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ST STEPHEN MARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH



GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads. — Father John Muir



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.

LENTEN Penance SERVICE THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH 7:00 PM



LENTEN RECOLLECTION PROMISES YOU CAN TOUCH: Gods Faithfulness in the Sacraments
March 20th and 27th 7:00pm

Fr. Leo Ortega, S.Th.D.
Professor of Systemic Theology
Archdiocese of Los Angeles

This Lenten recollection helps parishioners rediscover the Sacraments as God's solemn covenant promises, where He binds Himself to us and gives us His own life. We will explore the Sacraments not as routines or obligations, but as God's enduring promises, made visible and real in our lives.

Rooted in Scripture and the Church's tradition, these talks will help us rediscover the Sacraments as encounters with a God who remains faithful, especially in moments of weakness, doubt, and need.

Topics include:

- The Covenants and the God who Sears
- Jesus Christ and the Sacraments: The New Covenant Sealed in Blood
- Living the Oath: Sacramental Life and Discipleship

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."

HEALING MASS

"COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED..."

Friday, March 13th

6:00p.m.

Bilingual Mass

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

CONFÍO EN EL SEÑOR

MEDITACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO ALENTAR UN ENTENDIMIENTO MÁS PROFUNDO DE LA ESCRITURA

Con el Miércoles de Ceniza inicia el Tiempo de Cuaresma. Los colores litúrgicos cambian, indicando un tiempo especial de conversión y arrepentimiento. La Cuaresma es tiempo para encontrarnos con Jesús en el desierto, y nos invita a la conversión y a la reconciliación de todo lo que nos aleja de Dios. Es también un tiempo de renovación espiritual profunda, de oración, de ayuno y de dar al que no tiene. Esto es importante porque nos ayuda a llegar a la Pascua de la Resurrección de Jesucristo con un corazón puro y limpio.

Habrà muchas tentaciones que debemos rechazar y vencer. Esto se logra con un acercamiento sincero al Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Recordemos que las tentaciones son siempre seductoras y engañosas. El Señor Jesús fue tentado por el diablo tres veces en el desierto y salió victorioso. Al final, nos relata el Evangelio: "Entonces lo dejó el diablo y se acercaron los ángeles a servirle" (Mateo 4:11). Seguir los pasos de Jesús es importante en este Tiempo de Cuaresma. ¿Cómo seguirlo?, quizá se pregunte. Confiando en su Palabra, rezando en familia, como nos lo pide el Papa León XIV, y teniendo un altar en casa, donde se pueda apreciar que Dios es el centro de nuestra vida. Estos pequeños detalles nos conducen a la Verdad y a la Vida, que es Dios mismo. Pidamos al Señor que su Palabra penetre en la tibieza de nuestro corazón en esta Cuaresma, para que dé fortaleza a nuestras debilidades y no nos deje caer en la tentación, como decimos en el Padrenuestro.



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 unirse 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.

Por sus llagas eres sanado
Isaías 53:5

MISA DE SANACION

viernes, 13 de marzo 6:00p.m.

Misa sera bilingue

Seminario de Vida en el Espiritu

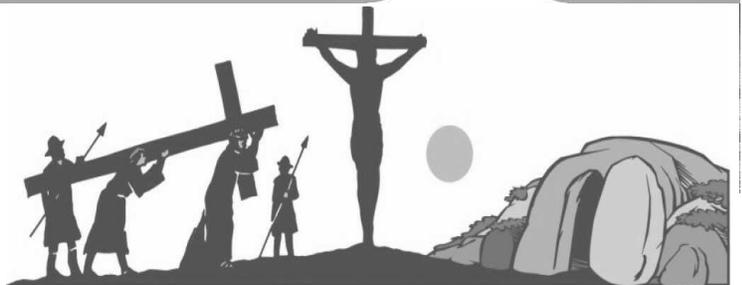
cada miercoles
del 4 de Febrero
al 25 de Marzo
(*no el 18 de Febrero)

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

SERVICIO DE PENITENCIA DE CUARESMA

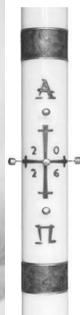
JUEVES 19 DE MARZO
7:00 PM



El Vía Crucis, también conocido como Vía Crucis, conmemora la pasión y muerte de Jesús en la cruz. Consta de 14 estaciones, cada una de las cuales representa un momento de su camino al Calvario, generalmente a través del arte sacro, oraciones y reflexiones. La práctica comenzó cuando los peregrinos piadosos seguían su camino por Jerusalén en la Vía Dolorosa.

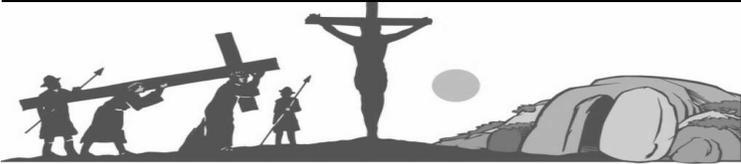
El Vía Crucis se celebrará dentro de la iglesia todos los viernes del 27 de febrero al 27 de marzo a las 5:30 pm en Español y a las 7:00 pm en Inglés.

La llama del Cirio Pascual simboliza la presencia eterna de Cristo, luz del mundo en medio de su pueblo; Él, la Segunda Persona de la Trinidad, el Alfa y la Omega. El Cirio Pascual a veces se conoce como el "Cirio Pascual" o el "Cirio de Cristo".



El costo del Cirio Pascual de este año será de \$950.00. Por favor, contacte con la oficina parroquial si desea hacer una donación para la compra en honor a un familiar o ser querido.

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



STATIONS of the CROSS

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross or Via Crucis, commemorate Jesus's passion and death on the cross. There are 14 stations that each depict a moment on his journey to Calvary, usually through sacred art, prayers, and reflections. The practice began as pious pilgrims traced his path through Jerusalem on the Via Dolorosa.

Stations of the Cross will be held inside of the church every Friday from February 27th thru March 27th 5:30 pm in Spanish and 7:00 pm in English.

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.



Wednesday, February 11th \$53.00
Friday, February 13th \$50.00
February 14th & 15th \$6,195.90
Online \$608.00
Second Collection \$1,196.00

Thank you for your commitment to your parish.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2026

5:00 pm Moisesana Dilao Rejuso (D)
Isabelo Barrun Rejuso Sr. (D)
Vina Isabel Manolo Rejuso (D)
Tan Lac Benito Uy (D)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

7:00 am Marge Velazquez (D)
9:00 am Jose y Josefa Fernandez (D)
Adrian Fernandez (D)
1:00 pm Olivia Martinez (D)
Adrian Ong - Happy Birthday!!!
Bruce Foster (L)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

8:30 am Jiroh S. Iwata (D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

8:30 am Pedro Guerrero (D)
Nicholas Tipping (D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

8:30 am Alicia Valdez (L)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

8:30 am Douglas Perales (L)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026

8:30 am Rodrigo Garcia (D)
6:00 pm Lost Souls in Purgatory

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

8:30 am Maria Guadalupe Gonzales (D)

WHAT IS LENT?

It commemorates the **40 days** before the **Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus**, based on: the **40 years** in which the Israeli wandered the desert and the **40 days** in which Jesus was tempted by Satan.

THE 3 PILLARS OF LENT



LENT FEAST DAYS

PALM SUNDAY › Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem

HOLY THURSDAY › Last Supper and Passover

GOOD FRIDAY › Jesus' death on the Cross

EASTER SUNDAY › Jesus has resurrected!

WHEN DOES LENT BEGIN?

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday**, where we remember our mortality and need for repentance.

FASTING

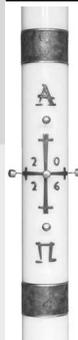
ONE MEAL A DAY

18 MANDATORY FROM 59 TO 18 TO 59 YEARS OLD

ABSTINENCE

NO MEAT (ONLY FISH)

14 MANDATORY FROM 14 YEARS OLD



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).

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, Helen Rivera, Margarita Audelo, Amelia Barraza, Alicia Nunez, Carlos Espinoza Ornelas, Vikky Rogers, Michael Anthony Barraza, Tina Ran, Leo Sanchez, Douglas Perales

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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