

ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS

Sunday, August 2, 2026

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME!

If you are worshipping at St. Stephen's for the first time today, you are welcome to share in the Holy Communion. Please fill out a "Visitor" card at one of the Greeters tables and/or the guest book on the podium before you leave and get a welcome packet.

COMMUNION

If you are in need of a gluten free wafer during Communion, please let an usher know before the offertory or let one of the persons serving the host know. If you have a mobility problem, please let an usher know before the service begins and communion will be brought to you.

LOOKING FORWARD

As the new academic year begins, we invite you to the **Blessing of the Backpacks** on Sunday, August 16th at the 10:30AM service.

At St. Stephen's, we understand the significance of education and the journey it sets for our children and young adults. The Blessing of the Backpacks ceremony is an annual tradition where we come together as a community to pray for the young minds and souls who are about to embark on a new academic adventure.

This event is open to students of all ages, from preschoolers to college students and beyond. We encourage each attendee to bring their backpack, representing their readiness for the new school year, filled with hope, dream, and ambitions.



"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." **Thessalonians 5:11**



21+

Join us!

**THURS
AUG 13
6:30 PM**

NEW YOUNG ADULTS OF FAITH GROUP
Wolf Creek Restaurant and Brewing Co.
Santa Clarita
Text Hallie to RSVP at 661.713.3305

Good food and casual conversation about faith, life, and navigating young adulthood without any pressure. Come exactly as you are.



DEANERY 2 INVITES YOU
TO A
RECEPTION TO
MEET AND GREET

*The Rt. Rev. Dr.
Antonio José
Gallardo Lucena*

EIGHTH BISHOP OF THE
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

AUGUST

SATURDAY **15** AT 11 AM

ST. MARTIN IN-THE-FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
7136 WINNETKA AVENUE
WINNETKA, CA 91306

RSVP TO
PDEARY@STMARTINSSCHOOL.ORG OR
818-348-1419

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



Why EfM?

Why should I sign up for EfM?

While the answer may be different for each individual, having your own "why" is an important part of

your decision!

Making the decision to sign up for EfM could begin with questions that hint at your own learning desires. Take a moment to ponder the below questions.

Do you seek fellowship that goes beyond coffee hour?

Does Sunday morning whet your appetite for more?

Are you seeking God and desire others to accompany you on your search?

Do you question different interpretations of biblical passages and want to explore them more deeply?

What other questions come to mind?

If you answered "yes" or maybe" to any of those questions, **perhaps EfM is for you!**

For more information, contact Mary Jo Higginbotham at: maryjohigg@gmail.com

Then take a moment to pray!

*Lord, take my lips, and speak through them;
take my mind, and think through it;
take my heart, and set it on fire.*

Amen.

by W.H.H. Aitken, from Prayers Ancient and Modern

2026-27 EfM Registration begins Sunday, August 9th and continues through Sept. 4th.

EfM sessions at St. Stephen's meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00pm. Our tentative start date is Sept. 9th, with breaks for Thanksgiving, Christmas/New Year & Holy Week (a full calendar will be available when our sessions begin).

St. Stephen's will provide a scholarship for any participant who completes an application and is approved for one year. Applications will be available Sunday, Aug. 9th and must be completed and submitted for approval by email before Sunday, Aug. 23rd (may be done by email).

Each participant completes registration individually and pays tuition by computer through the EfM Pathwright program. Pathwright is the online learning management system that houses and distributes all EfM formation products, through the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. Participants must purchase their own books and materials determined by their year of participation. Books can be obtained in print, digital, or audio format from any distributor of your choice. In addition, some books are available for loan from St. Stephen's bookstore.

The Gospel of John Study
Mondays 7:00-8:30 PM
July 6th - Sept. 14th
Chapel

The Gospel of John study is a 10-week study. Topics covered during the study include the Samaritan woman at the well, Christ the Bread of Life, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus. Handouts will be provided. No charge. Led by Fred Chavez.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n79jt79>

Communications Committee Meeting

Want to get involved with the Communications Committee at St. Stephen's? It's as easy as jumping on Zoom! Meetings every 1st Monday of the Month at 3pm on Zoom. Use the QR code to join the meeting

The first day of Sunday School
will be on August 23rd
on the Stage in Spurling Hall.



Sunday School Registration 2026-2027

www.st-stephens.org

Paper
applications
are available
in the parish
hall

Books, Bites & Blessings! 🍰

Looking for a relaxing night out and some sweet new friendships? You are officially invited to our **Women's Night Out Book Swap!**

- **When:** Friday, August 21 at 6:00 PM
- **Where:** Spurling Hall
- **The Food:** It's an appetizer and dessert potluck! Bring your favorite finger food or sweet treat to share.
- **The Books:** Bring a book or a few books you've loved and are ready to pass along (any genre is welcome!). You'll leave with a fresh read. If you don't have one to bring, don't worry, there will be plenty of books to spare. Bring a recommendation to share with the group. 📖
- **Not really a reader?** Come anyway, there will be great snacks!



Bring a friend! Whether you've been at our church for years or are looking to make your very first connections, this night is for you. This is a safe, affirming and celebratory space for all women, including our LGBTQ+ sisters and



siblings. Let's open our hearts, share some blessings, make new friends and invigorate Women's fellowship at St. Stephen's!

Please **RSVP** and let us know what you're bringing, we can't wait to connect with you! If you will need childcare, please let us know by August 15.

Questions? Email Mary Jo Higginbotham (📧), Kathleen Jensen (📧), or Julia Nelson (📧) or talk to us at church.



Registration

6th grade -
12th grade



Complete and return to
shannon@st-stephens.org or
to the church office

**SIGN UP
NOW**

st-stephens.org



If you wish to have your birthday or anniversary prayed for during Sunday services or if you would like a white rose to signify a death in your family or a red rose to signify a birth in your family, please email Tracy in the Church office at office@st-stephens.org no later than 5:00pm on Thursdays with all of the relevant details.

St. Stephen's Prayer List

Current Needs: Joanne, Innocent victims of global and domestic conflicts and wars, especially involving the U.S. involvement in the Middle East, Jim and Judy, Lisa and Lou, Eliza, Janet, Gail, Bill, John and the Nelson family, Marie, Lilly and husband, Patrick, Amy, Dolores and family, Steve, Maria, Moses, Jerome, Joy and Dennis, Ron, Jose Manuel, Sandy H., Peggy, Barbara, Jenny, Kevin, Brisa, Sandra, Claudia, Keith, Mary, Mehar, Marionette, B.J., Rae, Susan, Claudia, , Bob, Jerri, Jeff, Susan, Phyllis and Stu, Linda and Charlie, Madelyn, Maria, Pastor Clarence and children, Greg, Neville, Jeff and Helen, Tom and Desiree, Jim and Donna, Greg and Cathy, Jim, Cathy, Doris, Gia, Caroline, Carolyn, Karen, Angeline, Vickie, Judy, Laurie, Vince and Fran, Karen and Jim, Malcolm, Brendan, Reverend Lynn, Stephen, Cathy, Berta, Sue, Stacy, Lily, K. C., David, David, Brendan, Rebecca, the Barlow family, Joy and Dennis, Raye, Richard, Collette, **Judith, Nicole**

Rest in Peace:: Susanna Saulog, David Hoskey, Linda Lott, Ellen Ardman, Diana F., Jeff Krueger, Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, Joan Sebastian Guerrero, Jeff Barlow, John Domeniccuci

If you would like to have prayers for yourself or someone else, please email Peggy Stabile at pstable@pegasus2.net or call the church office at 661.259.7307. Please be aware that your prayer request content will be shared with the members of the prayer chain. If you wish for Peggy to hold your prayer request in confidence, please clarify that in your submission. Prayer requests remain active for 4 weeks and must be renewed thru Peggy or the office to be on the list again.



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S

If you are able to continue supporting the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's, you

can pay your pledge or make a new or recurring donation online here st-stephens.org/giving. You can also text your donation by texting the word GIVE to 661.228.8909 and following the prompts. Click here for an easy [How To Use Text Giving guide](#). We are deeply grateful for your commitment and support.

St. Stephen's Week		August 9, 2026 to August 16, 2026	
TODAY'S SERVICE		7:45 & 10:30 AM	
SUNDAY 8/9		VPOD: Nick Vestuto	
7:45am		Holy Eucharist	
10:30am		Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed via Facebook live)	
5:00pm		Den Meeting / Spurling Hall	
MONDAY 8/10			
6:45pm		Troop 2019 / Spurling Hall	
7:00pm		Gospel of John Study / Chapel	
TUESDAY 8/11			
6:00pm		Finance Meeting / Spurling Hall	
7:00pm		The Welcome Table / Chapel	
WED. 8/12			
7:00am		Holy Eucharist followed by breakfast	
8:00am		Preschool Meeting / Spurling Hall	
9:30am		Circle of Gratitude / Zoom	
THURS. 8/13			
8:00am		Preschool Meeting / Spurling Hall	
9:00am		Book Study Group / Sacristy	
1:00pm		SAGES Lunch	
6:30pm		Troop 2222 / Spurling Hall	
FRIDAY 8/14			
SAT. 8/15			
11:00am		Bishop Reception / St. Martin's	
NEXT SUNDAY 8/16		VPOD: Cheryl Sena	
7:45am		Holy Eucharist	
10:30am		Holy Eucharist (also livestreamed via Facebook live)	

During the month of August, the Church office will be closed on Mondays and Fridays. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays the office will be open from 9AM to 3PM. Jared Simmons will be filling in while Tracy is on vacation.