

Sunday, December 18, 2016
4th Sunday of Advent



Sun. 18 Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent, I Class

8:00 am †Richard Corbin
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:30 pm Johnathan Peschke
6:00 pm Daniel Rogers

Mon. 19 Dec. Greater Feria of Advent, II Class

7:00 am Holly Augustson
12:15 pm Lavera DeCaria

Tues. 20 Dec. Greater Feria of Advent, II Class

7:00 am Rena Skeen
6:30 pm All Souls in Purgatory

Wed. 21 Dec. St. Thomas, Apostle, II Class

7:00 am Kiara Herrera
12:15 pm †Eugenio Manlanget

Thurs 22 Dec. Greater Feria of Advent, II Class

7:00 am †Maria Lopresti
6:30 pm †David Arcilla

Fri. 23 Dec. Greater Feria of Advent, II Class

7:00 am †Trinidad Arcilla
12:15 pm †Ruth Rodgers
6:30 pm †Isabela Toledo

Sat. 24 Dec. Vigil of Christmas, I Class

7:00 am All Souls in Purgatory
9:00 am Darryl Gallagher
12:00 am Eric Reslock, Jr.

Sun. 25 Dec. Christmas, I Class

8:00 am Perez Family
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:30 pm Priests of the FSSP
6:00 pm Joseph Damore

...In Memoriam

†Richard Corbin, †Mikyla Pina Mutuc,
†Joseph Michael Jaeger †Jerry Risse, †Anne Cummings,
†Joe S. Villegas, †Lena G. Villegas, †William Philkill,
†Fr. Carota, †Linda Merino, †Kathy Solari,
†Maria Lopresti, †George Klopff, †Nell Keim, †John Reyes,
†Margaret Melusky

Important Upcoming Dates

Jan. 5—Blessing of Epiphany Water
Jan. 7—Christmas Party
Jan. 21—West Coast Walk for Life
Feb. 2—Feast of the Purification—Candlemas
March 11—Confirmation
April 23—Live Performance of “Faustina”
May 6—First Holy Communion
July 23—27—Annual Retreat

Behold the Savior Comes

“Call together the nations, tell it among the people and say: Behold our Savior cometh!” The message becomes more and more urgent: in a few days, the Word of God made flesh will show Himself to the world. We must hasten our preparations and make our hearts worthy of Him.

The incarnation of the Word is the greatest proof of God’s infinite love for men; today’s liturgy very appropriately recalls to our mind the wonderful words: “I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore have I drawn thee, taking pity on thee.” Yes, God has loved man from all eternity, and in order to draw him to Himself, He did not hesitate to send “His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh.” With hearts full of love, we must run to meet Love who is about to appear “incarnate” in the Infant Jesus. May it be a love that is faithful in great things as well as in small, an ingenious love that is always seeking opportunities to repay God’s infinite love. “Love is repaid by love!” This is the motto which has made saints, and spurred a multitude of souls to greater generosity.

With this love prepare for Christmas, be in this love faithful, for as St. Paul says in the Epistle, “What we desire is that everyone may be found faithful.”

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths. Every valley shall be filled; and every mountain and hill shall be brought low.” The voice of John the Baptist, the great Advent preacher, is heard again in today’s Gospel, inviting us to prepare “the way of the Lord.”

This invitation is especially a call to humility; John was not only the herald of this virtue, but its model too. We know, by the testimony of Jesus Himself, that he was “more than a prophet” and that “there hath not risen among them, that are born of women, a greater than John the Baptist.” John claimed to be nothing more than a mere voice, “the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord,” and declared that he baptized only with water, while another would come who would baptize in the Holy Spirit. If the valleys, that is, our deficiencies, are to be filled up by love, then the mountains and hills, that is, the vain pretenses of pride, must be made low by humility.

A heart filled with self-love and pride cannot be filled with God, and too small will be the place reserved in it for the sweet Babe of Bethlehem.

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

From the Pastor

During this last week of Advent let us make extra efforts to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for Christmas. Going to Mass daily during this week (if at all possible) would rank highest on the list. If you haven’t gone to confession yet during this Advent season, this week would be a good time to do so. Praying the Rosary daily, or an extra Rosary, would be beneficial – there’s no one better than Our Lady to help us enter into the true spirit of Christmas. If you haven’t already done so, decide on some specific sacrifice to make each day this week. For example, giving up recreational use of the media, not eating between meals, not eating sweets, etc. - something that would be a penance for you. Try hard to exercise greater patience and kindness to others – especially those with whom you live. The day before Christmas used to be an obligatory fast day. Even though it’s no longer of obligation, all who can, would do well to preserve this tradition. Only those who prepare themselves spiritually, will experience the true joy of Christmas.

Envelopes

There are still offering envelopes waiting to be picked up in the vestibule.

If you did not find a set with your name and would like some, please stop in the bookstore. Using envelopes is very helpful to our bookkeeping system. Please always mark the amount on the outside of the envelope. Thank you!

Parish Christmas Party

Mark your calendars! The festivities will begin at 5:30 pm, Saturday, January 7th, 2017. Tickets are on sale in the vestibule after Sunday Masses.

Volunteers are needed! Sign-up sheets are on the back tables; please help make this a wonderful community event. For more information please call or e-mail Yesenia Rangel at 916-682-9600 YeseniaLovesLife@gmail.com

***Auditions:** If you would like to participate in the talent program, please contact Yesenia for audition times.

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.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Holy Day of Obligation

11:15 P.M. Hymns and Carols
12:00 Midnight Solemn Mass
8:00 A.M. Low Mass
10:30 A.M. Solemn Mass
1:30 P.M. Low Mass
6:00 P.M. Low Mass

Registration Open for 1st Communion Classes

Parents of children who will be 7 by May 1st of 2017 may register their child for class. Classes will begin January 15, 2017. Baptismal certificates are needed at the time of registration, unless your child was baptized at St. Stephen’s.

Saint Francis Xavier Mission Trips 2017

Now taking applications through January 15, 2017
Can't go? Donors and prayer warriors are valuable partners in this mission work.

Guadalajara, Mexico

~April 7-19 (Holy Week and Easter Week)

~July 19-August 1

Cost: \$950 (does not include airfare)

For Families and individuals 16 and up. Cost slightly less for children.

Piura, Peru

~July 21-August 3

~August 5-18

Cost: \$2350 (includes airfare from Miami)

For Youth 16-21

For details or more information, contact Anne Roundtree.

(530)417-1671 Or go to our website www.sfxmission.com.

Blessing of Nativity Scene at the Capitol Building

Please save the date and join his Excellency Bishop Cotta of Sacramento, on Sunday, December 18th at 5:30 pm for the first annual blessing of the Nativity scene and caroling on the steps of the State Capitol! For further details or questions please visit:

www.tinyurl.com/SacNativity

Location: 1315 Tenth St., Sacramento, CA 95814

(North side steps of the Capitol building, facing L St.)

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Mike McGrath, Renee Burns, Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, Patricia Becker, Paulette Brady, James Reslock, Sandy Sneary, Barbara Jeong, Beverly Longtin, John Newaz, Marne Merino, Jim Carlson, Darryl Gallagher, Fr. Goodwin, FSSP, Margaret Northan, Jean Haun, Joe Cuellar

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Mother of Perpetual Help! Thank you for all the Blessings for our Family!

St. Joseph, powerful patron, thank you for favors granted!

Your message here

Your Greeting Here



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Rev. Fr. Dominic Savoie, F.S.S.P., *Parochial Vicar*

www.sacfssp.com

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

MASS SCHEDULE TRADITIONAL ROMAN RITE

- Sunday:** 8:00 a.m. Low Mass
10:30 a.m. High Mass
1:30 p.m. Low Mass
6:00 p.m. Low Mass
- 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. and 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

CONFESSION

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

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION 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. 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.

DEVOTIONS

- Rosary:**
- Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and after the 1:30 p.m. Mass
 - Following the 12:15 p.m. Mass on weekdays
- Holy Face Novena:** 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday
- St. Monica Novena:** First Thursday of every month, following the 6:30 p.m. Mass
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena:** after 6:30 p.m. Mass every Tuesday
- Fatima Procession:** 13th of every month- May to October - following the 6:30 p.m. Mass on weekdays, the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturdays, and the 1 p.m. Mass on Sundays
- Men's Holy League:** 3rd Wednesday of each month. Holy Hour 7pm—8 pm

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.