

St. Stephen Parish

SaintStephenSF.org | 451 Eucalyptus Dr., San Francisco CA 94132 | Church 681-2444

February 5, 2017
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Light shines through the darkness
for the upright.**

—Psalm 112:4



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Isaiah 58:7-10, 1 Cor. 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16

A story is told of a church that was destroyed during the 1995 Rwandan genocide. As the parish sought to rebuild itself, it began by rebuilding the church, which once stood at the heart of the community. Unable to provide electricity, however, and with a residual fear of further violence, the scattered community would wait until dark to gather for Sunday Mass. Each week, with the ringing of a bell, a little miracle would happen.

As the people made their way to the shell of the church, they brought with them their lamps, using them to light the way and to light their parish church. When finished, they would return home the same way, taking with them their lamps. For anyone observing this, it was impossible not to see the connection between this miraculous event and

today's Gospel. For this broken and grieving community, it was a sign of God's continuing presence in the life of their community, a sign that life was returning to normal – that God's light was with them and in them. The only time that little church was lit up was when people were present. That was when they became truly Church!

So it is for all believers as we gather on the Lord's Day. We gather in the light of Christ, and we are challenged to be that same light in the world – to be Christ in the world and in the lives of others. The image of light is a powerful one. We all know how important it is to life. When we have light we are more secure, and we can see the way even if it might be uneven or circuitous. Light is necessary; it brightens our vision of life and invites others to share in our vision.

So the words of Jesus, *You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden*, are both challenging and consoling. Being a Christian is like that! Our lives should shine with Christ's presence, compassion, care and love. And we must show this in practical ways, as Isaiah tells us in the first reading: sharing our bread, sheltering the oppressed and homeless, clothing the naked and fighting against oppression, lies and false accusation. Isaiah sets before us a vision or a road map for life according to the will of God.

The images of light and salt are interesting and provoking ones. Neither can exist for its own sake. Light is no good if there is no one to use it or to bask in its glow. As the Gospel tells us, you do not light a lamp and then hide it. Light is meant to penetrate and overcome darkness: it does not make sense to hide it. Likewise, salt is no good unless it brings flavor to food.

So our faith is no good if it is all about us. As we deepen our relationship with God through prayer and the Eucharist, we will be strengthened to go out and share our faith with others. Only then will we be fulfilling the Gospel mandate to be Christ's disciples, and to bring glory to God.

Have a blessed week and thank you for praying with us today – that's what community is all about!

Father Tony

Our Liturgical Week

Monday, Feb. 6

8:00 a.m. † **Patrick Naughton**
(By: Kirwan Family)

Tuesday, Feb. 7

8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 8

8:00 a.m. † **Penny Blondo**
(By: Junie Blondo)

Thursday, Feb. 9

8:00 a.m. † **Guillermo Ramos**
(By: Adele Caunan)

Friday, Feb. 10

8:00 a.m. † **Andres B. Caunan**
(By: Adele Caunan)

Saturday, Feb. 11

8:00 a.m.

3:30 a.m. Reconciliation

4:30 p.m. † **Thomas McCormack**
(By: Patrick Murphy)

Sunday, Feb. 12

8:00 a.m. † **Felimon Pascual Jr.**
(By: Adele Caunan)

9:30 a.m. † **Anita Guerrero**
(By: Carmen Saniotes)

11:30 a.m. † **Jack Carpentier**
(By: Gayle Carpentier)

6:45 p.m. † **Carmen Menezes**
(By: Joe & Josie Fernandes)

Bold Indicates Mass Intentions

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 5, 2017

Light shines through the darkness for the upright.

— *Psalm 112:4*



Please remember:

Honora Lowe
Colleen D'Alessandro

Who recently died in the peace of Christ.

Our sick and homebound are in continual need of our prayers, please remember them daily.



Sacrificial Giving

Second Collection
Next Weekend

A second collection will be taken at all masses February 11 and 12 for

Building Loan Payment

St Stephen Events Calendar

Monday

3:30 p.m. Faith Formation/Church & Offices

7:00 p.m. Liturgy Comm./Rectory

Tuesday

12:00 p.m. School Lunch/Hall

4:00 p.m. Phil. Orchestra?Hall

7:00 p.m. Men's Club/Hall

7:00 p.m. Parish Choir/Church

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. School Lunch/Hall

7:00 p.m. RCIA/E.C.

7:30 p.m. SVDP Mtg./Comm. Room

Thursday

12:00 p.m. School Lunch/Hall

Friday

7:30 p.m. G.A. Closed Meeting/EC & Comm. Rm.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. Book Club

Sunday

7:00 p.m. Adult Volleyball/Gym

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — If you share your food with the hungry, provide housing for the homeless, then light shall break forth upon you (*Isaiah 58:7-10*).

Psalm — The just man is a light in the darkness to the upright (*Psalm 112*).

Second Reading — My message to you, says Paul, was not clever words of wisdom but the proclamation of Christ crucified (*1 Corinthians 2:1-5*).

Gospel — You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world. In your good deeds your light shines before others, leading them to glorify God (*Matthew*

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.

Larry Barbieri, Edileide, Jose Barbosa
Ruth Cisek, Carol Dominguez, Eden Finn,
Al Gragnani, Emma Hock, Emma Lew,
Maria Matthews, Nenita Sangalang,
Juan Pablo Grover-Paez,
Jovita & Richard Thompson,
and Patricia Sullivan.

Stewardship: A Way of Life

Stewardship Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Last week's collection: 01/29 \$8,203

2nd Collection: SVDP Local \$2,524

*We thank our parishioners who return their gifts
with a loving and generous increase to God*

A "HUMOROUS" STORY

Business is business: Angela was nearing 60 and was in her final year of teaching in the public school. She was a devout Christian who missed teaching from the Bible. Because she was worried about how little her class knew about religion, Angela decided she was going to disregard the new regulations and teach some religion. She told her class that she would run a contest. She would give 50 cents to whoever could tell her who the greatest man was who ever lived. Immediately Isaac a Jewish boy began to wave his hand, but Angela ignored him in favor of those in her Sunday school class. As she went around the room, Angela was disappointed with the answers she got. Jane, her best scholar, picked Noah because he saved all the animals. Others said, "I think the greatest man who ever lived was Alexander the Great because he conquered the whole world." and "I think it was Thomas Edison, because he invented the light bulb." Finally, she called on Isaac who still had his hand in the air. "I think the greatest man who ever lived was Jesus Christ." said Isaac. Angela was shocked but still gave him the 50 cent reward. As she did so, she said, "Well, Isaac, I'm very surprised that you should be the only one with the right answer. How come?" "Well, to tell you the truth," Isaac replied as he pocketed the money, "I think it was Moses, but business is business."

2017 ANNUAL APPEAL

"Begins Today!"

By giving to the Annual Appeal today, you will answer God's call to discipleship by supporting His work in our archdiocese. Your gift has a two-fold effect: Your commitment to the works of the Archdiocese services and ministries is acted upon. Also, your gift assists our parish in meeting our responsibilities, because every dollar you give to the Appeal goes toward our parish goal. Also, any overage will stay in the parish to fund the "wish list" posted in the bulletin. Thank you for your prayerful and generous response.



HOSPITALITY MINISTERS for our 9:30 a.m. Mass

Today, Feb. 5 - **Bob Anthony Team**
Sunday, Feb. 12 - **Vicky Francisco**
Sunday, Feb. 19 - **Louise Fambrini**

Please note! Coffee and donuts will not be served until the completion of mass.

St. Stephen Men's Club Super Bowl Squars



Excited about the big game between the Patriots and the Falcons? Get into the game by buying a Super Bowl square! Each square is \$100 and proceeds benefit the St. Stephen's Men's Club. For more information contact John Bankovitch at:

ststephenmen@gmail.com.



Second Collection

Thanks to your generosity January 28 and 29 we were able to contribute \$2,524 to our St. Vincent De Paul Conf. We are most grateful for your continued generosity.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time;**
World Day for Consecrated Life;
Boy Scouting Sunday
Monday: **St. Paul Miki and Companions**
Wednesday: **St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine**
Bakhita
Friday: **St. Scholastica;**
Tu B'Shvat (the Jewish new year of
trees) begins at sunset
Saturday: **Our Lady of Lourdes;**
Blessed Virgin Mary;
World Day of the Sick

World Day of the Sick Mass
Saturday, February 11, 11:00 am
St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough Street
Kenneth Ryan, KM 415-613-0395
kennryan@aol.com

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone is principal celebrant at a special 11:00 am Mass for World Day of the Sick on February 11, at which the Anointing of the Sick will take place. The event is sponsored by the Order of Malta, which will arrange rides for people if they need them. All are invited.

Catholic Charities CYO Athletics **to Honor John Duggan**

Parishioner John Duggan will be inducted along with John and Mike Mulkerrins and the late Lynn Leon into Catholic Charities CYO Hall of Fame at the CYO Hall of Fame Dinner on March 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Father O'Reilly Catholic Charities CYO Center at the St. Emydius gym. The dinner honors individuals who have made an extraordinary impact on the community, provided a legacy of leadership and have championed the virtues and values of CYO Athletics. John has been a valuable member of the CYO Athletics community for over 25 years, coaching for St. Stephen boys' and girls' basketball for 16 years and continues to coach his granddaughters' basketball team. For dinner tickets, call Mary Beth Johnson Deel at 415 988 7077 or visit athletics.cccyo.org.

UNFINISHED MISSION

Here's a simple test to find out whether your mission on earth is finished: If you're alive, it isn't. --Anonymous

Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

“Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credential but himself. While he was still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away; one of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While he was dying his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth - his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Twenty long centuries have come and gone, and today he is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built, all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.”

(Author unknown)

Married Couples

This New Year resolve to make your marriage the best it can be by attending a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!** The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is March 17-19, 2017 in Mountain View. For more information visit our website at: sanjosewwme.org or contact Ken & Claranne at **408-782-1413** or

applications@sanjosewwme.org

Bulletin Announcements

Send your St. Stephen bulletin announcements via e-mail to the following address:

e.prete@saintstephensf.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference 2016 Annual Report to St. Stephen's Parish

The St. Stephen's St. Vincent de Paul Conference is sincerely grateful to our St. Stephen's Parish Family, Fr. Warren and Fr. Tony for your support and generosity shown in 2016, and over the past years. The people we help are truly thankful and very appreciative of the assistance we provide.

Our financial contributions for 2016 (for the period covering 10/1/2015 – 9/30/2016) totaled \$18,357.69. This included 4 Fifth Sunday collections in the amount of \$10,283.50 and a starting balance in the amount of \$8,074.69 from 2015.

Distributions:

- ✦ \$2,400 to the Vincentian Help Desk, which provides clothing to the needy.
- ✦ \$1000 for assistance with rent to clients in need.
- ✦ \$1,800 for support of our St. Stephen's Parishioners who make sandwiches for the St. Vincent de Paul's Multi-Service Center.
- ✦ \$1,180.04 for 7 families from St. Peter's at Easter (\$100/\$150 Safeway Gift Card and Easter basket for each family).
- ✦ \$800 for assistance to needy families from St. Peter's for school registration.
- ✦ \$1,850 in Safeway Gift cards for 11 needy families from St. Peter's.
- ✦ \$765.30 for 12 needy families from St. Peter's parish at Thanksgiving (Food box consisted of rice, beans, flour, rolls, pie, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, a bag of fruit, and a \$25 gift card to).
- ✦ \$2,715.25 for 8 very needy families from St. Peter's parish at Christmas. (\$125 -\$200 gift card to Target, \$100 gift card to Safeway and 2 presents for each child).

\$582 for conference operating expenses.

We would like to thank all of you for your continued kindness and the benevolence you have shown our conference throughout the past year. Here is just one of the several sentiments conveyed to us by a family from St. Peter's in response to the help we have provided. *"Your gifts made me realize once more that there are still kind hearted people. May God bless you always."* It is because of you, that we are able to help those who are less fortunate than us. May God Bless you.

Appreciatively,

Members of the St. Stephen's SVDP Conference

Our Altar Servers

Our special "thanks" to our student Altar Servers who faithfully continue to volunteer their time and talent to our parish. Our Altar Servers for **January 23 thru 29** were:

— **Weekday Masses** —

**Kyle Simmons, Dagny Wallace, Laurence Esser, Darragh Keane, Cian O'Donoghue,
Aidan Dugan, Eoghan Daly, Alex Flores and John Brooks.**

— **Weekend Masses** —

**Alyssa Fambrini, Bianca Hallinan, Barry Cahalane, Melissa Hua, Zachary Ferdon, Lauren Schneider,
Isabella Ritchie, Claire Patankar, Dory Miller, Drew Phillips, Caroline Wong, Hannah Morello,
Esmeralda Ramirez, Gino Andrini, Emily Schmitt, Giovanna Franco and Mikel Villamayorn,**

Thank You!

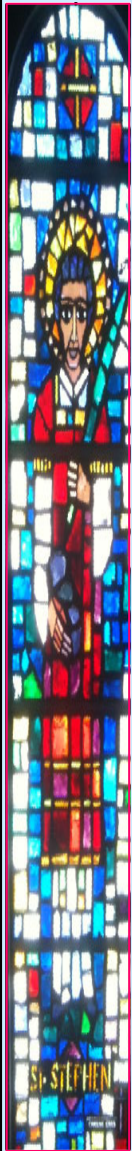


Our Mission Statement

We are a Catholic Community that is called by God to follow Jesus Christ. We believe that we are called to worship God together, to lead God's people along the path of hope laid down by Jesus, to share his message through preaching, through the education and formation of our people, young and old, and through caring service and sensitive outreach to those in need

Rev. Tony P. LaTorre - Pastor

AD PAGE



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Tony P. LaTorre
Pastor ext.25
fathertony@saintstephensf.org

Rev. Mr. Rory Desmond
Permanent Deacon

Rhonda Smith
Coordinator of Music & Liturgy ext. 32

Mary Molly Mullaney
Faith Formation Coordinator ext.27

Mrs. Sharon McCarthy Allen
School Principal

Jim Cook
Parish Manager ext.23

Shay Ingelfinger
Event Center Coordinator ext.33

Jan Almeida
Bookkeeper ext.29

ST STEPHEN PARISH 2016-2017

ORGANIZATION/MINISTRY CONTACT PERSON

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Altar Servers | Giovanna Hrvatin |
| • Altar Society | Joan Leehane |
| • Bridge Group | Helen Perlite |
| • Caritas | Nellie Hizon |
| • Church Hospitality | Mary Molly Mullaney |
| • Communion Ministers | Rhonda Smith |
| • Faith Formation | Mary Molly Mullaney |
| • Fifty Plus Club | Helga D'Arcy |
| • Finance Council | Laura Birsinger |
| • Grief Support | Clergy |
| • Lectors | Rhonda Smith |
| • Liturgy Committee | Fr. Tony |
| • Marriage Preparation | Clergy |
| • Men's Club | John Bankovitch |
| • Music | Rhonda Smith |
| • Parish Council | Vicky Francisco |
| • RCIA | Mary Molly Mullaney |
| • St. Stephen Book Club | Veronica Wong |
| • St. Vincent de Paul | Julie O'Callaghan |
| • Ushers | Bob Anthony |
| • Women's Guild | Daniela Franco & Maira Hallinan |

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, by mailing it to the Parish Office, by phone at 681-2444 or online at www.saintstephensf.org!

Name _____ Address _____

City/Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Our parishioners receive the Archdiocese weekly newspaper "Catholic San Francisco." I am interested in assisting with the Parish in the following way(s):

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Acolyte/Altar Service | • Holy Communion Ministers to the Home-bound |
| • Altar Society | • Lector/Holy Communion Ministers |
| • Children's Liturgy of the Word Choir | • Music/Choir |
| • Greeter/Usher | |
| • Hospitality after Mass/Special Events | |