

Saint Stephen Parish

SaintStephenSF.org | 451 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.

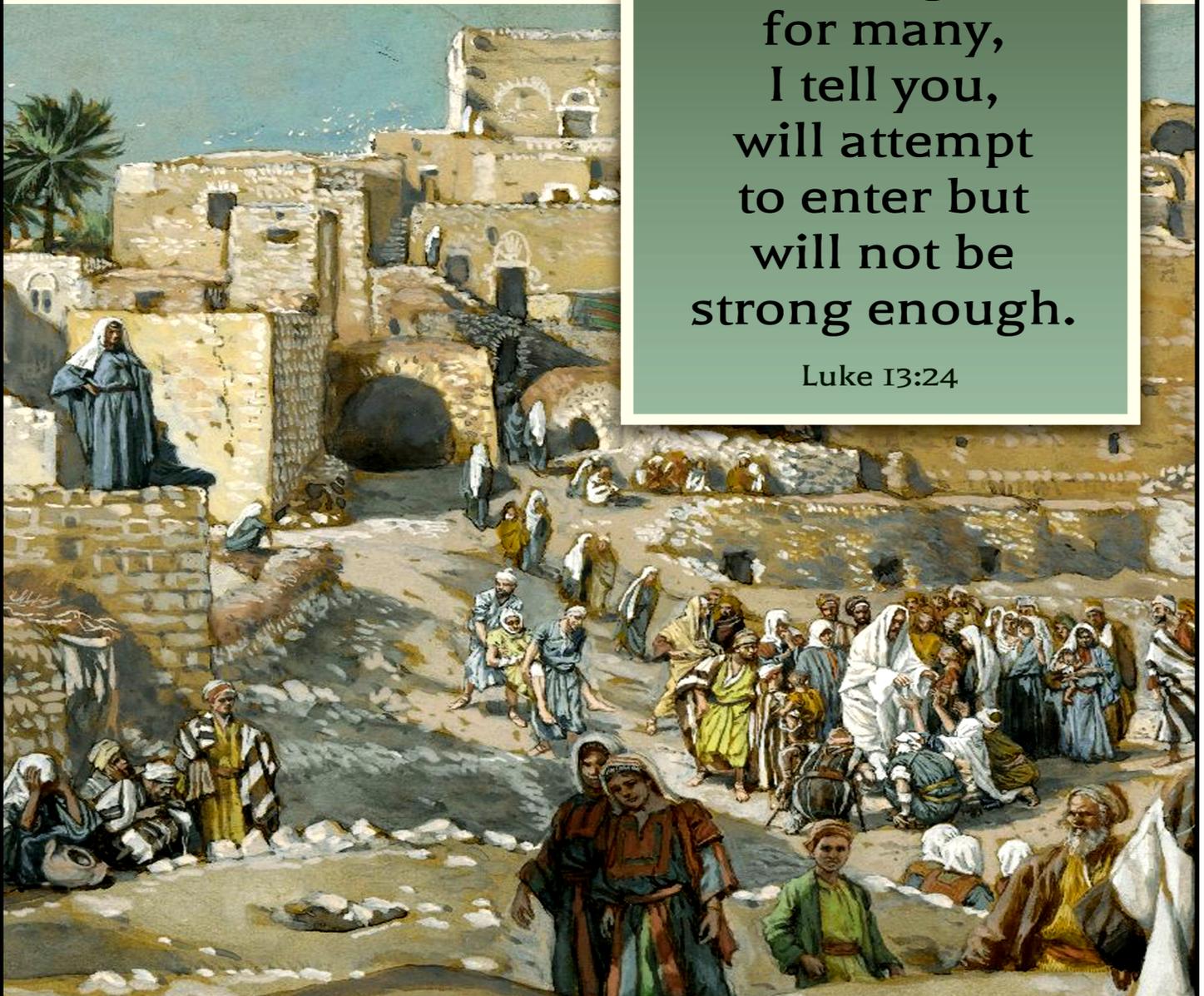
Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 p.m. or 30 min. before each Sunday Mass

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Strive to enter
through the
narrow gate,
for many,
I tell you,
will attempt
to enter but
will not be
strong enough.

Luke 13:24



August 24, 2025



August 24, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During this time of year, schools of all kind restart and that includes our universities. We welcome back the students at San Francisco State and City College who are restarting their classes for another academic year. With classes resuming, that means the Campus Ministry program is also reconvening. We also welcome back the missionary team from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) who will be working with Father Liliedahl during the year.

During this final week of summer, we are grateful for the time of rest and rejuvenation we have received during these past months. As work, school, and activities restart for another year, when the busyness of life begins to overtake us, may we recall God is present to us to bring us his rest and peace in that moment.

Father Schunk

First Saturday Memorial Mass & Grief Support Gathering

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025, 11:00a (Mass), Noon (Grief Support Gathering)
Holy Cross Cemetery - 1500 Mission Road, Colma (All Saints Mausoleum Chapel)
Contact: David Mehrwein | 650-264-7943 | dmehrwein@sfcathcems.org

Msgr. C. Michael Padazinski, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Larkspur, will be our celebrant as we pray for all those interred in our Catholic cemeteries. All are welcome to join us in prayer at 11:00 AM. Following the Mass, Deacon John Meyer from St. Robert Parish will host a grief support gathering for those who have suffered a loss and would like the opportunity for fellowship and support.

Rev. David A. Schunk, S.T.L.

Background on today's Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is the third of three parables in chapter 13 that deal with the theme of the unexpected reversals brought by the Kingdom of God. The other two parables are about the tiny mustard seed that grows into a large tree and the small amount of yeast that makes a large batch of dough rise. All three are about the few and the many and the Kingdom of God.

As this parable opens, Luke reminds us that Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem. This journey, this exodus as Luke refers to it, makes up the entire middle of the Gospel. He is teaching as he goes. A question from the crowd gives Jesus the chance to make a prophetic statement. Luke uses this question device a number of times in his Gospel. A few weeks ago, the question "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" led to the parable of the Good Samaritan. The question about will only a few be saved uses typical Christian language about salvation but also expresses the Jewish concern about whether everyone who calls himself a Jew is actually faithful to the covenant. This was a concern of the Pharisees.

Jesus answers that they must strive in the time remaining to enter through the narrow door because many will be trying to get in but won't be strong enough. He then moves to a parable about another door. (The translation says "gate" then "door," but the same Greek word is used.) Once all those entering the master's house are in and he locks the door, there will be no way for others to get in. Those left outside may knock, but the master will say he doesn't know them. Unlike the Gospel reading from a few weeks ago where Jesus was teaching about prayer, and we were told to knock and the door would be opened, in this parable, the master will not open and say he does not know us. People from the north, south, east, and west will take our place inside. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets will take our place in the Kingdom of God. Those who do not make it through the narrow door will be cast out to where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.

The image of the door is replaced in the final verses of the parable with the image of the heavenly banquet. Two passages from the Book of Isaiah influence the conclusion. Isaiah 43:5-6 speaks of God bringing Israel's descendants back from the east and from the west, the north and the south. And Isaiah 25:6 speaks of the Lord providing a feast of rich foods and choice wines for all peoples on his holy mountain. The answer to the question if only a few will be saved is no. In the end, many will be saved, but many who thought they would be saved will not be saved. The parable is a prophetic warning to repentance in order to enter the kingdom.

"The Communion Procession"

What would happen if, in Communion, we took literally Jesus' prophecy in today's gospel that the last will be first and the first will be last? That's just what Roger Cardinal Mahony wanted to do in his own envisioning of what Sunday Mass might be like in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles if the entirety of the assembly made the sharing of Communion more than just lining up to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

In his pastoral letter on the liturgy, "Gather Faithfully Together" (1997), Cardinal Mahony described a community that desired to understand and reflect better what it meant for the Body of Christ, the church, to receive the Body of Christ in the Eucharist. That need led to exploring a practice that would replace an individualistic approach to sharing Communion with one in which the communal procession; helped foster unity among the people and restore a sense of wonder and thanksgiving in the Eucharist.

The cardinal described a communion procession in which the first to come forward down the aisle toward the altar were not those seated in the front pews but those in the very back of the church. Imagine everyone in the assembly surrounded by the members of the Body of Christ singing together as they come forward to share in the Body of Christ. Imagine being aware not just of the people sitting by you but those who stay in the back whom you might never see, who may feel too self-conscious or unworthy or who, for whatever reason, had a difficult time choosing to be at Mass that day but made it nonetheless.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Aug 25

8:00 a.m. **Daniel W., Healing**
(By: Diane Gragnani)

Tuesday, Aug 26

8:00 a.m. **William Grimes, bday blessing,** (By: Alice Grimes)

Wednesday, Aug 27

8:00 a.m. † **Josie Fernandes**
(By: Joe Fernandes)

Thursday, Aug 28

8:00 a.m. **Charlotte & Moises Bautista,**
26th Wedding blessing
(By: Bautista Family)

Friday, Aug 29

8:00 a.m. † **Jaime Barcelona**
(By: Josephine Mendiola)

Saturday, Aug 30

8:00 a.m. † **Jose C. Espiritu**
(By: UP Prep '62)

4:30 p.m. † **Lauren Brady**
(By: Father Schunk)

Sunday, Aug 31

8:00 a.m. † **Mariles Corona**
(By: Luis Gaerlan)

10:30 a.m. † **John Armanini**
(By: Tony & Teresa DeVincenzi)

6:30 p.m. **People of the Parish**
(By: Fr. Schunk)



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 24, 2025 Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed. — *Hebrews 12:12-13*

TOAY'S READINGS August 24, 2025

First Reading *Isaiah 66:18-21*
Nations of every language shall come to see my glory.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 117:1-2*
Praise the Lord, all you nations.

Second Reading *Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13*
Whom the Lord loves, he disciplines.

Gospel Reading *Luke 13:22-30*
People will come from north and south, east and west, and take their place in the Kingdom of God.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: **Saint Joseph Calasanz**
Saint Louis, King of France
Tuesday: **Saint Joan Antide-Thouret**
Wednesday: **Saint Monica**
Thursday: **Saint Augustine**
Friday: **The Passion of St. John the Baptist**

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections August 16 –17, 2025

\$ 4,070.86 Sunday Collection
\$ 1,116.45 Online Offering
\$ 2,156.00 Assumption

Faith Formation for Children Registration

Our parish offers religious education for children in our Faith Formation Program or students who attend public schools or non-Catholic private schools. Children in grades 1st thru 8th meet Monday afternoons, 4:15-5:30pm, during the school year. We also prepare students to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation (8th grade).



We have now opened the online registration process for the 2025-2026 school year. As Mary Molly Mullaney is still on medical leave, please reach out to Father Schunk (fr.schunk@saintstephensf.org) in the parish office for more information and/or the online registration link.

75th Anniversary Fund

Our Goal: **\$250,000**

Total received to date: **\$79,189**

We are looking to raise \$250K for our Anniversary Fund this year to help pay for critical maintenance issues. Flyers are in the vestibule with more info. Households who donate at least \$1000 to the fund during the year will have the opportunity to engrave a leaf on our donation tree.

For donations of \$10k or more during the year, Father Schunk and Father Michael will cook you a delicious dinner!



Sick Friends & Relatives

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.

Daniel W., Edna Amora, Cristina Young, Tresa Matthews, GeriAnne Martin, Mary MacKinny, Alex & Marie, Greg Iorio, Ana Caballero, Perry Young, Araceli Caparas, Larry & Carmelita Gallager, George Farrales, Al Vicente Jr, Antoinette Mishirsky, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton, Nestor & Nelson Plondaya, Marie Bachand, Rodney Clark, Michelle Vicente, Michelle Weeks, Franz Tittiger, Robert Liam, Larry Barbriere, Kenneth Fambrini, Marc Gutierrez, Gwendolyn Walsh, Joel Rivera, Eden Finn, Jovita & Richard Thompson.

Please call the office to add or remove names of people that we should pray for this month.



PASTORAL STAFF

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

Fr.Schunk@SaintStephenSF.org

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Chaplain, SFSU Newman Center
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ST STEPHEN PARISH 2025-2026

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 Patrick Kennedy
- 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 Mandy Fesko & Jen Garlasco

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



Donworth Hall and Gym

Our 20,000 sq. ft.

Parish Event Center Donworth Hall and
Gym are Available to Rent .

Contact Shay at 415.681.2444 x7
or email for a quote or tour:

DonworthEvents@SaintStephenSF.org



Join us on Monday, September 8,
2025, for our monthly meeting of the
50+ Club. Snacks will be served and
Bingo and Bridge will be played.
Please contact the Parish Office for
more information.



Donate Online

With our new

OSV Service