

**Sunday, December 6, 2015
2nd Sunday of Advent**



- Sun. 6 Dec. 2nd Sunday of Advent, I Class**
8:30 am Bernadette Meauze
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Rachel Pineda
3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction
- Mon. 7 Dec. St. Ambrose, Confessor & Doctor, III Class**
7:00 am Airoso Family
12:15 am Scarry Family
- Tues. 8 Dec. Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I Class**
7:00 am Veronica Bellocchi
12:15 pm Jose & Racquel Magabo
7:00 pm Mary Ann Cuny
- Wed. 9 Dec. FERIA of Advent, III Class**
7:00 am Gian Paulo Flores
12:15 pm Bolen Family
- Thurs. 10 Dec. FERIA of Advent, III Class**
7:00 am David Oberholzer
6:30 pm FSSP
- Fri. 11 Dec. St. Damasus I, Pope & Confessor, III Class**
7:00 am †Herman Oberholzer
12:15 pm Ben Roundtree & Family
6:30 pm Greco Children
- Sat. 12 Dec. Our Lady of Guadalupe, III Class**
7:00 am †Carrie Silveria
9:00 am (High) Nicholas & Michelle DiGiovanni
- Sun. 13 Dec. 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), I Class**
8:30 am Veronica Bellocchi
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Trinita Cordero
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
†Ruth Rodgers

Important Upcoming Dates

- Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Dec 11—High School Youth Group
Dec. 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe (9:00 am High Mass)
Dec. 15—Chesterton Society Meeting
Dec. 17—CSP Evening of Recollection
December 25—Midnight Mass
Dec. 26—St. Stephen Guild Mass & Medal Ceremony
Jan. 9—First Communion Classes begin
Jan. 23—West Coast Walk for Life
March 13—Confirmation
May 7—First Holy Communion

The Virgin of the Incarnation

“It seems to me that Our Lady’s attitude during the months that intervened between the Annunciation and the Nativity is the model for interior souls, for those who God has chosen to live *within*, in the depths of the unfathomable abyss.”

If Mary’s whole life was one of recollection and concentration on God, it must have been especially such at the time when, overshadowed by the power of the Most High, the Word became incarnate within her.

The Angel Gabriel found Mary in solitude and recollection. *The Angel being come in*, says the Gospel; the expression “come in,” leads us to believe that Mary was “within” her house. The Angel reveals to her in God’s name what will take place in her. “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” From that moment God made Himself present in Mary in a very special way, present not only by essence, knowledge, and power, as He is in all creatures; present not only by grace as He is in the souls of the just; but, far more, the Word of God was in Mary by “corporal presence,” as St. Albert the Great says.

Although retaining her humility, Mary was perfectly conscious of the “great things” that were taking place within her; her sublime canticle, the *Magnificat*, is proof of this. Nevertheless, she kept the great mystery hidden in her soul, hidden even from Joseph, and lived recollected in the intimacy of her spirit, adoring and meditating: she “kept all these words, pondering them in her heart.”

God never “gave” Himself to any creature more fully than He did to Mary, but no one ever understood better than Mary the grandeur of the divine “Gift”; nor has there ever been a more loving, more faithful guardian and adorer of it. Sister Elizabeth of the Trinity says, “If you but knew the gift of God!... There is one created being who knew this gift of God, one who never lost a particle of it...the faithful Virgin, who kept all things in her heart... The Father, inclining toward this creature so beautiful, so unaware of her beauty, decreed that she should be the Mother in time of Him who is His Son in eternity. Then the Spirit of Love, who presides at all the workings of God, came upon this Virgin and she uttered her *Fiat!*”

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

Big to Little

There is a close relation between physical littleness, which is childhood, and mental littleness, which is humility. We cannot always be children, which is another way of saying we can be humble. And so in the spiritual order the law remains even the same: if human beings are ever to discover anything big, they must always be making themselves little; if they magnify their ego to the infinite, they will discover nothing, for there is nothing bigger than the infinite; but if they reduce their ego to zero, then they will discover everything big—for there is nothing smaller than the self. How, then, shall we find the reason behind the joy? Just as it is only by being little that we discover anything big, so it is only by being humble that we will find an Infinite God in the form of a little child.



Lord, our God, help us to prepare for the coming of your Son by seeking the small rather than the large, humility instead of honors, good works instead of good looks. Help us to see that your coming is the reason behind the *joy*—the God behind the child.

(*Advent and Christmas with Fulton J. Sheen*, Edited and compiled by Judy Bauer)



**Advent Evening of Recollection
Confraternity of St. Peter
December 17, 2015**

Don’t miss out on the spiritual benefits of our CSP Evening of Recollection on Thursday, December 17, beginning with Holy Mass at 6:30 pm. Each month we are given a wonderful sermon and conference along with Holy Mass and CSP prayers.

The Confraternity of St. Peter is a group of lay men and women united to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.
For more information visit www.confraternityofstpeter.com or call the parish office 916-455-5114.



**Our Lady of Guadalupe
Feast Day—Dec. 12th**

“Let not your heart be disturbed... Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.”

~Around the Parish~

~ **Congratulations** to Remy Flores! Remy was baptized on November 30th at St. Stephens.

Reminder— Chesterton Society Meeting:

December 15 at 7:30pm
We are continuing with the book: *Heretics*
Read Chapters 19 & 20
Also: Fr. Brown—The Worst Crime in the World
Go to: <http://www.sacfssp.com/>
For online book and Fr. Brown stories
All are welcome!

2016 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for next year are available for you to pick up in the vestibule of the church. If you do not see a box with your name on it and would like a set, please ask for them in the bookstore. Using weekly envelopes is very helpful to us, it eliminates a lot of extra paperwork as all checks must be copied and recorded if they are loose.

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.

Christmas Anticipation Prayer

Beginning on St. Andrew the Apostle's feast day, November 30, the following beautiful prayer is traditionally recited fifteen times a day until Christmas:

“Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.”

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

- Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath,
Barbara Graichen, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns,
Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneyer,
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, Barbara Jeong

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for all the Blessings for our Family!*

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If you wish to receive official notifications from the parish, subscribe to email: ststephenfssp-subscribe@yahoo.com

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

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
View available items by clicking on the "links" button on the front page of www.sacfssp.com