

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.

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Archive: Saint Stephen School

In August, 1950, Saint Stephen's Parish was established by Archbishop John J. Mitty, appointing Father Richard Power as the first Pastor, who celebrated the first Mass in a small basement chapel on Eucalyptus Drive. In 1951, when Fr. Power was recalled to active duty as a Major in the US Air Force, Father Joseph Donworth was appointed to the parish.

As a new parish St. Stephen's dealt with disappointments in its building program. In addition to national restrictions in materials, and local building restrictions, there was the ever present monetary restrictions of a new Parish, which at times seemed insurmountable; but on Ash Wednesday, 1952, Fr. Donworth announced that the contract for the building of St. Stephen's Parish School had been let and the plans for the Parish Church had been approved. Thus, St. Stephen's Parish became the first in the Archdiocese to construct a school prior to a parish church, a tribute to the Parishioners who were willing to suffer personal inconveniences in order that the children might receive a splendid education.

A parish building fund drive was conducted from April 20th to April 30th, 1952, realizing more than \$100,000.00 in cash and pledges, assuring the Parish of a firm financial foundation.

St. Stephen's Parish School opened on September 22, 1952, to 170 pupils, run by the Sisters of Mercy with instruction for the first five grades and the announcement that an additional grade would be added each year until all eight grades were available, accommodating up to 400 pupils. (Since the school was constructed first, Masses moved from the house basement at 475 Eucalyptus Dr. into the school, until the church building was complete, Easter of 1953.)



Sisters of Mercy were the first faculty of the School, now the teachers and staff are primarily lay people.



January 18, 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Welcome to Ordinary Time. Our Christmas season has now concluded and the Church enters Ordinary Time or as perhaps it may be better described, ordered time. I have been told that is from the connection with the word ordinal like we use for numbering. So for example, this weekend is the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. Next week the third, fourth, etc. Each week of the year is numbered, hence, an ordinal sequence.

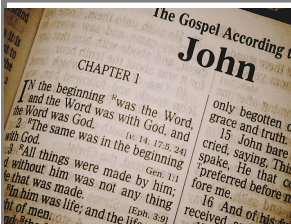
On Monday, our nation remembers and honors the birthday of one of her greatest citizens, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. In many places these days, people just refer to him as doctor, but we do him a disservice if we leave out his title of reverend. Rev. King was able to be a witness to the sin of racial injustice of his day and peaceably witness to true justice because of our shared Christian faith. His example offers to us a powerful lesson of living with Christian hope in the face of injustice and suffering and the grace to build up the Kingdom of God through working to end injustice. If you ever have a chance to read it, his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" is full of theological depth, quoting from non-other than two of Christianity's greatest theologians, Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas.

I have returned from my second in-person gathering with the Eius program of the Catholic Leadership Institute. It was a rewarding week to spend with brother priests and lay men and women who seek to help Catholic priests grow in their vocation and ministry. We will have one more gathering in April with online meetings during the interim.

If all went as planned last week when I was away, households who donated \$1000 or more to the anniversary fund should have received a letter with the forms to complete for the leaf plaques. If you have not received a letter by tomorrow, Monday 19 January, please reach out to Shay in the parish office and she can check our records.

Father Schunk

Background on the Gospel Reading **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**



This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.



Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Jan 19

8:00 a.m. † **Nancy Barragan**
(By: Kirwan Family)

Tuesday, Jan 20

8:00 a.m. Sp. Int. **Ninna Amora**
Birthday
(By: Roy Amora)

Wednesday, Jan 21

8:00 a.m. † **Kevin Mullaney**
(By: Mary Molly Mullaney)

Thursday, Jan 22

8:00 a.m. † **Gloria Gazave**
(By: Kirwan Family)

Friday, Jan 23

8:00 a.m. † **Roberto Salera**
(By: Becky Parini)

Saturday, Jan 24

8:00 a.m. † **Edna Amora**
(By: Maria Amora)
† **Denis O'Connor**
(By: Rose O'Connor)

Sunday, Jan 25

8:00 a.m. † **Vera and Vin Greely**
(By: Joan Leehane)
10:30 a.m. † **Fr. Tony LaTorre**
(By: Kirwan Family)
6:30 p.m. **People of the Parish**



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 18, 2026

I will make you a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the
ends of the earth. — *Isaiah 49:6b*

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading *Isaiah 49:3,5-6* God's servant,
Israel, will be made a light to the nations.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 40:2,4,7-10*
God desires obedience.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:1-3*
Paul greets the Church in Corinth.

Gospel Reading *John 1:29-34*
John testifies that Jesus is the Lamb of God, God's
own Son.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday, 1/19: **MLK, Jr. Day**
Tuesday, 1/20: **Sts. Fabian & Sebastian**
Wednesday, 1/21: **St. Agnes**
Thursday, 1/22: **St. Vincent**
Friday, 1/23: **St. Marianne**
Saturday, 1/24: **St. Francis De Sales**

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections — January 11, 2026

\$6,347.50 Sunday Offertory

\$1,682.86 Online Giving

Wedding Anniversary Mass

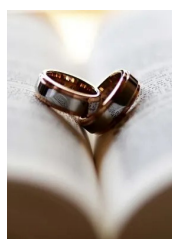
Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026

Time: 10:00 am

Contact: Ed Hopfner

415-614-5547

Email: HopfnerE@SFArchdiocese.org



All sacramentally married
couples in the archdiocese are
invited to a Mass celebrated by
Archbishop Cordileone,
followed by a light reception.

Couples celebrating "five-year
anniversaries" (5, 10, 15, 20...) will receive special recognition. Donation requested is \$20/couple.

Registration information: www.sfarch.org/anniversarymass

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 Gallagher, 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.

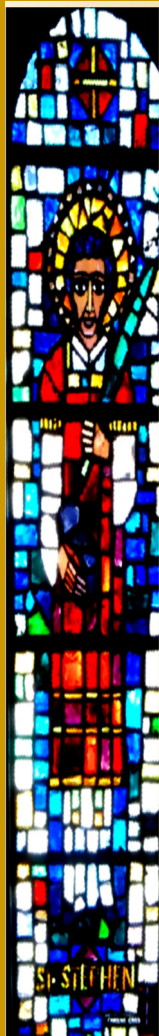
Please call the office to add or remove names of people that
we should pray for this month.



50+ Club

Monday, February 2, 2026
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.
Pastor

Fr.Schunk@SaintStephenSF.org

Rev. Michael Liliedahl
Chaplain, SFSU Newman Center
Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

Rev. Mr. Manuel "Olet" Abad
Permanent Deacon

Sharon McCarthy Allen
Principal
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Shay Ingelfinger
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Ed Prete
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E.Prete@SaintStephenSF.org

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	Mary Molly Mullaney (Faith Formation, RCIA, Book Club, Hospitality)
• Ushers	Pastor
• Women's Guild	Mandy Fesko & Jen Garlasco

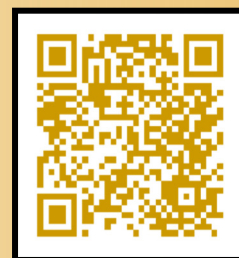
The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Anyone here **who has ever been** a part of a pickup basketball, football or baseball game as a youth and was not overly athletic knows the anguish of hoping and praying not to be the last one chosen. Now, on the other hand, if the boss was looking for someone to take on a large project that would involve a lot of time and energy, our hope and prayer might be the opposite – stare at the ground and try to become invisible.

In our three readings today, first the prophet was called, and then Paul, and finally, Jesus was called. There was no staring at the ground in hopes of being overlooked – no worries they would be the last one tapped to be God's servant. In each case, the invitation to service was boldly embraced.

So, today, let us talk about each of us being chosen to be God's servant. Is this a welcomed call? In an ideal situation we would all say "yes" – yes this is a welcomed call. But on this side of heaven, we do not live in an ideal world, so our answer to the invitation to be God's servant may cause us to hesitate in boldly saying "yes." This is quite normal and understandable given all the demands placed upon our time. There are, after all, only 24 hours in a day, right?

*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