

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.



• THE HOLY FAMILY •

TAKE THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER.

December 28, 2025

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have arrived at the time of year when we now say Merry Christmas and enter the Christmas season! Father Liliedahl, the office staff, I thank you for all your Christmas greetings and treats we have received. Lent is about a month and a half away, but I am confident we will all be able to finish things off before then.

As always, I am filled with gratitude for all of our parishioners who made our Christmas celebrations such a blessing. This includes John Michael Reyes and Andrew Roubal, who directed our music program and the choir at the various Masses on Christmas Eve/Day; Annibal, Mary Molly, and Shay in the office who worked on all types of behind the scene preparations, our office volunteers who were Father's Little Helpers getting our mailing and other Christmas tasks, members of the Liturgy Committee who helped to decorate the church, our sacristans who prepared for our Masses, our altar servers who served, and many others who contributed in ways large and small. Thank you as well to Nellie Hizon and the members of our Filipino-American community who oversaw our Simbang Gabi celebration this year in preparation for Christmas. We are all grateful to the benefactors of our parish who also donated in various ways to fund the decorations to make our church so beautiful for Christmas.

This coming week, Father Liliedahl will be attending the SEEK Conference in Denver with the FOCUS Campus Missionaries and some college students in the campus ministry program. It is a multi-day event that brings together primarily Catholics, but also some non-Catholics, to worship and grow in their faith and fellowship with one another. This conference is always an important moment for those who attend to grow in knowledge of God's love for them and we pray for them during their trip.

As we end the end of 2025, I want to thank everyone as we have celebrated our parish's 75th anniversary this past year. As you know, we have been praying our 75th anniversary prayer at the conclusion of Mass. We began to pray the prayer when we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord (which marks the end of the Christmas season) and so we will conclude the prayer on that day as well (Jan. 11) as we conclude this custom. It will also give us some time to update the anniversary fund's final numbers for the year.

Speaking of the new year, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and a Holy Day of obligation this year. We will have a single Mass at 9:30 AM that day and a guest priest, Father Emmanuel Adams who has visited us in the past. May our Blessed Mother's prayers accompany us all in the new year.

Father Schunk

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Dec 29

8:00 a.m. † **Anna Thompson**
(By: Katherine Dulany)

Tuesday, Dec 30

8:00 a.m. † **Anna Thompson**
(By: Bautista Family)

Wednesday, Dec 31

8:00 a.m. † **Fr. Tony LaTorre**
(By: Parish Staff)

Thursday, Jan 1

9:30 a.m. **People of the Parish**

Friday, Jan 2

8:00 a.m. *Sp. Int.* **Christopher Moises Bautista**
Birthday Blessings
(By: Bautista Family)

Saturday, Jan 3

8:00 a.m. *Sp. Int.* **David & Linda Calder & Family**
Prayers of Healing
(By: Marilu Illenberger)

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

Sunday, Jan 4

8:00 a.m. † **Adel Caunan**
(By: Front Desk Volunteers)

10:30 a.m. † **Diane Handlos**
(By: Trish & Jim Hargarten)

6:30 p.m. † **Tacianita Balleza Tolosa**
(By: Maria Iyog- O'Malley)

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading *Sirach 3:2-7,12-14*
Honor to one's parents will be rewarded.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5*
Happy are those who follow the Lord's ways.

Second Reading *Colossians 3:12-21*
Do all things in the name of Jesus and give thanks to God.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 2:13-15,19-23*
In a dream, God tells Joseph to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus from King Herod.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: **St. Thomas Becket**
Wednesday: **St. Sylvester I, Pope**
Thursday: **Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God**
Friday: **St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory**
Saturday: **The Most Holy Name of Jesus**
Sunday: **The Epiphany of the Lord**

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections December 20–21, 2025

\$5,011.00 Sunday Offertory

\$1,639.01 Online Giving

75th Anniversary Fund

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

Total received to date: **\$113,223**

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 engrave 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.

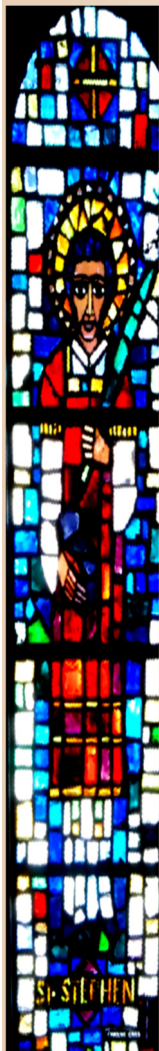
Sean Chan, Byron Petty, Genevieve Dy, Glenda Miller, Daniel W., Tresa Matthews, GeriAnne Martin, Mary MacKinny, Alex & Marie, Greg Iorio, Ana Caballero, Perry Young, Araceli Caparas, Larry & Carmelita Gallager, George Farrales, Al Vicente Jr, Antoinette Mishirsky, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton, Nestor & 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.



50+ Club

Monday, January 4 at 12:30 pm

Join us on the first Monday of each month for a lively and welcoming gathering of St. Stephen seniors! Enjoy an afternoon of Bingo, Bridge, tasty snacks, and great company.



PASTORAL STAFF

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

*Donate Online To
St. Stephen's*



Having an event?

**Our 20,000 sq. ft. Parish Event
Center, Donworth Hall,
is Available to Rent**

Contact Shay at 415.681.2444 x2
or email:

DonworthEvents@SaintStephenSF.org