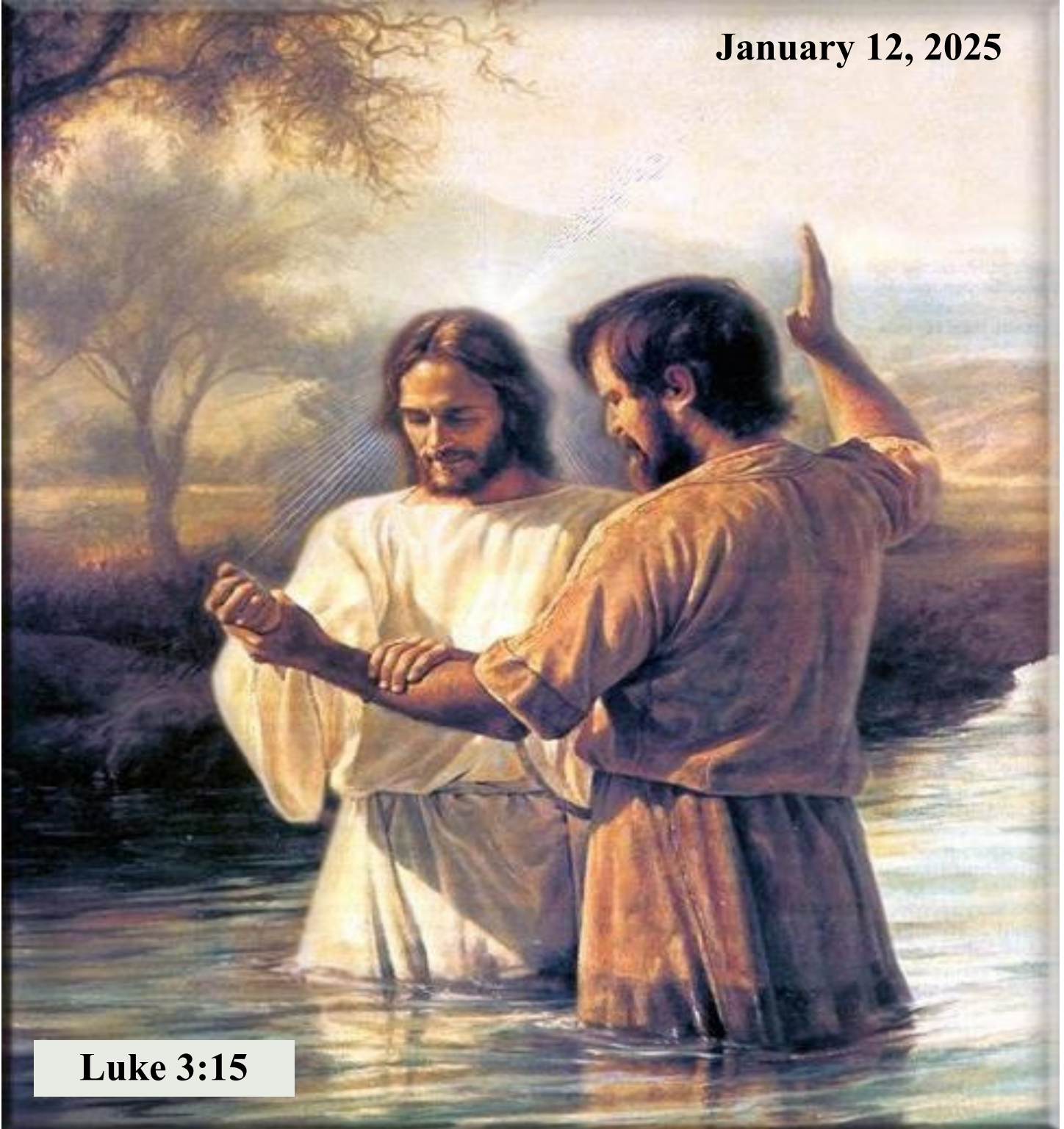


Saint Stephen Parish

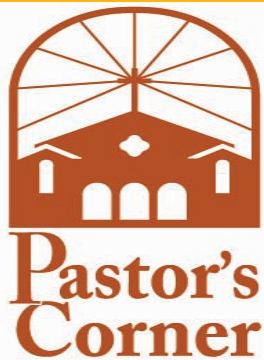
SaintStephenSF.org | 601 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco CA 94132 | Church 415 681-2444
StStephenSchoolSF.org | 401 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco 94132 | School 415 664-8331

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 12, 2025



Luke 3:15



January 12, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This weekend, we begin to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of our parish community. Officially, the parish was erected on July 27, 1950, with Father Richard Power being named the first pastor. A lot has happened over the past 75 years in our neighborhood, city, nation, and world. For those of you who have surpassed the 75-year mark yourselves, perhaps you can think back to the year 1950 and ask yourself where you were and what you were doing when the parish was established. I still encourage you to share your memories from the past 75 years at

memories@saintstephensf.org.

In the planning process for this coming year, we have set aside the weekend of October 18-19, 2025, as the time when we will plan to have the big celebration for the year. Make sure you put the date in your calendar! We also have some other ideas for small events during the course of the year, but October will be the big celebration. That being said, as many of you know for the past several years, we have had some type of parish event/fundraiser in February. However, with the jubilee celebration, the consensus was to focus our energy on the October event and suspend the February event this year and return to it next year.

This weekend, we will commence praying our special anniversary prayer at the conclusion of Mass, after the final blessing. We are grateful to Father Michael Liliedahl for composing the prayer for us. Our jubilee prayer is a reminder of the reason why the Lord gathers us as a community each Sunday, to seek the Divine Assistance in our world and lives, and give thanks for all the blessings we have received, especially as a parish community.

This weekend the Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season and the time when we begin to pack up all of our Christmas decorations. I once again want to extend our thanks to the members of the Liturgy Committee who helped prepare the church for all of our celebrations in Advent and Christmas.

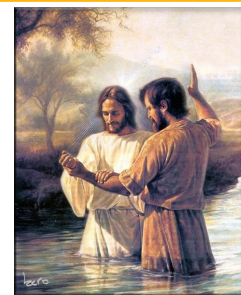
Father Schunk

***Our Saint of the Week* St. Hilary, January 13**

Hilary was born to pagan parents of Poitiers, France, in 315. After training in the classics and philosophy, Hilary married. He and his wife had one daughter, Afra. All who knew Hilary said he was a friendly, charitable, gentle man. Hilary's studies led him to read Scripture. He became convinced that there was only one God, whose Son became man and died and rose to save all people. This led him to be baptized along with his wife and daughter. The people of Poitiers chose Hilary to be their bishop in 353. He spoke out against Arianism, a heresy that denied the divinity of Christ. When Emperor Constantius II wanted him to sign a paper condemning Saint Athanasius, the great defender of the faith, he refused. The emperor was furious and exiled Hilary to Phrygia. In exile, he preached, wrote, and suffered, and even asked to debate the Arian bishops. Fearing Hilary's arguments, Arian's followers begged the emperor to send Hilary home. The emperor, believing Hilary was also undermining his authority, recalled him. Hilary's writings show that he could be fierce in defending the faith, but in dealing with the bishops who had given in to the Arian heresy, he was charitable. He showed them their errors and helped them to defend their faith. Though the emperor called Hilary "disturber of the peace," Saints Jerome and Augustine praised him as "teacher of the churches."

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

The Feast of Jesus' Baptism focuses our attention on our own baptism as well. God expresses approval as Jesus enters John's baptismal waters. God expresses his approval on each of us as well. There is mission to be shared.



God has sent Jesus; and he is the one the people longed to see. Like the servant in Isaiah's Songs of the Servant, he is gentle, single-minded, not out for the quick and easy solutions to immediate problems. Rejection will come for sure, but he will never waver in his trust in God's will. My baptism and yours were not just nice entrance rituals into the church, initiations into the "club." They were and continue to be our first steps into the mystery of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. That's our identity, our vocation: to do as Jesus did, to live as Jesus lived. With Jesus we are to open the eyes of the blind, free prisoners from confinement, join the poor and oppressed in their struggles for justice and freedom. Living out one's baptism requires courage, grace, and a lifetime of practice. It's not a badge but a challenge.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Jan 13

8:00 a.m.

Lisa Boquiren, Sp Int
(By: Fely Boquiren)

Tuesday, Jan 14

8:00 a.m.

† **Artie Cassidy**
(By: Maire, Aine, Dave)

Wednesday, Jan 15

8:00 a.m.

† **John Naughten**
(By: The Alcock Family)

Thursday, Jan 16

8:00 a.m.

† **Jorge Illenberger**
(By: Marilu Illenberger)

Friday, Jan 17

8:00 a.m.

† **Jim Scheg**
(By: Lisa Landers)

Saturday, Jan 18

8:00 a.m.

† **Lei Anne**
(By: Philip, Joy & Cedrick)

4:30 p.m.

† **Flor De Los Santos**
(By: Edison Ongpian)

Sunday, Jan 19

8:00 a.m.

† **Roberto Salera**
(By: Becky Parini)

10:30 a.m.

People of the Parish

6:30 p.m.

Thelma Ramos Sp. Int.
(By: Elvie-Lourdes)

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading

Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord. (Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11)

Responsorial Psalm

A prayer praising God's greatness (Psalm 104:1b-4,24-25, 27-30)

Second Reading

Jesus Christ saved us and renewed us with his Holy Spirit. (Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

Gospel Reading

Jesus is baptized by John. (Luke 3:15-16,21-22)

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: **First Week in Ordinary Time**
Saint Hilary

Tuesday: **Saint Felix of Nola**

Wednesday: **Saint Paul the Hermit**

Friday: **Saint Anthony**

Saturday: **Saint Margaret of Hungary**

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections - January 4-5, 2025

\$ 6,038.50 1st Collection
\$ 721.00 2nd Collection: Maintenance
\$ 1,101.00 Online Giving

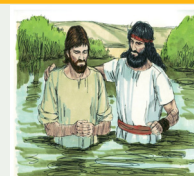
*We kick-off our Jubilee Year this weekend.
Look on the back page for our Jubilee
Prayer written by Fr. Michael.*

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

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

The Baptism of the Lord

Jesus is baptized by John.
Luke 3:15-16,21-22



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 Iorio, 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 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.

Background on today's Gospel Reading

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:15-16,21-22

Jesus is baptized by John.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism.

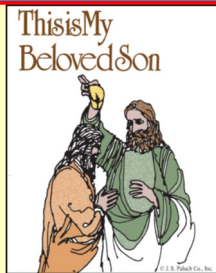
Seeking Memories of St. Stephen Parish

We need your stories, memories, and photos for our St. Stephen Jubilee Archive. Please submit information to memories@saintstephensf.org

Do you remember Fr. Joseph Donworth, whom the Hall was named after? Do you remember Fr. Joseph O'Reilly whom the parish office building is named after? We need stories about the people and happenings of the parish. We found photos of a parish variety show, did you ever attend a special event? Do you have memories of Bingo in the hall? Our parish is made up of amazing people like you and we need your stories to fill in the blanks of our parish archive.

Living Stewardship Now

At the beginning of Advent we heard the words of John the Baptist, proclaiming the promised Messiah. Now, at the end of the Christmas season, he appears again in the Gospel story. John was a surprising person. He had taken on the dress and role of a prophet, wandering the desert surviving on locusts and wild honey. He drew large crowds, declaring to them that it was not enough to be born Jewish; everyone—men and women, rich and poor, tax collectors and prostitutes—needed to repent and be washed clean. When he baptized Jesus (Mark 1:7–11), the appearance of the Holy Spirit was not of John's doing and showed who Jesus really is. It marked the new reality that Jesus brings. To go into the waters of baptism is a symbol of death and rebirth to a new life, while the baptism of the Holy Spirit gives an inner spiritual power to live as a child of God. After Jesus' death and resurrection the apostles continued to baptize new believers in water, and laid hands on them to confer the Holy Spirit. For many of us, baptism and confirmation occurred when we were too young to realize their true meaning. Think about it now! God has given us grace and power to live as God's own sons and daughters, with the hope of eternal life. But we can't just sit back. The life of grace we are called to requires effort, persistence, sacrifice, and selflessness. The enemy of the life of faith, which constantly lurks in the background, is not unbelief but apathy. We get tired of trying, we want to take it easy, we fall prey to the idea that someone else can do it. But a life with Christ says if not now, when? If not you, who else?



The Waters of Baptism

When new sod is put in, it needs constant saturation with water. Landscapers say that this “knits” the sod to the soil. The same when a branch is grafted onto a tree: the poultice that joins them at the splice must be kept wet at all times. Water is the stuff that binds the very cells of our bodies together. No wonder religions throughout all times and cultures have used it so prominently. When Jesus stepped into the Jordan for baptism, he “knit” himself to what had come before him. By going to the Jordan, he made himself one with the people of Israel who had crossed it into their Promised Land. With John the Baptist, Christ wove himself into the prophetic tradition that heralded the coming reign of God. He had become fully human in the waters of Mary’s womb, and by partaking in the rite of the baptism of repentance, Jesus identified himself with our sinful, frail humanity. It is through the waters of baptism that Christ continues to graft new members onto his Body, the Church; through these waters we are cleansed from sin and filled with the promise of grace, given our destiny for eternal life. For us, as for Jesus, it is also the waters of baptism that inaugurate our mission to proclaim the Good News.

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AN ANCIENT BAPTISTERY

One of the most ancient and enduring sites for baptism in Rome is the church of San Giovanni in Fonte. This church is in fact a baptistery, and houses the font for the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of Rome. The Emperor Constantine sponsored its construction in the year 315, and it is therefore the oldest baptistery in the world. It is the model for nearly all later baptisteries, including perhaps the font in your own parish church.

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

“Born Again.”

When Jimmy Carter was elected President of the United States, he described himself as a “born-again” Christian. For many Americans this was an unfamiliar term. By the time of the next election primaries, nearly all the candidates were claiming to be “born-again.” Political satirist Mark Russell suggested, “This could give Christianity a bad name.”

VOLUNTEER TEACHERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help teach The children’s Liturgy at our Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass. No previous experience required, just a love of your Catholic Faith and willingness to work with students. Lessons provided and training available. Contact Mary Molly in the parish office to find out more info.

Simbang Gabi Tableaus

During the Novena of Masses at 6:00 A.M. leading up to Christmas, called Simbang Gabi, there are tableaus presented about each Gospel story before Mass begins. We thank the Faith Formation students and their families who participated. (They had to arrive before 5:30 A.M.!) Here are a few of them:

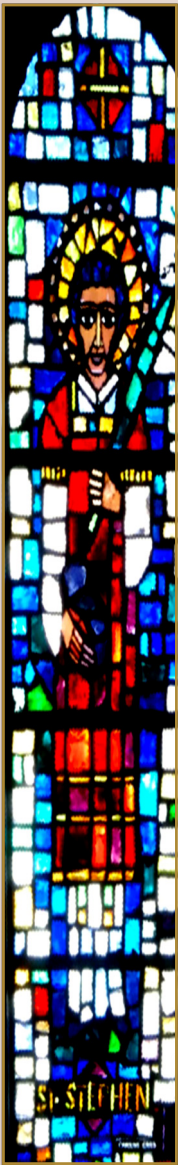
Diana George,
Riley George (as
Elizabeth),
Charlotte Bautista
(the FF Teacher
who recruited
students), and
Vanessa George
(as the Blessed
Virgin Mary)



Aleah Climaco
playing the Angel
that visits Joseph
in a dream,
Joseph played by
her brother
Sebastian
Climaco.



Isaiah Hermitano
played Zachariah and
Carmina Blanco
(FF Teacher)
played the Angel
that visits him.



PASTORAL STAFF

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

Fr.Schunk@SaintStephenSF.org

Rev. Michael Liliedahl
Chaplain, SFSU Newman Center
Parochial Vicar (PT)

Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

Rev. Mr. Manuel "Olet" Abad
Permanent Deacon

deacon@SaintStephenSF.org

Sharon McCarthy Allen
Principal

office@sfststephenschool.org

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carol@SaintStephenSF.org

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FaithFormation@SaintStephenSF.org

Shay Ingelfinger
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Anthony A. Renteria
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ststephenathleticssf@gmail.com

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

Saint Stephen 75th Anniversary Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give thanks
for 75 years of faith, love, and service
at Saint Stephen Parish.

Bless all those who came before us
who built this community
through their faith,
devotion, and sacrifice.

May Saint Stephen continue to be a place
where your people gather
to celebrate the Eucharist,
encounter your love,
and be given the grace
to be true missionary disciples,
bringing your love to the world.

We ask all this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ST STEPHEN PARISH 2024-2025

<u>ORGANIZATION/MINISTRY</u>	<u>CONTACT PERSON</u>
• 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.