

# 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.

**REJOICE IN THE LORD  
ALWAYS**



*December 15, 2024*



## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Dec. 16 - 24**

Simbang Gabi Masses

6:00 AM

**Tuesday, Dec. 24th**

Christmas Eve Mass

4:30 PM

&

10:00 PM

Christmas Carols

begin at 9:30 PM

**Wednesday, Dec. 25**

Christmas Day Mass

8:00 AM

&

10:30 AM



**Pastor's  
Corner**

## Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

Last Saturday, the Saint Stephen's Women's Guild held their annual gala fundraiser to raise money to support the programs of our parish school. It was an incredible evening as it showed the commitment of so many families with the sacrifice of their time and talents to put on a fabulous event. I want to personally acknowledge Jody Farrar and Vicky Kamahale, who were the co-chairs of the event, along with the support of our principal Mrs. Allen, Lydia Flocchini who assists with development, and Jamie Allen who is the president of the Women's Guild. Initial reports of the money raised are very promising. I hope to have some figures for you in a future bulletin as totals are still being tabulated. The money raised will help fund the programs and staff that make our parish school such a great place for our children to grow and learn. Thank you one and all for your support!

On Monday, our parish begins our annual Simbang Gabi celebration in preparation for Christmas. This is a tradition from the Philippines of celebrating a special Mass for nine days leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The main symbol of the celebration is the star (parole) which we have adorning our church. The Mass is daily at 6:00 AM and will be celebrated by a different priest each day from our area. On Monday, Archbishop Cordileone graciously offered to come and celebrate the first Mass. He was here a few years ago so it was a good time to invite him back once again. Thank you to Nellie Hizon and her team for getting things organized with the celebration.

As you know, for the past couple of years, we have been praying the Saint Michael Archangel Prayer at the conclusion of Mass. With our parish 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee approaching next year, I asked our own Father Michael Liliedahl to compose a special prayer for our parish jubilee year. That being said, we will conclude praying the Saint Michael Prayer next weekend (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent), and then take a brief break before beginning our jubilee year with our parish prayer in January.

As we approach Christmas, I am placing in the bulletin another reflection on the Advent season from my colleague Father Kurt Belsole, OSB, which speaks on the "O" Antiphons of the Advent season. I hope you enjoy it.

*Father Schunk*

### Our Saint of the Week St. Flannan

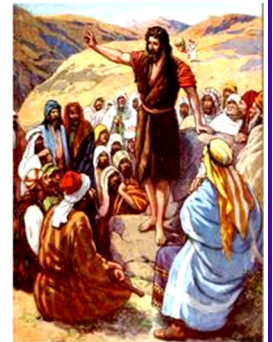
Ireland and Scotland both honor St. Flannan. He was educated by monks, stayed close to nature, made a pilgrimage to Rome, was appointed bishop, wandered about preaching, and worked miracles. All that makes him a classic Celtic saint. The son of Turlough, a Celtic chieftain, Flannan was educated by a monk who also taught him farming. His biographer says he learned how to "till, sow, harvest, grind, winnow, and bake for the monks." Against the advice of relatives, Flannan decided to undertake a pilgrimage by sea to Rome. Following the lore of other saints in Celtic literature, legend says that he floated miraculously to Rome on a stone. There the pope consecrated him as the first bishop of Killaloe.

Flannan led his diocese by traveling about teaching and preaching. His charismatic eloquence even persuaded his elderly father to become a monk under St. Colman. When Turlough asked Colman to bless his family, the abbot predicted that seven of his descendants would be kings. Fearing that kingship might fall on him, Flannan prayed for a physical deformity that might prevent it. His biography says that his face became disfigured with scars and rashes. As bishop, Flannan sometimes forcefully intervened to pacify petty clan wars.

### REJOICE

The prophetic writings we hear in today's scriptures call us to rejoice and celebrate the goodness of God. Zephaniah, Isaiah, Saint Paul, and John the Baptist in Luke's Gospel all follow the rich tradition of the Biblical prophets, a tradition that reaches full expression in Jesus. The prophets warn that human failings have truly disastrous consequences. All are

summoned to repent, and to change their lives. Today we hear the Good News that God's gracious love exceeds and overcomes all human corruption. God has not given up on us. Indeed, God keeps pursuing us, and eagerly seeks to reconcile with us. God's initiative to set the world aright culminates with Jesus, whose coming John the Baptist announces. John's prophetic message summons us to join in God's reconciling work, by living generously and justly in our daily lives. As we rejoice in God's grace, we then extend the fruits of this grace to all.



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# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



## Monday, Dec 16

8:00 a.m.

† **William & Irene Nanry, Sr**  
(By: Ms Jessica Montgomery)

## Tuesday, Dec 17

8:00 a.m.

† **Marty Labagh**  
(By: Michele Armanino)

## Wednesday, Dec 18

8:00 a.m.

† **Anna Martinez**  
(By: Tercero Family)

## Thursday, Dec 19

8:00 a.m.

† **Paulino Dee**  
(By: Shirley Dee)

## Friday, Dec 20

8:00 a.m.

† **Jermaine Henson**  
(By: Nimfa Sinlao)

## Saturday, Dec 21

8:00 a.m.

† **Morrison Gardner**  
(By: a friend)

4:30 p.m.

† **Frank Duffy**  
(By: Monica Duffy)

## Sunday, Dec 22

8:00 a.m.

† **William Nanry, Jr**  
(By: Ms Jessica Montgomery)

10:30 a.m.

† **St. Stephen Parishioners**  
(By: Fr. Schunk)

6:30 p.m.

† **Gary Galendo**  
(By: Deen & Family)

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2024

With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation. — Isaiah 12:3



## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (*Zephaniah 3:14-18a*).

**Psalm** — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (*Isaiah 12*).

**Second Reading** — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (*Philippians 4:4-7*).

**Gospel** — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (*Luke 3:10-18*).

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday **Saint Mary of the Angels**

Tuesday **Saint Olympias**

Wednesday **Saint Flannan**

Saturday **Saint Peter Canisius**

## Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections Dec. 7&8, 2024

First Collection: \$ 4,990.50

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Religious Retirement): \$ 526.00

Online Offerings: \$ 1,143.00

Immaculate Conception (12/9): \$ 511.00

### 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 Dec. 11 we have reached about 61% of our goal this year. There is still time to make a contribution and we appreciate your generosity and support. —Fr Schunk

**\$ 84,637 AAA Campaign Goal**

**\$ 51,905 Total Donations Received (61.3%)**

**\$ 32,732 Campaign Balance Remaining**

## 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.

*The Newman Club will be pausing events during the Christmas break, but all students are most welcome at all St. Stephen Masses and events.*



## 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.

## Background on today's Gospel Reading

### Gospel Reading

Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

"Sing and shout for joy,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel!"

Isaiah 12:2

### Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

### Creation is Exhausting!

God is talking to one of his angels. He says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?"

The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?"  
God says, "I think I'll call it a day."



## 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:

**Monday, December 23**

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

.....  
.....

**In honor of** .....

**My name is** .....

**Phone no.** .....

**Enclosed is my donation of \$25.00 to cover the cost of each Poinsettia/Christmas Flower**



### The gift of generosity

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported **St. Stephen Church** this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit [saintstephensf.org](http://saintstephensf.org) or contact the church office for more information.

## Reflections on the “O” Antiphons of Advent

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the Church’s Advent liturgy begins to focus in a particular way on the Nativity of the Lord. The prayers, readings, and preface at Mass as well as the readings, antiphons for the Gospel canticles, intercessions, and prayers at the Liturgy of the Hours concentrate more resolutely on the coming feast of the Nativity of the Lord than they did during the preceding days of Advent.

The great “O Antiphons” have a particular role in these days as they have been used for centuries as the antiphons for the Magnificat. Each antiphon, always sung in a very similar melody, begins with a title of Christ, usually taken from the Old Testament, and is followed by the petition that he come to us (*veni*) and act on our behalf:

- December 17: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom)
- December 18: *O Adonai* (O Lord)
- December 19: *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse)
- December 20: *O Clavis David* (O Key of David)
- December 21: *O Oriens* (O Daystar) [after this date, the days begin to get longer]
- December 22: *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations)
- December 23: *O Emmanuel* (O God-with-Us)

When taken together from the last title to the first, the first letters of each title form the wonderful Latin acrostic:

**E**mmanuel **R**ex **O**riens **C**lavis **R**adix **A**donai **S**apientia

As such, they form the Lord’s response to the Church’s ardent petition that he come (*veni*): *Ero cras* (I will be there tomorrow)!

Source: Rev. Kurt Belsole, OSB, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA [www.liftupyourhearts.church](http://www.liftupyourhearts.church)



### 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?

### 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.

## SIMBANG GABI

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

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

### Celebrant Schedule

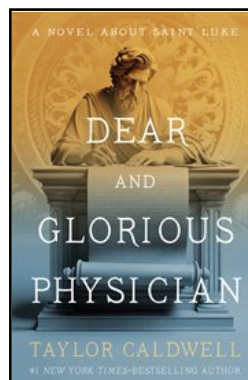
Mon.	Dec. 16	<b>Most Rev. Salvatore Cordileone</b>
Tue	Dec. 17	Rev. Raphael Laizer
Wed.	Dec. 18	Rev. Roland De la Rosa
Thu.	Dec. 19	Rev. Francis Garbo
Fri.	Dec. 20	Rev. Charles Puthota
Sat.	Dec. 21	Rev. Joyson Thomas, O.F.M.
Sun.	Dec. 22	Rev. David Schunk
Mon.	Dec. 23	Rev. Ben Rosado
Tue.	Dec. 24	Rev.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

### We Rent Our Hall

FOR ANY OCCASION  
USE OUR PARTY ROOM!

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

Shay at 415.681.2444 x7

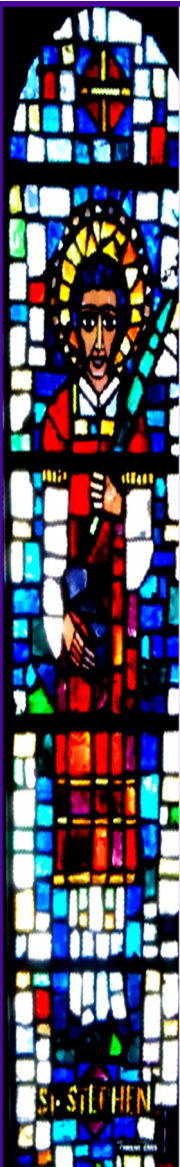


**St. Stephen’s Book Club**  
January Book:

*Dear and Glorious Physician*  
*A Novel About Saint Luke*  
by Taylor Caldwell

This novel tells a story about St. Luke, a great doctor, and how he researched Jesus and became a Gospel Writer. It paints him as a real and believable man and recreates on a vast canvas the times and people of his day. You see as large as life all the glory and decadence of Rome and all the strife, turmoil and mysticism of Africa.

**Next meeting: Saturday, Jan. 11, 10:00 a.m.**



## 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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## Today's Music

### Third Sunday of Advent

Gathering: Here I Am To Worship (bulletin >>>>)

Offertory: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #39

Communion: Christians, Let Us Love One Another #425  
Maranatha #68

Sending: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates #59



## 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

## Here I Am To Worship

Light of the world, You stepped  
down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You  
*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down*  
*Here I am to say that You're my God*  
*You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy*  
*Altogether wonderful to me*  
King of all days, oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor  
*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down*  
*Here I am to say that You're my God*  
*You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy*  
*Altogether wonderful to me*  
(repeat refrain)