

**To all of our fellow parishioners at CTK, this is your opportunity to get to know those of us at your sister parish, St. Stephen.**



St. Stephen Church was founded in 1966 under the guidance of our first pastor, Father Joseph F. Keaveny, and was comprised of segments from Christ the King, St. Mary and St. Perpetua parishes. It was designed by Aaron Green, student and eventual partner of Frank Lloyd Wright. Its architectural character draws many visitors who come to view its unique beauty. Now we have completed the circle as we have joined back together with CTK as sister parishes.



Those of us that have been here from the beginning have fond memories of “St. Thrifty”, named because while the church was being designed and built, we were in temporary space next to Thrifty Drug Store in the Palos Verdes Shopping Center. Our former space is currently occupied by Do Sit Thai Restaurant.

The church was finally finished in 1971. Our first Mass in the new church was on September 11, 1971. I remember coming to Midnight Mass for the first Christmas in the new church, 50 years ago this weekend.



Sunday is the Feast Day of St. Stephen. St. Stephen was the first Christian martyr. Because of his defense of Christianity, he was condemned to be stoned to death.

You will find this beautiful icon of St. Stephen prominently displayed in our church. It was written specifically for us by Father Damien Higgins, a priest-monk of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and internationally known iconographer. In the background, above the pile of stones you will see Mt. Diablo.

How appropriate that we are celebrating the Feast of St. Stephen on the same day that we are celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family. Because of our smaller size, we have always looked at our parishioners as one family. We might be small, but we have a strong community. From the earliest days of the Parish, there has been a high degree of lay person involvement in Parish life. The commitment to service that built the community of St. Stephen from its beginning 55 years ago is still evident today. Our unique beginnings, where our volunteers taught religious education to 300 children in 29 homes helped contribute to this strong lay involvement. For many years we were admired as a progressive parish, especially with our religious education program. Unfortunately, since we are surrounded by other parishes with schools, many young families have followed their children to participate in the parishes schooling their children.

We invite you to join us on Sunday, December 26, for our 9:30 am Mass as we celebrate 50 years of Feast Days of our patron in our church (55 years as a parish). After Mass, we will meet in our parish center to socialize, sing Christmas Carols and enjoy light refreshments.

May everyone continue to have a blessed Christmas season,

Chris Lang, St. Stephen Volunteer