

Sunday, March 6, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Laetare Sunday



Sun. 6 Mar. Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday, I Class

8:30 am Madeleine Jane Reslock
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Stefania Sandoval & Family

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 7 Mar. St. Thomas Aquinas, Confessor & Doctor, Patron, II Class

7:00 am †Eric Forney
 12:15 pm Tomoko McDonough & Family

Tues. 8 Mar. Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Richard Anderson
 6:30 pm Haley Souza

Wed. 9 Mar. Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Margaret Melusky
 12:15 pm Raimon Alatorre

Thurs. 10 Mar. Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Charles & Mercy
 6:30 pm Violet Corr

Fri. 11 Mar. Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Fr. John Lyons, FSSP
 12:15 pm Fr. Lee Perry
 6:30 pm Fr. Zachary Akers, FSSP

Sat. 12 Mar. Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Paige Nieduwilt
 9:00 am Jacob Kasak

Sun. 13 Mar. Passion Sunday, I Class

8:30 am †Jose Torres
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Joe & Dixon Haun
 4:00 pm Special Intention

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

...In Memoriam

†Edward Coleman, †Marilyn Goyette, †Gilbert Perry
 †Ruth Rodgers, †Concepcion Cristi, †Mary Gilbert,
 †Mary Foose, †William Munsill, †Richard Corbin,
 †Mikyla Pina Mutuc, †Joseph Michael Jaeger
 †Jerry Risse

Important Upcoming Dates

March 11—Stations of the Cross after 12:15 & 6:30 Masses
 March 13—Confirmation
 March 15—Chesterton Society Meeting
 March 17—CSP Evening of Recollection
 March 19—Feast of St. Joseph
 March 20—Palm Sunday
 March 25—Good Friday
 March 27—Easter Sunday
 April 4—Annunciation of the BVM (transferred)
 May 7—First Holy Communion
 May 14—Procession to the Cathedral of the Bl. Sacrament
 May 28—Graduation Mass 1:30 pm
 June 19-25—Camp Sacred Heart
 July 10—14—Silent Retreat

The Value of Obedience

St. John of the Cross has said, “God wants from us the least degree of obedience and submission, rather than all the works we desire to offer Him.” Why? Because obedience makes us surrender our own will to adhere to God’s will as expressed in the orders of our superiors; and the perfection of charity, as well as the essence of union with God, consists precisely in the complete conformity of our will with the divine will. Charity will be perfect in us when we govern ourselves in each action—not according to our personal desires and inclinations—but according to God’s will, conforming our own to His. This is the state of union with God, for “the soul that has attained complete conformity and likeness of will (to the divine will), is totally united to and transformed in God supernaturally.”

The will of God is expressed in His commandments, in the precepts of the Church, in the duties of our state in life; beyond all that, there is still a vast area for our free choice, where it is not always easy to know with certitude exactly what God wants of us. In the voice of obedience, however, the divine will takes on a clear, precise form; it comes to us openly manifest and we no longer need to fear making a mistake. Indeed, as St. Paul says, “There is no power but from God,” so that by obeying our lawful superiors, we can be certain that we are obeying God. Jesus Himself, when entrusting to His disciples the mission of converting the world, said, “He that heareth you, heareth Me; and he that despiseth you, despiseth Me.”

One of the greatest obstacles to full conformity of our will to God’s is our attachment to our own desires and inclinations. Obedience, because it asks us to be governed by the will of another, is the best way of accustoming ourselves to renounce our own will, of detaching us from it, and of making us cling to the divine will as revealed in the orders of our superiors. The stricter the form of obedience to which we submit—that is, the more it tends to govern not only some particular detail but our whole life—the more intense will its practice be, and the more surely will it make us conform to the will of God.

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

Notice:

Next Sunday, March 13th, Confirmations will take place at 6 pm.

There will be a special Mass at 4 pm for those who may find it difficult to go to Mass earlier and return later. Anyone, of course, may attend the Mass.

How to Be Holy

By Peter Kreeft

If God wills nothing but our best good, and if He has the power always to get what He wills, and if He makes no mistakes about what is in fact our best good, then it necessarily follows, it infallibly follows, it follows with certainty, that all things work together for good for us.

All things, even death. Especially death which is the sum total of all losses, all physical evils. Because death becomes the door to Heaven. The darkest thing in the world becomes the door to the light that is brighter than any light in the world, the light of Heaven, the light that is so bright that God has to give us new eyes to see it because if we saw it with our present eyes, of body and of soul, we would go blind, in body and in soul.

Death is the sum of all physical evils, but it is not the sum of all evils. Spiritual evils are far worse. There are things worse than death. Sin—No to God, alienation from God, divorce from God, refusal of God, who is the source of all good—is far worse than death.

But even sins can be made to work together for good through the golden gate of repentance. For sincerely repented sins can make us humble and wise. That is why God does not give us instant grace to overcome all sins—because that would make us proud, and pride is the worst sin of all. The Pharisees of Jesus’ time seemed more pure and sinless, more obedient to the divine Law, than anyone else; and yet Jesus said they were on the road to Hell because of their one remaining sin, which was more deadly than all other sins put together: the refusal to repent because of pride and self-righteousness. So if you want to attack your other sins, start with attacking your pride.

St. Augustine, asked to name the four cardinal virtues, replied: Humility, humility, humility, and humility.

Brown Bag Lunch Program

During February, our parish collected enough food to make 160 lunches for the poor. This month, we hope to double that number! Please remember to put something in your cart for the homeless and drop it off in the vestibule as soon as possible.

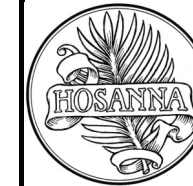
Thank you to those of you who have signed up to be volunteers. We are in the organizing stages of this project; someone will contact you soon.

Remember, all food must be non-perishable and in easy to open packages, jars, or flip-top cans.

The list of foods needed is in the vestibule of the church.

Baby Bottle Project

Thank you to all who participated in the annual Baby Bottle Project! This is a very important fund raiser for the Sacramento Life Center. Please bring your filled bottles back to St. Stephens next Sunday, March 13th—even if they are not completely filled. Your help with this is very much appreciated!



Preparations for Palm Sunday

Palms are needed for Saturday, March 19th, the day before Palm Sunday. Please let us know if you can bring a quantity of them.

Also, volunteers will be needed at 8:00 am that Saturday morning, to help prepare the leaves. Please bring gloves and clippers to join in the yearly preparation of palms.

If you have any questions please call the parish office.

God bless you for your assistance with this!

St. Joseph’s Feast Day

On Saturday, March 19, there will be a 10:30 Solemn High Mass to celebrate St. Joseph’s Feast Day. After Mass, we’ll be gathering in the hall for the traditional St. Joseph’s Table. Food and beverages will be provided, but, we ask that you help out by bringing a dessert treat such as cookies, biscotti, or cannoli.

Reminder— Chesterton Society Meeting: March 15 at 7:30pm

We will be discussing: *The Everlasting Man* Chapter 2 “Professors & Prehistoric Men”

Also: Fr. Brown: “The Secret of Flambeau”

Go to: <http://www.sacfsp.com/>

For online book and Fr. Brown stories

All are welcome!

Five Lessons in Spiritual Combat

Preached by Fr. Simon Harkins, FSSP

July 10-14

Five Lessons in Spiritual Combat will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. Each retreatant will have a private room and bath. Space is limited, so hold your place as soon as possible with a deposit. Forms are now available in the office or bookstore. The retreat is open to men and women age 18 and over. For more information call: 916-223-3112

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Renee Burns, Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, John Reyes, Patricia Becker, Augustine Guzman, Luis Salazar, Paulette Brady, James Reslock, Sandy Sneary, Barbara Jeong, Eleanor Roberts, Fr. Carota, Beverly Longtin, Mary Daley, Ramon Daley, John Newaz

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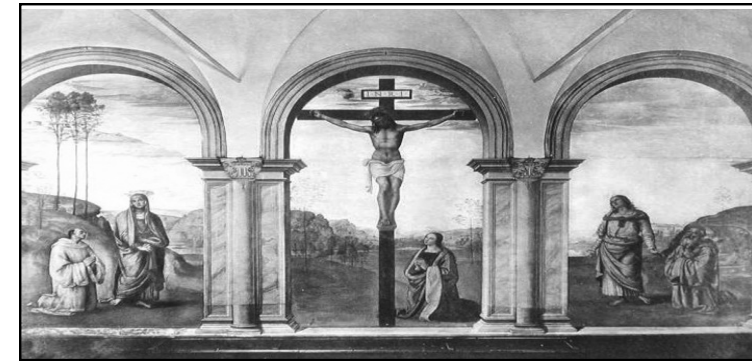
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Mother of Perpetual Help! Thank you for all the Blessings for our Family!

Saint Stephen the First Martyr Parish

Served by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter

Fr. John Lyons, F.S.S.P., *Pastor*
Fr. Ashley Perry, *Parochial Vicar*
Fr. Zachary Akers, F.S.S.P., *Parochial Vicar*



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

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.

Devotions

- Rosary:** Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m., after the 1p.m. Mass and five minutes after many weekday Masses
- 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

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