

ST STEPHEN MARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH



"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it [he] found none." We live in a results-

driven society. It can be easy to put pressure on ourselves to succeed. If we're not keeping up with the perceived "good life" of those around us, we feel anxious and disappointed. Some of the Gospel stories about fruitfulness can seem to play out in this fashion. "For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down." The message seems to be clear. Abide in God and bear fruit! Stand apart from God and be barren. But what happens when we're trying, but the growth we wanted doesn't seem to be coming our way? What if it feels like life just isn't bearing fruit?

This Sunday, Jesus gives us a sign of hope. "[The gardener] said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also ? it may bear fruit in the future.'" How quick we can be to judge! Perhaps you started out Lent with high hopes and big ideas for getting closer to God. Maybe things haven't gone exactly like you thought. It can be easy to lose patience with our failures or slow growth. We shouldn't be too quick to assume that God has given up on us. He hasn't.

The same ideas apply to those around us. Perhaps we're the planter of the fig tree. We expect a certain amount of growth from someone in our life, and they just aren't measuring up. Let today's Gospel be a gentle nudge for mercy. As Lent continues to unfold, be patient with yourself and those around you. Wait for God to provide the growth.



Join Fr. Joseph on
Saturday, April 6th
from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
in the parish hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH, 7:00 PM



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 or Javier Ibarra (213)408-1521 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 29

FRIED POTATO TACOS

Served with rice and lentil soup

Bread Pudding

\$7.00 per person

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

Parish School
(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."

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



The Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and
The Nocturnal Adoration will take place on the
1st Friday of every month.

Hours of adoration will be from
9:00 am until 12:00 am

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Cuántas veces hemos escuchado estas frases tan trilladas de personas que se encuentran en diferentes circunstancias. Puede ser entre matrimonios, o de hijos a sus padres, o de alumnos a sus maestros: "Por favor dame una segunda oportunidad, déjeme tratar otra vez, permíteme hacerlo una vez más". Reflexionemos en la higuera de la parábola por la cual el viñador abogo para que no fuera cortada. "Señor, déjala un año más y mientras tanto cavaré alrededor y le echaré abono. Puede ser que así de fruto en adelante y, si no, la cortas." (Lucas 13:8-9). Un año más; que corto tiempo, pero sí, es muy valioso para arreglar la tierra y ponerle abono. Los agricultores y jardineros lo entienden muy bien; ellos saben que importante es el cambio total de tierra para que las raíces tomen fuerza.

La parábola que Jesús pone de ejemplo con la higuera es clave para que en este tercer Domingo de Cuaresma quede claro que se trata de la conversión del corazón. Dios nos da el tiempo suficiente para el arrepentimiento. ¡Una Cuaresma más! No perdamos el tiempo; acerquémonos al Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Es tiempo de dejar la falsedad, el egoísmo la flojera. La vida diaria ofrece muchas oportunidades de cambio y de aprendizaje. No importa la edad ni la condición, Dios nos espera con sus brazos abiertos. Imagina ese abrazo de Dios que tanto necesitas ahora. Esta Cuaresma, Dios está cuidando y poniendo abono en nuestra vida. ¿Qué frutos puedes dar por medio del arrepentimiento? ¿Que estas dispuesto ha hacer de nuevo para vivir menos tensionado?

**RECOLECTA DE CUARESMA
VIERNES, 5 DE ABRIL
8PM A 9 PM
EN EL SALON PARROQUIAL**

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

Grupo de Oración

"Luz del Espiritu 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 parroquial de nuestra Iglesia San Esteban Martir.



Desayuno Internacional

Hoy domingo, 24 de marzo
en el salón parroquial,
después de todas las Misas

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

Cenas de Cuaresma

Cada viernes durante la Cuaresma hasta
el 12 de abril
de 5:00 PM a 7:00 PM,

**MENÚ PARA EL
VIERNES 29 DE MARZO
TACOS DE PAPA
CON ARROZ Y SOPA DE LENTEJAS
\$7.00 por persona**



*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*

AYÚDENOS A LLENAR NUESTRA IGLESIA CON ¡FLORES DE PASCUA!

Done \$10 en honor o en memoria de un ser querido que se usará para comprar flores de Pascua. Todas las flores serán colocadas en la iglesia el Sábado Santo y su homenajeado será mencionado en nuestro boletín de Pascua. Por favor devuelva este cupón en un sobre sellado a la Oficina Parroquial o colóquelo en la Colecta del Domingo antes del Lunes 15 de abril con su donación y la siguiente información:

En honor o recuerdo de: _____

Su nombre: _____

Número de teléfono: _____

Donacion incluida: \$ _____

MARCH 24 • THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



March 16th & 17th \$5,774.83
Second Collection \$1,197.50
20 Dollars With a Heart \$20.00
Wednesday \$158.00
Friday Evening Mass \$70.00
Online Giving \$315.00

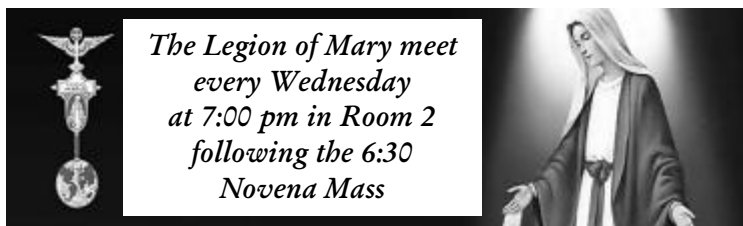
Thank you for your commitment to your parish.



Our Goal/Meta:	\$490,000
Pledged/Prometido:	\$230,900
#Gifts/Regalos:	24
Avg. Gift/Promedio:	\$9,600
% of Goal/Meta:	47%

Thank you! ¡Gracias!

*pledged over five years/prometido sobre cinco años



The Legion of Mary meet every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in Room 2 following the 6:30 Novena Mass

Funeral Services for Teresa Ycedo will take place on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 10:30am

HELP US FILL OUR CHURCH WITH EASTER FLOWERS!

Donate \$10 in honor or memory of a loved one which will be used to purchase Easter flowers. All flowers will be placed in the church on Holy Saturday and your honoree will be mentioned in our Easter bulletin. Please return this coupon in a sealed envelope to the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday Collection Basket by **Monday, April 15th** with your donation and the following information:

In honor or memory of: _____

Your Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019

5:00 pm Chito Lapid (D)
Teresita Granflor (D)
Elizabeth Tran - For God's Grace & Protection

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

7:00 am Louis & Mary Hutinet (D)
Elizabeth Tran - For God's Grace & Protection
9:00 am Raymond Fratino (L)
Guillermina Caceres Vallecillo (D)
11:00 am Dale & Stephanie Uyeda (D)
Agapito Cruz (D)
Carlos Alberto Ornelas (L)

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

8:30 am Elizabeth Tran - For God's Grace & Protection
Annie Gonzales (L)

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019

8:30 am Alfonso Gonzales (D)
Elizabeth Tran - For God's Grace & Protection

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

8:30 am Ruperto Murga (D)
Rosa Coayla (D)
Paz Young Gonzales (L)
6:30 pm Elizabeth Tran - For God's Grace & Protection

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019

8:30 am Anna Liza Gonzales (L)
Elizabeth Tran - For God's Grace & Protection

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019

8:30 am Marilyn Velasco (L)
Elizabeth Tran - For God's Grace & Protection
7:00 pm St. Stephen Parishioners

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

8:30 am Elizabeth Tran - For God's Grace & Protection
Luz Villalobos (D)

Please Pray For.... Frances Salaises, Kitty Carlucci, Ana Nunez, Maria Gonzalez, Rita Thoms, Elizabeth Dodge, Virginia Medina, Rudy Barraza, Kathy Garcia, Helen Lawrence, Judy Backer, Mayo & Teresa Ycedo, Al Acosta, Ray Fratino, Florence Kreslake, Francisco Paniagua, Anna Barellano, Carlos Godinez, Bertha Marquez, Kim Chacon, Will Martinez, Janine Lugo, George Gomez, Luis Hernandez, Pio Rongavilla, Patricia McAvoy, Lung Family, Tam Family, Monica Mendoza, Emilia Rodriguez, Monica Hernandez, Jose Maria De La Roca-Velazquez, Larry Siefker, Susana Arriola, Arnold Vega, Carlos Alberto Ornelas, Angie Terrazas, Marilyn Teraza, Romie Platt, Elizabeth, Matthew Valdez, Susan Lopez, Mary Hernandez and Family, Alicia Valdez, Moises Ramiez, Yoli Aguilar, Lauren Chacon, Leo Sanchez, Salvador Huerta, Eddie Ortega, Bob Wongso, Patricia Sanchez, Lisa Dittmer, Roland Martinez, David Perez, Victor Alfara, Ramiro Sanchez, Bernie Zavala, Joshua Morales, Mercedes Trigeros, Larry Hernandez and Family, Jose Alvarenga & Family

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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