

ST STEPHEN MARTYR CATHOLIC CHURCH



What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.

- Fr. Joseph Magdaong
Pastor
- Fr. Ali Kanissius
Associate Pastor
- Armando & Irene Estrada
Deacon Couple
- Alicia Vazquez
Office Manager
- Dale Ann Torbey
Secretary / Bookkeeper
- Diane Gehner
School Principal

MASS SCHEDULE

- Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM
(English)
- Sunday 9:00 AM (Spanish)
- 11:00AM (Indonesian)

Reconciliation

- Monday–Thursday
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
- Saturday
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
- By appointment only

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

- Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Please call the parish office for assistance as the office is closed for in person business.

FOOD GIVEAWAY

Please call the parish office if you would like to register to receive food!

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO:
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021**

ST. STEPHEN MARTYR CHURCH
320 Garvey Ave, Monterey Park, CA 91754

(626) 573- 0427



"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."

IMPORTANT Announcements

Effective next Saturday, April 16th.
(English) Saturday Vigil Mass time will
changed to 6:00 p.m.

Altar Wine will be available for purchase at each Mass next weekend April 16th & 17th. The cost of a bottle of wine will be \$10.00 and can be purchased as you enter the parking lot before Mass only.

TU PAZ ME AYUDA A SUPERAR MIS MIEDOS

La Misericordia de Dios sigue manifestándose por medio de las apariciones de Jesús. Primero a María Magdalena y luego a los otros discípulos. El primer signo de este amor misericordioso de

Dios se hace presente en la paz que Jesús ofrece a sus discípulos. “¡La paz este con ustedes!” (Juan 20:21). Esa paz que nos ofrece a nosotros en la actualidad. La Paz de Cristo que vence los miedos a las complicaciones en el trabajo o en la familia. Que vence también el miedo a la pobreza material y espiritual. El miedo que teníamos o que tenemos de acercarnos a Dios en la Eucaristía por la pandemia, ese miedo que todos tenemos al contagio del virus por falta de cuidado de muchos que nos rodean.

Pidamos al Señor, en este Domingo de la Misericordia, reflexionando desde el fondo del corazón. Señor, que tu Resurrección nos libere del miedo, que estemos seguros que Tú siempre estás con nosotros. El Santo Papa San Juan Pablo II dijo sobre la misericordia de Dios lo siguiente: “Dios, Padre misericordioso, que has revelado tu amor en tu Hijo Jesucristo y lo has derramado sobre nosotros en el Espíritu Santo, Consolador, te encomendamos hoy el destino del mundo y de todo hombre”. Es conveniente ahora que volvamos la mirada a este misterio: lo están sugiriendo múltiples experiencias de la Iglesia y del hombre contemporáneo; lo exigen también las invocaciones de tantos corazones humanos, con sus sufrimientos y esperanzas, sus angustias y expectación”. ¿Qué piensas tú de la Divina Misericordia? ¿Eres devoto de ella?



DISTRIBUCION DE ALIMENTOS

Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial si desea registrarse para recibir alimentos (626)573-0427

Fecha limite de registro: lunes, 19 de abril, 2021

Bautismo Infantil

Para obtener más información y orientación sobre el bautismo infantil, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial. Nos complace ayudar a su familia con este primer e importante Sacramento.

INTENCIONES

Favor de llamar a la oficina parroquial si le gustara ofrecer una misa de recordatorio o en celebración de un ser querido para el año 2021. La donación por intención es \$10.

Primera Lectura—

Lectura del Libro de los Hechos de los Apóstoles

La multitud de los que habían creído tenía un solo corazón y una sola alma; todo lo poseían en común y nadie consideraba suyo nada de lo que tenía. Con grandes muestras de poder, los apóstoles daban testimonio de la resurrección del Señor Jesús y todos gozaban de gran estimación entre el pueblo. Ninguno pasaba necesidad, pues los que poseían terrenos o casas, los vendían, llevaban el dinero y lo ponían a disposición de los apóstoles, y luego se distribuía según lo que necesitaba cada uno.

Palabra de Dios

Segunda Lectura—

Lectura de la Primera Carta del Apóstol San Juan

Queridos hermanos: Todo el que cree que Jesús es el Mesías, ha nacido de Dios; todo el que ama a un padre, ama también a los hijos de éste. Conocemos que amamos a los hijos de Dios en que amamos a Dios y cumplimos sus mandamientos, pues el amor de Dios consiste en que cumplamos sus preceptos. Y sus mandamientos no son pesados, porque todo el que ha nacido de Dios vence al mundo. Y nuestra fe es la que nos ha dado la victoria sobre el mundo. Porque, ¿quién es el que vence al mundo? Sólo el que cree que Jesús es el Hijo de Dios.

Jesucristo es el que vino por medio del agua y de la sangre; él vino, no sólo con agua, sino con agua y con sangre. Y el Espíritu es el que da testimonio, porque el Espíritu es la verdad. **Palabra de Dios**

Evangelio—Lectura del Evangelio según San Juan

Al anochecer del día de la resurrección, estando cerradas las puertas de la casa donde se hallaban los discípulos, por miedo a los judíos, se presentó Jesús en medio de ellos y les dijo: “La paz esté con ustedes”. Dicho esto, les mostró las manos y el costado. Cuando los discípulos vieron al Señor, se llenaron de alegría.

De nuevo les dijo Jesús: “La paz esté con ustedes. Como el Padre me ha enviado, así también los envío yo”. Después de decir esto, sopló sobre ellos y les dijo: “Reciban el Espíritu Santo. A los que les perdonen los pecados, les quedarán perdonados; y a los que no se los perdonen, les quedarán sin perdonar”.

Tomás, uno de los Doce, a quien llamaban el Gemelo, no estaba con ellos cuando vino Jesús, y los otros discípulos le decían: “Hemos visto al Señor”. Pero él les contestó: “Si no veo en sus manos la señal de los clavos y si no meto mi dedo en los agujeros de los clavos y no meto mi mano en su costado, no creeré”.

Ocho días después, estaban reunidos los discípulos a puerta cerrada y Tomás estaba con ellos. Jesús se presentó de nuevo en medio de ellos y les dijo: “La paz esté con ustedes”. Luego le dijo a Tomás: “Aquí están mis manos; acerca tu dedo. Trae acá tu mano, métela en mi costado y no sigas dudando, sino cree”. Tomás le respondió: “¡Señor mío y Dios mío!” Jesús añadió: “Tú crees porque me has visto; dichosos los que creen sin haber visto”.

Otros muchos signos hizo Jesús en presencia de sus discípulos, pero no están escritos en este libro. Se escribieron éstas para que ustedes crean que Jesús es el Mesías, el Hijo de Dios, y para que, creyendo, tengan vida en su nombre.

Palabra de Dios

APRIL 11, 2021 • SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

First Reading -

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need. *The Word of the Lord*

Second Reading -

A Reading from the First Letter of St. John

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel -

A Reading for the Holy Gospel according to John

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name. *The Gospel of the Lord*



March 27th & 28th \$4,857.50

Online Giving \$615.00

April 3rd & 4th \$5,160.50

Online Giving \$2,845.00

Thank you for your commitment to your parish.

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021

5:00 pm Oscar Villamor Refuerzo (D)
Moisesana Rejuso (D)
Linda Santos (D)
Maria Astorga (D)
Maria Belen Astorga (D)
Marina Alvarenga (L)
Leo Rigel Sangalang - Happy Birthday

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

9:00 am Julio Vazquez Centeno (D)
Francisco Trigeros (D)
Pompoco Orosco (D)
Maria Luz Gonzalez (D)
Lizette Munoz Alvarez (L)
Lourdes Morales - Happy Birthday!!!
Animas Benditas del Purgatorio

Infant Baptism

For more information and guidance regarding Infant Baptism, please contact the parish office. We are pleased to assist your family with this first and important Sacrament.



DID YOU KNOW?

2021 Working Together to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Brochure

The Office of Safeguard the Children of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles annually publishes the *2021 Working Together to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse* brochure, which provides an up-to-date listing of safe environment policies, programs, resources, contact numbers and other important information about how the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is working to prevent child sexual abuse. Copies of the brochures are available in the parish vestibule or online at: <https://lacatholics.org/child-abuse-prevention-month/>.

"A Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse"

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness.

Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice.

Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.

Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace and justice.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen