

**Sunday, February 22, 2015**  
**First Sunday of Lent**



<b>Sun. 22 Feb.</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent, I Class</b>
8:30 am	Edward J. Pierini IV
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Nancy E. Burns
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
<b>Mon. 23 Feb.</b>	<b>Chair of St. Peter, I Class</b>
7:00 am	FSSP
12:15 pm	Norman Sayles
7:00 pm	Special Intention
<b>Tues. 24 Feb.</b>	<b>St. Matthias, Apostle, II Class</b>
7:00 am	Brian Condon
6:30 pm	Nancy E. Burns
<b>Wed. 25 Feb.</b>	<b>Ember Wednesday of Lent, II Class</b>
7:00 am	Souls in Purgatory
12:15 pm	Ricky Mendoza
<b>Thurs. 26 Feb.</b>	<b>Feria of Lent, III Class</b>
7:00 am	Norman Sayles
6:30 pm	FSSP
<b>Fri. 27 Feb.</b>	<b>Ember Friday of Lent, II Class</b>
7:00 am	Souls in Purgatory
12:15 pm	Sergio & Theresa Reale
6:30 pm	Michael Szumowski
<b>Sat. 28 Feb.</b>	<b>Ember Saturday of Lent, II Class</b>
7:00 am	Dr. Gerald Foy
9:00 am	Elizabeth Pierini
<b>Sun. 1 Mar.</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent, I Class</b>
8:30 am	Bill Salierno
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Isabella Burns
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction

**Sick Calls**

If anyone is in need of the Sacrament (i.e. homebound) please call the parish office. If it is an **emergency**, outside of office hours, dial (916) 455-5114, then press 1, and the priest-on-call will be paged immediately.

**New to St. Stephen's?**

Please stop by the office or bookstore and pick up a registration form. It is very helpful for us to have contact information for your family, even if you cannot come to St. Stephen's every week.

If you do not have envelopes and would like them you can pick up a box in the bookstore. The use of envelopes is very helpful for our bookkeeping system.

**...In Memoriam**  
 †Joan Blackburn

**Important Upcoming Dates**

February 23—Chair of St. Peter the Apostle (FSSP)  
 February 27—Stations of the Cross after 12:15 & 6:30 Masses  
 March 2-5—Lenten Mission—Fr. Anthony Mastroeni  
 March 6-7—Traveling Statue of Our Lady of Fatima  
 March 22—Production of “Therese”  
 April 3—Good Friday  
 April 5—Easter Sunday  
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm  
 May 2—May Procession & Solemn Mass  
 May 9—First Holy Communion  
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations  
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart  
 July 19—23—**Spiritual Exercises** - Annual Parish Retreat  
 Oct. 3—G.K.Chesterton: Live w/Dale Ahlquist & Chuck Chalberg

**Method of Hearing Holy Mass  
 By Meditation on the Passion**

In order to hear Holy Mass with profit, meditate on the events of the Savior's Passion which it so wonderfully renews.

*Preparation.*—Look upon the church as the most sacred and awe-inspiring place in the world, as another Calvary. The altar stone contains the bones of the martyrs; the burning candles re the symbols of faith, hope, and charity; the linens covering the altar represent the winding-sheet in which our Lord's body was wrapped; the crucifix shows Him dying for us.

See Jesus Christ in His priest, clothed in the habiliments of His Passion. The amice represents the piece of cloth with which His captors muffled the Savior's eyes. The alb is the white robe with which the lewd Herod derisively vested Him. The girdle recalls to us the rope with which the Jews bound Him in the Garden of Gethsemane in order to lead Him before His judges. The maniple represents the chains with which He was fastened to the pillar to be scourged; the stole, the rope by which He was dragged beneath His Cross through the streets of Jerusalem. The chasuble symbolizes the purple mantle cast about His shoulders in the pretorium, or else the heavy Cross laid upon Him.

In short, the priest in his sacred vestments appears before us as Jesus Christ Himself on His way to the suffering of Calvary. He teaches us, besides, the dispositions we must bring to the Holy Sacrifice.

Modesty and recollection are signified by the amice, which is worn at first on the head, then on the shoulders; purity is expressed by the white alb and the girdle; contrition by the maniple; the robe of innocence by the stole; and love of the Cross and of the yoke of the Savior by the chasuble.

*The priest prays at the foot of the altar and, bowing low in deep humility at the thought of his own sins, says the Confiteor.*—In the garden, Jesus, casting Himself face downward upon the earth, abases Himself for sinners, taking upon Himself all our sins and the bitterness of them. A bloody sweat, pressed forth by His immeasurable suffering, stains His garments and falls to the earth. With the priest, make confession of all your sins, humbly ask pardon for them, and receive the absolution, that you may participate with purity in the Holy Sacrifice.

Without doubt, this one consideration would be enough to occupy you for the entire duration of the Mass. If you enter into the intentions of Jesus in His agony, if you find yourself held fast by grace at His side, remain there. Otherwise, pass on to the other events of His Passion.

*The priest goes up to the altar and kisses it.*—Judas repairs to the Garden of Olives and gives Jesus the kiss of betrayal.

Ah, how many times has Jesus been betrayed with a kiss by the unfaithful among His children and His servants. Have I never given Him up to His enemies, to my passions? . . . Yet how much He has loved me! Or consider Jesus in chains going up to Jerusalem to be delivered there to His enemies. With the gentleness of a lamb He lets Himself be led. Pray to Him for patience and mildness in the provocations which come to you from your neighbor.

(Excerpt from *Holy Communion* by Saint Peter Julian Eymard)

**Tempted in the Desert**

Christian life is a retreat. We are “not of the world,” just as Jesus Christ is “not of the world”. What is the world? It is, as St. John said, the “lust of the flesh,” that is, sensuality and corruption in our desires and deeds; “the lust of the eyes,” curiosity, avarice, illusion, fascination, error, and folly in the affectation of learning, and, finally, pride and ambition. To these evils of which the world is full, and which make up its substance, a retreat must be set in opposition. We need to make ourselves into a desert by a holy detachment.

Christian life is a battle. The demon from whom a soul escapes “brings with him seven other spirits more evil than himself” in order to tempt us anew. We must never cease to fight. In this battle, St. Paul teaches us to make an eternal abstinence, that is, to cut ourselves off from the pleasures of the senses and guard our hearts from them. “Every athlete practices self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”

It was to repair and to expiate the failings of our retreat, of our battle against temptations, of our abstinence, that Jesus was driven into the desert. His fast of forty days prefigured the lifelong one that we are to practice by abstaining from evil deeds and by containing our desires within the limits laid down by the law of God. This should be the first effect of Jesus' fast. If he calls us higher and draws us not only to a renunciation of the heart, but to an actual departure from the world, happy shall we be to go and fast with Jesus Christ: let us find our happiness in the desert with him! “And he was in the desert,” St. Mark tells us, “forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him.”

Why is Jesus with the beasts? Why does he give himself such companions in the desert? “Flee men,” said a voice to a hermit of old. The beasts have remained in their natural condition, and, so to speak, in their innocence, while among men everything has been perverted by sin.” In the society of men we find dissimulation, infidelity, self-interested friendship, a mutually interested exchange of flattery, lies, secret envy joined with showy but false benevolence, inconstancy, injustice, and corruption. Let us flee all this, at least in spirit; it will be better to live with beasts than with men of the world.

(Excerpt from *Meditations For Lent* by Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet)

**Rules For Fasting And Abstinence**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of universal fast and abstinence. Fasting is obligatory for all from the celebration of their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday. Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken, not to equal one full meal. Abstinence (from meat) is obligatory for all who have celebrated their 14th birthday.

Other forms of “fasting,” especially regarding alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, internet use and social entertainment, are of true spiritual value and are strongly encouraged.

In order to deepen one's love for Christ, Catholics are urged to spend time in spiritual reading, especially Sacred Scripture, to study the catechism, to participate in devotions offered by the parish; and to pray more fervently. The faithful are exhorted to pray the rosary, to make private visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and to pray especially for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

**Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross devotions are scheduled for all Fridays during Lent after the 12:15 and 6:30 pm Masses.

**Confraternity of St. Peter Members**

You may receive a plenary indulgence on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, February 23rd, under the usual conditions.

**Lenten Parish Mission, March 2nd—5th**

Fr. Anthony Mastroeni from the Diocese of Paterson, NJ will preach our Lenten mission each evening beginning with 6:30 Mass

Father has been chaplain for Christendom College and Franciscan University of Steubenville. He was also a professor of the University of San Francisco Ignatius Institute.

We are very blessed to have Fr. Mastroeni come to our parish. Please save the date and invite family, neighbors and friends to come with you.

**Traveling Statue of Our Lady of Fatima  
 Coming to St. Stephens**

On the First Friday and Saturday of March, we will be blessed to have the International Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima visit us. She will arrive before the 7:00 am Mass on Friday March 6th and stay until 2:30 pm on March 7th. There will be a talk given on the message of Fatima on Saturday morning.

**“Therese” St. Luke Productions  
 March 22, 2015 at 4:30 pm**

The live production of “Therese” will come to St. Stephens on Sunday, March 22. Space will be limited, so hold your place early. Free will offerings will be greatly appreciated to defer the cost, please be generous.

Rosa Mystica Girls Society will have sandwiches and sodas available for purchase that day so that people don't have to go home after Mass or Vespers.

You may hold you place for the performance and order your sandwiches through the parish office or bookstore.

**Lenten Soup Supper**

Each Friday evening during Lent we will have soup and bread in the gym following Stations of the Cross. We need several people to bring soup and bread each Friday evening. For more information call the parish office.

**Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius**

Preached by Fr. John Lyons, FSSP  
 July 19-23

Registration is open for our annual retreat which will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. Forms are available in the office or bookstore or you may print them from the parish web site.

The retreat is open to men and women age 18 and over. It will be particularly helpful to those discerning a vocation or other decision in their lives.

Space is limited and we have already had many inquiries, so hold your place as soon as possible.

**Please Keep in Your Prayers ...**

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar,, Luis Salazar, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Jeannemarie Crabtree, Di Giovanni Family  
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