

St. 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF

Easter

(OR OF DIVINE MERCY)

April 7, 2024



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Jesus came and stood in their
midst and said to them,
"Peace be with you."

John 20:19



Join the FUN!

Tomorrow!

Monday, April 8,
2024

@ Donworth Hall
473 Eucalyptus
Drive, SF, CA
94132

**ALL
INVITED!**

Doors Open
12:30pm

*50+ Seniors are
invited to enjoy
camaraderie,
snacks, Bingo
games, Bridge, etc.*

For any questions
call Helga at

415-731-8211

Encounter Jesus Christ. Love Jesus Christ. Live Jesus Christ.

Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday

The Gospel doesn't tell us if Thomas ever did put his hand in Jesus' wound, but that doesn't matter. Either way, he and the other Apostles received all Jesus had to give from his pierced heart: the gift of divine mercy that we celebrate today.

Here at the end of the Easter Octave, we're called to reflect on how divine mercy sums up the whole mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Notice how Jesus immediately greets the Apostles on that first Easter with peace, and shares his bountiful mercy – giving them his own power of forgiveness. It is the deepest truth God has shared about himself: he is mercy, he loves us even when we don't deserve it.

This is tremendously freeing. It frees us from worrying that we're not good enough to earn his love, from distancing ourselves from him out of shame for our sins and defects – as if we could ever hide them from him! Above all, it sets us free from the great sin of despair, of thinking that we're too far gone for God to save us. How could a human creature's mistakes outweigh the forgiveness of the infinite Creator?

When our Lord appeared to Saint Faustina Kowalska in the 1930's, he instructed her to paint what is now the famous image of himself with two rays coming from his heart, red and white for the blood and water that flowed from his side on the cross, with the inscription, "Jesus, I trust in you." The water stands for the washing away of our sins in baptism and reconciliation, the blood for the new life that we receive in the Eucharist. As our second reading tells us, it's Jesus, the one who came through water and blood, who has conquered the world.

God's mercy not only cleanses us from our past, it gives us a way forward. When we allow it into our hearts, it manifests in our works of mercy for others. The peace and mercy Jesus gives the Apostles comes with a command to go and share it: As the Father has sent me, so I send you. These men who had been hiding in a locked room then became such powerful witnesses to the Resurrection that they established a community unequalled in solidarity and generosity.

This may seem impossible to us because we know how weak we are. We may have as much difficulty as Thomas did in having faith in what Christ has promised us. And to truly love each other as God's children? To be of one heart and mind like the community of the Apostles, setting aside our own attachments to serve the needs of others? There are few things more difficult than this kind of sacrificial love. Yet Saint John insists that these commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God – that is, whomever has faith – conquers the world. So let us fix in our minds these five words: Jesus, I trust in you.



LITURGY AND LIFE

- How do you let others know that you are a believer?
- Where do you see God's mercy revealed?
- Where do you find assurance when you have doubts?



Saint Stanislaus *Feast Day April 11*

In 1072, the people of Krakow, Poland, begged Pope Alexander II to give them Stanislaus as their bishop, which he did. As bishop, Stanislaus was generous to those who were poor. His courage proved itself when he opposed King Boleslaus II for unjust wars, violence, cheating those who were poor, and abducting a nobleman's wife. King Boleslaus pretended repentance but soon returned to his old ways. Stanislaus tirelessly preached the ways of God to the king. Enraged by Stanislaus's reprimands, Boleslaus accused the bishop of crimes.

One story reports that a man named Knight Peter had given an estate to the bishop. After Peter died, Boleslaus accused Stanislaus of not paying for it. Stanislaus fasted for three days, ordered the grave of Peter opened, raised him to life, and brought him to court. Peter upheld the good name of the bishop. Still Boleslaus behaved like a tyrant, and Stanislaus had to excommunicate him. Boleslaus entered the cathedral where Stanislaus was officiating, and services were suspended. Stanislaus, pursued by the king, fled to a chapel outside of town. The king ordered his guards to enter the church and kill the bishop. When they refused, the king marched into the chapel and slew Stanislaus with his own sword. Stanislaus is the patron of Poland.



Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Monday, Apr 8

8:00 a.m.

† **Lois Gardner**
(By: a friend)

Tuesday, Apr 9

8:00 a.m.

† **Patty & Betty Moriarty**
(By: Kirwan Family)

Wednesday, Apr 10

8:00 a.m.

† **Vivian Mullaney**
(By: Mary Molly & Marilyn Mullaney)

Thursday, Apr 11

8:00 a.m.

† **Jess De Jesus**
(By: Cynthia & CJC)

Friday, Apr 12

8:00 a.m.

† **Scott A. Featherstone**
(By: Margarita Solis-Tucker)

Saturday, Apr 13

8:00 a.m.

† **Antonio B Torres**
(By: Emma C Sagala)

4:30 p.m.

† **St Stephen Parishioners**
(By: Fr. Michael)

Sunday, Apr 14

8:00 a.m.

† **Albert Gragnani**
(By: Diane Gragnani)

10:30 a.m.

Ding & Carol Cagalingan
Sp. Int. (40th Wedding Anniv.)

6:30 p.m.

Rey Ysip *Sp. Int.*
(By: Noel & Erwin)

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

April 7, 2024

Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

— 1 John 5:5



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus (*Acts 4:32-35*).

Psalm — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (*Psalms 118*).

Second Reading — The victory that conquers the world is our faith (*1 John 5:1-6*).

Gospel — Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed (*John 20:19-31*).

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: **Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy); Julian Calendar Easter**
St. John Baptist de la Salle

Monday: **St. Julie Billiart**

Thursday: **St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr**

Saturday: **St. Martin, Pope and Martyr**

You're All Invited!
HOLY HOUR of
EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION
Exposition, Adoration and Benediction
(Weekdays, right after the 8am Mass)
Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.



Join the SFSU Newman Club for **Newman Nights** every Thursday from 6-8 pm. We will meet for Mass in the church and will move to the rectory for fellowship after. Every Sunday 6:30 p.m. Student Mass, followed by FREE Sunday Supper at 7:30 p.m. All SFSU and surrounding college students and college-age are welcome! Contact Victoria with any questions!
victoria.connor@focus.org



Interested in becoming Catholic?

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 (415) 681-244 x4 or email: FaithFormation@SaintStephenSF.org
Also, reach out to learn more about what our parish has to offer for adult faith formation.



Sick Relatives & Friends

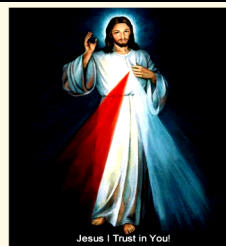
Please pray for the sick and homebound of our community and for all those written in our book of the sick. May they know the healing touch of Jesus.

George Farrales, Perry Young, Antoinette Mishirsky, Maggie Harbison, Danilo Dacasin, Greg Lorio, Adelle Caunan, Debbie Nunes, Tony Devincenzi, Julie Burton, Nestor & Nelson Plondaya, Marie Bachand, Francis Yiu, Edna Amora, Rodney Clark, Michelle Vicente, Michelle Weeks, Franz Tittiger, Carlota Plondaya, Robert Liam, Eden Finn, Edileide Jose Barbosa, Kenneth Fambrini, Larry Barbieri, Carol Dominguez, Marc Gutierrez, Catherine Scosseria, Gwendolyn Walsh, Joel Rivera, Jovita & Richard Thompson.

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

TEXT to GIVE

Text "SAINTSTEPHENSF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

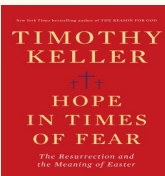
Saint Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. On the 30th of April 2000, at 10:00 AM on the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday, the Feast requested by Jesus in His communications with St. Faustina), His Holiness

Pope St. John Paul II celebrated the Eucharist in Saint Peter's Square and proceeded to the canonization of Blessed Sister Faustina. [John Paul himself would be canonized on this same Feast Day – April 27 in 2014 – by Pope Francis.] Saint Faustina invites us by the witness of her life to keep our Faith and Hope fixed on God the Father, rich in mercy, who saved us by the precious Blood of His Son. During her short life, the Lord Jesus assigned to St. Faustina three basic tasks: (1) to pray for souls, entrusting them to God's incomprehensible Mercy; (2) to tell the world about God's generous Mercy; (3) to start a new movement in the Church focusing on God's Mercy. At the canonization of St. Faustina, Pope St. John Paul II said: "The cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, speaks, and never ceases to speak, of God the Father, Who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man. ... Believing in this love means believing in mercy." "The Lord of Divine Mercy," a drawing of Jesus based on the vision given to St. Faustina, shows Jesus raising his right hand in a gesture of blessing, with His left hand on his heart from which gush forth two rays, one red and one white. The picture (shown above) contains the message, "Jesus, I trust in You!" The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.

Devine Mercy Humor

A priest was forced by a police officer to pull over for speeding. As the officer was about to write the ticket, the priest said to him, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." The police officer handed the priest the ticket, and said, "Go, and sin no more."

St. Stephen Catholic Book Club



April book: *Hope in Times of Fear: the Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter*

by Timothy Keller

"Hope in a Time of Fear explains the meaning of Jesus's resurrection. The followers of Jesus were unprepared for the event and failed to recognize him. All of them physically saw him and yet did not spiritually truly see him. It was only when Jesus reached out and invited them to see who he truly was that their eyes were open. This book offers a new way to look at a story everyone thinks they understand."

Available from SF Public Library in book, eBook, or audiobook format.

Book Club meets Sat., April 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the parish office. Contact Mary Molly for more information.

DIVINE MERCY IN ACTION

The news is filled with illustrations of mercy—or the need for mercy—in our world. One of the most moving stories came to us on October 6, 2006, when an armed man entered an Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania. He chased out the little boys and lined up the 10 little girls in front of the blackboard. He shot all of them and then killed himself. Five of the girls died. After the medics and police left, the families of the fallen came and carried their slain children home. They removed their bloody clothes and washed the bodies. They sat for a time and mourned their beloved children. After a while they walked to the home of the man who killed their children. They told his widow they forgave her husband for what he had done, and they consoled her for the loss of her spouse. They buried their anger before they buried their children. Amish Christians teach us that forgiveness is central. They believe in a real sense that God's forgiveness of themselves depends on their extending forgiveness to other people. That's what the mercy of God is all about. That mercy is why we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

* * * * *

A TIME magazine issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat on metal folding chairs. The young man wore a blue turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white running shoes. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap on his head. They sat facing one another, up-close and personal. They spoke quietly so as to keep others from hearing the conversation. The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the pope's would-be assassin (he shot and wounded the Pope on May 13, 1981); the other man was Pope St. John Paul II, the intended victim. The Pope held the hand that had held the gun whose bullet had torn into the Pope's body. This was a living icon of mercy. John Paul's forgiveness was deeply Christian. His deed with Ali Agca spoke a thousand words. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him. At the end of their 20-minute meeting, Ali Agca raised the Pope's hand to his forehead as a sign of respect. John Paul shook Ali Agca's hand tenderly. When the Pope left the cell he said, "What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust." This is an example of God's Divine Mercy, the same Divine Mercy whose message St. Faustina witnessed.

**One of the best prayers I ever heard:
"Lord please make me the person my dog thinks I am."**



The School of Pastoral Ministry presents:

Gender Ideology: What Catholics Need to Know

*A six-week series exploring “gender ideology”
from a Catholic perspective
with Mary Rice Hasson, JD*

**6 Tuesday Evenings beginning April 9 through
May 14, 7:00-8:30pm online via Zoom.**

**Register online to join this series with Mary Rice
Hasson, JD, exploring “gender ideology” from a
Catholic perspective. \$25 for the 6-week
course. Scholarships available. For more info or
to register go to:**

<https://sfarch.org/gender-ideology-course/>

Class Topics:

Apr. 9 - The Big Question: “Who am I?” - Catholic teaching on the person v Ideology - Irreconcilable anthropologies

Apr. 16 - “Transgender Tipping Point: 10 Years Later” - Trajectory – Roots, Cultural Changes, Future Challenges – religious liberty

Apr. 23 - The LGBTQ Generation: The Influences on Youth - Vulnerabilities, Vectors/Influencers – schools, parental rights, counselors

Apr. 30 - What About “Transgender” Body Modifications? - Medical/Surgical Interventions and Catholic Teaching

May 7 - Gender, Mental Health, and Suicide: The Facts - “Gender dysphoria” and Co-morbidities; Suicide risks and Realities

May 14 - The Catholic Response: Truth and Charity - Principles – summation - Cases – business, family members, peers, experts

Sacristans Needed for the 10:30 Mass

We are looking for sacristans to help after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. The tasks are pretty easy cleaning up the items used for the celebration of the Mass. Training will be provided. It should take only 15 minutes of your time once mass is over. (And it is okay to perform the tasks during or after the coffee/donut time.) Please contact the Parish office if interested. (415) 681-244 x4

The Psalms in the Liturgy

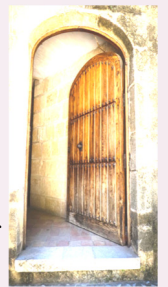
The book of Psalms is a prayer book, hymnal, and anthology of verse all rolled into one. It contains one hundred fifty ancient songs—poem-prayers that express the joys and sorrows of the Hebrew people and their longing for God. The psalms are incredibly varied in tone. Some are solemn anthems of praise that once accompanied processions of great multitudes to the temple; others record the lonely cries of a faithful soul who feels abandoned by God.

This ancient prayer book of the Hebrew people is our principal prayer book as well. The psalms are everywhere in the liturgy—in the antiphons and acclamations of the Mass, and most particularly in the responsorial psalm that follows the first reading. The psalm that is sung at Mass usually echoes the themes of the first reading, and sometimes even comments on it. On this Third Sunday of Lent, we listen to the Exodus account of the stubbornness of God’s people in the desert, and then the psalm comes to remind us: “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts” (Psalm 95:8). In their wonderful variety, the psalms teach us how to pray. —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

A CHURCH ACCESSIBLE!

Saint Stephen Church is left open Monday through Saturday from after the morning Mass until 4:00 p.m. This gives you the opportunity to stop by and make a personal/private visit with the Blessed Sacrament and to offer your prayers in a quiet, warm and comfortable atmosphere

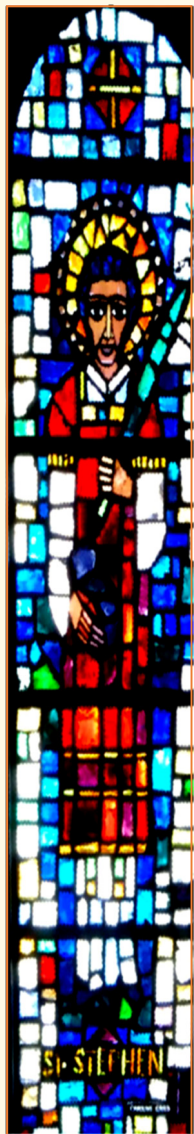
So, when you are out for an afternoon walk or returning home from shopping or work -- feel free to stop by.



Prayer to St. Michael



Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michael Lilledahl
Pastor, ext. 1
 Fr.Michael@SaintStephenSF.org

Rev. Ben Rosado
Parochial Vicar, ext. 8
 frbenrosado@gmail.com

Rev. Mr. Manuel "Olet" Abad
Permanent Deacon
 deacon@SaintStephenSF.org

Dereck Delgado
Seminarian in Pastoral Year

Sharon McCarthy Allen
Principal

Carol P Cagalingan
Parish Manager, ext. 3
 carol@SaintStephenSF.org

Mary Molly Mullaney
Faith Formation, ext. 4
 faithformation@SaintStephenSF.org

Shay Ingelfinger
Event Center Coordinator, ext. 7
 donworthevents@SaintStephenSF.org

Teresa Devincenzi
Bookkeeper, ext. 5
 teresa@SaintStephenSF.org

Ed Prete
Bulletin Editor, ext. 6
 e.prete@SaintStephenSF.org

Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us!

You can **sign up** or **update** your information by completing this form & placing it in the collection basket, or by mailing it to the Parish Office, or by phone at 415-681-2444 or at www.saintstephensf.org

Name _____

Contact Phone (H W CP) _____

Email _____

Complete Mailing Address _____

_____ City/ZIP _____

Weekly Sunday envelopes , circle one: Yes No, but commit to participate thru Online Giving.

You will receive in the mail within a week, a Parish Registration Form to complete the registration process. Or just get the paper Parish Registration in the vestibule. Thank you!

ST STEPHEN PARISH 2023-2024

ORGANIZATION/MINISTRY CONTACT PERSON

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Altar Servers | Giovanna Hrvatin |
| • Altar Society | Joan Leehane |
| • Bridge Group | Virginia Stefanelli |
| • Caritas | Nellie Hizon |
| • Church Hospitality | Mary Molly Mullaney |
| • Communion Ministers | Mary Molly Mullaney |
| • Faith Formation | 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 |
| • Lectors | Mary Molly Mullaney |
| • Liturgy Committee | Fr. Michael Lilledahl |
| • Marriage Preparation | Clergy |
| • Men's Club | Marcus Lam |
| • Newman Campus Ministry | Victoria Connor |
| • Parish Council | Vicky Francisco |
| • RCIA | Mary Molly Mullaney |
| • St. Stephen Book Club | Mary Molly Mullaney |
| • Ushers | Jim Scheg |
| • Women's Guild | Jamie Allen
Naomi Kelly |

Parish Office Phone 415.681.2444

Be sure to REGISTER in the parish!

If you're a regular donor but not a registered parishioner, take a moment to be sure your giving history will be complete for your tax letter.

Go to <https://saintstephensf.org/parish-registration-form> to REGISTER ONLINE OR use the paper Registration Forms provided at the church's vestibule or drop by the parish office to inquire and familiarize yourself with the Pastor's office and his parish staff.

Today's Music

Gathering: O Breathe On Me, O Breath of God **#653**

Preparation: We Walk By Faith **#515**

Communion: The Body of Christ **#326**,
One Love Released **#333**

Sending: Give Thanks To The Lord **#613**