

**Sunday, December 14, 2014**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**(Gaudete Sunday)**



**Sun. 14 Dec. Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), I Class**

8:30 am Joe & Katy Marty & family  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm Nestor & Celia

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

**Mon. 15 Dec. Feria of Advent, III Class**

7:00 am Ranelle & Lucina  
 12:15 pm Mayo Family

**Tues. 16 Dec. St. Eusebius, III Class**

7:00 am Damuel & Karen  
 6:30 pm †Peter Pohovsky

**Wed. 17 Dec. Ember Wednesday of Advent, II Class**

7:00 am Edward Joseph Pierini IV  
 12:15 pm †Margaret Mary Brooks

**Thurs. 18 Dec. Greater Feria of Advent, II Class**

7:00 am Siblings of Marina  
 6:30 am Lucia Lopez

**Fri. 19 Dec. Ember Friday of Advent, II Class**

7:00 am †Carl Frederick Becker  
 12:15 pm FSSP Priests  
 6:30 pm Cassandra Brennan

**Sat. 20 Dec. Ember Saturday of Advent, II Class**

7:00 am †Joseph Abdo  
 9:00 am Thomas Cusmano

**Sun. 21 Dec. Fourth Sunday of Advent, I Class**

8:30 am Bill Munsill  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm †Shirley Abdo

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**

December 16—Chesterton Society Meeting  
 December 18—CSP Evening of Recollection  
 December 25—Midnight Mass  
 Dec. 26—St. Stephen Guild Mass & Medal Ceremony  
 Dec. 27—Feast of St. John—Blessing of wine after each Mass  
 January 3—Parish Christmas Party  
 January 10—1st Communion Classes begin  
 January 24—11th Annual Walk For Life  
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm  
 May 3—May Procession & Solemn Mass  
 May 10—First Holy Communion  
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations  
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart

**Guard the Senses**

To live a serious interior life, one that is wholly concentrated on seeking God, it is necessary to prevent the outside world from entering the soul and filling it with distractions and noise; it is necessary, therefore, to guard its doors assiduously. The senses are precisely the doors which open to earthly things: sight permits its images to enter; hearing, its sounds, and so forth, so that, without a discreet mortification of the senses, the soul, the living temple of the Blessed Trinity, becomes like a market-place, open to all kinds of traffic, open to every wind of rumor. Then Jesus might well say to us what He once said to the profaners of the temple, "Make not the house of My Father a house of traffic." A temple of the Blessed Trinity by Baptism, the consecrated soul is doubly so by reason of its vows and promises, and is, therefore, doubly obliged to guard the recollection of its spirit, in order to make it really a "house of prayer." According to St. Teresa Margaret of the Heart of Jesus, "It suffices to keep well closed the outside doors, that is, the senses, so that the soul and the heart cannot go elsewhere than to their center, which is God." This was her method: "I shall fix my gaze on my heart and I shall raise my heart to God." Mortification of the senses should not be limited to Carthusians and to those in cloisters, as it is an indispensable exercise for all souls, that they may become recollected and wholly concentrated upon God.

St. John of the Cross says that we should use our exterior senses in such a way as not to disturb our recollection. "The faculties and senses must not be employed wholly upon things, but only insofar as is unavoidable. With this exception all must be left free for God." The "unavoidable" is indicated by what duty requires, and when we use the powers of our soul only to this degree, which is that determined by God's will, the soul cannot be harmed in any way. But the Saint continues: "If there present itself to a man the pleasure of listening to things that tend not to the service and honor of God, let him not desire that pleasure, not desire to listen to them; and if there present itself the pleasure of looking at things that help him not Godward, let him not desire the pleasure or look at these things; and if in conversation or in aught else, such pleasure present itself, let him act likewise." This means that we should not use our senses for anything that is not required by duty or which cannot serve to raise our mind to God. However, those who are obliged to have almost continual contact with the world will not always be able to keep strictly to this rule, because by doing so they might become disagreeable to others, or appear eccentric. Therefore, St. John adds that "if by reason of necessity or expedience he cannot avoid seeing or hearing such things, it suffices that he desire not to have this pleasure." In other words, it is necessary to learn how to pass over such sense satisfactions, without stopping at the pleasure we find in them, nor allowing them to take full possession of our senses, thus always maintaining that interior liberty which permits the soul to elevate itself to God in all things. Make use of the senses only insofar as is necessary; the rest must be "left free for God."

(*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

*Holy Day of Obligation*

**11:15 P.M. Hymns and Carols**  
**12:00 Midnight Solemn Mass**  
**8:30 A.M. Low Mass**  
**10:30 A.M. Solemn Mass**  
**1:00 P.M. Low Mass**

**Faults Can Be Occasions For Practicing Virtue**

The faults that happen to us often give us occasion for great acts of virtue, which we certainly would not have had the opportunity of practicing without them; and God allows these faults with that intention. For instance, He permits a flash of ill-natured sarcasm, an act of rudeness, or a lively impatience so that we may at once make an act of humility that abundantly satisfies for our fault and the scandal it may have given.

The fault was committed on the impulse of the moment, but the act of reparation is made with reflection, with an effort over ourselves, with a full and deliberate will. This is an act that pleases God much more than the fault displeased Him.

God also makes use of our faults and apparent imperfections to conceal our sanctity from the eyes of others and to procure for us humiliations from them.

God is great and wise Master. Let Him do as He likes; He will not fail in His work. Let us make up our minds carefully to avoid everything that can displease Him the least in the world. But if we should fall into any fault, let us be sorry on His account and not on our own. Let us love the humiliation into which this fault throws us; let us beg of God to draw from our humiliation His glory. He will do this and, by this means, will advance us far more than by a life apparently more regular and holy, but which would destroy our self-love less efficaciously.

When God asks of us to do certain things, let us never draw back on the pretense of fearing the faults we may commit in executing His wishes. It is better to do good, even with imperfection, than to omit it. Sometimes we do not administer a necessary correction because we are afraid of doing it with too much severity, or we avoid associating with certain persons because their faults try us so much and make us feel so impatient and irritable. But how shall we acquire virtue if we fly from the occasions of practicing it? Is not such a flight a greater fault than the faults we fear to fall into?

Let us take care only to have a good intention; then let us go wherever duty calls us, and let us be sure that God is kind enough and indulgent enough to pardon us all the faults to which His faithful service and the desire of pleasing Him may expose us.

(*The Spiritual Life* by Father Jean Nicolas Grou)

**December 18, 2014**

**Evening of Recollection Confraternity of St. Peter**

Don't miss out on the spiritual benefits of our CSP Evening of Recollection on Thursday, December 18, 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.

**Sunday Vespers/Benediction**

Sunday Vespers takes place **every Sunday at 3:00pm** followed by Benediction. Pamphlets are available in the church entrance. "*All should come to our churches and there sing the praises of God, and be enriched with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*" - Pope Pius XII, *Mediator Dei*

**Reminder— Chesterton Society Meeting:**

**December 16th at 7:30pm**

We will be reading :

**Orthodoxy:** "What's Wrong With the World" - Part III

"Feminism, or the Mistake About Woman"

**Fr. Brown:** "The Curse of the Golden Cross"

All are welcome!

**FSSP Calendars and Ordos**

Fraternity of St. Peter calendars and ordos are available to purchase in the bookstore. Please get them early as we often run out.

There are also many wonderful books and religious gifts available in the bookstore for Christmas giving. Our store is open everyday. For more information and hours please call 916-223-3112.

**Meditation on the Nativity**

*Performed by Jacob Kasak*

*December 28, 2014*

A series of pieces depicting the Incarnation through the Holy Family's return to Nazareth upon King Herod's death.

Potluck to follow

**Parish Swap**

Do you have some items that you no longer need? Now you can list them on a page linked to our website. Just contact Rose-Mary at ParishSwap@gmail.com - give her a description of what you have, and your contact information. It is also possible to send a picture to be posted.

To view what is available, just click on the "links" button on the front page of www.sacfssp.com

For more information call the parish office.

**First Communion Class—Registration**

Registration is now open for 1st Communion classes which will begin on January 10th. Pick up forms in the bookstore or parish office.

**9th Grade Religion Class Openings Next Semester**

Fr. Perry's Religion class is open for next semester. The class follows the "Mother of Divine Grace" syllabus. Please call the parish office if you are interested.

**Saint Francis Xavier Mission Trip**

**3 Trips for 2015:**

1. Guadalajara, Mexico—Holy Week / Easter Week 2015 March 28—April 11. Cost \$900.00 plus airfare. Ages 16 and up. Or families (see website for more details)
2. Piura, Peru—July 28—Aug. 10 Cost \$2,300. (ages 16—21)
3. Piura, Peru—Aug. 14—24 Cost \$2,100. (ages 21 and up)

www.sfxmission.com

SFXMission@gmail.com

Led by Fr. Heenan, FSSP & Fr. Lillard, FSSP

Application deadline—\*January 9, 2015

\*This is a change from December 19, 2014

**11th Annual Walk for Life—Save the Date!**

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Bus tickets are still available — contact Mike at 916-335-4553 or Kathleen at 916-204-9125.

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

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, John Reyes, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar, Msgr. Kavanaugh, Anaidel Perez Aravelo, Joan Blackburn, Luis Salazar, Bill Sneeringer, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary

**...In Memoriam**

†Charles Cantoni, †Manuel Nino, †Margaret Correa, †Cindy Yumoto, †Fr. Vladimir Kozina, †Philip Rutschow, †Jennie Tomasi