

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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF

Advent



November 30 2025

“You also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.”

MATTHEW 24:44

Jesus said to his
disciples:
"As it was in the days of
Noah,
so it will be at the
coming of the Son of
Man.

In those days before the
flood, they were eating
and drinking,
marrying and giving in
marriage, up to the day
that

Noah entered the ark.
They did not know until
the flood came and
carried them all away.

So will it be also at the
coming of the Son of
Man.

Two men will be out in
the field; one will be
taken, and one will be
left. Two women will be
grinding at the mill; one
will be taken, and one
will be left.

Therefore, stay awake!
For you do not know on
which day your Lord will
come.

Be sure of this: if the
master of the house had
known the hour of night
when the thief
was coming, he would
have stayed awake and
not let his house be
broken into.

So too, you also must be
prepared, for at an hour
you
do not expect, the Son of
Man will come."

Mathew 24:37-44



November 30, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This weekend the Church enters the sacred season of Advent and a new liturgical year. The weeks before Christmas are also a special and energetic time for all of us with the decorations, food, and music. But perhaps we can look at the excitement through the lens of a time of anticipation and preparation. We prepare for the birth of our King and Lord. We prepare for God to be with us in a new and special way. May all the things we see and do during these four weeks find their fulfillment in our celebration of Christmas.

A huge thanks to all the member's of Saint Stephen's Women's Guild who organized the last weekend's annual gala auction, Southern Charm. A particular thanks to gala Co-Chairs, Mike Fesko (honorary Women's Guild member (like me)) & Natalie Ocampo. Thank you as well to our principal Sharon McCarthy-Allen and Lydia Flocchini in the development office who help guide this successful event. Of course, we are grateful to all the people who come to support the event and who are agreeable to spend their money in support of our parish school and its great programs for the children of our community.

As we begin the season of Advent, we are once again distributing to parishioners a special daily reflection booklet. The *Magnificat Advent Companion* has daily reflections and other prayers for Advent and Christmas. It is our hope this will be a small way for each of us to grow closer to the Lord in our daily lives. These are provided for us by a generous donor and we are grateful to have this resource available to parishioners. We ask that for this first weekend, you take just one per household so that there will be enough for everyone who desires to have one.

Thank you to all who have begun to take tags for the Advent Giving Tree. You may place your items in the box in the front of the church and we will store those away until we bring them for distribution. You may also drop off items during office hours at the parish office.

Father Schunk

This Week's Readings

Adventus in Latin means to await the arrival of someone or something of great importance. For Christians, this season is very much identified with preparations for the birth of Christ, so much so that the second meaning of Advent is often diminished, that of preparing for the Second Coming of Christ in Glory. The readings that begin the Advent season capture that second meaning more than the first.

Isaiah was prophesying at a particularly dark time for Israel and Judah. It was nearly eight centuries before the coming of the Messiah. The chosen people were under attack from the Assyrians marching from their capital city Nineveh in the north. What was to follow would be a long period of war, exile and bloodshed. To shine a light into this darkness, Isaiah was given a message of hopefulness to help God's people keep the faith during their time of affliction.

Wars will end, the suffering will give way once more to glory, when swords would become plowshares and spears would be pruning hooks. Jerusalem will be restored, the Temple rebuilt and all nations shall stream toward it. Isaiah was given a double prophecy – the people would return to their land in the near future, but in the distance, God promised to bring them to the new and heavenly Jerusalem where it will be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. It is quite simply the hope of heaven, and in the Savior who will bring it about. Armed with that powerful hope, Isaiah tells his countrymen: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

When Paul wrote to the Christians at Rome, for them it was also a time of darkness and uncertain futures. The Church was being persecuted in its infancy, something Paul knew well as he himself was once the cause of the Christian's pain. Like Isaiah, Paul points to a brighter future for those who endure the cross – they will one day wear the crown of righteousness. He encourages the Christians at Rome to throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The same can be said for us today. Our suffering is earthly, but our hope is eternal. Advent calls us to let the Lord Jesus Christ guide us to himself and to the kingdom.

Advent Giving Tree

St. Stephen Parish is proud to support De Marillac Academy—an all-scholarship Catholic school serving grades 4–8 in the Tenderloin District—as well as Catholic Charities-CYO.

We'll be joyfully accepting donations from **November 29 through December 14**. Stop by the parish vestibule and pick up a gift tag from the bulletin board. Choose a gift or gift card to purchase. Items should be wrapped and please secure the gift tag to the outside of the package. Turn in the gift to St. Stephen Church or the Parish Office before **Dec. 14**, to join in the spirit of giving.

Gifts being collected: \$25 Target gift cards for the 8th grade students at De Marillac Academy, due by **Dec. 12**. Gifts and toys for children (newborn to 16 years old) and warm socks and beanie hats for men and women.

Thank you for sharing the joy of the season and helping us support these wonderful organizations.



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Dec 1

8:00 a.m. † **Chen Lian Hong**
(By: Shirley Dee)

Tuesday, Dec 2

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

Wednesday Dec 3

8:00 a.m. **Gulmohar & Aisa Hara,**
Sp. Int (By: PaMa & Kiara)

Thursday, Dec 4

9:30 a.m. † **Adele Caunan**
(By: Parish Staff & Vol.)

Friday, Dec 5

8:00 a.m. † **Carlota Plondaya**
(By: Ding & Baby Fam)

Saturday, Dec 6

8:00 a.m. **Alan Dougherty, Sp Int.**
(By: Fely Boquiren)

4:30 p.m. **People of the Parish**

Sunday, Dec 7

8:00 a.m. † **MyAnna Hua Thompson**
(By: Rosary Group)

10:30 a.m. † **Michael Gragnani**
(By: Diane Gragnanai)

6:30 p.m. **Olga Padilla, Sp Int. B-Day**
(By: The Family)



First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

"You . . . must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come."

— Matthew 24:44

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the peoples shall stream toward the LORD'S house (*Isaiah 2:1-5*).

Psalm — We will rejoice as we go up to the Lord's house (*Psalm 122*).

Second Reading — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (*Romans 13:11-14*).

Gospel — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (*Matthew 24:37-44*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **First Sunday of Advent**
Monday: **St. Edmund**
Tuesday: **St. John Ruysbrock**
Wednesday: **St Francis Xavier**
Thursday: **St John Damascene**
Friday: **St Sabas**
Saturday: **St. Nicholas**
Sunday: **2nd Sunday in Advent**
St Ambrose

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections November 15 – 16, 2025

\$4,054.73 Sunday Offertory

\$1,660.91 Online Giving

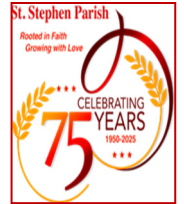
75th Anniversary Fund

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

Total received to date:

\$103,716

*Our goal is to raise \$250,000. Donations
help fund much needed repairs at
St. Stephen Parish.*



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.

Sean Chan, Byron Petty, Genevieve Dy, Glenda Miller,
Daniel W., Tresa Matthews, GeriAnne Martin,
Mary MacKinny, Alex & Marie, Greg Iorio, Ana
Caballero, Perry Young, Araceli Caparas, Larry &
Carmelita Gallagher, George Farrales, Al Vicente Jr,
Antoinette Mishirsky, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton,
Nestor & Nelson Plondaya, Marie Bachand,
Michelle Vicente, Michelle Weeks, Franz Tittiger,
Robert Liam, Larry Barbieri, Kenneth Fambrini,
Marc Gutierrez, Gwendolyn Walsh, Joel Rivera,
Eden Finn, Jovita & Richard Thompson.

San Francisco Turkey Drive

The SF Turkey Drive returns for the holiday season to
support families, seniors, and individuals facing food
insecurity in San Francisco. Donations will be collected
at the parking lot across from:

St. Emydius Church (350 De Montfort Ave, SF)
Saturday, December 20 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

We are collecting frozen turkeys, fresh vegetables,
breakfast non-perishable items (peanut butter, jam,
oatmeal), and monetary donations.

Donors may choose to support the SF-Marin Food Bank,
St. Francis Living Room, or St. Anthony Foundation.
Your generosity helps provide meals and hope to our
neighbors in need.

For details or to donate online,
at www.SFTurkeyDrive.com

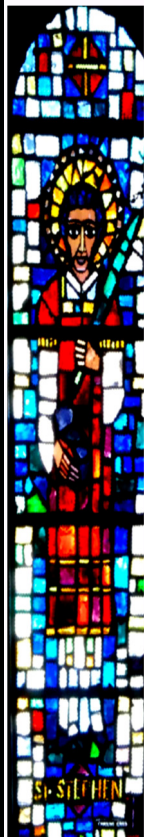
Father Tony Holiday Boutique

Date: 11/30/2025

Following the 10:30 a.m. Mass

St. Stephen Parish will be holding a special boutique sale,
located inside the vestibule of the church. We will be
featuring a selection of Father Tony's Christmas items.

Come by, browse the collection, and find something
special to brighten your season! A percentage of the sales
will go back to St. Stephen Church.



PASTORAL STAFF

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

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Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

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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.

Mark your Calendar! Men's Club Pancake Breakfast Sunday, December 14th

Breakfast will follow the 10:30 am
Family Mass planned by the St. Stephen
school third grade. Ticket information
coming soon.



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

2025 Simbang Gabi at St. Stephen Church

In a few short weeks, Simbang Gabi, a spiritual preparation
for Christmas, begins!

This nearly five-century old Filipino devotional tradition was
introduced as a Novena of Masses in honor of the Blessed
Mary. Then the vestments were white.

Over the years and more recently, particularly outside of the
Philippines, introducing this tradition was simplified to
follow the Advent Liturgy. Thus, the regular Readings are
maintained and the vestments are purple.

Nonetheless, the solemn yet joyful celebration, the warm
hospitality, and vibrant community spirit remain unchanged.

We look forward to having you at our celebration of Sim-
bang Gabi at St. Stephen Church, now in its 29th year!

*Donate Online To
St. Stephen's*

