

Sunday, May 3, 2015
Fourth Sunday After Easter



| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Sun. 3 May | Fourth Sunday after Easter, II Class |
| 8:30 am | Mary McQuown |
| 10:30 am | Pro Populo |
| 1:00 pm | †Catherine Owen |
| 3:00 pm | Vespers & Benediction |
| Mon. 4 May | St. Monica, Widow, III Class |
| 7:00 am | Poor Souls in Purgatory |
| 12:15 pm | Perez Family Living & Deceased |
| Tues. 5 May | St. Pius V, Pope & Confessor, III Class |
| 7:00 am | Holy Souls |
| 6:30 pm | Erskine Family |
| Wed. 6 May | St. John Before the Latin Gate, IV Class |
| 7:00 am | John Ruby |
| 12:15 pm | Steve & Laural Muff |
| Thurs. 7 May | St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr, III Class |
| 7:00 am | Richard & Louise Szabi |
| 6:30 pm | St. Monica Sodality |
| Fri. 8 May | Apparition of St. Michael, IV Class, or Our Lady Mediatrix of All Graces, IV Class |
| 7:00 am | Joseph Frangella |
| 12:15 pm | †Rhoda Bowen |
| 6:30 pm | †Mafalda Caliri |
| Sat. 9 May | St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class |
| 7:00 am | Holy Souls |
| 9:00 am | David Carey |
| Sun. 10 May | Fifth Sunday after Easter, II Class |
| 8:30 am | †Patricia Michaelson |
| 10:30 am | Pro Populo |
| 1:00 pm | †Fr. Thomas J. Rynne |
| 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

- May 8—High School Youth Group
- May 9—First Holy Communion
- May 11—Rogation Day Procession & Mass 12 noon
- May 13 —Fatima Procession
- May 14—Ascension Thursday
- May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations
- June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart
- July 19—23—**Spiritual Exercises** - Annual Parish Retreat
- Aug. 2—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance
- Oct. 3—G.K.Chesterton: Live w/Dale Ahlquist & Chuck Chalberg

Communion, Joy of the Spirit

In the second place, this joy of spirit, this manifestation of Himself which Jesus gives us by Communion, awakes in us a hunger for God. This divine hunger draws us into the sweetness of His Heart, into the sanctuary of His Spirit. More by impression than by reason it gives us knowledge of Him. It gives us a powerful attraction toward the Eucharist and everything connected with It, and enables us to enter with ease into Jesus Christ. This ease, this attraction, mysterious to some extent, is the special grace of Communion. It is the spirit of kinship with God. Whence, think you, that similarity of feeling, of acting, of morals in a family, if not from family spirit, from family love, which unites all members in mutual affection? Such is the bond of earthly kinship.

Through Communion, we gain entrance into the love, into the Heart of our Lord; we catch the spirit of His love, His own understanding, His own judgment. Is not the first grace of Communion, in fact, a grace of recollection which enables us to penetrate into Jesus Christ and commune intimately with Him? Yes, intimately. One who does not receive Communion knows, by faith, only the vesture, the outward appearance of our Lord. We can know Jesus Christ well only by receiving Him, just as we perceive the sweetness of honey only by tasting it. We can say then with a great saint: "I am more convinced of the truth of Jesus Christ, of His existence, of His perfections by a single Communion than I could be by all the reasoning in the world."

Such is the brevity of this life that, if we had to arrive at the knowledge of truth in general, and of divine truth in particular, only by the proofs of reason, be well assured we should know very few truths. But it is God's will that much of our knowledge should come by intuition. He has endowed us with an instinct by which, without the faculty of reason, we are able to distinguish good from evil, truth from falsehood; He has given us natural inclinations and antipathies. Thus, in our efforts to know our Lord, we first feel His goodness and then we arrive at His other qualities, more by contemplation, by sight, and by instinct than by reason.

A great many people habitually make the mistake of talking too much in their thanksgiving, that highest of prayers; by over-much speaking they render their Communion ineffective.—Do but listen to our Lord a little after Communion. This is not the time to seek, but to enjoy. This is the time when God makes Himself known through Himself: *Et erunt docibiles Dei.* —"And they shall all be taught of God." How does a mother teach her little child what endless love and tenderness she has for it? She is content to show by her devotion that she loves it. God does the same in Communion. Remember that one who does not receive Communion will never know the Heart of our Lord or the magnitude of His love. The heart makes itself known through itself alone; we must feel it beating.

Sometimes you have no experience of spiritual joy in Communion. Wait. Though the Sun is hidden, it is within you. Are you not at peace? And what is that but the throbbing of the Heart of our Lord within you?

(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

Praying As A Family

Archimedes, the ancient Greek scientist, once said that if he had a fulcrum and a long enough lever, one small man could move the world. Children and families are not levers. They're human beings. They're persons, not objects. But Archimedes' words are still useful. The formation that spouses give to each other and to their children—if it's done with love, courage, tenderness, and persistence—can move the world and change society.

This is why the greatest gift a father can give his children is to love their mother. And of course the same applies to mothers loving their husbands. Personal example is the most powerful teacher in the world. Children see everything, and they understand far more than adults often think. If parents love each other, children see and learn love. They learn *fidelity* instead of broken promises; *patience* instead of restlessness; *simplicity* in place of confusion; *humility* instead of pride; *courage* in place of cowardice; *honesty* instead of excuses; *forgiveness* in place of revenge; a *hunger for justice* in place of apathy.

And if parents love God, children see and learn faith. Parents who pray together teach by the way they live that God is real; that He is present, listening, and eager to be part of our lives. Helping children learn the habit of prayer thus becomes one of the most important lessons a family can share. A life of prayer makes us fully human because it makes us real; it brings us out of ourselves, again and again, into conversation with the Author of life Himself—the God who made and loves us, and created everything we know.

It's no secret that I've admired the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia for many years. The reason is simple. In the larger family of God we call the Church, the Sisters embody by their daily example every virtue that makes a family beautiful and filled with life. But they also teach by what they speak and write, edit and publish—and this volume, *A Short Guide to Praying as a Family*, is wonderful and very practical proof. Archimedes never found the lever he needed. The Sisters remind us that Christian families already have one. Family prayer can move the world.

(*A Short Guide to Praying as a Family* by the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia Congregation)

Mother's Day Rose Sale to Benefit the Sacramento Life Center

Beautiful roses will be sold after all Masses on Mother's Day, May 10th, to benefit the Sacramento Life Center.

Please make sure you purchase roses for the special women in your life and at the same time you will be contributing to the lifesaving work of the Sacramento Life Center.

There will be a limited number of roses available for sale, so, if you would like to preorder some, just put your name on the list in the vestibule before May 10th and we'll reserve them for you!

Thank you in advance for your generous cooperation for this event.

Confraternity of St. Peter 2015 Pilgrimage

Historic pilgrimage to Spain & the Rock of Gibraltar, in the quincentenary 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.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

- Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen,
- Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Ron Carlon, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Michelle Di Giovanni & Children, Africa Medal, Frank Fegurur, Teresa Nevarez, John Reyes, John Patrick Corr, Augustine Guzman

Rogation Day Procession & Mass



Rogation Day Procession and Mass is scheduled for Monday, May 11. We will begin in the church at 12 noon, we will process around the church grounds and conclude with Holy Mass. Families are invited to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the Mass. The grill will be available if desired.

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 almost **half 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.

The Flying Monk

On May 7, 1945, German General Alfred Jodl's unconditional surrender of Nazi forces brought an end to seven long years of fighting in Europe.

For the Allied nations, the day was an occasion for rejoicing. For a small group of American airmen, it was also an occasion to investigate the odd happenings at San Giovanni Rotondo.

Beginning in 1944, the airmen's squadron had repeatedly attempted to bomb the Italian city, where a large cache of German supplies were allegedly stockpiled. But on every bombing run, something went wrong—their planes refused to release the bombs, or their targeting equipment malfunctioned and the bombs hit the nearby forest instead. For the problems, the airmen blamed one person: the flying monk.

"The flying monk" was the name the airmen gave to the mysterious bearded figure who appeared in the sky every time they flew near San Giovanni Rotondo. Sometimes, they just saw his face in the clouds. Other times, the monk appeared as if he were standing in the sky. Usually his arms were raised, like he was issuing a warning . . . Or granting a blessing.

Either way, dozens of American airmen and at least one commanding officer saw the monk, and as soon as the war in the European theater ended, they headed back to the scene of the events, wanting to know if the monk was who some believed him to be: the holy Capuchin friar of the city's Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Padre Pio.

Sure enough, when the men arrived, they recognized the future saint as their flying monk. As one witness present at the meeting recalled, Padre Pio greeted the airmen with a friendly, "So you are the ones who wanted to kill us all!"

After his greeting, the Americans knelt and received his blessing. At least one conversion is said to have come from the encounter, perhaps more. Regardless, when they returned to America, the San Giovanni Rotondo they left behind was a city whole and intact . . . All thanks to the flying monk. (Available in the St. Stephen Bookstore: *The American Catholic Almanac* by Brian Burch & Emily Stimpson)