

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.



Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul





June 29, 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At our weekend Masses, we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles. This feast day is always on June 29 and it is one of the feast days that we celebrate when it falls on a Sunday. Saint Peter is known as the Apostles to the Jews, and Saint Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles, though as we read in the Scriptures, they both preached the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles. Saints Peter and Paul are patrons of the city of Rome and as Roman Catholics, they hold a special place for us in our spiritual tradition. Both saints were martyred in Rome and have a basilica built over their tombs. The tradition is very strong that the bones in their respective tombs do belong to these two Apostles. Though independent in their ministry, there is a custom that their images are often placed together. An example of this is outside Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome where the piazza is flanked by large statues of each of the apostles.

Saint Peter as we will hear in the Gospel reading from Matthew 16 is the one chosen by Christ to lead the Apostles and the Christian community, the Church, and he still does so today in his successor, Pope Leo XIV. Before the recent papal election, I read part of an interview with the superior of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) who reminded the people that the cardinals who were gathering in Rome were not there to elect a successor of Pope Francis, but the successor of Saint Peter. I found it to be a very wise and thoughtful comment. There is a special custom on this day for the newly appointed metropolitan archbishops throughout the world (that is, archbishops who lead archdioceses) to gather in Rome for Mass with the Pope today and receive from him the *pallium*, a woolen band that is worn around their necks as a sign of their communion with the Pope. Archbishop Cordileone wears the one he received from Pope Francis when he celebrates Mass. Today is a day to not only ask these two saints to pray for the Church, but to also ask for their intercession for our Holy Father, Pope Leo, and Archbishop Cordileone, as they lead the Church universal and our own particular diocese here in San Francisco.

As you likely saw last weekend, the work on our parish office roof was completed the week it began. While easy to overlook, the new roof will offer us protection and peace of mind when the winds and rain return once again in the fall/winter. We are able to pay for our new office roof because of the generosity of all those who are contributing to our 75th Anniversary Fund.

This Friday we celebrate Independence Day. The parish office will be closed in observance of the holiday, but we will have our regular 8:00 AM daily Mass that morning. For all those who are traveling for the holiday, safe travels and happy 4th of July!

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:

Your generosity helps support our **Retired Priests**. Your support of the Annual Appeal helps pay for our retired priests' living and healthcare expenses, ensuring that they are cared for in the same manner as they have served countless others.



Our saint of the week, St. Junipero Serra

José Miguel Serra was born the son of a farmer in Spain in 1713. When he was 17, he joined the Franciscans and took the name Junípero. As a priest, he taught philosophy and theology. Then he requested to be a missionary. In 1749, he sailed for Mexico. After landing in Mexico, Junípero and another friar walked 300 miles to Mexico City. On the way, Junípero was bitten on the leg by a poisonous insect. This leg caused him pain for the rest of his life. At the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Junípero dedicated his work to her. In 1767, Junípero was made president of the 14 missions begun by Jesuits in Lower California.

Then, when Spaniards took over Upper California in 1769, Junípero went with them. At age 56 and with his leg and foot swollen, he traveled the 900 miles on mule to San Diego, where he founded a mission. Junípero established 9 of the 21 Franciscan missions along the Pacific Coast and baptized a total of about six thousand Native Americans. The missions were communities in which everything was held in common. The Native Americans were taught to grow crops and raise livestock. They learned to read, to sing, and to paint. They learned about the faith and asked to become Catholics. Junípero once made the long trip back to Mexico City to meet with the military commander and establish rules to protect the Native Americans and the missions. Another time when an uprising left a Franciscan and several others dead, Junípero pleaded that the Native Americans held for the killings be released.

When Junípero was dying, he insisted on walking to the chapel for Holy Communion. He died on August 28, 1784. At his funeral, the weeping drowned out the singing. Junípero is called the father of California.

NEED A PRIESTLY VISIT?

Please know that if you are homebound, sick, aging, preparing for a surgical procedure, recovering from a surgical procedure. Or find yourself in the hospital unexpectedly – your pastor is most happy to visit you with Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.

One does NOT have to be in a state of "end-of-life" for the anointing. It can be administered to any one, at any time one

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Jun 30

8:00 a.m. † **Cecilia Loreta Madeira**
(By: Maria Xavier)

Tuesday, Jul 1

8:00 a.m. † **Jim Scheg**
(By: Fr. Shunk & Parish Staff)

Wednesday, Jul 2

8:00 a.m. † **Xyza Zyra**
(By: Boyet & Helen Family)

Thursday, Jul 3

8:00 a.m. Sp. Int † **Bet Tanangco**
(By: Ding Carol)

8:00 a.m. † **Kathy Spas**
(By: Hrvatin Family)

Saturday, Jul 5

8:00 a.m. † **Jacinto dela Rosa**
(By: Josephine Mendiola)

4:30 p.m. † **Denis O'Connor**
(By: Rose O'Connor)

Sunday, Jul 6

8:00 a.m. † **FX Crowley**
(By: Banahan Family)

10:30 a.m. **People of the Parish**
(By: Fr. Schunk)

6:30 p.m. † **Michael Amaral**
(By: Peter & Margaret Schunk)

TOAY'S READINGS June 29, 2025

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11

Now I know it is indeed true: the Lord has saved me from the power of Herod.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 34:2-9

The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

All that remains now is the crown of righteousness.

Gospel Reading Matthew 16:13-19

You are Peter; and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Tuesday: St. Junipero Serra

Thursday: St. Thomas

Friday: Independence Day: First Friday

Saturday: St. Elizabeth of Portugal;
St. Anthony Zaccaria;
Blessed Virgin Mary;

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Sunday Collections June 21-22, 2025

\$ 3,308.55 Sunday Collection
\$ 1,232.70 Online Offering

Online Giving

Our new online giving system with OSV is up and running.

Thank you very much for your sacrificial giving to our parish community.

www.osvhub.com/saintstephensf/giving/funds



Bridge Players Wanted

50 Plus Club

Join our group the first Mondays of the Month

75th Anniversary Fund

Our Goal: \$250,0000

Total received to date: \$50,218

We're aiming to raise \$250,000 this year for our **Anniversary Fund** to address essential maintenance needs. Flyers with more information are available in the vestibule.

Gifts of \$1,000 or more: Honor your family or a loved one with an engraved leaf on our **donation tree**. **Gifts of \$10,000 or more:** Enjoy a special **home-cooked dinner** by our priests!

St. Stephen Parish

Rooted in Faith
Growing with Love

No gift is too small. We hope every parish household will join in supporting Saint Stephen's and help us build a strong foundation for the next 75 years!



Sick Friends & Relatives

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.

Cristina Young, 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, Rodney Clark, Michelle Vicente, Michelle Weeks, Franz Tittiger, Robert Liam, Larry Barbieri, Kenneth Fambrini, Marc Gutierrez, Gwendolyn Walsh, Joel Rivera, Eden Finn, Jovita & Richard Thompson.

Background on today's Gospel Reading

Mark places this incident at Caesarea Philippi. Luke, because of the importance he wishes to give to prayer in his Gospel, places it in the context of Jesus praying. But Matthew keeps it at Caesarea Philippi. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples for a "field report" by asking what people are saying about him. He refers to himself as the Son of Man, a term derived from the Jewish Scriptures, found in the book of Daniel and in other apocryphal writings. Many scholars suggest that "Son of Man" is best understood to mean "human being."

As Jesus turns the question directly to the disciples and asks what they believe, Peter speaks for all of them when he announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ. "Christ" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for "messiah," which means "the anointed one." At the time of Jesus, the image of the "messiah" was laden with popular expectations, most of which looked for a political leader who would free the Jewish people from Roman occupation.

Because Jesus has referred to himself a number of times in Matthew by Christological titles this moment is not the revelation of who Jesus is as in Mark. Instead it marks an important moment in the development of the Church. Jesus uses this occasion to bless Peter, who represents all the disciples but also has a unique role to play in the founding of the new community. Peter is blessed not because of a personal insight but because God revealed to him who Jesus is. Peter is the rock on which Jesus will build the Church. *Loyola Press*

Do you wonder:

"What is this Catholic faith all about?"

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith?

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Getting Baptized or Confirmed?

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in the Catholic Faith, or have been Baptized but never finished receiving the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation, you are encouraged to contact Mary Molly in the parish office to learn more about what our parish has to offer. Informal inquiry is year-round. Please call or email Mary Molly Mullaney, office phone: (415) 681-244 x4 email: FaihtFormation@SaintStephenSF.org

Our 20,000 sq. ft. Parish Event Center, Donworth Hall & Gym, are Available to Rent for your next Family Gathering or Athletic Practice

Contact Shay at 415.681.2444 x107 or email:

DonworthEvents@SaintStephenSF.org



St. Stephen priests & staff wish all a happy and safe

Independence Day!

Prayer for the Pope

Let us pray for Leo, our Pope.

May the Lord preserve him, and give him life, and make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.

Our Father. Hail Mary.

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Leo, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The School of Pastoral Ministry
Presents an online course:

The Dead Sea Scrolls with Dr. John Bergsma

This course provides a brief introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls: what they are, how they were found, what they contain, and their relevance to Judaism and Christianity.

All sessions are pre-recorded and released weekly, available for viewing anytime after the scheduled release. Recordings released on six Tuesdays, June 3 through July 8.

Course Information & Registration Page:

www.sfarch.org/dead-sea-scrolls-course/

The Dead Sea Scrolls are a collection of ancient Jewish manuscripts discovered between 1946 and 1956 in caves near Qumran, by the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea Scrolls are a treasure trove that deepen our understanding of the Bible, Judaism, and the origins of Christianity. They bridge the gap between the Old and New Testaments and bring the world of the Bible to life in extraordinary detail.

***Our warmest welcome to all
who celebrate with us!***