb. 7) when the shelter is open for the winter. If you are available to assist and volunteer your time, please contact Mary Molly in the parish office.

Every year on December 8, the Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of the United States. When the date of the celebration falls on a Sunday, the liturgical celebration is moved to the following day, December 9, because we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. When this peculiarity happened in the past, that Monday was not observed as a Holy Day of Obligation. But recently, the question of whether it should be a Holy Day was posed to the Holy See (e.g. the Vatican) and they responded that yes, it is a Holy Day of Obligation. So, on Monday, December 9, we will have our regular holy day schedule of Masses at 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM (school Mass), and 6:30 PM.

*Father Schunk*

### OUR SAINT FOR THE WEEK: Saint John of Damascus Feast Day December 4

(late 600's—mid 700's) 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.

## The Giving Tree

We are collecting gifts for the Healing WELL that serves people in the Tenderloin, and the poor of the parish. On the bulletin board in the vestibule of the church look for the gift tags that list items we are collecting, such as:

- \* **Pajamas for Men or Women** (size Med. or Large)
- \* **Art Supplies** (Markers, Crayons, Colored Pencils, Art Notebooks & Pads, Puzzle & Coloring Books For Adults)
- \* **Gift Cards** (Trader Joes, Target, Lucky, Amazon or Visa \$15 - \$60)
- \* **Holiday Candy**

*Gifts are due by Thursday, Dec. 12. Turn in to parish office or church, near Mary's statue.*

If the tags are all taken, you can just purchase a gift from this list. You don't need a tag to turn in a gift. If the gift is a package just attach a label to the outside of the package (e.g. "woman's pajamas size medium"; "art supplies") If you are donating a gift card, please attach the gift receipt to the gift card so the gift card balance is apparent.

# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

## Monday, Dec 2

8:00 a.m. † **McGloin Family**  
(By: *Luptia Chase*)

## Tuesday, Dec 3

8:00 a.m. **Gulmohar & Aisa Hara**  
*Sp. Int. (By: Papa & Mama)*

## Wednesday, Dec 4

8:00 a.m. † **Richard Faziola**  
(By: *Hilda Faziola*)

## Thursday, Dec 5

8:00 a.m. † **Que Suy Hon**  
(By: *Shirley Dee*)

## Friday, Dec 6

8:00 a.m. **Alan Dougherty** *Sp. Int.*  
(By: *Lisa*)

## Saturday, Dec 7

8:00 a.m. † **Apolinario Reyes**  
(By: *Liberty Mungcal*)  
4:30 p.m. † **St. Stephen Parishioners**  
(By: *Fr. Schunk/Fr. Michael*)

## Sunday, Dec 8

8:00 a.m. † **Elena Villa**  
(By: *Fely Boquiren*)  
10:30 a.m. † **Albert Gragnani**  
(By: *Diane Gragnani*)  
6:30 p.m. **Nestor Plondaya** *Sp. Int.*  
(By: *Carlota & Family*)

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.” -*Luke 21:36*



## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The Lord will fulfill his promises to Israel and Judah. (*Jeremiah 33:14-16*)

**Psalms** — The Lord will teach us his paths. (*Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14*)

**Second Reading** — Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be holy and to please God. (*1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*)

**Gospel** — Jesus teaches his disciples to be vigilant so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes in glory. (*Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*)

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday **Saint John Ruysbroeck**  
Tuesday **Saint Francis Xavier**  
Wednesday **Saint John of Damascene**  
Thursday **Saint Sabas**  
Friday **Saint Nicholas**  
Saturday **Saint Ambrose**

## Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections  
November 23-24, 2024

First Collection: \$ 4,746.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Parish Subsidy): \$ 679.00  
Online Offerings: \$ 1,141.00

### TEXT to GIVE

Text "SAINTSTEPHENSF" to 73256  
using your mobile device.

## ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

We thank all those families who have already made their pledge/donations to the Appeal. As of Nov. 24 we have reached about 60% of our goal this year. There is still time to make a contribution and we appreciate your generosity and support.  
-Fr Schunk

## NEWMAN CATHOLIC CLUB EVENTS

Student-only Masses on Monday and Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

Holy Hour with Adoration on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Newman Night Socials on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday Supper after Sunday 6:30 p.m. Mass in Rectory.

Bible Studies: ongoing, contact Fr. Michael for more info.



## See's CANDIES

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraiser

The St. Stephen School 8th Grade Class is having a fundraiser. You can order See's Candies online to be delivered directly to you. All proceeds benefit the Class of 2025. [www.bit.ly/SeesCandy24](http://www.bit.ly/SeesCandy24)

## 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.

Al Vicente Jr, Larry & Carmelita Gallager,  
Pacita Calimlim-Sagun, Araceli Caparas, Ana Caballero,  
George Farrales, Perry Young, Antoinette Mishirsky,  
Maggie Harbison, Greg Lorio, Adelle Caunan,  
Debbie Nunes, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton,  
Nestor & Nelson Plondaya, Marie Bachand,  
Rodney Clark, Michelle Vicente, Eden Finn,  
Michelle Weeks, Franz Tittiger, Carlota Plondaya,  
Robert Liam, 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.

## The Season of Advent

The season of Advent begins on the First Sunday of Advent and continues until Christmas. This season has a two-fold character. First of all, it is a time when we focus on waiting in joyful expectation for the second coming of the Lord at the end of time. For that reason, on the First Sunday of Advent, we hear in the gospels of the three-year cycle about staying awake for the coming of the Son of Man, about being watchful and alert since we do not know when he will come, and about the Son of Man coming with power and great glory.

As Advent progresses, however, the first coming of Christ becomes more prominent. He is the Son of God and the Son of Mary as well as the baby born in Bethlehem who will suffer, die, and rise again for our salvation. The Second Sunday of Advent, therefore, has John the Baptist crying out: Prepare the way of the Lord. The Third Sunday of Advent again features John the Baptist hearing about the miracles of Christ, instructing the people that there is one among them whose sandal strap he is not worthy to untie, and then teaching that there is someone mightier than he who is coming and who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Then, at last, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear in the gospel of how the birth of Jesus Christ came about, of Mary saying to the Archangel Gabriel: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, and the exclamation of Elizabeth at the visitation: How is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Source: *Rev. Kurt Belsole, OSB, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA*

[www.liftupyourhearts.church](http://www.liftupyourhearts.church)

## Background on the Gospel Reading

*Luke 21:25-28,34-36*

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

St. Stephen's Men's Club proudly presents

# Annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, December 15, following the 10:30 Mass in Donworth Hall

Guests are treated to: Photo Booth, Arts & Crafts,  
Gin Fizz & Mimosa Bar

Delicious breakfast provided by Toast Eatery

Bring your Appetites! Bring your friends and family! Bring an unwrapped toy to support the SFFD's Toys-for-Tots program. This event sells out quickly. You can pay via Zelle, Venmo or turn in this form with payment to the school office by Thursday, Dec. 12. Make checks payable to: St. Stephen's Men's Club.



Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Volunteers Needed for Children's Faith Formation

We need more volunteers to help with Faith Formation classes on Monday afternoons (4:15pm-5:30pm) and Children's Liturgy on Sundays at the 10:30 Mass. Please reach out to Mary Molly in the parish office if you want to learn more about what the volunteer tasks would involve.

The Faith Formation programs help form the next generation of happily practicing Catholics. Won't you help with this important and fun mission?

## SIMBANG GABI

Novena of Masses leading up to Christmas at St. Stephen Church

December 16-24, 2024, 6:00 a.m. Mass

### Celebrant Schedule

Mon.	Dec. 16	Most Rev. Salvatore Cordileone
Tue	Dec. 17	Rev. Raphael Laizer
Wed.	Dec. 18	Rev. Roland De la Rosa
Thu.	Dec. 19	Rev. Francis Garbo
Fri.	Dec. 20	Rev. Charles Puthota
Sat.	Dec. 21	Rev. Joyson Thomas, O.F.M.
Sun.	Dec. 22	Rev. David Schunk
Mon.	Dec. 23	Rev. Ben Rosado
Tue.	Dec. 24	Rev. Michael Lilledahl

## Winter Shelter Dinner

Our parish has signed up to provide and serve dinner for the SF Interfaith Winter Shelter, for two nights this season, 12/19/24 and 2/7/25.

Sign-up sheets are in the vestibule.

**With your generosity we hope to feed 80 guests at St. Mary's Cathedral on Thursday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM.**

**We need people to sign up to provide food (delivered to the parish), and others to help serve at the Cathedral.**

Contact Mary Molly in the parish office for any questions.

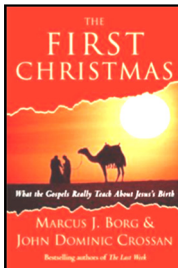


Our 20,000 sq. ft. Parish Event Center Donworth Hall is Available to Rent

Shay at 415.681.2444 x7

Or online at:

[donworthevents@saintstephensf.org](mailto:donworthevents@saintstephensf.org)



St. Stephen's Book Club  
Nov/Dec Book:

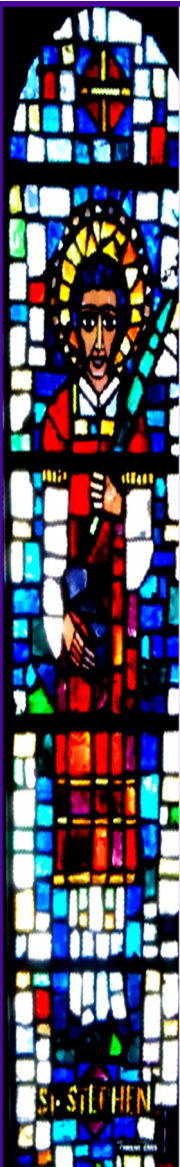
*The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth*

by Marcus J. Borg

\* NEW MEETING DATE:

**Friday, Dec. 6, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

We will celebrate by making Christmas ornaments and drinking eggnog. Bring nibbles to share if you are able. New members are welcome to join!



## PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. David Schunk, S.T.L.  
Pastor, ext. 1

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Parochial Vicar (PT)

[Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org](mailto:Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org)

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# DONATE ONLINE:



[www.bit.ly/StStephen-donate](http://www.bit.ly/StStephen-donate)

## 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.

## ST STEPHEN PARISH 2024-2025

### ORGANIZATION/MINISTRY

### CONTACT PERSON

- Altar Servers: Giovanna Hrvatin
- Altar Society: Joan Leehane
- Bridge Group: Virginia Stefanelli
- Caritas: Nellie Hizon
- Eucharistic Lay Ministry (Word & Eucharist): 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
- Liturgy Committee: Pastor
- Marriage Preparation: Clergy
- Men's Club: John Gartland
- Newman Campus Ministry: Fr Michael Lilledahl
- Parish Council: Vicky Francisco
- Religious Education (Faith Formation, RCIA, Book Club, Hospitality): Mary Molly Mullaney
- Ushers: Pastor
- Women's Guild: Jamie Allen

Parish Office Phone 415.681.2444

*Our warmest welcome  
to all who celebrate  
with us!*



You can register with our parish through our online database on Realm (click on blue "Sign Up" button): [www.bit.ly/StStephenReg](http://www.bit.ly/StStephenReg)

If you prefer a paper form or need to update your information you may complete this form & place it in the collection basket, or mail to the Parish Office, or call us at 415-681-2444 or visit [www.saintstephensf.org](http://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.