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ST STEPHEN MARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH



GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

I recently learned why zebras have stripes. Scientists used to think it was for camouflage, but new research suggests something more interesting: the stripes help zebras blend in with one another. When a predator looks at a herd, the overlapping stripes make it hard to single out one animal. But if a researcher spray-paints a dot on just one zebra, predators lock on it and eventually attack. The lesson? In the wild, blending in is protection. Standing out can be dangerous.

Human beings are not so different. Most of us would rather blend in than stand out, especially when it comes to our faith. We know that giving bold witness to Jesus — through our words, values, or public choices — can make us targets for criticism, isolation, or judgment. That’s why Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel are so challenging: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden” (Matthew 5:14).

A city on a hill draws attention. It also draws fire. But that’s part of the cost of discipleship. Jesus doesn’t call us to be tribal or boastful. He calls us to stand in the open with humble confidence, so that people might see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. Today, let’s ask for the courage not just to believe in Christ, but to be seen believing in him.— Father John Muir

- Fr. Joseph Magdaong
Pastor
- Fr. Ali Kanissius
Associate Pastor
- Armando & Irene Estrada
Deacon Couple
- Alicia Vazquez
Office Manager
- Dale Ann Torbey
Business Manager

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

5:00 PM (English)

Sunday

7:00 AM (English)

9:00 AM (Spanish)

11:00 AM (Indonesian)

1:00 PM (English)

Monday—Saturday

8:30 AM (English)

Perpetual Help Novena Mass

6:00 PM (English)

Friday

6:00 PM (Bilingual)

Confessions

Saturdays 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
No Appointment needed

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
9:00 AM—6:00 PM
(closed 1:00PM - 2:00 PM for lunch)

Please call the parish office for assistance or to schedule an appointment.

“We are a diverse faith community that strives to conform ourselves into the image of Christ in and through the power of the Holy Spirit, and nourished by The Word, Sacraments and Tradition to give glory to God and to be a light unto the nations.”

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

8:30 AM

Mass with distribution of ashes (English)

12:00 PM

Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of ashes (English)

3:00 PM

Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of ashes (English)

6:30 PM

Mass with the distribution of ashes (Bilingual)



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St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church

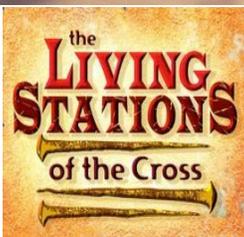
Parish Hall
320 W Garvey Ave
Monterey Park, CA 91754

**Sunday, February 22, 2026
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: STSTEPHEN to schedule an appointment.



MENUDO BREAKFAST
Sunday, February 15th
from 8:00am to 11:00am
In the parish hall



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 7:00PM

The Living Stations of the Cross Ministry will share a meditative, prayerful, and reflective presentation of our Lord's Passion. You are invited to come and watch, as the Lord's walk to Calvary is brought to life, through narration, prayer, and live music.

WEBSITE:STSTEPHENMPK.ORG - EMAIL: ST.STEPHEN.MARTYR@GMAIL.COM



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**MEDITACIÓN DEL
EVANGELIO ALENTAR
UN ENTENDIMIENTO
MÁS PROFUNDO
DE LA ESCRITURA**

Hoy la liturgia nos prepara, con su Palabra, a ser conscientes de lo que significa ser sal y luz en nuestra vida cotidiana. Jesús pone como ejemplo elementos que usamos todos los días

para dar sabor a la vida del cristiano. La amargura, la envidia y la oscuridad de pensamientos nos alejan de lo que verdaderamente importa: ser sencillos y encontrarnos con Dios. "Ustedes son la sal de la tierra. Pero si la sal se vuelve insípida, ¿cómo podrá ser salada de nuevo? Ya no sirve para nada, por lo que se tira afuera y es pisoteada por la gente" (Mateo 5:13). Darle saborcito a la vida, añadiendo colores de humildad y apertura al diálogo frente a las adversidades que vivimos en la familia y en la sociedad, será clave para purificar y transformar nuestro entorno.

El Señor también nos llama luz del mundo: "Nadie enciende una lámpara para tapanla con un cajón; la ponen más bien sobre un candelero, y alumbr a todos los que están en la casa" (Mateo 5:14-15). Cuando se va la luz en nuestra casa, nos sorprende, porque a veces no tenemos ni siquiera una vela que nos alumbr e, mucho menos una lámpara con baterías. Sin embargo, al encender una luz —por muy pequeña que sea— sentimos alivio, porque podemos ver por dónde pisamos y así podemos realizar las actividades necesarias. Jesús quiere que sus seguidores sean así: como una pizca de sal y un poquito de luz, para que todo funcione de manera distinta en la familia y en la sociedad.



18 de febrero, 2026

8:30 AM

Misa y distribución de cenizas

12:00 PM

Liturgia y distribución de cenizas

3:00 PM

Liturgia y distribución de cenizas

6:30 PM

Misa Bilingüe y distribución de cenizas



Vía Crucis Viviente

viernes, 20 de febrero, 7:00 PM

El Ministerio del Vía Crucis viviente presentará una representación meditativa, de oración y reflexión sobre la Pasión de nuestro Señor. Están invitados a presenciar este evento, donde el camino de Jesús hacia el Calvario cobrará vida a través de narración, oración y música en vivo.

Seminario de Vida en el Espíritu

**cada miércoles
del 4 de Febrero
al 25 de Marzo
(*no el 18 de Febrero)**

6pm - 8 pm en Salon 6

**Ahora yo voy a enviar sobre ustedes lo que mi padre me prometio. Permanezcan, pues, en la ciudad hasta que sean revestidos de la fuerza que viene de arriba
Lucas 24, 49**

**Misa y Procesión en Honor al Espíritu Santo
martes 17 de febrero a las 8:30a.m.**



MARCHA POR LA UNIDAD

Hoy, muchos miembros de nuestra parroquia se enfrentan a desafíos que se asemejan a las "murallas de Jericó", no construidas de piedra, sino formadas por el miedo, la división y las barreras sociales. Como católicos, estamos llamados a demostrar amor los unos por los otros y a avanzar hacia la unidad y la sanación. En respuesta a este llamado, invitamos a todos a participar en una marcha por la unidad con el Santísimo Sacramento, mientras recorremos en procesión el Jardín Parroquia. Los animamos a unirnos a nosotros el domingo 22 de febrero a las 12:00 p.m. en el salón parroquial para caminar juntos en solidaridad y renovar nuestra dedicación a la unidad. Como comunidad parroquial, nos esforzamos por encarnar el amor, el respeto y la misericordia. Su participación reafirmará nuestro compromiso colectivo con la solidaridad y la subsidiariedad.



Campaña de donación de sangre

En el salón parroquial de la Iglesia San Esteban domingo, 22 de febrero, 2026 8:00 a.m. a 2:00 p.m.

Visite RedCrossBlood.org y ingrese la palabra STSTEPHEN or llame al 1-800-RED CROSS para programar su cita hoy.

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



UNITY MARCH

Today, many members of our parish are encountering challenges that resemble "Jericho walls," not constructed from stone, but formed by fear, division, and social barriers. As Catholics, we are called to demonstrate love for one another and to advance toward unity and healing. In response to this calling, we invite all to participate in a march for unity with the Holy Sacrament as we process through the neighborhood of St. Stephen Parish. We encourage you to join us on **Sunday, February 22nd at 12:00 pm** at the parish Gathering Place to walk together in solidarity and to renew our dedication to unity. As a parish community, we strive to embody love, respect, and mercy. Your participation will affirm our collective commitment to solidarity and subsidiarity.



Wednesday, January 28th \$68.00

Friday, January 30th \$35.00

January 31st & February 1st
\$4,911.00

Online \$1,651.00

Second Collection \$1,508.00

Thank you for your commitment to your parish.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026

5:00 pm Oscar Villamor Refuerzo (D)
Ariel Morado - Happy Birthday!!!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

7:00 am Christopher & Hideko Anzai (D)

9:00 am Jaime Aispuro Beltran (D)
Carlos Godinez (D)
Teresa Garcia (D)

1:00 pm Alejandro Adrid Jr. (D)
Edith Tan (D)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

8:30 am Juan F. Balanay (D)
Yolanda Manatad (D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

8:30 am Alicia Valdez (L)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

8:30 am Arcadio Pablo (D)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

8:30 am Celia Guerrero (L)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

8:30 am Anna Wu (D)

6:00 pm Emilia Rodriguez (D)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

8:30 am Del Sabado (D)

DID YOU KNOW?

The real dangers of pornography exposure

We know that pornography is a great evil, and easy access to the internet makes it all too likely that many children will be exposed to pornography at increasingly young ages — even if they are not actively searching for it. Children who are exposed to pornography are more likely to be abused, or to be desensitized to inappropriate behavior in their own relationships. Pornography can also change a child's brain, activating dopamine in patterns similar to substance addiction. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article "The real danger of children being exposed to pornography" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.

Mass and Procession in Honor of the Holy Spirit Tuesday, February 17th at 8:30a.m.

Jesus said to St. Mary of Jesus Crucified: *"I ardently hope that priests celebrate a Mass every month in honor of the Holy Spirit. Whoever offers it or hears it, will be honored by the Holy Spirit Himself; he will have light, he will have peace. He will heal the sick, wake those who sleep..."* (Saint Mary of Jesus Crucified)



The flame of the Easter candle symbolizes the eternal presence of Christ, light of the world in the midst of his people; he who is the Second Person of the Trinity, the Alpha and Omega. The Paschal candle is sometimes referred to as the "Easter candle" or the "Christ candle."

The cost of this years Paschal Candle will be \$950.00 Please contact the parish office if you would like to make a donation towards the purchase in honor of a family member(s) or loved one(s).

Understanding the Entire Bible! The Bible Timeline: Story of Salvation

Room 1 from 11:30am to 12:45p.m.
on the 1st and 3rd
Sundays of the month.

Please Pray For... Lung - Tam Family, Rosalie Pinto, Augie & Annamae Koch, Jesusita Serrano, Alicia Valdez, Armando Romo, Dolores Munoz, Alicia Islas, Denise Gonzales, Laura Sesti, Guadalupe Ayala, Rigoberto Alvarenga, Helen Rivera, Margarita Aude-lo, Amelia Barraza, Alicia Nunez, Carlos Espinoza Ornelas, Vikky Rogers, Michael Anthony Barraza, Tina Ran, Leo Sanchez

To insure that the prayer list is accurate, please contact the parish office on a monthly bases if you would like for your name to remain on the list.

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