

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.

THEY OPENED THEIR TREASURES
AND OFFERED HIM GIFTS
OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH.

MATTHEW 2:11



THE
EPIPHANY
OF THE LORD

January 4, 2026



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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
Happy New Year Everyone!

We start off the new year with the Feast of the Epiphany. In some cultures, it is simply referred to as Three Kings. This is when the Magi from the East followed the star which led them to the baby Jesus, the true King of Kings. Also in some cultures this is the day when children receive presents. Likely for all of us, the presents have already been given but who knows, maybe someone still has a present to be given so the special season of Christmas continues.

Next weekend or the following, I hope to give a final update on how we did with our 75th Anniversary Fund as we wrap up our anniversary year. We have been working on the plaque form for those who gave at least \$1,000 to the Anniversary Fund this past year and we hope to be getting those out to those households very soon. I am always grateful of the generosity of our parishioners who give of their time, talent, and treasure, especially during this special year.

Father Schunk

The Creed: Ladder of Faith

with Dr. Sean Innerst



The Creed: Ladder of Faith – online course with Dr. Sean Innerst presented by the School of Pastoral Ministry of the Archdiocese of SF

Discover the Creed as a spiritual ladder, guiding believers step by step toward deeper faith, transformation, and union with God.

The Creed is the Church's summary of the mysteries of the Christian faith, a profession of revealed truth, guided and protected by the Holy Spirit throughout the Church's history. As we commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the opening of the Council of Nicaea where the Creed was birthed.

In this six-part course the content of the Faith will be presented in a unique way. We will look at the 12 articles of the Apostles Creed (as well as those of the Nicene Creed) as the "path of faith" by which we make our return to God in heaven. We will explore how the twelve "rungs" of this Ladder of Faith is a path to ascend to our heavenly homeland.

Class is offered live online via Zoom, Six Tuesdays, 7:00 -8:30 PM, starting January 6, 2026. Join us live on Zoom and interact with the professor. Or watch the class recordings on the classroom webpage at your own convenience. All registered students have access to the classroom webpage, to view class recordings and access reading materials.

Dates: six Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 10, 7:00-8:30 PM
online via Zoom app (or watch class recordings
anytime on classroom webpage)

Register online: www.sfarch.org/creed-course/

Background on the Gospel Reading The Epiphany of the Lord

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Jan 5

8:00 a.m. *Sp. Int.* **Coco Opena**
(Birthday)
(By: Zeny Amora Opena)

Tuesday, Jan 6

8:00 a.m. † **Alberto Esteva**
(By Betty Esteva)

Wednesday, Jan 7

8:00 a.m. *Sp. Int.* **Manette Villarta**
(Birthday)
(By: Rowena Amora)

Thursday, Jan 8

8:00 a.m. † **Teofila Rodis**
(By: Rodis Family)

Friday, Jan 9

8:00 a.m. † **Josie Fernandes**
(By: Joe, Jessica, Jackie & Fernandes Family)

Saturday, Jan 10

8:00 a.m. *Sp. Int.* **Wilfredo Illenberger**
(Birthday)
(By: Marilu Illenberger)

4:30 p.m. † **Albert Gragnani**
(By: Diane Gragnani)

Sunday, Jan 11

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

10:30 a.m. † **Denis O'Connor**
(By: Rose O'Connor)

6:30 p.m. *Sp. Int.* **Ysabella Malig Luu**
(Birthday)
(By: Racquel Malig)

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The LORD shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (*Isaiah 60:1-6*).

Psalms — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (*Psalms 72*).

Second Reading — The mystery has been made known that the Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel (*Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6*).

Gospel — Magi from the east arrived, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" (*Matthew 2:1-12*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: **St. John Neumann, Bishop**

St. Simeon the Stylite

Tuesday: **St. Gertrude of Delft**

St. André Bessette, Religious

Wednesday: **St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest**

Sunday: **Baptism of the Lord**

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Collections December 2025

\$24,535.50 Christmas Offerings

\$ 4,729.60 Sunday, Dec. 27-28

75th Anniversary Fund

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

Total received to date: **\$127,028**

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.

Tony Devincenzi, Sean Chan, Genevieve Dy, Glenda Miller, Byron Petty, 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, 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.

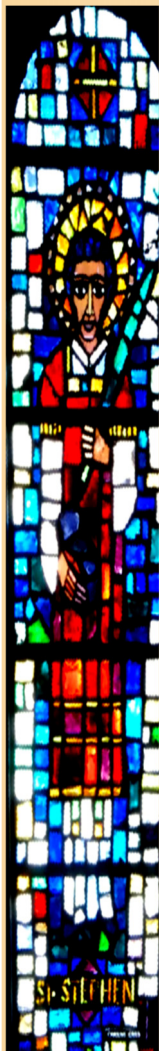


50+ Club

Monday, January 5 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.

Meet in Donworth Hall,
473 Eucalyptus Dr. (below the gym)



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