

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
Lent

February 22, 2026

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At that time Jesus was
let by the Spirit into the desert
to be tempted by the devil.

Matthew 4:1



February 22, 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At the beginning of the Lenten season, people who are seeking to be baptized make their final preparations to receive the Sacraments at Easter. This is a time of preparation not just of knowledge of the faith, but also of growing interiorly in their relationship with God. For those men and women preparing for Baptism, on this Sunday at our Cathedral, there will be a special Rite of Election, when they will be recognized by the Church as the Elect, those who we acknowledge may be washed in the saving waters at the Easter Vigil. We have three such individuals at our parish this year, along with seven other women and men who are preparing to complete their Christian Initiation with the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation. May we hold all of them in our prayers as we look to renew our own Baptism and faith in God during the Lenten season.

On a different note, as we have been putting in the bulletin, the Saint Stephen's Men's Club is hosting the Saint Patrick's Day Dinner on Saturday, March 7. This is an event for the entire parish and so hopefully many of you will be able to join us for the event. Ticket information is in the bulletin.

Finally, this week we have our first Lenten Soup Supper on Thursday, February 26 at 6:00 PM. The sign-up sheet in the vestibule. As in the past, we will begin with the soup and after the meal, will have a guest speaker. This year, the first speaker is Father Joyson Thomas, OFM Cap. from Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Burlingame. We hope many of you will join us for both bodily and spiritual nourishment.

Father Schunk

Background on Today's Gospel Reading

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke), after Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. In each case, while in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. In Matthew, as in Luke, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, for example, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted. Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.



St. Stephen's Men's Club presents the Annual **St. Patrick's Day Dinner**

Join us Saturday, March 7th in Donworth Hall for a
corned beef dinner with all the fixins'.

We will have the Bagpipes,
Murphy Irish Dancers
and a DJ.

Tickets: \$30 for adults \$10 for kids

Payment can be a check made payable to:
St. Stephen Men's Club
or via PayPal @ststephenmensclub

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Feb 23

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

Tuesday, Feb 24

8:00 a.m. † **Jessie Gomez**
(By: Elizabeth Mamon)

Wednesday, Feb 25

8:00 a.m. † **Ella & Dorik Osborne**
(By: Carolyn Yiu)

Thursday, Feb 26

8:00 a.m. † **Jessie Gomez**
(By: Elizabeth Mamon)

Friday, Feb 27

8:00 a.m. *Sp. Int.* **Alice Paz Grimes** *Birthday*
(By: Grimes Family)

Saturday, Feb 28

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

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

Sunday, Mar 1

8:00 a.m. *Sp. Int.* **Myles Mamon** *Birthday*
(By: Elizabeth Mamon)

10:30 a.m. † **Angelo Devincenzi**
(By: Tony & Teresa Devincenzi)

6:30 p.m. *Sp. Int.* **Eliza Dinero** *Thanksgiving*
(By: Eliza Dinero)



First Sunday in Lent

“The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.”

— Matthew 4:10

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading *Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7*

Eve and Adam eat from the tree that was forbidden to them by God.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 51:3-4,5-6,12-13,17*

A prayer for mercy

Second Reading *Romans 5:12-19*

Through the obedience of Jesus, many will be made righteous. (shorter form: Romans 5:12,17-19)

Gospel Reading *Matthew 4:1-11*

Jesus fasts for 40 days in the desert and is tempted by the devil.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday 2/23 **St Polycarp**

Wednesday 2/25 **St Ethelbert**

Thursday 2/26 **St Alexander**

Friday 2/27 **St Gabriel Francis Possenti**

Saturday 2/28 **St Angela of Foligno**

Sunday 3/1 **Second Sunday of Lent**

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections — February 15, 2026

\$5,600.00 Sunday Offertory

\$1,294.76 Online Giving

ALTAR SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider joining the volunteer Altar Society group. There are three groups of parishioners that meet every third month to clean our church and care for the linens and towels. We meet on Fridays after the 8:00 Mass. It only takes around an hour to complete our tasks in church. The linens and towels are cared for at home.

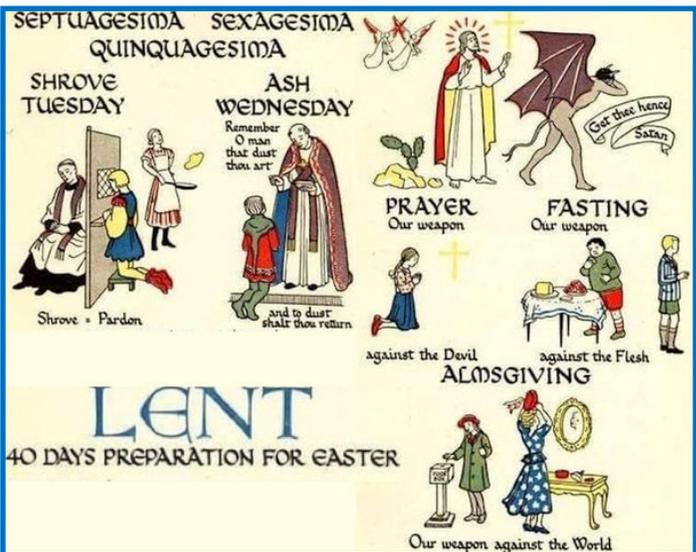
Would you be willing to be a substitute if we are shorthanded on a particular Friday? Thank you for your willingness to serve our parish community.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Leehane @ 415-606-4581 or email her at joan@leehane.com

DO YOU LIKE TO CARE FOR PLANTS?

Once per week the plants / flowers get watered in church. It takes about an hour and a half to water the orchids, flowers, potted plants and fix floral arrangements. Some pruning may be needed to save the plants to reuse.

The present schedule is done is at 10:30 AM on Fridays. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Leehane at (415) 606-4581 or email her at joan@leehane.com.



Sick Family & Friends

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 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.



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. David Schunk, S.T.L.
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The Archdiocese of San Francisco
School of Pastoral Ministry presents
a short course on Art History:

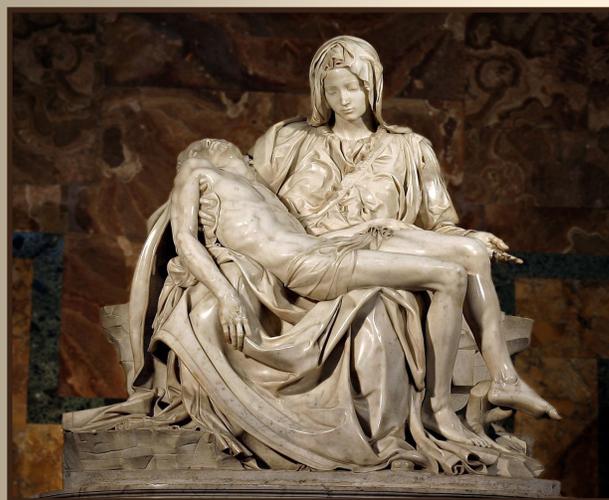
Power, Presence, Permanence: The History of Sculpture in Six Short Strokes with Dr. Elizabeth Lev

Classes meet online via Zoom on six Tuesdays.
You can join the class live and interact with the
professor, or watch the class recording later in the
week on the classroom archive webpage.

**Tuesdays, February 24 through March 31,
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm. on Zoom**

For more info and to register go to:

www.sfarch.org/history-sculpture-course/



St. Stephen Parish invites you to our 2026 Lenten Series.

Lenten Soup Supper with Guest Speaker

We begin at 6:00 p.m. with a simple soup supper potluck followed by a presentation
by our guest speaker at 7:00 p.m. In St. Stephen Parish, Donworth Hall,
473 Eucalyptus Dr. (underneath the gym). Enter from the school yard. Plenty of free
parking in the Stonestown farmers market parking lot. Event ends at 8:00 p.m.

The Lenten Guest Speakers are:

Thursday, February 26 – Rev. Joyson Thomas

Thursday, March 12 – John Michael Reyes

Find signup sheets in the church vestibule to signup to bring food or to help with setup or cleanup.

Contact Mary Molly in the parish office for more info: FaithFormation@SaintstephenSF.org

415.681.2444 ext.3