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

Weekday Mass: 8:00 a.m. Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 p.m. or by appt.
Vigil Mass Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m. & 6:45 p.m.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

Please continue to pray over your participation in the Annual Appeal, which is in progress. We do need, and hope for, the participation of each household, to make this a parish-wide success.

Our required tax is: $99,663.00. As of this date, we have received: $33,499.00 (Thank you!)
If you did not receive a donor brochure or would like another, these are available in the vestibule or call the office and we will gladly send you another.

April 12, 2020
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

All Praise to Christ our victor King.

“Who is my opponent? I,” he says, “am the Christ. I am the one who destroyed death, and triumphed over the enemy, and trampled Hades under foot, and bound the strong one, and carried off man to the heights of heaven, I,” he says, “am the Christ.”

In some reading I recently did, these words in an early second-century homily from Melito of Sardis, Bishop of Sardis, serve to help our understanding and appreciation of just what we are celebrating today. Especially, in fact, if we can imagine the bishop delivering these words in the same way that has occurred in movies: When King Leonidas of Sparta says “this is Sparta,” in 300; or William Wallace yells “freedom!” in Braveheart.

It is not an entirely bad image, for Jesus Christ is indeed our warrior King, although not in the temporal, political sense. We are not called to arms against earthly enemies. In fact, we are not called to arms at all because – victory has been won! His resurrection is our resurrection (Cf. Romans 6:5); his life is our life; his kingdom is our kingdom.

And while in the Gospel today Mary Magdalen, Simon Peter, and the other disciple did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead, we are privy to the full story and the history of the Church which commissions us as witnesses. We testify that is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead … [and] that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.

These are not just nice words we heard in the reading from Acts. These are not “just claims” that perhaps we have heard so many times that we sort of gloss over them. This is victory over sin and death! A gift given to us in the most merciful and generous way possible. This is not an end – as many who surrounded Jesus may have thought – but a beginning. We celebrate the Resurrection as the day, as our psalm says, when The right hand of the LORD has struck with power.

“Therefore,” Melito continues his homily, “come, all families of men, you who have been befouled with sins, and receive forgiveness for your sins. [Christ is] your forgiveness, [Christ is] the passover of your salvation, [Christ is] the lamb which was sacrificed for you, [Christ is] your ransom … your light … your savior … your king.”

On this most solemn and yet triumphant day of all days, may we vow to carry this joyful, regal message of salvation to others, for we are compelled by virtue of our baptism to share that Good News with the world. “For who is [Christ’s] opponent? After all, he is the Christ. [He is] the one who destroyed death, and triumphed over the enemy, and trampled Hades under foot.”

My friends, we do live in different, uncertain and even sad times. But we do have two very important things in life – each other and our risen King, our Savior. Know that I miss not seeing and being with each one of you in these pews each and every time I walk out to celebrate Mass. Celebrating Mass each day with the Lord at my side is a gift that cannot be described, but without you in front of me is like having an open wound in my heart. At this writing, we do not know when we will be free to once again be with each other, but until that time comes, remember to stay safe, stay healthy, observe what we are advised to do and remember your prayers.

All praise to Christ our victor King, ever reigning.

A blessed Easter to you all! Father Tony LaTorre

Liturgy and Life

- How can you keep alive the joy that you feel that Christ has risen?
- What responsibilities came with your Baptism?
- Is there someone who might benefit from hearing your story of faith during this Easter Season? Or might you benefit from hearing another’s story of faith?
Living Stewardship Now
“The Greatest Gift”

Easter is a big deal—a very big deal. Every one of the four Gospels provides an account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which makes perfect sense because the bodily resurrection of Jesus has always been the foundation of the Christian faith from the very beginning. It is an ancient tradition, based on the evidence of scripture and on the writings of the early church, that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper on a Thursday, died on a Friday, and rose from the dead on a Sunday. Thus, today’s Gospel tells us that Jesus rose from the dead on “the first day of the week” (John 20:1). Within about a hundred years of Jesus’ resurrection Christians were celebrating the great Easter Vigil, beginning after dark on Holy Saturday and continuing until dawn on Easter morning. During this vigil, Christians heard salvation history through scripture readings, celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, and looked forward to his return. At the vigil men and women who had gone through three years of instruction were baptized and received First Communion. Without his death and rising to new life Jesus would have been merely another Jewish teacher and failed messiah. His teachings would be just a code of ethics and our worship in vain. We celebrate the Resurrection for fifty days, and for the rest of the year every Sunday is a kind of “mini-Easter.” Easter is the culmination of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection that we celebrate “with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Corinthians 5:8). If you have not been to church for a while, we invite you to come back again and know that you are welcome in the community of faith. Please speak to the priest after Mass or call the parish office and let us help you feel at home.

Easter Humor

1) A Sunday school teacher had just finished telling her third graders about how Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb with a great stone sealing the opening. Then, wanting to share the excitement of the Resurrection, she asked: "And what do you think were Jesus’ first words when He came bursting out of that tomb alive?" A hand shot up into the air from the rear of the classroom. Attached to it was the arm of a little girl. Leaping out of her chair she shouted out excitedly "I know, I know!" "Good" said the teacher, "Tell us, what were Jesus first words?" And extending her arms high into the air she said: "TA-DA!"

2) George went on a vacation to the Middle East with most of his family including his mother-in-law. During their vacation and while they were visiting Jerusalem, George's mother-in-law died. With the death certificate in hand, George went to the American Consulate to make arrangements to send the body back to the States for proper burial. The Consul, after hearing of the death of the mother-in-law, told George that the sending of a body back to the States for burial is very, very expensive. It could cost as much as $5,000. The Consul continued, “In most cases the person responsible for the remains normally decides to bury the body here. This would only cost $150.” George thought for some time and answered, "I don't care how much it will cost to send the body back; that's what I want to do." The Consul, after hearing this, said, "You must have loved your mother-in-law very much, considering the difference in price." "No, it's not that!" said George. "You see, I know of a case many years ago of a person, by name Jesus, who was buried here in Jerusalem. On the third day he arose from the dead. I just can't take that chance."

3) One lady wrote into a question and answer forum. "Dear Sirs, our preacher said on Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and that the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think? Sincerely, Bewildered. Dear Bewildered, Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails, nail him to a cross; hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear through his side...put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens." Sincerely, Charles.

3) Joseph of Arimathaea was a very wealthy Pharisee, a member of the Council, and a secret follower of Jesus. It was Joseph who went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body after the crucifixion. And it was Joseph who supplied the tomb for Jesus’ burial. I wonder if someone pulled him aside and said, "Joseph that was such beautiful, costly, hand-hewn tomb. Why on earth did you give it to someone to be buried in?" "Why not?" Joseph may have answered. "He only needed it for the weekend."
Our parishioner's health is our top priority, but coming together and worshiping the Lord is part of our mission and will keep our spiritual strength strong.

- Every Sunday, at 9:30 am, we will be going live from our St. Stephen Parish Facebook page.
- If you have a Facebook account please make sure to like St. Stephen Catholic Church. (https://www.facebook.com/saintstephensf/)
- If you do not have a Facebook, either create a new account (free) or log-in with a friend or family member.
- When we go live it will show up on your news feed. Please make sure to click on the live feed and you will be part of our virtual community. (Your device needs to be connected to WIFI or an internet connection in order to stream the mass.)
- A donation button and or link will be added to the live stream this weekend or in the near future. If you are looking for a way to still help financially support your local parish please donate at your discretion.

We know this is new for our community but we are so excited to keep spreading the word of God. If there was ever a time we were in need of his guidance, it is now.

For more information or questions please speak to Carol or Father Tony at Parish Office 415.681.2444.

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**A Real Easter Egg**

A small chick begins the long journey to birth. The not-yet-a-bird weighs little more than air; its beak and claws are barely pin pricks. The bird-to-be is in its own little world: protected by the rigid shell, warmed by the mother hen’s body, nourished by the nutrients within the egg’s membrane. But then the chick begins the work of life. Over several days the chick keeps picking and picking until it can break out from its narrow world — and into an incomparably wider one. But for this to happen, the egg has to go to pieces. New life demands shattering the old. That is the real Easter egg. Not a complete egg dyed and painted with so many designs and colors. Not an egg that has been hard-boiled, impossible to shatter. Not an egg made of chocolate. The real Easter egg is shattered and destroyed. The real Easter egg exists in broken pieces. The real Easter egg is cracked and opened, yielding new life that has moved out to live in the open. For centuries, the world has marked the Resurrection of the Lord with eggs. But the Easter meaning of the egg is found in the struggle of the chick to free itself from its confines so as to move into much bigger world beyond it. We struggle to break out of a world that we perceive is going to pieces; we pick away at an existence that leaves us dissatisfied and unfulfilled. The promise of the Easter Christ is that we can break out of our self-contained little worlds and move into a world where peace and justice reign, a world illuminated by hope and warmed by love, a world that extends beyond time and place into the forever of God’s dwelling place.

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**Ways and Means to Help and Support Our Church**

As we go our daily life within the state and city-wide mandate of “Stay-at-Home” for the next few weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please remember that we continue to look forward to your regular weekly donations to sustain our church’s basic operation needs.

You may continue to do so through the following:

1) via your weekly envelope which can either be:
   A) Mailed to the Parish Office;
   B) Dropped off at our parish office/mailbox slot.

2) If at this time, you are strictly confined in your home, please consider setting up an online account through the parish website: www.saintstephensf.org by:
   A) click the $ Giving button
   B) click on Donation link
   C) Set up your account online

3) If neither of the above works for you, please give us a call at the office, and we will gladly pick up your donation envelope for the parish.

4) For our elderly parishioners who live alone, we also offer our services in making a grocery run for you once a week. Please make a listing of your grocery needs, call us at the office and we will arrange for our volunteer parishioners to do the errand for you.

For more information, please give us a call at 415-681-2444 between 9am to 3pm Mondays thru Fridays or check our website www.saintstephensf.org
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

Easter Means . . . .

1) We are to be Resurrection people: Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, gives us the joyful message that we are a “Resurrection people.” This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits, and dangerous addictions. It gives us the Good News that no tomb can hold us down anymore - not the tomb of despair, discouragement, doubt or death itself. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the real presence of the Risen Lord in all the events of our lives. “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad” (Psalm 118:24).

2) We need to seek our peace and joy in the Risen Jesus: The living presence of the Risen Lord gives us lasting peace and celestial joy in the face of the boredom, suffering, pain, and tensions of our day-to-day life. “Peace be with you!” was Jesus’ salutation to his disciples at all post-Resurrection appearances. For the true Christian, every day must be an Easter Day lived joyfully in the close company of the Risen Lord.

3) We are to be transparent Christians: We are called to be transparent Christians, showing others, through our lives of love, mercy, compassion and self-sacrificing service, that the Risen Jesus is living in our hearts.

4) We need to live new, disciplined lives in the Risen Jesus: Our awareness of the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord in and around us, and the strong conviction of our own coming resurrection, help us control our thoughts, desires, words and behavior. This salutary thought inspires us to honor our bodies, keeping them holy, pure and free from evil habits and addictions. Our conviction about the presence of the Risen Lord in our neighbors, and in all those with whom we come into contact, should encourage us to respect them and to render them loving, humble and selfless service.

5) We need to remember Easter in our Good Fridays: Easter reminds us that every Good Friday in our lives will have an Easter Sunday, and that Jesus will let us share the power of his Resurrection. Each time we display our love of others, we share in the Resurrection. Each time we face a betrayal of trust and, with God’s grace, forgive the betrayer, we share in the Resurrection of Jesus. Each time we fail in our attempts to ward off temptations – but keep on trying to overcome them – we share in the Resurrection. Each time we continue to hope – even when our hope seems unanswered – we share in the power of Jesus’ Resurrection. In short, the message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us – not pain, sin, rejection, betrayal or death – because Christ has conquered all these, and we, too, can conquer them if we put our Faith and trust in Him.

6) We are to be bearers of the Good News of Resurrection power: Resurrection is Good News, but at the same time, it’s sometimes painful because it involves death. Before the power of the Resurrection can take hold in our own lives, we’re called to die to sin, to die to self. We may even have to die to our own dreams, so that God can do what He wants to do with our lives. Resurrection is about seeing our world in a new way. Early that Easter morning, Mary did not find what she was looking for, the dead body of Jesus. But she found something better than she could have imagined: The Risen Jesus. Sometimes, the things we think we want most are not granted to us. What we get instead is an experience of God’s new ways of working in the world. That’s the power of the Resurrection. When those moments come, we must spread the news—just as Mary did: We have seen the Lord!

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.

Zaida Ysip, Larry Teshara, Vaughn Jones, Leanna Mossi, Peter Dalton, Elena Amaya, Eden Finn, Edileide Jose Barbosa, Kenneth Fambrini, Larry Barbiere, Carol Dominguez, Marc Gutierres, Kevin King, Marla Moso, Juan Pablo Grover-Paez, Betty Rodriguez, Joel Rivera, Joseph Tren, Anna M Thompson, Gwendolyn Walsh, Jovita & Richard Thompson

Please call the office to add or remove names of people that we should pray for this month.
The 2020 Annual Appeal is in progress. It is our hope that each household/parishioner will assist us by sharing their treasure as we move forward to reach our required tax of $99,663.00. Donor brochures were mailed home several weeks ago. If you didn’t receive one or would like another, they are available on the tables in the vestibule. As we all make-up the “Church,” it is important that we come together and work on reaching this goal. Know that no amount is too small and all gifts are received with great thanksgiving. Fr. Tony

Our current “outstanding” balance is: **$66,164.00.**

**PARISH GOAL : $99,663.00**

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Anonymous (Various)
M/M Dale & Sharon Allen
M/M Michael Alves
Mrs. Dorothy Arata
M/M Roberto Arguello
Mr. Clemence Blondo
M/M John Bruno
Ms. Nancy Buckley
M/M Sherwin Cabatic
M/M Ding Cagalingan Jr
M/M Carlos Cajilig Jr.
M/M Peter Cardozo
M/M Gerald Carillo
M/M Douglas Cayabyab
Ms. Adelaida R Caunan
M/M Graziano Cerchii
Ms. Piera Cheng Chaz &
Mr. Arthur Chui
M/M Howard Chen
M/M Marcellus Chow
M/M Arturo Cuevas-Arenas
Helga D’Arcy &
Matthew Quane
Mr. Joseph D’Aura
Ms. Debby Diaz
M/M Mark Dickson
Mr. Michael Duffy
Ms. Elena Duggan
M/M David Dulany
M/M Kenneth Fambrini
M/M Gerard Fernandez
M/M Liam Fernandez
Ms. Elinor Gatto
M/M Ryan Gille
Ms. Avelina A. Gomez
M/M Mark Gottas
Mrs. Diane Gragnani
M/M Roberto Guzman
M/M James P Hargarten
M/M Sean Harrington
M/M Lawrence Hayes
Mrs. Patricia Hayes
Ms. Joanne Hayes-White
M/M Thomas Hazard
Ms. Joan Holsten
M/M Cris Houghton
M/M Claudio Hravit
Ms. Patricia Ignacio
Ms. Cynthia G. Kelly
M/M Douglas Kilroy
Rev. Tony P. LaTorre
M/M Jim Landers
Mr. Paul Laveroni
M/M Dianne Leehane
M/M Michael Levy
M/M James Martin
M/M Lawrence Mazzola
Mr. Daniel McGarry &
Ms. Courtney Cassinelli
Ms. Gayle Montalbano
M/M Joseph Morello
Mr. Michael O’Connor
Ms. Myrna Orais
Ms. Anne O’Shea
Mr. Robert Reidy
M/M John Ritchie
M/M Daniel M. Salvemini
Donovan Schneider &
Deborah Lobo
Rev. David Schunk
Mr. Kevin Sequeira
Ms. Lutzie E. Sotto
M/M Matthew Stecher
Ms. Virginia Stefanelli
M/M Peter Stephens
M/M George Vella
Mrs. Maria Xavier
Ms. Patricia Woytek
M/M Reynaldo Ysip

*Thank you!*
**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 __________________________________________________________

Complete Address _______________________________________  City/Zip _______________________

Phone _________________________  Email _________________________________________________

I am interested in assisting with the Parish in the following way(s):


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

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**PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Tony P. LaTorre  
**Pastor, ext. 1**  
fathertony@SaintStephenSF.org

Mrs. Sharon McCarthy Allen  
**School Principal**

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**Parish Manager, ext. 3**  
carol@SaintStephenSF.org

Rev. Mr. Olet Abad  
**Permanent Deacon**

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Teresa Devincenzi  
**Bookkeeper, ext. 5**  
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Ed Prete  
**Bulletin Editor, ext. 6**  
e.prete@SaintStephenSF.org

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**ST STEPHEN PARISH 2019-2020**

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<tr>
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AD PAGE

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