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ST STEPHEN MARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH

GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

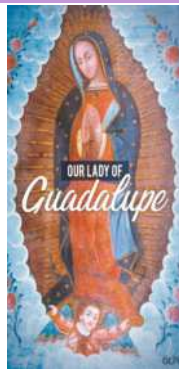
I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.



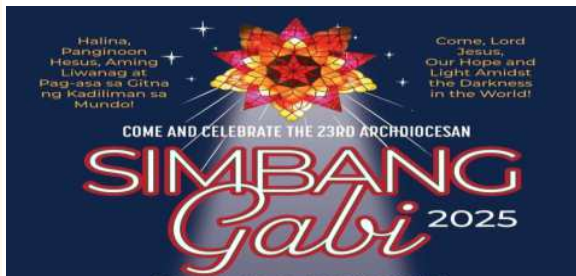
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Novena Rosary (in Spanish)
December 3rd thru 11th at
7:00p.m.

Mañanitas Mass

Friday, December 12th
Mass will begin at 6:00a.m.
Celebration to follow after
Mass in the Parish Hall.

(No 8:30a.m. or 6:00p.m. Mass on this day)



Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels
Monday, December 15th at 5:45p.m.

St. Stephen Martyr Church

Tuesday - Friday
December 16th - 19th and 22nd - 23rd
at 6:30p.m.

Saturday, December 20th
at 5:00p.m.

Sunday, December 21st at 1:00p.m.
(Mass celebrant will be Bishop Brian Nunes)
There will be a reception in the parish hall
after Mass on the 21st December 22st.

Advent Reflection

**"The Incarnation of Jesus Christ."
December 18th at 7:00p.m.
in the Church**

This is the truth that the eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, took on human flesh, becoming fully human while remaining fully God. The incarnation has captivated the hearts of many saints across the centuries, revealing God's infinite mercy and the path to our salvation. In this talk, we'll explore the Incarnation through the wisdom of various saints—Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Athanasius. Questions such as, Why did God choose this way to redeem us, How does it unite divinity and humanity, and What does it mean for our lives today, will be explored. Please come and join us, and let our hearts be open to the divine love that entered our world this Advent season.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)

Monday, December 8th
8:30a.m. Mass &
7:00p.m. (Bilingual Mass)

Advent Penance Service

Thursday, December 11th
at 7:00P.M.

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."*

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



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

Durante el Adviento, Dios nos brinda la oportunidad de trabajar y movernos, de no quedarnos en un solo sitio. Como ejemplo, tenemos a Juan Bautista, personaje importante de este tiempo.

Él trabajó incansablemente anunciando cómo preparar el camino del Señor, cómo sería su venida. El profeta Isaías se refería a Juan de esta forma: "Una voz grita en el desierto: preparen un camino al Señor, hagan sus senderos rectos" (Juan 3:3). Hacer los senderos rectos, es decir, implica una conversión desde el fondo del corazón; un cambio radical a través de un proceso suave pero firme para llegar a Dios.

“La Iglesia de este tiempo es igual a un campo sembrado que tiene grano y paja mezclados, es decir, juntos buenos y malos. Después del juicio, en cambio, tendrá solamente buenos, sin malo alguno... De ahí vendrá el juzgar a vivos y muertos, y como dice el Evangelio: Él tiene el bieldo en su mano para separar el trigo de la paja. Guardará el trigo en su granero y quemará la paja en un fuego que no se extingue” (San Agustín, 354-430. Sermón 223). Preparados o no, este Adviento es el tiempo de aprender que los tiempos de Dios son momentos de gracia. Paja y trigo crecen en nosotros, y es tiempo de ponerse a trabajar en la conversión para ir al encuentro del Señor. No olvidemos que Dios espera de nosotros lo mejor y nos da la libertad de seguirlo o dejarlo. ¿Qué escoges? El tiempo de Adviento es para revisar nuestra conciencia: cómo pensamos, creemos y actuamos.



Luz del Espíritu Santo
Grupo de Oración

**Rosario de la Virgen de Guadalupe
miercoles, 10 de diciembre
las 7:00p.m.**



MISAS NAVIDEÑAS

martes, 24 de diciembre

10:00P.M. (Bilingue)

Vigilia de Navidad

jueves, 25 de diciembre

Natividad del Señor

9:00A.M. (Bilingue)

11:00A.M. (Indonesiano)

Querida familia parroquial,

Nos complace anunciar que nuestro proyecto de reparación de la tubería de gas de la calefacción está en marcha. La construcción comenzó el 14 de noviembre en el jardín parroquial. Este trabajo nos permitirá calentar nuestra iglesia durante la temporada de invierno.

Qué es puede esperar:

La iglesia estará un poco fría en los días de bajas temperaturas. Por favor, vístanse adecuadamente para que su asistencia a Misa sea más cómoda.

Algunas áreas del jardín parroquial permanecerán cerradas durante este tiempo.

Es posible que haya algunas molestias por el ruido.

Prevedemos que este proyecto estará terminado para la segunda semana de diciembre, y les pedimos su comprensión, paciencia y apoyo durante este período. Haremos todo lo posible para completar este proyecto lo antes posible. Estamos trabajando no solo con herramientas y materiales de construcción, sino también con fe y unidad. Gracias por sus continuas oraciones y apoyo mientras invertimos en el futuro de nuestra comunidad parroquial.



(Día de obligación)

8 de diciembre

**INMACULADA
CONCEPCIÓN**

8:30a.m. Misa (Ingles)

7:00p.m. Misa (Bilingue)

Servicio de Penitencia de Adviento

**jueves 11 de diciembre
a las 7:00p.m.**



**Rosario a la Virgen de
Guadalupe**

**3 a 11 de
diciembre a las 7:00p.m.**

Misa de Mañanitas

**12 de diciembre 6:00a.m.
habrá una celebración en el
salon parroquial después de
la Misa.**

**No habrá Misa de 8:30a.m. y
6:00p.m. en este día.**



DECEMBER 7, 2025 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Church Family,

We are excited to announce that our heater gas line repair project is moving forward! Construction began on November 14th in the Gathering Place. This work will allow us to be able to heat our church during the winter season

What to expect:

The church will be a little chilly on cold days. Please dress accordingly to make your attendance at Mass more comfortable.

Parts of the Gathering Place will be closed to all access during this time.

There may be some noise disruptions.

We anticipate that this project will be completed by the end of the second week of December, and we ask you for your understanding, patience and support during this time. We will do our best to have this project completed as early as possible. We are working not just with tools and bricks, but with faith and unity. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we invest in the future of our church community.



Christmas Mass Schedule

DECEMBER 24TH, WEDNESDAY

10:00P.M. - CHRISTMAS VIGIL
(BILINGUAL MASS)

DECEMBER 25TH, THURSDAY

9:00A.M. CHRISTMAS DAY
(BILINGUAL MASS)
11:00A.M. INDONESIAN



We would like to thank you for your continued generosity to St. Stephen Martyr Parish.

At this time of the year, many individuals and businesses select organizations to make a last minute donation that qualifies as a 2025 tax deduction.

Our parish is a 501C non-profit organization. Your donation will enable us to minister, complete special projects, strengthen our operational budget and enhance our faith community, enriching the lives of the members of the Catholic Faith. Please consider our parish as a recipient of your valuable year-end donation.

Please visit www.ststephenmpk.org to make an online gift. You may also send in a check directly to the parish office.

Thank you again for your continued generosity and we wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

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 basis if you would like for your name to remain on the list.



Thanksgiving \$662.00

November 29th & 30th \$4,832.00

Online \$716.00

Second Collection \$1,417.00

Thank you for your commitment to your parish.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

5:00 pm Michael Foa Lung (D)
Lisa Ong (D)
Oscar Villamor Refuerzo (D)
Tarantino Family (D)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

7:00 am Irene Tjakrawinata (D)
Del Sabado (D)
Tina Ran (L)

9:00 am Miguel Rivera (D)
Jose Luis Lohara (D)
Jesus Candelario (D)
Antonio y Victoria Perez (D)

1:00 pm John Vosburg (D)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

8:30 am Severainao V. Araos Jr. (D)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

8:30 am Alicia Valdez (L)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

8:30 am Michael Anthony Barraza (L)

6:00 pm Animas Benditas del Purgatorio

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

8:30 am Jose Bona (D)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

8:30 am Leo Sanchez - Happy Birthday!!!

DID YOU KNOW? Red flags in gift giving

'Tis the season for giving and receiving gifts, but some gifts are inappropriate for children to receive from adults. Talk to your children about appropriate gift giving – who they should give presents to and who they do not need to give to. Discuss when they should accept a present or not. This would be a good time to establish family rules about gift receiving. For example: friends and family may not accept gifts outside of established holidays, like a birthday or Christmas. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “An embarrassment of riches: establishing a framework for gift giving to kids” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.

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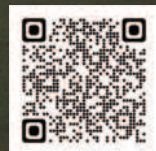
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