

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF Lent

March 8 2026

...Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

"The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water. "I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship which we understand, because salvation is from the Jews.

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.

"God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you." Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe

"Whoever drinks the water I shall give
will never thirst;
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:14

March 8, 2026



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This coming Thursday evening (March 12), we will have our second Soup Supper and Speaker of the Lenten season. Our speaker this week is John Michael Reyes who is the cantor for the Sunday morning Masses. He will lead us in discovering how to turn our daily routines into a living prayer this Lent and all year long. The soup begins at 6:00 PM with John Michael's presentation to follow. A special thank you to Mary Molly and everyone who comes to the event and makes the evenings so enriching.

Last weekend, we kicked off the 2026 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. I am grateful for the efficiency of several of our parishioners who have already made donations or pledges to the AAA this year. As I have said, our goal within the goal will be to have everyone make a contribution or pledge by the beginning of May. Regarding pledges, you are able to make a pledge of smaller donation amounts spread out over the course of the year. This is helpful if you desire to make a donation but prefer to not give it all at once. So for example, you may give 10 donations of \$100 for a total gift of \$1,000, spread over the course of 2026. The easiest way to set this up is online (sfarch.org/aaa), but you may also sign up in the AAA brochure. People may also direct their IRA RMDs for an AAA donation. If you are interested in doing that, please reach out to me and we can discuss the best way to proceed so the donation is credited to our parish goal.

A reminder of the upcoming deanery-wide Penance Service with individual Confessions at Saint Cecelia's on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:15 PM (after their 5:30 PM Mass). You are also welcome to join us as we pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent at 6:00 PM in the church.

Father Schunk

Stories from the AAA

Your gifts to the AAA support such ministries as Retired Priests, Seminarians, Social Justice, and our Schools, as well as many Archdiocesan departments, including finance, human resources and others that help our parishes save money by improving the efficiency of various services and providing economies of scale. Here is one example:

Marriage & Family Life - you support our new **Life-Giving Wounds** ministry. It helps heal, restore, and provide peace of mind to adults whose parents divorced when they were children. Through tears, a participant at one of the retreats said, "...my parents' divorce was so traumatic that I didn't even know if I believed in love." Another commented, "This is probably the best thing the Church has ever done for me and my siblings." ...A woman said "It just feels so good to know I'm not alone in feeling this way."



St. Stephen Parish invites you to our 2026 Lenten Series. **Lenten Soup Supper with Guest Speaker**

Thursday, March 12 – John Michael Reyes

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.**

This Lent, don't just "go through the motions" - come and discover how to turn your daily routine into a living prayer.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Mar 9

8:00 a.m.

Sp. Int **Eliza Dinero**
(By: Eliza Dinero)

Tuesday, Mar 10

8:00 a.m.

† **Helen Uy Mendiola**
(By: Josephine Mendiola)

Wednesday, Mar 11

8:00 a.m.

† **Celestina Milch**
(By: Marilu Illenberger)

Thursday, Mar 12

8:00 a.m.

† **Monica Dela Rosa**
(By: Josephine Mendiola)

Friday, Mar 13

8:00 a.m.

† **Yulli Erlinawadi**
(By: John & Marilyn Lee)

Saturday, Mar 14

8:00 a.m.

† **William Espina**
(By: Dorothy Over)

4:30 p.m.

Sp. Int **Genevieve Dy**
(By: Dy Family)

Sunday, Mar 15

8:00 a.m.

† **Celso Buenaventura**
(By: Emma Sagala)

10:30 a.m.

People of the Parish

6:30 p.m.

† **Emmett Downey**
(By: McAtamney Family)



Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

While we were still

sinner Christ died for us. *Romans 5: 8*



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading *Exodus 17:3-7*

God tells Moses to bring forth water from the rock.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 95:1-2,6-9*

Sing joyfully in the presence of the Lord.

Second Reading *Romans 5:1-2,5-8*

Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Reading *John 4:5-42*

Jesus reveals himself to the Samaritan woman at the well. (shorter form: John 4:5-15,19b-26,39a,40-42)

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday 3/9

St Frances of Rome

Wednesday 3/11

St Eulogius of Cordobaa

Thursday 3/12

St Fina

Saturday 3/14

St Louise de Marillac

Sunday, 3/15

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections — March 1, 2026

\$5,772.52 **Sunday Offertory**

\$1,874.25 **Online Giving**

\$804.25 **Maintenance Fund**

Background on Today's Gospel Reading

This Sunday we will celebrate the first of three scrutinies with our catechumens, the men and women preparing to receive the sacrament of Baptism at Easter.



Purpose of the Scrutinies

The scrutinies are spiritual, sacramental rites that serve three essential purposes:

- They help the elect examine their hearts and recognize God's transformative work in their lives.
- They spiritually prepare and strengthen the elect for their baptismal promises
- They provide a process that liberates the elect from the death-dealing power of evil.

The Church teaches that the purpose of the scrutinies is to complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all. While God has freed the elect from death, God has also freed them for mission. This dual purpose is why the Church requires all three scrutinies. They are spiritual experiences that free the elect from the darkness that confronts all of us and bring them into the light of Christ.

The Gospel Foundation. At the heart of the three scrutinies are three powerful gospel stories: the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus. These gospels are proclaimed on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, respectively. In each story, Jesus heals radical sin and frees people from the death that evil causes. The act of proclaiming these gospel stories in the context of sacramental prayer "scrutinizes" the elect, challenging them to contemplate the wondrous, graceful thing God has done in them.

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, 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.

Please call the office to add or remove names of people that



PASTORAL STAFF

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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/

Join us in Praying the Stations of the Cross

**STATIONS
OF THE
CROSS**



*Fridays of Lent
at
6:00 pm in the
Church.*



50+ Club
Monday, April 13, 2026
at 12:30 PM in
Donworth Hall

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

*Donate Online To
St. Stephen's*



Sunset Deanery

Lenten Penance Service

Location: Saint Cecelia's Church

Date: Wednesday, March 18

Time: 6:15 PM (after their 5:30 PM
Mass)

Fore more information, please visit:
stcecilia@stcecilia.com

Please join us! There will be several priests
from the neighboring parishes available at the
service for Confession.