

# 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.

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF

# Advent



December 21, 2025

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means “God is with us.”*

MATTHEW 1:23



## 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  
at 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





## December 21, 2025

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

Thank you to the Men's Club for last Sunday's spectacular pancake breakfast. A special recognition to the breakfast team: Doug Kilroy, Greg Teshara, Andrew Ng, John Gartland, Robert Del Real, Jeff Pasquini, Sean Conlan, Kogi Kumagi, and Marc Passetti.

Thank you as well to Men's Club President Patrick Kennedy and our Principal Mrs. Allen for helping to organize the breakfast and the toy drive through the SF Fire Department. We want to also thank our firefighters from Station 19 who came to help serve breakfast and bring their fire engine for our future first responders.



As I mentioned last weekend, we were able to move forward with replacing the boiler for the rectory at Saint Stephen's which was one of the projects we identified as part of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund. I learned during this process that the system is a hydronic boiler which heats water which then flows through small baseboard radiators throughout the rectory, as well as two sacristy rooms in the church. Working with the Archdiocese of San Francisco Real Property Support Corporation who assists in large maintenance projects, we solicited several bids and the Finance Council and I decided on Cornely Company in San Francisco, which has done work at various parish sites in the area. There were two parts to this project, replacing the boiler itself, and then work on the radiators themselves. The boiler replacement which included the removal of the old boiler and some asbestos abatement came to \$46,500. The work on the radiators was \$13,864.74. The total was \$60,364 which was just over the 60k we were projecting for the project.

Of course, this week we celebrate Christmas and the schedule of Masses is in the bulletin. Whether for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, we look forward to seeing you at Mass. Welcome as well to all the family members and friends who are visiting from out of town. On behalf of Mrs. Allen and our entire pastoral staff, we pray that all of you have a very blessed Christmas.

**Father Schunk**

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18). The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

**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:*



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 22

8:00 a.m. † Henry Sanchez  
(By: Mary Molly Mullaney)

## Tuesday, Dec 23

8:00 a.m. † Eileen Kyne  
(By: O'Callaghan Family)

## Wednesday Dec 24

8:00 a.m. † Neric Plondaya Jr.  
(By: Carlota & Family)  
**People of the Parish**

10:00 p.m. **People of the Parish**

## Thursday, Dec 25

8:00 a.m. **People of the Parish**  
10:30 a.m. **People of the Parish**

## Friday, Dec 26

8:00 a.m. **People of the Parish**

## Saturday, Dec 27

8:00 a.m. † Erwin - Janice Ysip,  
Sp. Int (By: Elvie Ysip)  
4:30 p.m. † Naty & Evan Cheng  
(By: Shirley Dee)

## Sunday, Dec 28

8:00 a.m. **Thanksgiving Mass**  
(By: Cagalingan Family)  
10:30 a.m. † Jack Carpenter  
(By: Gayle Carpenter)  
6:30 p.m. **People of the Parish**

## TODAY'S READINGS

### First Reading *Isaiah 7:10-14*

Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.

### Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 24:1-2,3-4,5-6*

The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.

### Second Reading *Romans 1:1-7*

Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Reading *Matthew 1:18-24*

An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary

Thank you for your  
Christmas Donations!



## Stewardship: A Way of Life

### Sunday Collections December 13 – 14, 2025

\$4,740.60 Sunday Offertory

\$1,174.71 Online Giving

\$ 760.00 Retired Religious

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund

Our Goal: \$250,0000

Total received to date: \$110,480

We have worked to collect \$250K for our Anniversary Fund this year to help pay for critical maintenance issues. Our parishioners have responded but there is more to do. 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 at the end of 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, Genevie Dy, Glenda Miller, Daniel W., Tresa Matthews, GeriAnne Martin, Mary MacKinnon, 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 Barbiere, Kenneth Fambrini, Marc Gutierrez, Gwendolyn Walsh, Joel Rivera, Eden Finn, Jovita & Richard Thompson.

## The Giving Tree

Thank you, St. Stephen Parish community, for your incredible generosity this Christmas season!

Your kindness has truly shone bright. We've gathered over 50 Target gift cards and more than 100 donations of toys, beanie hats, socks, blankets, and toiletries for those in need.

Your giving spirit is making a real difference, and we will continue collecting and sharing these gifts throughout the season. Blessings and heartfelt thanks to all!

# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund

As we celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we wish to thank the many households who have already contributed to this year's 75<sup>th</sup> 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.

Anonymous  
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  
Blanco 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  
Darcy 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  
George 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  
Hrvatin Family  
Illenberger Family  
Jacob Family  
Juarez Family  
Jurado Family  
Kelly Family  
Kern Family  
Kirwan Family  
Krauss Family  
Lacsonn Family  
Leach Family  
Lee 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  
Mullaney Family  
Neuebaumer Family  
Nightingale Family  
O'Callaghan Family

M. O'Connor Family  
R. O'Connor Family  
On Family  
Onken Family  
Orais Family  
Parini Family  
Patane Family  
Piini Family  
Pineda Family  
Prete Family  
Poon Family  
Quan Family  
Rayos Family  
Ritchie Family  
Rodis Family  
Roque Family  
Salvemini Family  
Sanchez-Corea 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  
Simpson Family  
Sotto Family  
Stefanelli Family  
Sulayao Family  
P. Teshara Family  
Thompson-Bautista Family  
Tam Family  
Taylor Family  
Torres Family  
Ty Family  
Ubungen Family  
Wagner Family  
Wilde Family  
Yiu Family  
Ysip Family

*As of December 14, 2025*