

# *Saint Stephen Catholic Parish*

*Walnut Creek, California ~ First Sunday of Lent*  
*March 5, 2017*



**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday--Thursday 8:30 AM--4:30 PM  
Office closes daily for lunch and at noon on Wednesdays

Parish Office, Rectory and Mailing Address: 525 Madonna Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Church Location: 1101 Keaveny Ct, Walnut Creek

Telephone: 925-939-3826  
Fax: 925-988-0417  
Website: [www.saintstephenparish.org](http://www.saintstephenparish.org)  
Email: [keavenyct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:keavenyct@sbcglobal.net)

**PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR:**  
FR. MARK C. AMARAL

**PARISH STAFF:**  
DEACON BILL BOTHE  
Pastoral Associate,  
Facilities

MARY COOK  
Office Manager/Secretary

MARIA CALDERAZZO  
Director of Music Ministry

ANNETTE ROUX  
Pastoral Associate,  
Faith Formation

NANCY GIZDICH  
Parish Bookkeeper

PETER RENO  
Pastoral Council Chair

**ASSISTING CLERGY:**  
FR. HELMUT RICHTER



**LITURGY SCHEDULE:**

Saturday: 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 9:30 AM  
Weekdays\*: 7:30 AM  
\*Note: Monday is a Communion Service  
Holy Days: As Announced

**RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday: 3:30 PM

**BAPTISMS:** Registration is mandatory two months prior to Baptism. Parents and Godparents are required to attend a mandatory preparation class before Baptism.

**MARRIAGES:** A minimum of six (6) months advance notice is required. The parish must be contacted before any specific arrangement are made or dates are set.

**FUNERALS:** We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services at 925-932-0900. A representative will contact the parish office to make your arrangements.

**REGISTRATION:** New parishioners may contact the office or ask an usher for a registration form. Welcome.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To Live and to Love in Christ

**WELCOME** visitors and friends. We open our hearts and offer our hands to you in Christian fellowship worshipping with our community. We invite you to join our parish membership.



## MASS INTENTIONS

SAT	3/4	5:00	John Patrick Connolly †
SUN	3/5	9:30	Philip Greig †
TUE	3/7	7:30	Int. St. Stephen Parishioners
WED	3/8	7:30	Int. Chris Lang
THU	3/9	7:30	†
FRI	3/10	7:30	Santo J. Tavormina †
SAT	3/11	5:00	John Michael Christian †
SUN	3/12	9:30	Philip Greig †



For Mass intentions, please contact the Parish Office

Mass times across the US at <http://masstimes.org>

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

**Psalm** — Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned (Psalm 51).

**Second Reading** — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]).

**Gospel** — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:1-11).

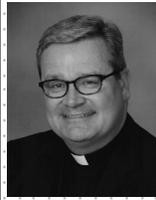
The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

**God doesn't want our deeds; God wants the love that prompts them. —St. Teresa**

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Monday:</b>	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
<b>Thursday:</b>	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
<b>Friday:</b>	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
<b>Saturday:</b>	Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
<b>Sunday:</b>	Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

## FROM THE PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR



**Dear Parishioners of St. Stephen:**

Every year we begin Lent with one of the accounts of the temptation of the Lord. We always start Lent with the Lord being tempted because the forty days the Lord spent fasting remind us of the forty days of Lent. Forty is an important number in the Bible. It usually refers to a period of preparation. For example, Moses was on Mount Sinai for forty days before he received the Law of God. The Hebrew people roamed in the desert for forty years before they were ready to enter the Promised Land. Elijah walked forty days and nights until he came to Mt Horeb. In the Acts of the Apostles Jesus teaches His disciples for forty days after the resurrection and then ascends to the Father. He was preparing them for Pentecost. In all these cases and so many more in the Bible, 40 is both a time of preparation and a period of trial.

When we consider the 40 days of Lent, we focus on preparing for Easter. That is one reason for Lent, but only one. We are also preparing ourselves for the full sharing in Jesus' Resurrected Life that will take place when we pass from this life to the next. We are preparing for eternal life. That is why during Lent we need to consider our personal battles against evil. As human beings, we will always be confronted with the temptation to do wrong. As long as we have human bodies we are going to be tempted to seek joy in places where the Lord is not found. If you get to the end of the day and can honestly say, "I had no temptations of any kind today," you should take your pulse. You are probably dead. Jesus himself was tempted to accept the pleasures of the world rather than remain united to the Father.

Lent is also a time of renewal and refreshment. How we undertake this depends on how we see and evaluate ourselves. This is why an examination of conscience is so important and can thus be a great discipline to have during these 40 holy days. To fully live in the actions and imitation of Christ can seem so daunting. . . . Jesus was after all born without sin. This is true but He was not born without being tempted by Satan and the world. He overcame these threats by trusting in the promise made to him by His Father who is also our Father. To live with a spirit of ongoing conversion and renewal is to live the abundant life. Therefore, I would ask each of us this holy season as we prepare for the Lord's passion and resurrection to work extra hard to remove whatever blinds us or divides us both from each other and the love of Christ Jesus. Let our prayer be one of hope and trust in the One who has walked with us!

*Blessings for these 40 days,  
Fr. Mark Amaral*

## WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

<b>Sunday, 3/5</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b>
8:30 AM	R4&6 Faith Formation
9:30 AM	R6 Children's Liturgy of the Word
11:00 AM	R4 R.C.I.A.
<b>Monday, 3/6</b>	<b>St. Basil, pray for us.</b>
	RC Parish Office Closed
<b>Tuesday, 3/7</b>	<b>St. Perpetua, pray for us.</b>
8:00 AM	PH Realtors In Motion
12:00 PM	RC Parish Office Closes at noon
<b>Wednesday, 3/8</b>	<b>St. John of God, pray for us.</b>
6:00 PM	PH Soup Supper
6:30 PM	PH Lenten Scripture Study
<b>Thursday, 3/9</b>	<b>St. Frances of Rome, pray for us.</b>
7:00 PM	CH Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday, 3/10</b>	<b>St. Victor, pray for us.</b>
	RC Parish Office Closed
12:00 PM	CH Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday, 3/11</b>	<b>St. Constantine, pray for us.</b>
3:30 PM	CH Reconciliation
<b>Sunday, 3/12</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>
8:30 AM	R4&6 Faith Formation
9:30 AM	R6 Children's Liturgy of the Word
11:00 AM	R6 Confirmation Class

**CH = Church . PH = Parish Hall . RC = Rectory . R# = Room**

## OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

*Jesus said: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." - Luke 18: 9-14*

Writer and teacher Eckhart Tolle once encountered a woman talking to herself, much to the disturbance of others. Tolle then went to a public bathroom and said to his own reflection in the mirror: "I hope I don't end up like her." The guy at the next sink looked at him and Tolle realized he had spoken the words out loud and that he was a lot like her already. The Pharisee in Jesus' parable verbalizes a longer list of "other people" with whom he is happy to disassociate. In doing so, he unwittingly debases himself. Meanwhile, the tax collector rises above by admitting he alone is a sinner in need of redemption. The philosopher Jean Paul Sartre once said "Hell is other people." If he meant the downward spiral to hell starts with *thank-God-I'm-not-like-those-people*, I think Jesus would agree. The best way to get lifted out of the hell of self-righteousness, is to admit you are "other people" and also in dire need of redemption. The tax collector discovered that and was exalted. Blessedly, the same opportunity is available to every sinner including the Pharisee, you and me. This Season of Lent is the time to avail ourselves of this opportunity.

*My Lenten prayer: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Amen*  
—Annette Roux, Pastoral Associate

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

### FEBRUARY 26, 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday Offering	\$2,753.50	Weekly Offering
Ash Wednesday	\$ 32.00	



### FEBRUARY SUMMARY

Regular	\$13,668.65
EFT-online giving	\$ 1,002.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,671.15</b>
<b>FEB GOAL:</b>	<b>\$19,000.00</b>
<i>Overage or (Shortfall)</i>	<i>( \$ 4,328.85 )</i>

### OTHER

Ash Wednesday	\$ 32.00
Doughnuts	\$ 135.78
Maintenance	\$ 293.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 185.00

Thank you! Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

**REMEMBER ST. STEPHEN PARISH IN YOUR WILL & LIVING TRUST**

*Consider a contribution to the 2017 Bishop's Appeal.*

## MINISTERS MAR 11/12, 2017

<b>MASS:</b>	<b>5 PM</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>LECTORS:</b>	G. Pauplis	J. Gotelli
<b>C.L.O.W:</b>		C. Lang
<b>MINISTERS OF COMMUNION</b>	J. Holmes*	M. Mammola* H. Spahr
<b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b>	R. Kuca	Takafua Takafua 
<b>COUNTERS:</b>		
<b>THU 3/9</b>	P. Walton	M. Peare
<b>MON 3/13</b>	J. Stark	K. Coyne

*Prepare your souls for Easter with Reconciliation @ St. Stephen Parish on Saturdays @ 3:30 pm*

*Communal Services offered on Monday, March 27 @ St. John Vianney from 4:30 to 5:30 PM and @ Christ the King at 7:00 PM; and, on Monday, April 3 @ St. Mary at 7:00 pm*



### Michael C. Barber, SJ

Miseratione Divina et Apostolicae Sedis Gratia  
Episcopus Quercopolitanensis

### Decree

This disciplinary practice of abstaining from meat on the Fridays in Lent is an important dimension of the penitential nature of the season. This year, the Feast of St. Patrick, March 17, falls on a Friday in Lent. Given the many celebrations that occur on this day, in accord with the norm of law, I herewith grant to all Catholics of the Diocese as well as all present here that day, a dispensation from abstinence from meat and meat products. I encourage all who make use of this dispensation to engage in another sacrificial or charitable act that day.

**Given in Oakland, this twenty second day of February, 2017**