

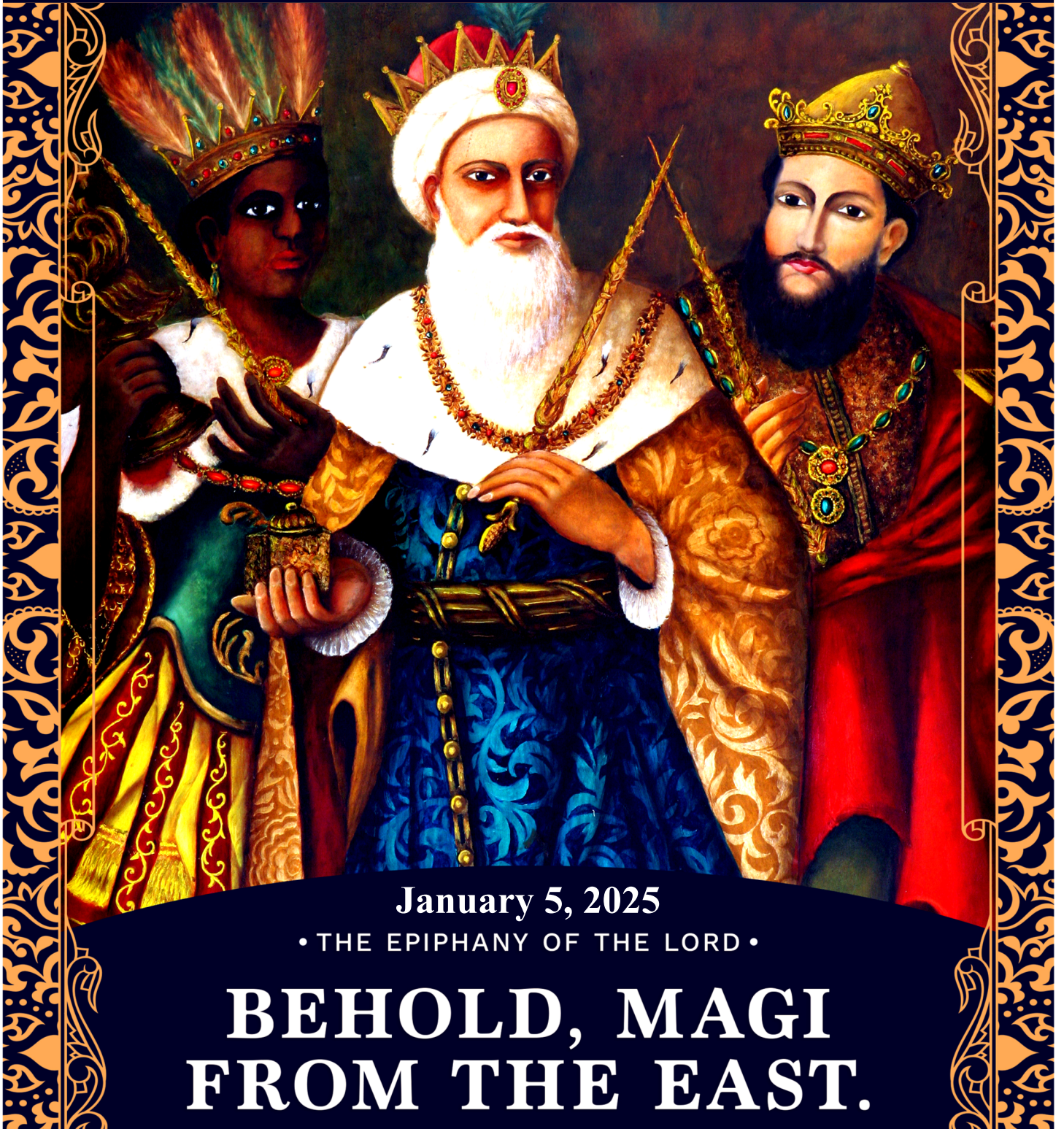
Saint Stephen Parish

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

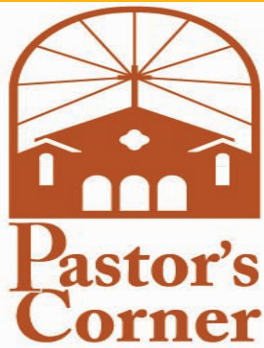
Vigil Mass Saturday 4:30 p.m. Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.



January 5, 2025

• THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD •

**BEHOLD, MAGI
FROM THE EAST.**



January 5, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy New Year, but still Merry Christmas as we continue our celebration of the Christmas season this weekend with the Epiphany of the Lord, and through next Sunday when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.

Oftentimes when we begin a new year, we look forward with hope to all the possibilities that are ahead of us. That is certainly the case as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our parish this year. Next weekend, we will begin our year-long celebration with a simple reception in Donworth Hall after the 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Masses that will take the place of our regular coffee and doughnuts. We are also hoping to have a small display in the vestibule after the 4:30 PM Vigil and Sunday 6:30 PM Masses. With this time kicking off our anniversary, we will also begin to pray the special prayer Father Michael has composed for our parish. I will write more in the bulletin next week about the celebration, but I want to continue to give a plug for submitting your memories from our parish from the past 75 years, you may email it to memories@saintstephensf.org.

Today marks the end of the Christmas vacation for our students as they make their return to school this week. We hope all our families had a restful break and safe travels during the Christmas adventures. Father Lilledahl returns from the SEEK Conference on Monday and I will be off this week attending a priest conference in Southern California which is a mix of priestly fraternity, talks on Sacred Scripture, and rest.

I mentioned last month that we are going to be starting the process of transitioning to a new online giving platform starting in January. Like other things in life, this project is a bit behind schedule, but we hope to have things up and running by the end of the month. You may continue to donate online as usual and keep on the lookout for updates on the transition.

A final word of thanks for everyone who has made contributions to our parish last year as well as participated in the 2024 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. Later in the month, we will post the final totals from the AAA as well as an acknowledgement of those households who contributed. *Father Schunk*

Our Saint of the Week: **St. Simeon the Stylite**

Many Christians give up something meaningful to them during Lent. Lent is a reminder of the 40 days when Jesus lived in the desert while he prepared himself for his work of teaching and healing. For him, it was a way to get away from everyday life and having to concentrate on praying without interruption. Some Christians give up everyday comforts for more than 40 days. One such person was Simeon the Stylite. Simeon was the son of a shepherd, and by the time he was 13, he was already working as a shepherd himself. One snowy day he couldn't take the sheep out to pasture, so he went to church instead, something he didn't do very often. That Sunday, he heard the words spoken by Jesus during the Sermon of the Mount. "Blessed are the pure in heart...Blessed are the peacemakers...Blessed are those who mourn...All these people will find their blessings." Simeon asked the preacher to explain more about the Christian faith. Simeon listened hard.

When he became 18, he became a monk in a local monastery. But the rules of the monastery did not seem strict enough to Simeon because he felt he should give up everything to serve God. He disciplined himself by eating less food than the other monks and praying more hours a day. Gradually, Simeon began to realize to live a really more holy life he must get away from other people. He left the monastery to live in the mountains, surviving on little food and no shelter from the weather. But people still came to see this holy man. He lived this way for 20 years, able to pray but still able to talk to his visitors when he wished.

THE STAR



Commentary on the Torah by Jewish rabbis suggested that a star appeared in the sky at the births of Abraham, Isaac and Moses. Likewise, in the Book of Numbers, the prophet Balaam speaks of "a star that shall come out of Jacob." Stars were believed to be signs from God, announcing important events. Thus, the brightness of the Light to which kings were drawn was made visible in the star they followed. (In the last 40 years, a number of scientists and astronomers have pointed to particular clusterings of planets or stars around the time of Jesus' birth, which would have created an unusual or dramatic heavenly "portent," suggesting that perhaps Matthew's account is more historical than some exegetes might choose to believe). "But what does all of this matter? Matthew tells us that all we need to know is that, from the time of his coming into the world, the Lord was manifested to people who came from distant lands. God made the good news of this birth known to them by a suitable sign, which guided their journey. But it was necessary for the chief priests and scribes to supply the Scriptures to the strangers, so that they might reach 'the house' where they would find the one for whom they were looking." (*Days of the Lord*, Vol. 1, pp. 259-60)

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Jan 6

8:00 a.m.

† **Mabelle Arend**
(By: Mary Molly Mullaney)

Tuesday, Jan 7

8:00 a.m.

Wilfredo Illenberger *Sp. Int.*
(By: Marilu Illenberger)

Wednesday, Jan 8

8:00 a.m.

† **Prudencio B Cagalingan**
(By: Ding & Siblings)

Thursday, Jan 9

8:00 a.m.

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

Friday, Jan 10

8:00 a.m.

† **Dennis Messina**
(By: Ed & Ruby Quan)

Saturday, Jan 11

8:00 a.m.

† **Aquilino Mangoba**
(By: Cynthia Ferreira)

4:30 p.m.

† **Benedicto Agoo, Sr.**
(By: Agoo Family)

Sunday, Jan 12

8:00 a.m.

Ding Cags *Sp. Int.*
(By: Carol & Kids)

10:30 a.m.

† **Nick Hamil**
(By: Frank Cassinelli)

6:30 p.m.

People of the Parish

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2025

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

— Psalm 72:11



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow (*Isaiah 60:1-6*).

Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (*Psalm 72*).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (*Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6*).

Gospel — The magi were overjoyed at seeing the star (*Matthew 2:1-12*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **Saint Simeon the Stylite**

Monday: **Saint Gertrude of Delft**

Tuesday: **Saint Raymond of Penyafort**

Sunday: **Saint Aelred of Rievaulx (1110–1167)**

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections - December 29, 2024

\$ 23,141.00 Christmas Collection
\$ 1,250.00 Christmas Online Giving
\$ 4,593.60 1st Collection
\$ 863.00 Online Giving

Our "Online Giving" is being moved to a new system. Please stay tuned for new information on how to donate online.

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

We thank all those households who have made their pledge/donations to the 2024 Appeal. Final results are pending. -Fr Schunk

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.



St. Stephen's Book Club

January Book: *Dear and Glorious Physician*

A Novel About Saint Luke by Taylor Caldwell
Meeting **Friday, Jan. 10, 4:30-6:00pm** in parish conference room. Contact Mary Molly for more info: FaithFormation@SaintStephenSF.org

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, Larry & Carmelita Gallager, Pacita Calimlim-Sagun, Araceli Caparas, Ana Caballero, George Farrales, Perry Young, Antoinette Mishirsky, Al Vicente Jr, 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 Barbiere, Carol Dominguez, Marc Gutierrez, Catherine Scossieria, 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.

Three Wise Women

While they were talking about the story of the three wise men, a woman asked her parish priest, this question, "Do you know why God gave the star to the wise men?" When he professed his ignorance, she told him: "God knows men are too proud to ask directions. If there had been three wise women instead of three wise men, they would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and given some practical gifts!"

Background on today's Gospel Reading

Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

Background on the Gospel

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.



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.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Epiphany celebrates the wake-up calls of life, the showings of God's majesty and power in the person of Jesus. The feast alerts us to look for signs of the Lord's grace and action in our lives today. In this context, the call of the Second Vatican Council to reform the sacramental life of the Church, including our pattern of care for the sick, is indeed a holy awakening.

Prior to the 1960s, our care for the sick had collapsed in the popular imagination into something everyone called "last rites." An immensely complicated ritual, with anointing accompanied by quickly muttered Latin prayers, was enacted for a marginally conscious person at "death's door." By the time a priest was called, the sick person might not be able to receive viaticum, or derive much personal benefit from the ritual. The healing effects of the sacrament, investing suffering with the dignity of a link to Christ's cross, and the immense assurance of forgiveness for a person reviewing the life journey, were hidden. Suddenly, an epiphany swept through the Church, and the way we care for the sick was utterly transformed. It took several centuries, however, for the Church to reach that moment of renewal.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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

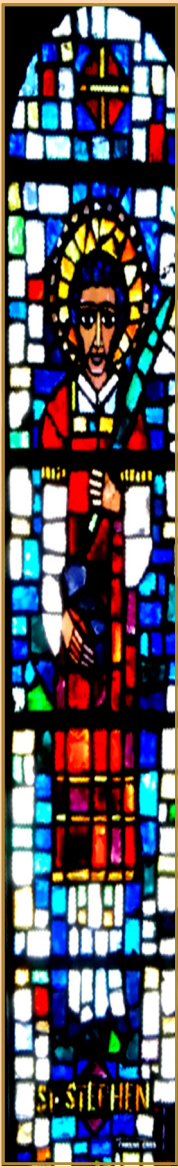
Henry & Teresa Thran



In Honor of:

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





PASTORAL STAFF

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

Fr.Schunk@SaintStephenSF.org

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Chaplain, SFSU Newman Center
Parochial Vicar (PT)

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Anthony A. Renteria
Athletics Director
ststephenathleticssf@gmail.com

Ed Prete
Bulletin Editor, ext. 6 e.prete@SaintStephenSF.org

Today's Music

The Epiphany of the Lordy

Gathering: **God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen #96**

Offertory: **We Three Kings #111**

Communion: **In The Breaking of the Bread #353,**
The First Nowell #115

Sending: **Angels From the Realms of Glory #114**

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

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.