

“And the
Word
became flesh and
dwelt
among us.”

- John 1:14

CHRISTMAS 2024

“Y la
Palabra
se hizo carne y
habitó
entre nosotros.”

- Juan 1:14

NAVIDAD 2024

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH

5770 N. Maroa Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704
559-439-0124 • www.stanthonyfresno.org

DEC
22
2024



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(559) 439-0124**

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439-0124, ext. 104
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Parochial Vicar – Rev. Joaquin Arriga
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

BULLETIN/WEBPAGE

Bulletin Editor: bulletin@stanthonyfresno.org
Bulletin inserts are due 4 weeks prior to publication.

Welcome to St. Anthony of Padua

The Catholic Christian community of St. Anthony of Padua welcomes all to our celebrations of God's love. Through prayer, education, sacraments, caring and stewardship, we strive to serve the needs of God's people and to gain a richer understanding of the Gospel message of love. We invite you to become a part of our "Parish Life." Your talents are welcome!

Rev. Msgr. Robert D. Wenzinger, Pastor

Please register at www.stanthonyfresno.org.

Thanks for joining us!

TODAY'S READINGS CAN BE FOUND IN THE GREEN HYMNAL: #869

Mass Intentions

22 SUNDAY – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:00 a.m. † Aurelio Rivas by Joe & Alice Cuellar
9:30 a.m. † Gavin Gladding by Rita Gladding
11:00 a.m. Pro Populo (For the intentions of the parish community)
1:00 p.m. † Jesus Luquin por Noemi Gomez
6:00 p.m. † Dean Ray by Patricia Ray

23 MONDAY
NO MASS

24 TUESDAY – Christmas Vigil Mass
4:00 p.m. † Natale Pardini by Linda Mastro
6:30 p.m. Intentions of Monica Esqueda by her Family
9:00 p.m. † Margaret Rodriguez by Bernie Araiza
12:00 a.m. † The Dearly Departed Members of the Ochinero & Ferdinandi Families

25 WEDNESDAY – CHRISTMAS DAY
8:00 a.m. † Irene Danks by Sue Fagan
9:30 a.m. † Connie Espinoza DeChamps by her Family
11:00 a.m. † Orlando Rodriguez by David & Bernie Araiza
1:00 p.m. Intenciones de la familia Gómez-Ramírez

26 THURSDAY
6:45 a.m. † Ines & Eduardo Quijano by Ines Josefina Quijano
8:00 a.m. † Hannah Beggs Mestas by Rebecca Mestas

27 FRIDAY
6:45 a.m. † Bennie & Lucy Leal by Debbie Fagundes
8:15 a.m. † Sandra Bryan Smith by Syl & Margaret Bryan

28 SATURDAY
4:00 p.m. Intentions of Alexander Domingos by Sandy Martinez
5:30 p.m. Pro Populo (For the intentions of the parish community)

29 SUNDAY – HOLY FAMILY
8:00 a.m. † Mike Campos by Joe & Alice Cuellar
9:30 a.m. Intentions of the Briseño Family
11:00 a.m. Intentions (B-Day) Jeremiah Garcia by Rosalinda Garcia
1:00 p.m. Intenciones de Jorge y Victoria Mora por parte de la Familia Mora
6:00 p.m. Intentions of Joe Martinez by Hilda Maroney

NO CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 21

Tuesday, December 24



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

General Meeting 7:00 p.m.; Rosary 6:15 p.m.
New Location: St. Agnes Mission Social Hall,
111 Birch Avenue, Pinedale



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

General Meeting & Dinner
6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall



TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

Room 23, 6:30 p.m.

Are you making New Year's Resolutions? Why not join us for the return of Tuesday Night Bible Study. Craig is adding an additional six weeks to unwrap Bishop Robert Barron's series, *David the King*. Mark your calendar.



Welcome CATECHIST!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – Session 5

Theology: The Scriptures / Methodology: Methods Grades. Please sign up ahead of time with Mary Briseno by email at mbriseno@stanthonyfresno.org or call 439-0124. Bring a sack lunch, pencil/pen, and notebook. Let us know if you need to borrow a book or purchase your own copy in advance.



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
SILVER ANGELS MINISTRY**
Wednesday, February 12,
11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.,
\$17.00/person

St. Anthony of Padua Silver Angels Ministry provides an opportunity for St. Anthony and St. Agnes parishioners (50+) to socialize while sharing a lunch together. If you would like to meet new people in the parish, considering joining us in February for lunch. Registration forms will be available in early January.

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Vigil Masses

4:00 p.m.; 6:30 p.m.; 9:00 p.m.; Midnight

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day Masses

8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.; 1:00 p.m. – Español

Wednesday, January 1 – New Year's Day Mass

10:00 a.m.



For more information on parish groups, call the Ministry Office at 439-0124, ext. 106.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday (Vigil Mass)

4:00 p.m. – English

5:30 p.m. – Español

Sunday

8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. –

English

1:00 p.m. – Español

6:00 p.m. – English

Livestream Mass Schedule

9:30 a.m. – English Mass

1:00 p.m. – Misa Español

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday-Thursday (OLG Chapel)

6:45 a.m. – Daily Mass

8:00 a.m. – Chapel open until 11:00 a.m.

Friday (OLG Chapel)

6:45 a.m. – Daily Mass

8:15 a.m. – Followed by Adoration

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday

9:00-11:00 a.m. – Guadalupe Chapel

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. – Chapel Confessionals

Saturday

10:00 a.m. – Chapel Confessionals

INTRODUCCIÓN A LAS SAGRADAS ESCRITURAS

Jueves:
16, 23, 30 de enero
y 6 de febrero

A las 6:30pm
en el salón #22

Traer Biblia y libreta

St. Anthony of Padua

JUEVES – ESTUDIO DE LA BIBLIA

A las 6:30 p.m. en el salón #22

Jueves: 16, 23, 30 de enero
y 6 de febrero

Grupo de Oración



JUEVES – GRUPO DE ORACIÓN ENCUENTRO CON DIOS.

Te invitamos al grupo de oración todos los jueves desde las 6:30 p.m. empezando con El Rosario, en el salón #23 de nuestra parroquia.

"Ven y llénate del Señor."

Year of Mission

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

We invite you to pray the Mission prayer in silence after Mass in your pew.

God our Father,

You never cease to seek out Your children – the lonely, the frightened, the hurt, and the lost. We pray for all our parishioners who have been missing from our parish community and Eucharistic celebrations since COVID.

Through the intercession of St. Anthony of Padua, please pave the way for conversations and invitations that welcome them back to the Catholic Church and our St. Anthony of Padua Parish community. We trust in Your love and mercy for every one of Your children. Amen.

Dios, Padre nuestro,

Tú nunca dejas de buscar a tus hijos: los solitarios, los asustados, los heridos y los perdidos. Oramos por todos nuestros feligreses que han estado ausentes de nuestra comunidad parroquial y de las celebraciones eucarísticas desde el COVID.

Por intercesión de San Antonio de Padua, allane el camino para conversaciones e invitaciones que les den la bienvenida a la Iglesia Católica y a nuestra comunidad parroquial de San Antonio de Padua. Confiamos en tu amor y misericordia para cada uno de tus hijos. Amén.

STEWARDSHIP – MANAGING GOD’S GIFTS TO US

Sharing the Gifts We Have Been Given!

December 1, 2024	\$27,386.00
Last year’s Plate Income	\$26,270.00
Difference	\$1,116.00
Year-to-Date Plate Collection • <i>Colectas Del Año Hasta La Fecha</i>	
July 1, 2024 – November 30, 2024	\$483,390.01
July 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023	\$488,063.12
Difference	-\$4,673.11

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY GRACIAS POR SU CONTINUA GENEROSIDAD



GIVE ONLINE – Easy, Safe, and Convenient: When you give to God, you discover that God gives to you. You can also drop your envelope in the mail slot located in the door on the south side of the Parish Office.



GIFT Religious Education Fundraiser Angel Statue Raffle

Description:

46” Tall; Made of Resin; Indoor & Outdoor Use

Ticket Donation: 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 6 tickets for \$20.00 to be sold after the morning Masses on **Sunday, December 22nd** and the raffle will take place on the same day at **2:30 p.m. at the Pavilion.**

Thank you for your support.

All proceeds benefit the GIFT children’s program.



ST. AGNES MISSION CHURCH

111 W. Birch Avenue, Pinedale, CA 93650
(559) 439-2100

Sunday 9:00 a.m. English – Mass Intention: + Daniel Nino, Jr.

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Español – Misa Intencion: Intenciones de la familia Arévalo (Vivos & Difuntos) por Maria Castello

Mass Intention – December 25, 2024

10:30 a.m. Bilingual – Misa Intencion: +Bob Hernandez, Sr. (Birthday Memorial) by Minnie Hernandez

For the following Sacraments, please contact St. Anthony of Padua:
Anointing of the Sick • Baptisms • Confession • Funerals • Weddings

Please mail any correspondence, contributions, Mass intentions to:
St. Anthony of Padua – 5770 N. Maroa Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704

Sacraments & Pastoral Support..... Chris Shiveley (559) 439-0124, ext. 103
cshiveley@stanthonyfresno.org
Director of Religious Education..... Phyllis Carmona

SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN

December 1, 2024	\$1,639.30
2024-2025 YTD Total	\$35,827.82

**WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY!
GRACIAS POR SU CONTINUA GENEROSIDAD**

“Christ has made my soul beautiful with jewels of grace and virtue. I belong to Him Whom the Angels serve.” – St. Agnes

Christmas Message from Msgr. Rob

So Joseph and his wife, Mary, left Nazareth, a village in Galilee, and journeyed to their hometown in Judea, to the village of Bethlehem, King David's ancient home. They were required to register there, since they were both direct descendants of David. Mary was pregnant and nearly ready to give birth. (Luke 2:4-7)



What would you do if a man with a pregnant teenage girl arrived at your doorstep looking for lodging? That was the challenge for everyone who encountered Joseph and Mary that night. Imagine the disappointment of those who turned them away, had they known Our Lord (Jesus Christ) was at their door.

As we read this encounter each Christmas, it is easy to dismiss it as a one-time encounter. Each Christmas, and every day throughout the year, Our Lord stands at the door of your heart knocking, wanting to enter.

As Catholics, do not our hearts jump with joy as we receive Our Lord in Holy Communion every Sunday? Our Lord enters our very being, providing hope, comfort, and peace. He wants to journey with you and your family. He invites families to follow the loving example of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus (Holy Family). Jesus stands at the door and knocks. Will you let Him in?

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas. Sincerely, Msgr. Rob

Entonces José y su esposa María dejaron Nazaret, una aldea en Galilea, y viajaron a su ciudad natal en Judea, a la aldea de Belén, la antigua casa del rey David. Debían registrarse allí, ya que ambos eran descendientes directos de David. María estaba embarazada y casi lista para dar a luz. (Lucas 2: 4-7)

¿Qué harías si un hombre con una adolescente embarazada llegara a tu puerta buscando alojamiento? Ese fue el desafío para todos los que se encontraron con José y María esa noche. Imagínese la decepción de aquellos que los rechazaron, si hubieran sabido que Nuestro Señor (Jesucristo) estaba a su puerta.

Al leer este encuentro cada Navidad, es fácil descartarlo como un encuentro único. Cada Navidad, y todos los días del año, Nuestro Señor está a la puerta de vuestro corazón llamando con ganas de entrar.

Como católicos, ¿no saltan nuestros corazones de alegría al recibir a Nuestro Señor en la Sagrada Comunión cada domingo? Nuestro Señor entra en nuestro ser, brindándonos esperanza, consuelo y paz. Él quiere viajar contigo y tu familia. Invita a las familias a seguir el ejemplo de amor de José, María y Jesús (Sagrada Familia). Jesús está a la puerta y llama. ¿Lo dejarás entrar?

Te deseo a ti y a tu familia una Feliz Navidad. Atentamente, Mons. Robar

Parish Ministry Guide –

Christ said, "I have come to serve, not to be served."

The prayers during the Mass invite us to offer our prayers and gifts to the Lord. Liturgical Ministry calls the faithful to be part of the Mass. We all feel unworthy to serve, just as Christ's disciples, who were fishermen before Christ called them. Is Christ calling you?

ALTAR SERVER

We invite parents of youth (4th grade and up, who have received their First Holy Communion) to prayerfully consider the unique opportunity for your child to grow closer to Our Lord and His Church as an Altar Server. You can register online at stanthonyfresno.org/ministries/, then click on Altar Servers or call the Parish Office at 439-0124 for more details.



SERVIDOR DE ALTAR

Invitamos a los padres de los jóvenes (de 4º grado en adelante, que hayan recibido su Primera Comunión) a considerar en oración la oportunidad única de que su hijo crezca más cerca de Nuestro Señor y de Su Iglesia como Monaguillo. Usted puede registrarse en línea en stanthonyfresno.org/ministries/, luego haga clic en Altar Servers o llame a la oficina de la parroquia en 439-0124 para más detalles.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Considered the unique honor to offer the "Body of Christ" to the faith community. Ministers are commissioned by our pastor to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass. Candidates should be 18 years of age and be in full communion with the church (all sacraments).



MINISTROS DE LA EUCARISTÍA

Se considera el honor único de ofrecer el "Cuerpo de Cristo" a la comunidad de fe. Los ministros son comisionados por nuestro párroco para asistir en la distribución de la Sagrada Comunión en la Misa. Los candidatos deben tener 18 años de edad y estar en plena comunión con la iglesia (todos los sacramentos).

LECTORS

Do you remember the joy of reading to your children before bed? If so, chances are you're a Lector candidate. Persons, 5th grade and older, who have made their First Holy Communion with good reading skills can serve as a Lector at Mass.



LECTORES

¿Recuerda la alegría de leer a sus hijos antes de dormir? Si es así, lo más probable es que usted sea un candidato a Lector. Las personas, de 5º grado en adelante, que han hecho su Primera Comunión con buenas habilidades de lectura pueden servir como Lector en la Misa.

Interested Lector and Eucharistic Minister candidates should contact Martha in the Parish Office at 439-0124, ext. 114 or by email. *Los candidatos Ministerio Eucarístico y lectores interesados deben contactar a Martha en la oficina parroquial al 439-0124, ext. 114 o por correo electrónico.*

USHER & GREETER MINISTRY

Are you the type to get to church early? Why not join the Usher Ministry and greet your fellow parishioners as they enter the church? Ushers assist with the collection and act as Eucharistic Guards during Communion. Join the team and serve when you can. Call the Parish Office at 439-0124, ext. 106 for more details or complete the Volunteer Registration at www.stanthonyfresno.org/ministries.



MINISTERIO DE UJIERES Y SALUDADORES

¿Eres de los que llegan temprano a la iglesia? ¿Por qué no te unes al Ministerio de Ujieres y saludas a tus feligreses cuando entran en la iglesia? Los ujieres ayudan con la colecta y actúan como guardias eucarísticos durante la comunión. Únase al equipo y sirva cuando pueda. Llame a la oficina parroquial al 439-0124, ext. 106 para obtener más detalles o complete el registro de voluntarios en www.stanthonyfresno.org/ministries.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

Are you a Eucharistic Minister who is being called to serve the members of our parish who are unable to come to Mass on Sunday due to illness or other limitation? We are looking for Eucharistic Ministers who are willing to take Holy Communion after Mass to the members of the parish who are Homebound. If you are interested, please contact the Office of Ministry at 439-0124, ext. 106.



MINISTERIO DE LOS CONFINADOS EN CASA

¿Es usted un Ministro Eucarístico que está siendo llamado a servir a los miembros de nuestra parroquia que no pueden asistir a Misa el domingo debido a una enfermedad u otra limitación? Estamos buscando un Ministro Eucarístico que esté dispuesto a llevar la Sagrada Comunión después de la Misa a los miembros de la parroquia que están en sus hogares. Si está interesado, comuníquese con la Oficina del Ministerio al 439-0124, ext. 106.

We Need You...

Accepting Registrations for RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – GIFT



“Growing In Faith Together”

Faith Formation & Sacrament Preparation for Children in Kindergarten-6th Grade

FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION & SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Classes are held on Sundays at 3:00-4:15 p.m.

Additionally, Second Year students and parent(s) attend one Thursday per month at 6:30 p.m.

Registrations available on our website: stanthonyfresno.org

For more information or to volunteer in children’s ministry and continue to have this program, contact Mary Briseno at 559-439-0124, ext. 113 or by email mbriseno@stanthonyfresno.org.

Aceptando Inscripciones para EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA – GIFT “Creciendo Juntos En Nuestra Fe”

Formación de Fe y Preparación Sacramental para niños del Kinder-6 to grados

PRIMERA RECONCILIACION, PRIMERA COMUNION, Y SACRAMENTOS DE INICIACION

Las Clases son los domingos a 3:00-4:15 p.m.

Adicional, en el Segundo Año escolar los estudiantes y sus padres asisten a un jueves por mes a las 6:30 p.m.

Inscripciones disponibles en nuestro sitio web: stanthonyfresno.org

Para más información o para ser voluntario en el ministerio de niños y poder continuar con este programa, comuníquese con Mary Briseño al 559-439-0124, ext. 113 o por email: mbriseno@stanthonyfresno.org.

EDGE

2024-2025 Registration for Grades 6th through 8th is open (only available online).

Tuesday Evenings in Room 22 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. began October 1st.

Youth can prepare for the Sacraments of Baptism and First Communion while attending EDGE.

Director, Sharon Christison, ext. 117, schristison@stanthonyfresno.org

Catholic Youth Ministry Sessions are Tuesday Evenings in Room 22 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Register at www.stanthonyfresno.org. Click on Faith Formation tab and scroll down to click one of the EDGE options.

EDGE is a Catholic youth group that is designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of young adolescents. As young adolescents, they are trying to figure out who they are and what they believe. Youth can prepare for Sacraments of Baptism and First Communion while attending Edge.



Para Jóvenes Bilingües

LAS CLASES YA COMENZARON

SI AUN NO SE HAN REGISTRADO

Visite nuestra pagina **WEB** o **ESCANEE** el **CÓDIGO QR** abajo para registrarse.



Para mas información comuníquese con el Diacono Edgar al 439-0124, ext. 111

LIFETEEN High School Youth Ministry

2024-2025 for Grades 9 through 12

Director, Sharon Christison, ext. 117, schristison@stanthonyfresno.org

LifeTeen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church. LifeTeen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. We create a dynamic space where the youth can develop friendships with their peers, learn more about their faith, and encounter Jesus in the Sacraments.



Confirmation 1 and 2 – High School Teens

2024-2025 Registration is open (only available online)

Confirmation is a two-year program for students who are Freshmen or older. Candidates for Confirmation must be at least 16 years of age to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation candidates meet Sunday evenings with our Life Teen Youth Group. Confirmation meetings consist of attending: The Life Teen 6:00 p.m. Mass, and the Life Teen Youth Group which begins immediately after Mass until 8:30 p.m.

1st year, sessions began Sunday, September 8th.

2nd year, sessions began Sunday, September 15th.

RCIA: RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS
Tuesdays: 6:30-8:00 p.m. St. Anthony Conference Room (aka Donut Room)

Director, Martha Danks-Ferguson

439-0124, ext. 114; mdanksferg@stanthonyfresno.org

See our website to register: www.stanthonyfresno.org

Click on *Faith Formation* or scroll down to the RCIA icon.

We welcome adults seeking any of the Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist

New folks are welcome to join us any time during the year.

If you have any questions, please contact Martha by phone or email.



SACRAMENTOS PARA ADULTOS

Adultos mayores de 18 años interesados en los Sacramentos de Primera Comunión, Confirmación o Bautismo hablar con Hermana Edith, ext. 122 o sisteredith@stanthonyfresno.org.

GOD'S ENDURING PLAN

Reflection on Luke 1:39-45

The whole of our Scripture and tradition reveal that God has called people to accomplish His purposes from the very beginning, and continues to do so today. These readings give us two fine examples of God's use of a human being to reveal who God is and what God is up to, in David and in Mary.

King David's grand intention is to build a house, but God uses the occasion for a more lasting plan: to use David to build a family, a people, for Himself. This is God's promise of an enduring kingdom, realized in the birth, life, suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus, Son of the Father, Son of Mary, of the house and lineage of David.

This promise is accomplished through Mary. In her "Yes" to God's plan ("let it be done to me according to your Word"), Mary displays the radical openness and trust that God desires of each of us. For indeed, God desires to use each of us to bring about His purpose. Pray for the same trust and openness that David and Mary, along with so many saints through the ages, model for us.

– Fr. Jay

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

Monday, December 23, 2024

Weekday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14
Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Weekday

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29
Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7-10
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17
Mt 10:17-22

Friday, December 27, 2024

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4
Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Saturday, December 28, 2024

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2
Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8
Mt 2:13-18

Access Daily Readings from
the New American Bible,
Revised Edition (NABRE) online at
<https://bible.usccb.org>



SAINT STEPHEN

Saint of the Day: December 26

Patron Saint of Deacons

"As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Greek-speaking Christians complained against the Hebrew-speaking Christians, saying that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 6:1-5).

Acts of the Apostles says that Stephen was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders among the people. Certain Jews, members of the Synagogue of Roman Freedmen, debated with Stephen, but proved no match for the wisdom and spirit with which he spoke. They persuaded others to make the charge of blasphemy against him. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

In his speech, Stephen recalled God's guidance through Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. He then claimed that his persecutors were showing this same spirit. Stephen's speech brought anger from the crowd. "But he, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' ... They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. ...As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ...'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'" (Acts 7:55-56, 58a, 59, 60b).

Read the full article: "Saint Stephen" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-stephen/ (Accessed November December 10, 2024).

ESCRITURA SEMANAL

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mi 5:1-4a
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

Monday, December 23, 2024

Weekday
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14
Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Weekday
2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29
Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Nativity of the Lord
Is 52:7-10
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6.
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18

Thursday, December 26, 2024

Saint Stephen, First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17
Mt 10:17-22

Friday, December 27, 2024

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4
Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Saturday, December 28, 2024

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5-2:2
Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8
Mt 2:13-18

Acceda a las lecturas diarias de
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EL PLAN PERDURABLE DE DIOS

Reflexión sobre Lucas 1:39-45

El conjunto de nuestras Escrituras y nuestra tradición revelan que Dios ha llamado a personas para llevar a cabo sus designios desde el principio, y sigue haciéndolo hoy. Estas lecturas nos ofrecen dos magníficos ejemplos de cómo Dios se sirve de un ser humano para revelar quién es Dios y qué se propone, en David y en María.

La gran intención del rey David es construir una casa, pero Dios aprovecha la ocasión para un plan más duradero: utilizar a David para construir una familia, un pueblo, para Sí mismo. Esta es la promesa de Dios de un reino duradero, realizada en el nacimiento, vida, sufrimiento, muerte y resurrección de Jesús, Hijo del Padre, Hijo de María, de la casa y linaje de David.

Esta promesa se cumple a través de María. En su «Sí» al plan de Dios ("hágase en mí según tu Palabra"), María muestra la apertura radical y la confianza que Dios desea de cada uno de nosotros. En efecto, Dios desea servirse de cada uno de nosotros para realizar su propósito. Pidamos por la misma confianza y apertura que David y María, junto con tantos santos a lo largo de los siglos, modelan para nosotros.

– P. Jay

SAN ESTEBAN

Santo del día: 26 de diciembre

Patrón de los diáconos

"Como el número de discípulos seguía creciendo, los cristianos de lengua griega se quejaron contra los cristianos de lengua hebrea, diciendo que sus viudas estaban siendo descuidadas en la distribución diaria. Entonces los Doce convocaron a la comunidad de los discípulos y dijeron: 'No está bien que descuidemos la palabra de Dios para servir a la mesa. Hermanos, elegid de entre vosotros a siete hombres reputados, llenos del Espíritu y de sabiduría, a quienes designaremos para esta tarea, mientras nosotros nos dedicaremos a la oración y al ministerio de la palabra.' La propuesta fue aceptada por toda la comunidad, así que eligieron a Esteban, hombre lleno de fe y del Espíritu Santo..." (Hch 6,1-5).

Los Hechos de los Apóstoles dicen que Esteban era un hombre lleno de gracia y poder, que obró grandes prodigios entre el pueblo. Algunos judíos, miembros de la sinagoga de los libertos romanos, debatieron con Esteban, pero no pudieron con la sabiduría y el espíritu con que hablaba. Convencieron a otros para que le acusaran de blasfemia. Fue apresado y llevado ante el Sanedrín.

En su discurso, Esteban recordó la guía de Dios a través de la historia de Israel, así como la idolatría y desobediencia de Israel. Luego afirmó que sus perseguidores mostraban ese mismo espíritu. El discurso de Esteban provocó la ira de la multitud. "Pero él, lleno del Espíritu Santo, miró fijamente al cielo y vio la gloria de Dios y a Jesús de pie a la derecha de Dios, y dijo: 'He aquí, veo los cielos abiertos y al Hijo del hombre de pie a la derecha de Dios'. ...Le echaron fuera de la ciudad y comenzaron a apedrearle. ...Mientras apedreaban a Esteban, éste gritó: 'Señor Jesús, recibe mi espíritu.' ...'Señor, no les tengas en cuenta este pecado'" (Hch 7, 55-56, 58a, 59, 60b).

Lea el artículo completo en inglés: "Saint Stephen" *Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-stephen/* (Consultado el 10 de diciembre de 2024).

*El Señor es rey;
está revestido de
majestad.*

Salmo 93:1





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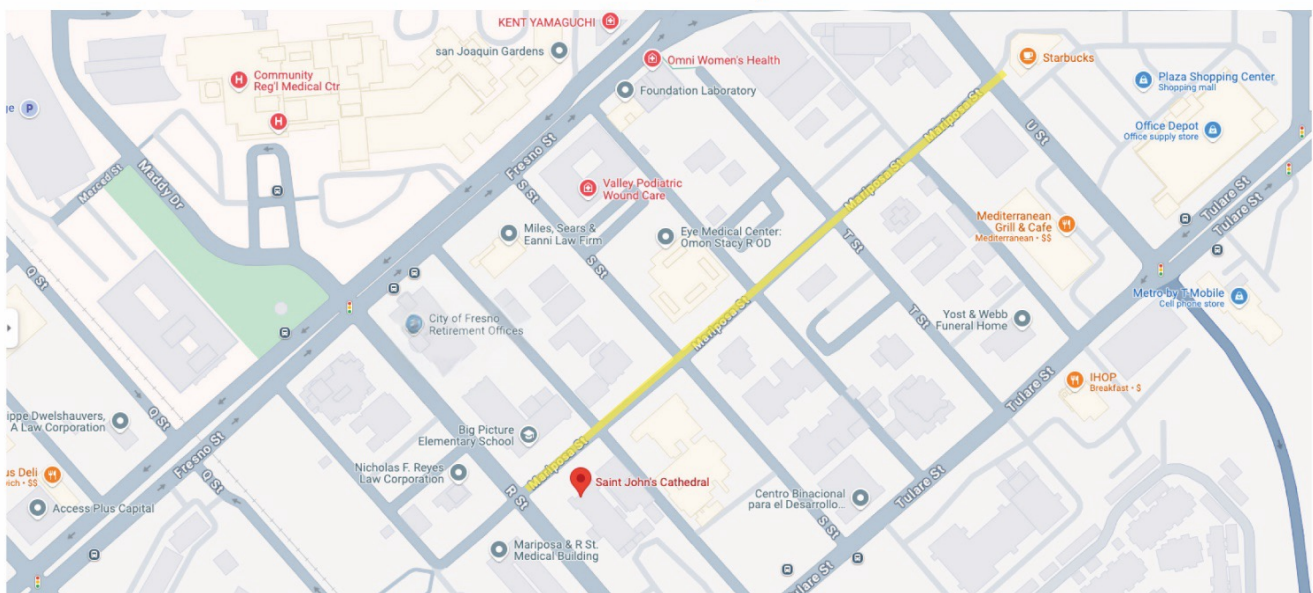
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