

Sunday, June 14, 2015
3rd Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 14 June	3rd Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Rose Wedinsky
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Elvoterio Hernandez
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 15 June	St. Vitus & Companions, Martyrs, IV Class
7:00 am	†John Mack Parlett
12:15 pm	Eva & Efrain Hernandez
Tues. 16 June	Feria, IV Class
7:00 am	†Mary Julian Sullivan
6:30 pm	Oscar Nuno
Wed. 17 June	St. Gregory Barbarigo, Bishop & Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	Poor Souls
12:15 pm	†Fr. Pablo Straub
Thurs. 18 June	St. Ephrem of Syria, Deacon, Confessor & Doctor, III Class
7:00 am	Eluterio Hernandez
6:30 pm	Jean Gomez & Family
Fri. 19 June	St. Juliana of Falconieri, Virgin, III Class
7:00 am	Poor Souls
12:15 pm	Angela Nicolini
6:30 pm	Justin & Christie Greco & Family
Sat. 20 June	Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class
7:00 am	†John William Parlett
9:00 am	Carmel Stanko
Sun. 21 June	4th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Lucy Mae Egan
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Jonathan Reinares Family
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.

Important Upcoming Dates

June 15—Rosary For World Peace at 7 pm
 June 16—Chesterton Society Meeting
 June 19—Bishop Cotta Visit: Installation of Pastor & Mass
 June 18—Confraternity Evening of Recollection
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart
 July 19—23—**Spiritual Exercises** - Annual Parish Retreat
 July 1—Feast of the Precious Blood
 Aug. 2—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance
 Oct. 3—G.K.Chesterton: Live w/Dale Ahlquist & Chuck Chalberg

The Sacrament of Life

The Incarnation is a second creation in the opinion of the Fathers of the Church; in Jesus Christ we have been created anew, rehabilitated; our life, our dignity, have been restored to us. What has been said of the Incarnation can be said likewise of the Eucharist, which is but the extension thereof. Let us see how in the Eucharist we find again the divine life which original sin had destroyed in humanity.

Jesus Christ said: "Except you eat the Flesh of the Son of man, and drink His Blood, you shall not have life in you. He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood, hath everlasting life." But does not Baptism, which makes us children of God, give us this divine life? Does not the sacrament of Penance restore it to us when we have had the misfortune to lose it by sin? What, then, is the meaning of these words which our Lord so solemnly emphasizes? Is there a contradiction here in Catholic doctrine? Certainly not. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of life because It gives us life in its full development, in its perfection. The day-old infant has life, doubtless; the enfeebled person, likewise, who is just recovering from an illness; but leave the former without care and the latter without the strengthening remedies and food of convalescence, and it will not be long before the one has lost the life which had hardly begun for him, and the other has relapsed into a worse condition than before. Baptism and Penance, which give us life, are not sufficient to maintain it; thus our Lord, after raising the daughter of Jairus to life, orders that she be given food to eat. Life and the food that sustains it are inseparable; if we would not grow weaker and weaker, we must receive the Bread of heaven; how can the Christian live like the angels? Certainly we can win merit, can labor for heaven from the moment we enter into the state of grace; in order, however, to keep up our efforts for long, we must take this food of the strong. By no other means can we obtain sufficient strength to endure the hard daily struggle.

However good and necessary prayer is, it will weary you, and you will end by neglecting it unless supported in it by Communion. In order to live the life of penance, in order to progress in this narrow and painful path of self-mortification, we need a divine impulsion, no other than the oft-renewed presence of Jesus Christ in our heart.

The example of the anchorites living in the depths of the desert might seem to contradict this assertion; but, you must know, they went every Sunday to their monastery to receive Communion. And they needed it more than others if they were to progress in their holy calling. For I advance it as a principle, that the more one desires to live a pure and holy life, the greater is one's need and the more urgent the obligation to receive Communion frequently. Such a life calls for more sacrifice, and therefore one needs more strength. Look upon Communion simply as the source of your sustenance and strength. It is not an exalted and arduous act of virtue; nor is it offered you as a recompense for your virtues; you must receive Communion, not because you are holy, but because you wish to become so. That is the rule. Go to Communion because you are weak and overburdened by the labors of the Christian life. Jesus Christ calls you to Communion. (Excerpt from *Holy Communion* by Saint Peter Julian Eymard - available in the St. Stephen Book Store.)

...In Memoriam

†Joan Blackburn, †Thomas Joseph Greco, †Bruce Perry,
 †Catherine Owen, †Gregory Nicholas

Bishop Cotta to Visit St. Stephen's
Friday, June 19th at 6:30 pm

Because Bishop Cotta was unable to come for Confirmation this year, he has asked to participate at a Mass to which all the newly confirmed would be invited.

This same evening, before Mass, Bishop Cotta will install Fr. Lyons as Pastor of our parish. **Please bring sweet or savory finger foods to share following Mass.** We hope many of you can come for this happy event!

Rosary For World Peace

Every Monday at 7 pm at St. Stephen First Martyr
 Please join at <http://www.meetup.com/Rosary-For-World-Peace>.
 You don't have to come every Monday to join!

Reminder— Chesterton Society Meeting:

June 19 at 7:30pm

The book we are discussing is: *Heretics*
 Read Chapters 7 & 8
 Also: Fr. Brown: "The Secret of Father Brown"

Meditation for the Feast of the Sacred Heart

Consider that Jesus Christ, who is the Source of all blessings, has condescended to remain always among us because he wishes to be present at all times in order to share His treasures with us. And not only has our loving Saviour graciously consented to share with us in this august Sacrament all the blessings of which He is the Source, but by giving Himself to us, He has willed to give us the very Source of these blessings: "I will show you every kind of blessing; but in what other place except in the Blessed Eucharist, can you find every kind of blessing!"

The princes of this world bestow their gifts only at certain times, and on certain persons; Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament bestows His blessings at all times and on everyone who approaches Him. "Come to me all you that labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you." One might say that it suffices to be poor or afflicted to have the right to approach this Source of all blessings and graces, and that it suffices to be unfortunate to be well received. "Come to me all you that labour...". This bountiful God, foreseeing our infirmities and our weaknesses, gives Himself to us as our nourishment in order to restore our strength and be a sovereign remedy for all our evils: "And I will refresh you..." "Why weepst thou? And why dost thou not eat? And why dost thou afflict thy heart? Am I not better to thee than ten children?" "Why do you weep?" says our Divine Saviour in the Blessed Sacrament, "and why are you afflicted at the loss of your health, of your children, or of your goods? Will you not find in Me all these things and more?" Our Divine Saviour did not rest content with opening His Sacred Heart to us in token of His love, and pouring out on us all His blessings and graces; He wishes to be Himself our strength and our defense against all the effort of our mortal enemies. Finally, what could Jesus Christ have done for us, what gift could He have given us, that He has not given us when He gave us Himself? "He that spared not even his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how hath he not also, with him, given us all things?"

(*The Devotion to the Sacred Heart* by Fr. John Croiset, S.J.)

Confraternity of St. Peter 2015 Pilgrimage

Historic pilgrimage to Spain & the Rock of Gibraltar, in the quinqucentenary year of St. Teresa of Avila's birth! By traveling back to the days of the great Spanish mystics—Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, Catholic monarchs—King St. Fernando III & Queen Isabella (Servant of God), and the wondrous events of the consecration of Europe to Our Lady on the Rock of Gibraltar, may we travel forward with the faith and courage of Spain's holy "Defender's of Christendom"!

Join Fr. James Fryar, FSSP, Chaplain of the Confraternity of St. Peter on September 14—September 24, 2015. For more information call Tish at 916-223-3112 or visit the website www.syversentouring.com/confraternity.

Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

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

Be sure to sign up for this retreat ASAP as registrations are 90% full! The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius retreat will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. Forms are now 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.

Remember: space is limited and filling up fast, so hold your place as soon as possible.

Communion With God's Will

In one of her lectures, Edith Stein describes in an eminently practical way the importance of personal prayer and explains how we can find time for prayer in our busy lives. I quote her at length:

The duties and cares of the day ahead crowd about us when we awake in the morning (if they have not already dispelled our night's rest). Now arises the uneasy question: How can all this be accommodated in one day? When will I do this, when that? How shall I start on this and that? Thus agitated, we would like to run around and rush forth. We must then take the reins in hand and say, "Take it easy! Not any of this may touch me now. My first morning's hour belongs to the Lord. I will tackle the day's work which He charged me with, and He will give me the power to accomplish it."

So I will go to the altar of God. Here it is not a question of my minute, petty affairs, but of the great offering of reconciliation. I may participate in that, purify myself and be made happy, and lay myself with all my doings and troubles along with the sacrifice on the altar. And when the Lord comes to me in Holy Communion, then I may ask Him, "Lord, what do you want of me?" And after quiet dialogue, I will go to that which I see as my next duty.

I will still be joyful when I enter into my day's work after this morning's celebration: my soul will be empty of that which could assail and burden it, but it will be filled with holy joy, courage, and energy.

Because my soul has left itself and entered into the divine life, it has become great and expansive. Love burns in it like a composed flame which the Lord has enkindled, and which urges my soul to render love and to inflame love in others. And it sees clearly the next part of the path before it; it does not see very far, but it knows that when it has arrived at that place where the horizon now intersects, a new vista will then be opened.

(Excerpt from *Communion with Christ According to Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross* by Sr. M. Regina van den Berg, F.S.G.M.)

~ Summer Dress Code ~

Please recall that everyone is expected to dress with modesty and in a way befitting the house of God. Our choice of clothing is an expression of our worship; it may also affect the ability of others to worship. Dress should conceal rather than reveal. There is a sign in the vestibule that gives more details regarding proper dress. It is further expected that modesty in dress be maintained on the church grounds at all times.

We do request that the correction of visitors in this matter be left to the priests or their delegates.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Di Giovanni Family, John Reyes, John Patrick Corr, Augustine Guzman, Patricia Becker, Dr. George Alexeeff, Luis Salazar, Marilyn Goyette