

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.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

December 29, 2024



*Jesus said to his parents,
“Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I
must be in my Father’s house?”*

Luke 2:49



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 29, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We can finally say Merry Christmas as we enter the Christmas season! Father Liliedahl and I want to thank you for all your Christmas greetings and treats we have received at the rectory. I am sure we will be satisfied with plenty of sweets until Lent.

A huge thank you to all of our parishioners who made our Christmas celebrations such a blessing. That includes Fredrick Schaefer who directed our music and the choir at the various Masses, our parish staff who made many behind the scenes preparations, members of the Liturgy Committee who helped to decorate, the sacristans who prepared for Mass, the altar servers who served at the various Masses, and many others who contributed in ways large and small. Thank you as well to the members of our Filipino-American community who oversaw our Simbang Gabi celebration this year in preparation for Christmas.

This coming week, Father Michael will be away attending the SEEK Conference in Salt Lake City with the FOCUS Campus Missionaries and some of the college students in the campus ministry program. It is a multi-day event that brings together primarily Catholics, but also some non-Catholics, to worship and grow in their faith and fellowship with one another. The conference is put on by FOCUS Ministries for college students but has grown over the years to now have attendees who are not in college. This will be a great opportunity for all of them to grow in knowledge of God's love for them and we pray for them during their trip.

I mentioned last week that we are beginning to collect memories of our parish's history. If you or someone you know would like to share information on a special parish event, person, or occasion from the past 75 years, you may email it to memories@saintstephensf.org. We cannot guarantee that every story and photo will be included. If you do share a photo, please include names, dates, and a description. During the coming months, we plan to curate what people share and put it in the bulletin, so we look forward to your submissions.

A final word of thanks for all of your generosity to the parish this past year. If you wish, you may still make an end of the year donation, online likely being the easiest way to donate. As I have been writing, in January, we will begin to make some updates to our online giving platforms that we hope will make things more streamlined in the long run for both you and the office staff.

On New Year's Day, we have a holy day of obligation with the celebration of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. We will have one Mass that day at 9:30 AM. May this New Year bring much peace and joy to you, your families, and our world.

Father Schunk

Our Saint of the Week St. Thomas Becket

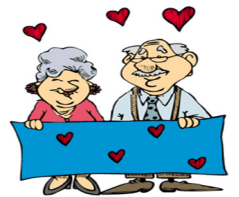
Thomas Becket also known as **Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Thomas of London** and later **Thomas à Becket** (21 December 1119 or 1120 – 29 December 1170), was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170. He is venerated as a saint and martyr by both the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion. He engaged in conflict with Henry II, King of England, over the rights and privileges of the Church and was murdered by followers of the king in Canterbury Cathedral. Soon after his death, he was canonised by Pope Alexander III.

Becket was nominated as Archbishop of Canterbury several months after the death of Theobald. His election was confirmed on 23 May 1162 by a royal council of bishops and noblemen. Henry may have hoped that Becket would continue to put royal government first, rather than the church, but the famed transformation of Becket into an ascetic occurred at this time.

A rift grew between Henry and Becket as the new archbishop resigned his chancellorship and sought to recover and extend the rights of the archbishopric. This led to a series of conflicts with the King, including one over the jurisdiction of secular courts over English clergymen, which accelerated antipathy between Becket and the king.
(*Constitutions of Clarendon*)

Grandparents Are A Treasure

Pope Francis said that as a child, he heard a story of a family with a mother, father, many children and a grandfather. The grandfather, suffering from Parkinson's illness, would drop food on the dining table, and smear it all over his face when he ate. His son considered this disgusting. Hence, one day he bought a small table and set it off to the side of the dining hall so the grandfather could eat, make a mess and not disturb the rest of the family. One day, the Pope said, the grandfather's son came home and found one of his own sons playing with a piece of wood. "What are you making?" he asked his son. "A table," the son replies. "Why?" the father asks. "It's for you, Dad, when you get old like grandpa, I am going to give you this table." From that day forward, the grandpa was given a prominent seat at the dining table and all the help he needed in eating by his son and daughter-in-law. "This story has done me such good throughout my life," said the Pope, who celebrated his 88th birthday on December 17, 2024.



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Dec 30

8:00 a.m.

† **James Scheg**
(By: Parish Staff & Volunteers)

Tuesday, Dec 31

8:00 a.m.

Fr. Tony P Latorre *Sp. Int.*
(By: Parish Staff & Volunteers)

Wednesday, Jan 1

9:30 a.m.

People of the Parish
(By: Fr. Schunk)

Thursday, Jan 2

8:00 a.m.

† **Anne Kirwan**
(By: Joe Kirwan)

Friday, Jan 3

8:00 a.m.

† **Frank Glynn**
(By: Lisa Landers)

Saturday, Jan 4

8:00 a.m.

† **Michael Dunn**
(By: Kathleen Jordan)

4:30 p.m.

People of the Parish
(By: Fr. Schunk)

Sunday, Jan 5

8:00 a.m.

Lynn Gonzales *Sp. Int.*
(By: Ding & Carol)

10:30 a.m.

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

6:30 p.m.

† **Marie S. Remedios**
(By: Maria Xavier)

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Hannah gives her son Samuel back to the LORD, leaving him in the temple at Shiloh: “As long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD” (*1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28*) (or *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14*)

Psalm — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (*Psalms 84*) (or *Psalms 128*)

Second Reading — We are children of God when we believe in the name of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us (*1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24*) (or *Colossians 3:12-21*)

Gospel — Joseph and Mary find the lost Jesus in the temple in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions (*Luke 2:41-52*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; St. Thomas Becket**

Monday: **Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

Tuesday: **St. Sylvester I, Pope**

Wednesday: **Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

Thursday: **St. Basil the Great**

Friday: **The Most Holy Name of Jesus
St Genevieve**

Saturday: **The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord;
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**

Stewardship: A Way of Life

***Due to the holiday schedule the information for the collections was not available before the publishing deadline, so information will be available in the next bulletin.*

If you would like to make a donation to the church in this calendar year for tax purposes, please make sure your check is dated no later than Dec. 31, 2024.

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. 17 we have reached about 62% 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

\$ 52,505 Total Donations Received (62%)

\$ 32,132 Campaign Balance Remaining

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 29, 2024

Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

— *1 John 3:2a*



NEWMAN CATHOLIC CLUB EVENTS

The Newman Club is 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.

Greg Iorto, 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 2:41-52

The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost.



Special Thanks go out to all the people who helped with the SF Interfaith Winter Shelter Dinner at St. Mary's Cathedral on Thursday, Dec. 19. Dan Holper organized the meal, and we fed over fifty men and women who were staying at the homeless shelter. St. Stephen Parishioners provided the meal, supplies and labor to serve this delicious meal. Thank you!

Here are some of the names of people who helped out:

Olet Abad	Maria Lourdes
Roy Amora	Micaela Maguire
Deen Anderson	Sonia Maravilla
Marta Bayol	Stephanie Mazzola
Anne Burgoyne	Mary Molly Mullaney
Lupita Chase	Jacob Perez
Roy & Tina Fernandez	Joanne Poile
Alice Grimes	Cecilia Quintanilla
Yvonne Guzman	Susan Ritchie
Kim Har	Kathy Rogers
Barbara Hazard	Blanca Schaefer
Dan Holper	Donovan Schneider
Marilu Illenberger	Norma Shaw
Jubilee Jew	Bles Simon
Maureen Kirwan	Linda Smith
Karen Leach	Carol St John
John & Marilyn Lee	Liz Teshara
Joanne Lim	



St. Stephen's volunteers in the kitchen at St. Mary's Cathedral helping serve dinner to the homeless. 12/19/2024 From left: Dcn. Olet Abad, Jacob Perez, Dan Holper, Kathy Rogers, and Mary Molly Mullaney.

"Helping others is the secret sauce to a happy life."

-Todd Stocker

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today's feast is new as feasts go, and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple, conversing with the elders and scholars of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom.

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still, everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings, and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus: parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition.



2024 Christmas Flower Offerings

In Loving Memory of:

Agoo Family
Betsy Barca
Bonnie Cassinelli
Florence Cassinelli
Frank A. Cassinelli
Bob Drucker
Jerry & Julia Fitzgerald
Frost Family
Al Gragnani
Liz Porter Gragnani & Child
Michael Gragnani
Robert C. Ha
Ha Family
Nick Hamil
Claudio Hrvatin
Ignazio & Giuseppina Hrvatin
Jack Hyland
Stefano Infantino
Javier Family
Janet & Michael Kelly
Patrick-Danny-Christy Linehan
Maguire Family
Marie Matelich
Leo T. McCarthy
Tom & Vivian Mullaney
Thomas & Kathleen Mullaney

Kevin Mullaney

Jim Scheg

Nilo & Augiolina Seghetti

Leonard Stefanelli

John Tam

Lun Foon Tam

Yu Chan Tam

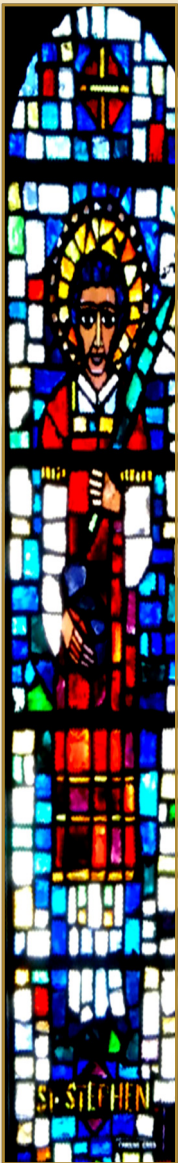
Henry & Teresa Thran



In Honor of:

Sarah Barca & Family
Fr. Bill Brady
Brian & Alvin Ha
Paul Kilmartin
Fr. Tony LaTorre
Patrick, Danny, Christy Linehan





PASTORAL STAFF

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Parochial Vicar (PT)

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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 Liliedahl |
| • 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!

We invite you to become a registered parishioner.* 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

Name _____

Contact Phone _____

Email _____

Complete Mailing Address _____

City/ZIP _____

Weekly Sunday envelopes, circle one: Yes No, but commit to participate thru Online Giving.

*Note: we are changing our parish database. Once that is up and running it will be easy to register online.

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

Contact Shay at 415.681.2444 x7
or email:

DonworthEvents@SaintStephenSF.org