

ST STEPHEN MARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH



As we march through Lent, it can be easy to think it's all about sacrifice. No chocolate, no alcohol, no meat on Fridays. Yet here, only in the second week of Lent, we have the story

of the transfiguration. This reading reminds us of the "why" behind what we do. We don't fast from dessert to lose weight. We don't donate money or serve others because it's merely a nice thing to do. Lent is about transformation!

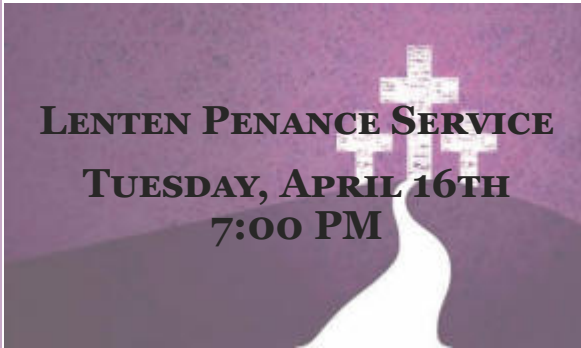
Peter, James, and John trudged up the mountainside behind Jesus. This must have been a difficult hike, because when they reached the top, "Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep." Despite our best efforts, perhaps we, too, can be asleep to the deeper meaning of the Lenten season. Jesus is transfigured while they slumber, but eventually they become "fully awake, [and] they saw his glory and the two men standing with him."

This is no small thing! The disciples witness Jesus in his divine splendor and see the miraculous apparitions of Moses and Elijah. The entire mountain becomes a spiritual breakthrough. "A cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud." These symbols are present in the Old Testament. They are present on Mount Sinai when Moses prayed alone and received the 10 Commandments. Elijah had a similar experience when he prayed alone before God. But here are ordinary men, former fishermen, who have been drawn up into an adventure beyond their wildest expectations. Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the fulfillment of all that came before. But Christianity is not the religion of the elite, where only the select few are allowed to participate. We are all invited into spiritual transformation.



Living Stations of the Cross March 17th at 5:00pm

The presentation will take place this Sunday evening here at St. Stephen. We invite you to come watch the presentation, as the Lord's walk to Calvary is brought to life, through narration, prayer, and music.



LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH 7:00 PM



International Breakfast Next Sunday, March 24 in the parish hall, after all morning Masses

We will be serving Mexican, American and Filipino style breakfast

Men's Retreat April 26 - 28



St. Stephen Parish Retreat for Men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center in the city of Sierra Madre. The retreat, which is preached by the Passionate Retreat Team, begins Friday evening and concludes early Sunday afternoon. The lovely grounds and peaceful atmosphere of Mater Dolorosa make this a perfect spot for a weekend of spiritual renewal and growth.

Please call Augie Koch (626) 281-0605 for more information or to reserve your spot.



Friday's during Lent until April 12th from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM, followed by a movie in the Parish Hall.

LENTEN DINNER MENU FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 22

- FISH TACOS
- Mexican Bread Pudding (Capirotada)
- Aguas Frescas
- \$7.00 per person

Dinner will be prepared by the Spanish Ministry

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM
(English)
Sunday 7:00 AM (English)
9:00 AM (Spanish)
11:00 AM (English)
2:00 PM (Indonesian)
Mon.-Sat. Daily Mass:
8:30 AM
Perpetual Help Novena Mass
Wednesday 6:30 PM
Friday 7:00 PM (Spanish)
Reconciliation
Fridays 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Saturdays 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Fr. Joseph Magdaong
Pastor
Fr. Ali Kanissius
Fr. Rajan Sengol
Associate Pastors
Armando & Irene Estrada
Deacon Couple
Alicia Vazquez
Office Manager
Dale Ann Torbey
Secretary / Bookkeeper
Debbie Cilio
School Principal
(626) 573-1716

**PARISH OFFICE
HOURS**
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Closed for lunch
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

"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."

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En las lecturas de hoy se refleja la tendencia que el ser humano experimenta cada día de su vida. Vive en una constante tensión de quedarse o irse. Por ejemplo; si estamos en un lugar tranquilo, donde se respira paz y armonía se suele decir "Me gustaría quedarme aquí para siempre". En cambio, si se sufre de alguna enfermedad grave, o muere un ser querido y se sume en el dolor se comenta, "Deseo salir de esto cuanto antes". Se vive así, quedándose y yéndose; dos polos opuestos. En este Evangelio, quedarse e irse esta junto en la vida del discípulo.

Pedro, Santiago y Juan, fueron con Jesús al monte para hacer oración. Mientras oraba, Jesús se transfiguró y su ropa se volvió de una blancura fulgurante. El Evangelio nos narra que Moisés y Elías conversaban con él. En ese instante, Pedro y sus compañeros despertaron y ante tanta belleza, Pedro le propone a Jesús lo siguiente: "Maestro, ¡qué bueno que estemos aquí! Levantemos tres chozas: una para ti, otra para Moisés y otra para Elías." (Lucas 9:33). Sin duda, Pedro quería quedarse, no deseaba bajar—era difícil para el irse de ese lugar. Pasa ahora lo mismo; la jornada del discípulo es saber estar en gloria y saber sufrir para poder resucitar. ¿Cómo saberlo? ¿Cómo distinguirlo? Buscando a Dios, estando alerta siempre, aprendiendo en el silencio de la oración sus deseos. Estar, o irse: son dos contradicciones que los seguidores de Jesús viven. El reto es fuerte, la voz de Dios resuena en el Evangelio: "Este es mi Hijo, mi Elegido; escúchenlo." (Lucas 9:35). ¡Esta semana solo se trata de escuchar!

**RECOLECTA DE CUARESMA
VIERNES, 5 DE ABRIL**

**SERVICIO DE PENITENCIA
MARTES, 16 DE ABRIL**

**La oficina parroquial estará cerrada el
viernes 22 de marzo
para que el personal pueda asistir
Al Congreso de Educación Religiosa
en Anaheim.**

**Vía Crucis Viviente
Marzo 17 a las 5:00pm**

Esta presentación se llevara a cabo este domingo por la noche aquí en la Iglesia de San Esteban. Los invitamos a que vean una presentación meditativa en inglés, orante y reflexiva de la Pasión de nuestro Señor, ya que el camino del Señor hacia el Calvario cobra vida a través de la narración, la oración y la música.



**Desayuno Internacional
domingo, 24 de marzo
en el salón parroquial,
después de todas las Misas**

Ellos servirán un desayuno de estilo americano, mexicano y filipino.

*Grupo de
Oración*
"Luz del Espíritu Santo"

Los invita a orar, alabar, **glorificar** al Señor y darle gracias por todos Los beneficios recibidos cada día de nuestra vida. Nos reunimos los Miercoles de 7pm a 9pm en el salon par-



*La Exposición del Santísimo
y la Adoración Nocturna
se llevarán a cabo el primer
viernes de cada mes.*

*Horas de adoración serán de
9:00 am hasta las 12:00 am*

**Cenas de Cuaresma
Cada viernes durante la Cuaresma hasta
el 12 de abril
de 5:00 PM a 7:00 PM,
seguido por una película en el salón parroquial.
MENÚ PARA EL
VIERNES 22 DE MARZO
TACOS DE PESCADO
Capirotada
Aguas Frescas
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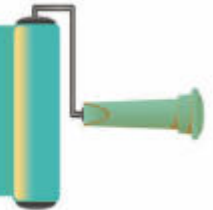
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