

320 W. GARVEY AVE. MONTEREY PARK 91754 (626)573-0427

ST STEPHEN MARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH



GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?



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 December 21st.

HOLIDAY PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closed
December 22nd thru January 2nd
Phone lines will be open during this
time. Please call the office if you need
assistance.

The office will also be open on
Saturday and Sunday
December 20th and 21st and
January 3rd & 4th

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.



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

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**

¿Dónde está nuestra esperanza en este tercer domingo de Adviento? ¿En qué se basa nuestra alegría? Este domingo es llamado el domingo de la alegría, porque ya estamos acercándonos a la Navidad. En latín se conoce como Gaudete, que significa “alegría” o “regocíjense”. El verdadero gozo consiste en el nacimiento del Salvador, siendo este nacimiento la causa profunda de nuestra alegría. A veces perdemos mucho tiempo en las tiendas, comprando regalos, sin siquiera darnos cuenta de que el tiempo pasa y se va sin provecho alguno para nuestra alma. Miremos al cielo, de donde nos llega la esperanza y la gracia. Ahí es donde está Dios.

El Evangelio nos narra que Juan estaba en la cárcel y quería saber si era verdad lo que había escuchado sobre Jesús. La respuesta para Juan fue la siguiente: "Vayan y cuéntenle a Juan lo que ustedes están viendo y oyendo: los ciegos ven, los cojos andan, los leprosos quedan limpios, los sordos oyen, los muertos resucitan, y una Buena Nueva llega a los pobres" (Mateo 11:5). Con esta respuesta, Juan quedó lleno de esperanza, seguro de que el Reino de Dios ya estaba presente. Juan predicaba la conversión, un cambio de mentalidad radical, válido tanto entonces como ahora. Para nosotros, la venida del Salvador es un hecho seguro y esperanzador. Sin embargo, solo los pobres de espíritu logran visualizarlo en el horizonte de la Navidad. Aguardemos con paciencia los regalos de la gracia de Dios: la paz y el amor entre nosotros, que tanto necesitamos. ¡Ven, Señor Jesús!



Luz del Espíritu Santo
Grupo de Oración

**Posada del Group de Oración
miercoles, 17 de diciembre
las 7:00p.m.
Todos están invitados a asistir.**

**HORARIO DE OFICINA
PARA LAS FIESTAS**

La oficina parroquial estará cerrada
del 22 diciembre y 2 de enero
Las líneas telefónicas estarán disponibles
durante este período. Si necesita ayuda,
llame a la oficina.

La oficina estará abierta
sabado y domingo
20 y 21 de diciembre y
3 y 4 de enero

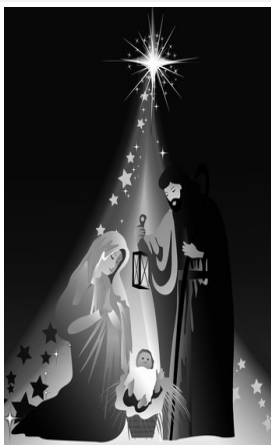
**Misa y Procesión en Honor
al Espíritu Santo
martes 16 diciembre a las 8:30a.m.**

Jesús le dijo a Santa María de Jesús Crucificado:
“Deseo ardientemente que los sacerdotes celebren cada
mes una Misa en honor al Espíritu Santo. Sea quien sea
el que la ofrezca el que la escuche, será honrado por el
propio Espíritu Santo; tendrá luz, tendrá paz. Curará
los enfermos, despertará a aquellos que
duermen...” (Santa María de Jesús Crucificado)

¿SABE USTED?

Cuidado con los peligros de incendio

La Navidad es una época popular para decorar con velas y luces eléctricas, tanto adentro como afuera de la casa. Estas decoraciones pueden ser muy bonitas y festivas, pero también conllevan el riesgo de incendios. Los padres de familia deben asegurarse de mantener las velas fuera del alcance de los niños y fuera de las superficies donde puedan darse vuelta fácilmente. Todas las luces deben revisarse en busca de cables defectuosos u otras piezas defectuosas que puedan provocar un incendio. Para obtener más información, lea el artículo en inglés, “Holiday Safety” (Seguridad durante las fiestas navideñas) en <https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?>.



**MISAS NAVIDEÑAS
miercoles, 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)

DECEMBER 14, 2025 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Mass and Procession
in Honor of the Holy Spirit
Tuesday, December 16th 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)



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.



DID YOU KNOW? Watch out for fire dangers

Christmas is a popular time to decorate with candles and electric lights, both inside and out of the house.

These decorations can be beautiful and festive but also come with the risk of fires. Parents should make sure to keep candles out of reach of children, and off surfaces where they could be easily knocked over. All lights should be checked for faulty wires or other defective parts that could cause a fire. For more information, read the "Holiday Safety" article on <https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?/>.



Wednesday December 3rd \$57.00

Friday December 5th \$92.00

December 6th & 7th \$6,299.00

Online \$1,135.00

Second Collection \$1,697.00

Thank you for your commitment to your parish.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

5:00 pm Moisesana Dilao Rejuso (D)
Isabelo Barrun Rejuso Sr. (D)
Lung - Tan Family (L)
Maria Ngan Fong Lung - Happy Birthday!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

7:00 am Irene Tjakrawinata (D)
Del Sabado (D)
9:00 am Jaime Beltran Aispuro (D)
Melida Aurora Villegas Coayla (D)
Fernando Nunez (D)
Mercedes Rodriguez (D)
Ramon Valdez (D)
1:00 pm Marge Velazquez (D)
Mercedes Quesada (D)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025

8:30 am Animas Benditas del Purgatorio

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025

8:30 am Alicia Valdez (L)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

8:30 am Animas Benditas del Purgatorio
6:00 pm Arcadio Pablo (D)
Tina Ran (L)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025

8:30 am Joshua Madrid (D)
Maria Nemes - Happy Birthday!!!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025

8:30 am Celia Guerrero (L)
6:00 pm Manuel & Dolores Compean (D)
Timoteo & Socorro Astorga (D)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025

8:30 am Angel Serrano - Happy Birthday!!!

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.