

**Sunday, November 22, 2015**  
**24th and Last Sunday after Pentecost**



**Sun. 22 Nov. 24th & Last Sunday after Pentecost, II Class**

8:30 am Aaron Joseph Avila (Cure for cancer)  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm †Eleaterio Hernandez  
 3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

**Mon. 23 Nov. St. Clement I, Pope & Martyr, III Class**

8:30 am Holy Souls  
 12:15 am Emma Esherick

**Tues. 24 Nov. St. John of the Cross, Confessor & Doctor, III Class**

7:00 am †Diane Upczak  
 6:30 pm Barbara & Ben Cristi

**Wed. 25 Nov. St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr, III Class**

7:00 am Billy & Chad Calhoun  
 12:15 pm Thomas McDonough

**Thurs. 26 Nov. St. Sylvester, Abbot, III Class**

7:00 am Poor Souls  
 9:00 am Juliann McDonough

**Fri. 27 Nov. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, IV Class**

7:00 am †Danilo Cnmagun  
 12:15 pm †Diane Upczak  
 6:30 pm Jose Sandoval

**Sat. 28 Nov. Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class**

7:00 am John & Renee Reece  
 9:00 am Juaquin & Estefania Sandoval

**Sun. 29 Nov. 1st Sunday of Advent, I Class**

8:30 am Aaron Joseph Avila (Cure for cancer)  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm All Who Were Part of The Bolen Family  
 Baptism & Entering the Church  
 3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

**...In Memoriam**

†Joan Blackburn, †Thomas Joseph Greco, †Bruce Perry,  
 †Catherine Owen, †Gregory Nicholas,  
 †Jeannemarie Crabtree, †Dr. George Alexeeff,  
 †Edward Coleman, †Marilyn Goyette, †Gilbert Perry

**Important Upcoming Dates**

Nov. 26—Thanksgiving Day: **Masses: 7 am & 9 am**  
 Dec. 5—Rorate Mass 5:30 am  
 Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 Dec. 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 December 25—Midnight Mass  
 Dec. 26—St. Stephen Guild Mass & Medal Ceremony  
 Jan. 23—West Coast Walk for Life  
 March 13—Confirmation  
 May 7—First Holy Communion

**The “Yes” of Perfect Consent**

St. John of the Cross very aptly says that the characteristic of union of wills is the *yes* of the soul’s “free consent” by which it gives itself entirely to God, surrendering itself completely to Him by the full and total gift of its will. In other words, the soul is henceforth so determined not to will anything but God and His good pleasure, that in every circumstance it only repeats its *yes*, by accepting with love all that He wills and does for it. This *yes* is effective, and not simply a desire; it is a *yes* by which the soul truly gives itself with all the generosity of which it is capable.

From the beginning of the spiritual life, the fervent soul should desire to give itself to God without reserve, always saying *yes* to Him. But in practice, being still hampered by the bonds of passions and attachment to creatures, it often happens that the soul’s gift is not a complete one. Frequently, in the concrete instances of life, when faced with the bitterness of renunciation and interior conflict, its ideal *yes* is changed into a virtual *no*. In the state of union, however, this is no longer true. Here the soul is so surrendered to the holy will of God that it does not take back anything of its gift; its *yes* is so definitive and efficacious that it offers and unites the soul to God as a bride to her Bridegroom; that is why the mystics call this state “spiritual espousals.”

It is important to realize, that, on the part of the soul, the intensity of its union with God depends on the perfection of its *yes*; it should be a consent that is perfect in breadth and in depth: in breadth, because it should extend not only to what God commands, but even to all that He desires, to all that would give Him greater pleasure. Love must keep the soul so vigilant and attentive that it can discern in various circumstances what pleases God most, and this same love should make the soul generous enough to accomplish all without the least hesitation. The *yes* must be equally perfect in depth, because the soul should adhere to the divine good pleasure, not with negligence, niggardliness, nor even with the slightest bad grace, but with all the ardor of its will, happy to be able to give itself to God, whatever sacrifice this might entail.

(taken from *Divine Intimacy*, written by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.)

**From the Pastor**

A priest friend of mine (we were ordained together) has been suffering from a very serious illness for the last few years. He is on a respirator and his condition continues to worsen. Despite this, he is always joyful. A mutual friend visited him recently and told him how much difficulty she was having with accepting the effects of a mild stroke. His advice to her was, “Thank God for your stroke.” Coming from a man who knew a thing or two about suffering, she knew she had to do what he said, as difficult as it was for her. Although she still struggles with acceptance at times, she is much more at peace now about her stroke than she was before.

At Thanksgiving, Christians are accustomed to give thanks to God for the many good things they have received from Him, and rightly so! We often fail, however, to recognize trials and tribulations as being good for us as well, and, therefore, something for which to give thanks. As long as we love God (and we show it by keeping His commandments) then, as Scripture tells us, everything will rebound to our good.

How can we best show God our thanks? There’s no better way than by participating in the Eucharist (a word which means ‘thanksgiving’). Hopefully, all who can, will come to Mass this Thanksgiving Day.  
 Happy Thanksgiving!

**Youth Group Reminder**

Our High School Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Next meeting will be November 27th.

**Prayer to St. Joseph**

V. He made him lord of his house.  
 R. And prince over all his possessions.

*Let us pray:*

O God, in Thy marvelous providence, Thou hast deigned to choose St. Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother. We ask Thee to grant that we may deserve to have him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our protector; who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

**Registration for First Communion Classes**

Registration is open for First Communion preparation classes. Please pick up forms in the bookstore or parish office.

First Communion classes will begin Saturday, January 9th. Children age 7 by May 1st 2016 may register. Please bring a copy of your child’s baptism certificate when you register unless baptized at St. Stephens.

**~Around the Parish~**

~ **Congratulations** to Joseph & Lauren O’Brien on the birth of their 4th child, Margaret Mary! Margaret Mary was baptized at St. Stephen’s on November 18th.

**A Prayer to St. Catherine of Alexandria**



**Glorious Saint Catherine, virgin and martyr,  
 help me to imitate your love of purity.  
 Give me strength and courage  
 in fighting off the temptations of the world and evil  
 desires.  
 Help me to love God with my whole heart  
 and serve Him faithfully.  
 O Saint Catherine,  
 through your glorious martyrdom for the love of  
 Christ,  
 help me to be loyal to my faith and my God  
 as long as I live.**

**Fraternity of St. Peter Mission Trips 2016**

Registration is now open for the mission trips in 2016. There will be a mission trip in Guadalajara, Mexico for Holy Week and Easter Week beginning March 19th. The next trip is Piura, Peru from July 28—August 11. For more information our website is: [www.sfxmission.com](http://www.sfxmission.com) or e-mail us at [sfxmission@gmail.com](mailto:sfxmission@gmail.com).

**West Coast Walk for Life**

Save the Date: January 23, 2016, 12th Annual Walk for Life West Coast.  
 Thanks to the enthusiastic support of our parish at the food fundraiser, bus tickets will only be \$10 each instead of \$27 per person! Only 14 tickets left! For more information and to purchase a bus ticket see or call:  
 Mike & Kathleen DeSantis  
 916-204-9125 or 916-335-4553

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

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath,  
 Barbara Graichen, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns,  
 Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary,  
 Di Giovanni Family, John Reyes, Patricia Becker,  
 Augustine Guzman, Luis Salazar, Paulette Brady,  
 Joseph Michael Jaeger, Norman Sayles, Mary Foose,  
 Fr. Peter Carota, Helen DiCarlo, Beverly Longtin,  
 James Reslock

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## Saint Stephen the First Martyr Parish

*Served by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter*

Fr. John Lyons, F.S.S.P., *Pastor*  
Fr. Ashley Perry, *Parochial Vicar*  
Fr. Zachary Akers, F.S.S.P., *Parochial Vicar*



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### Devotions

- Rosary:** Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m., after the 1p.m. Mass and five minutes after many weekday Masses  
Monday at 7:00 pm Rosary for World Peace  
**Holy Face Novena:** 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday  
**St. Monica Novena:** First Thursday of every month, after 6:30 p.m. Mass  
**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena:** after 6:30 p.m. Mass every Tuesday  
**Fatima Procession:** 13th of the month May to October

### Mass Schedule Traditional Roman Rite

- Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. Low Mass  
10:30 a.m. High Mass  
1:00 p.m. Low Mass  
3:00 p.m. Vespers and Benediction
- Monday:** 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.  
**Tuesday:** 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.  
**Thursday:** 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**Friday:** 7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**Saturday:** 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.  
**Holy Days:** Please call the office or consult the bulletin or website

### Confessions

One half hour before all Masses, and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

### Exposition and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

- Thursday:** 3:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.  
**Friday:** after 6:30 p.m. Mass  
**Saturday:** after 7:00 a.m. Mass to 8:45 a.m.—Holy Hour for Vocations  
**First Friday:** Benediction after 12:15 p.m. Mass

### Sick Calls

If anyone is in need of the Sacraments (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?

Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or Bookstore.

### Envelopes and On-Line Giving

Envelopes are very helpful for our bookkeeping, please pick them up in the Parish Office or Bookstore.

For **on-line giving** go to the parish website:  
[www.sacfssp.com](http://www.sacfssp.com)

**St. Bernadette Fund**—to aid parishioners in need! Donations may be made on-line.

### Parish Swap

Do you have items you no longer need? List them by contacting Rose-Mary at [ParishSwap@gmail.com](mailto:ParishSwap@gmail.com)  
View available items by clicking on the "links" button on the front page of [www.sacfssp.com](http://www.sacfssp.com)