

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.

Saint Stephen Christmas Schedule

Simbang Gabi Celebration

December 16-24

6:00 AM Mass Daily

Christmas Eve

December 24

4:30 PM Christmas Eve Mass

10:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass
(Preceded by Christmas Carols
as 9:30 PM)

Christmas Day

December 25

8:00 AM Christmas Day Mass

10:30 AM Christmas Day Mass

Saint Stephen Day

December 26

8:00 AM Weekday Mass

New Year's Day

January 1, 2026

9:30 AM Mass

"GO AND TELL JOHN
WHAT YOU HEAR AND SEE:
THE BLIND REGAIN THEIR SIGHT,
THE LAME WALK, LEPERS ARE CLEANSED,
THE DEAF HEAR, THE DEAD ARE RAISED,
AND THE POOR HAVE THE GOOD NEWS
PROCLAIMED TO THEM."

MATTHEW 11:4-5



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

December 14, 2025

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. - Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1988, 1970. CCD. All rights reserved.
Photo: Mosaic, Jesus healing a deaf man, Kariye Camii, Istanbul, Scott Griessel/Adobe Stock, Advent flame art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.



December 14, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Once again thank you to all of you who have brought in items for the Advent Giving Tree. Today (Sunday) is the deadline for the gift cards but there is still a few more days for the other items which will be distributed to Catholic Charities-CYO. You may bring those to the parish office this week. I am always edified by the generosity of so many by providing for those in need of love and mercy in our community.

As we come to the end of the calendar year, I am also edified by your generosity for our parish community with your financial support. In a particular way, your generosity responding to our 75th Anniversary Fund. With just a few more weeks to go, you continue to have an opportunity to make a contribution to the fund through the end of this calendar year. The easiest way to contribute is online through our donation portal, which you may access via the parish website. A reminder that for households who give at least \$1,000 to the fund this year, you will have an opportunity to have a leaf engraved on our donation tree in the back of the church. For donations of \$10k or more, Father Liliedahl and I will cook you dinner!

In the bulletin this weekend we are listing the names of the households who have already donated to the Anniversary Fund. If for some reason you made a donation and do not see your name listed, please reach out to Shay Ingelfinger in the parish office (shay@saintstephensf.org) and she and I will double check our records. Mistakes happen, but fortunately they are correctable. We are presently preparing an engraving form for those who have donated at least \$1000 and will begin to send those to households towards the end of December/beginning of January so we can have all the leaves engraved at once. Next week, I plan to give an update on the status of our maintenance projects funded by the Anniversary Fund so you know how we are being stewards of your financial support.

This week, we begin the annual celebration of Simbang Gabi. It is the special Filipino tradition of gathering for Mass each of the nine days leading up to Christmas as a way to prepare for the Light of the World. We partner with the parishes of our area and have a different priest celebrate the Mass each day. Each day's Mass is at 6:00 AM and all are invited to participate for one or more of the Masses. Finally, schools begin to let out this week for the Christmas break. For those of you traveling during Christmas, may you have fair seas, clear skies, and smooth roads so you reach your destinations and then return home to Saint Stephen's safely.

Father Schunk

Third Sunday of Advent, Background on the Gospel Reading

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled.

Simbang Gabi at St. Stephen Church in San Francisco, CA. Simbang Gabi began in San Francisco in 1996. is now held in approximately 45 parishes in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, with an annual Simbang Gabi Commissioning rites at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption. Historical accounts show that **Simbang Gabi novena Masses, introduced in the early 1600**, came from the original novena Masses in preparation for Christmas in honor of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that have existed for hundreds of years in Spain.

Please join us for Mass at 6:00 am for the following dates:

Tue. Dec. 16 Rev. Ian Quito (St. Gabriel)
Wed. Dec. 17 Rev. Armando Gutierrez (St. Finn Barr)
Thu. Dec. 18 Rev. Roland De la Rosa (St. Bruno)
Fri. Dec. 19 Rev. Charles Puthota (St. Elizabeth)
Sat. Dec. 20 Rev. Joyson Thomas, (Our Lady of Angels)

Sun. Dec. 21 Rev. David Schunk (St. Stephen)
Mon. Dec. 22 Rev. Jose Shaji (St. Emydius)
Tue. Dec. 23 Rev. Emmanuel Adams (St. Finn Barr)
Wed. Dec. 24 Rev. David Schunk (St. Stephen)



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Dec 15

8:00 a.m. † **Mila Espina**
(By: Dorothy Owen)

Tuesday, Dec 16

8:00 a.m. † **John Steele**
(By: Dorothy Owen)

Wednesday Dec 17

8:00 a.m. † **MyAnnaHua**
(By: Dorothy Owen)

Thursday, Dec 18

8:00 a.m. **Noel & Donna Ysip, Sp Int**
(By: Elvie Ysip)

Friday, Dec 19

8:00 a.m. † **Paulino Dee**
(By: Shirley Dee)

Saturday, Dec 20

8:00 a.m. † **Carlota Plondaya**
(By: Kyra & AZ)

4:30 p.m. † **Denis O'Connor**
(By: Rose O'Connor)

Sunday, Dec 21

8:00 a.m. † **Morrison Gardner**
(By: A friend)

10:30 a.m. **People of the Parish**

6:30 p.m. **Arlene Pichotta**
(By: Walter & Tina Jordan)

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading *Isaiah 35:1-6,10*

In the day of the Lord, all sorrow and mourning will cease.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 146:6-7,8-9,9-10*

The Lord will save his people.

Second Reading *James 5:7-10*

Be patient, and be ready; the coming of the Lord is near.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 11:2-11*

Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **St. John of the Cross**

Tuesday: **St. Mary of the Angels**

Wednesday: **St. Olympias**

Thursday: **St. Flannan**

Saturday: **St. Peter Canisius**

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections December 6 –7, 2025

\$5,454.66 Sunday Offertory
\$2,362.06 Online Giving
\$ 793.00 Maintenance Fund

75th Anniversary Fund

Our Goal: **\$250,0000**

Total received to date: **\$103,816**

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.

No gift is too small as we hope everyone in the parish will participate to strengthen Saint Stephen's for another 75 years!

All Households who contributed **\$1,000** or more will get to engrave a leaf on our beautiful donation tree, a lasting mark of your generosity and kindness. Keep an eye out for inscription forms coming your way in mid-December.

There is still time to donate and receive a leaf for you or a loved one!



As a special thank you, the Households who donated **\$10,000** or more this year will be treated to a dinner personally prepared by our priests.

Sick Friends & Family

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 Gallager, 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.

75th Anniversary Fund

As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, we wish to thank the many households who have already contributed to this year's 75th Anniversary Fund. No matter the amount of the gift, we are appreciative of your generosity to our parish community for now and for generations to come in the future.

Abad Family
Amora-Illenberger Family
E. Amora Family
M. Amora Family
R. Amora Family
S. Allen Family
Altamirano Family
Ayson Family
Azevedo Family
Bayol Family
Benas Family
Bennon Family
Bessolo Family
Birsinger Family
Boquiren Family
Brien-Holper Family
Broadus Family
Burgoyne Family
Bustos Family
Cabatic Family
Cadotte Family
Cagalingan Family
Cajilig Family
Cardozo Family
Carrillo Family
Casserly Family
Cassinelli Family
Chen Family
Cierra-Cruz Family
Conti Family
Crupi Family
Cruz Family
Cuevo Family
D'Arcy Family
D'Aura Family
Dee Family
Devincenzi Family
Diaz Family
Driscoll Family
Duffy Family
Duggan Sr. Family
Dy Family
Elizondo Family
Enriquez Family
Faziola Family
Francisco Family

Frost Family
Ganduglia Family
Garcia Family
Gargan Family
Gong Family
Gragnani Family
Gregson Family
Grimes Family
Guzman Family
Ha Family
Halloran Family
Hargarten Family
L. Hayes Family
P. Hayes Family
Hayes-White Family
Hazard Family
Hizon Family
Ho Family
Hock Family
Houghton Family
Hrvatn Family
Illenberger Family
Juarez Family
Jurado Family
Kelly Family
Kern Family
Kirwan Family
Krauss Family
Lacsonn Family
Leach Family
Leehane Family
Leung Family
Marquez Family
Martin Family
Martinez Family
Mazely Family
Mazzola Family
McGrail Family
McGurk Family
Mendiola (D&J) Family
Mendiola (D&E) Family
Mishirky Family
Montalbano Family
Moore Family
Neuebaumer Family
O'Callaghan Family

Nightingale Family
M. O'Connor Family
R. O'Connor Family
On Family
Onken Family
Orais Family
Parini Family
Patane Family
Pineda Family
Prete Family
Poon Family
Quan Family
Rayos Family
Ritchie Family
Rodis Family
Roque Family
Salvemini Family
Sanchez Family
Santos Family
St. Stephen Faith Formation
Families
St. Stephen Class of 2025
St. Stephen Preschool Families
St. Stephen School Students
Schneider-Lobo Family Trust
Foundation
A. Schunk Family
D. Schunk Family
Salvemini Family
Sebastian Family
Sequeira Family
Sotto Family
Stefanelli Family
Sulayao Family
P. Teshara Family
Thompson-Bautista Family
Tam Family
Taylor Family
Torres Family
Wagner Family
Wilde Family
Yiu Family
Ysip Family

As of December 8, 2025