

Sunday, February 5, 2017
5th Sunday after Epiphany



Sun. 5 Feb.	5th Sunday after Epiphany, II Class
8:00 am	Maria Long
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:30 pm	†Maria Lopresti
6:00 pm	Intentions of Indre McCluskey
Mon. 6 Feb.	St. Titus, Bishop & Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	Holy Souls
12:15 pm	Genevieve Munsill
Tues. 7 Feb.	St. Romuald, Abbot, III Class
7:00 am	Bob Ball
6:30 pm	Benjamin & Gloria Garcia
Wed. 8 Feb.	St. John of Matha, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	American TFP Members
12:15 pm	Andres Domenguez
Thurs 9 Feb.	St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class
7:00 am	†Maria Lopresti
6:30 pm	Enrique & Gloria Dominguez & Family
Fri. 10 Feb.	St. Scholastica, Virgin, III Class
7:00 am	Holy Souls
12:15 pm	†Anthony Baldini Sr.
6:30 pm	†Lucille Marshall
Sat. 11 Feb.	Our Lady of Lourdes, III Class
7:00 am	Lisa Barlow
9:00 am	†Sara Anne Teresa Ellen & John Anthony
	Gerard Caudill
Sun. 12 Feb.	Septuagesima Sunday
8:00 am	†John Ramos
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:30 pm	John Henry Wilson
6:00 pm	Deacon Mike Young

...In Memoriam
†Maria Lopresti, †George Klopf, †Nell Keim, †John Reyes,
†Margaret Melusky, †Robert O'Kane, †Savino Salierno,
†Beverly Longtin

Important Upcoming Dates
Feb. 22—Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
March 1—Ash Wednesday
March 11—Confirmation
April 23—Live Performance of "Faustina"
May 6—First Holy Communion
June 18—24 Camp Sacred Heart
July 23—27—Annual Retreat

Penance

Grace, which has been given to us so abundantly in Baptism and Confirmation, has of itself the infallible power to sanctify. It does not force us, however, to do good nor does it sanctify us without our voluntary cooperation. Man always remains free to cooperate or not with this divine gift; unfortunately, it is always possible for him to resist grace and descend to evil, thus failing in his duty as a child of God and a soldier of Christ. Jesus, foreseeing these possible defections and falls, has instituted a special Sacrament for the sole purpose of healing the wounds of sin, of restoring sinners to grace and of providing strength for their weakness. Our Lord said to the Apostles, "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." By these words Christ conferred on them and on their successors the formidable power of forgiving sins in His Name. This power was not given to the angels nor even to the most Blessed Virgin Mary, but was reserved for His ministers.

Scandalized at seeing Jesus absolve sinners, the scribes asked one another, "Who can forgive sins, but God only?" Wavering between unbelief and derision, the world still considers the Sacrament of Penance with a like attitude; it cannot and will not recognize in the priest a minister commissioned by God to remit sin. But for those who believe, there is perhaps no other Sacrament which so rouses our piety, devotion and gratitude. How powerful are the Sacraments by which we are raised to the dignity of children of God and soldiers of Jesus Christ; how ineffable is the Sacrament by which we are nourished with the immaculate Flesh; yet is it not more touching still that in the Sacrament of Penance Jesus goes in search of the Christian who has betrayed Him, of the soldier who has deserted the camp, of the son who, after having been nourished at His table, has gone far away to eat even the husks of swine? Instead of being indignant or repelling one who has made such poor use of His boundless gifts, Jesus through the Sacrament of Penance offers him pardon and mercy; He heals this soul which, though formerly clothed in the wedding garment of grace and regenerated in His precious Blood, has fallen into sin, making itself His enemy.

Although the Sacrament of Penance is necessary only to remit mortal sins, the Church has always recommended and praised the frequent use of it even for those who have only venial sins to confess. It gives us a more thorough knowledge of ourselves, stimulates Christian humility, helps us to uproot our evil habits, wages war on spiritual negligence and tepidity, purifies our consciences, strengthens our wills, encourages spiritual direction and, by virtue of the Sacrament itself, increases grace.

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

Jubilee Year of Fatima

Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence opportunity for the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions throughout the centennial year, from the 27th of November 2016 till the 26th of November 2017.

To obtain the plenary indulgence, the faithful must also fulfill the ordinary conditions: go to Confession and Communion, be interiorly detached from sin, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

To the faithful who visit with devotion a statue of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory or proper place during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions, the 13th of each month from May to October 2017, and there devoutly participate in some celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary. In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima.

Prayer for the Holy Father

V. Let us pray for Francis, our Pope.

R. May the Lord preserve him, and give him life, and make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies. [Ps 40:3]

O God, Shepherd and Ruler of all Thy faithful people, look mercifully upon Thy servant Francis, whom Thou hast chosen as shepherd to preside over Thy Church. Grant him, we beseech Thee, that by his word and example, he may edify those over whom he hath charge, so that together with the flock committed to him, may he attain everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Feast of the Chair of St. Peter—February 22nd

Members of the Confraternity of St. Peter are able to receive a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions on this day.

Bible Study this Thursday 7:30 pm

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF A PATRIARCH

The Abraham Narrative: Genesis 12-25

Pre-St. Valentine's Day Evening Out

Parents, would you like to spend a few hours alone with your spouse on Saturday, February 11th? The Parish Youth Group will be offering babysitting in the gym, from 5:00-9:00 pm, as an opportunity for parents to celebrate a special evening together. Several adults will assist the teens in babysitting. Snacks will be served. Donations happily accepted—proceeds to benefit our St. Stephen Youth Group.

Men's Retreat

All men (18 years of age and older) are invited to participate in a men's retreat here at St. Stephen's on Saturday, February 25th. Please spread the word.

Registration forms may be found in the church vestibule.

Around the Parish

~ Congratulations to John & Liza Felix on the birth of their son, Paul! Paul was baptized at St. Stephen's on Feb. 3rd.

Annual Catholic Appeal

The Annual Catholic Appeal for 2017 will take place on February 26th. A portion of your donations come back to St. Stephen's Church. If you receive an appeal letter in the mail, make sure St. Stephen's is listed as your parish if you wish to donate.

Prayer for Priestly and Religious Vocations

Priest: Let us pray for priestly and religious vocations.

All: O God, we earnestly beseech Thee to bless the Church with many priests, brothers, and sisters, who will love Thee with their whole hearts, be faithful to their vocations, and gladly spend their entire lives to teach Thy truths, serve Thy Church, and to make Thee known and loved.

Priest: Bless our families, bless our children.

All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Thy work.

Priest: O Mary, Queen of priestly and religious vocations:

All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests, seminarians and religious. Obtain for us the grace of many more. Amen.

(Please offer your reception of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month for vocations)

Prayer of Parents for Priestly and Religious Vocations

O God, grant that at least one of our sons may become a priest or religious brother, and one of our daughters a religious sister. We ourselves want to live as good Christians, and to guide our children always to do what is right, so that we may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give Thee a holy priest, brother, or sister! Amen. (Conclude with an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be) (based on a prayer recited by the parents of Lu Monferrato, Italy)

Chesterton Society Meeting:

Feb. 14th at 7:30pm

We are continuing with the book: *The Everlasting Man Chapter 5 of Part II, "The Escape from Paganism".*

Also: Fr. Brown: "The Donnington Affair"

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

For online book and Fr. Brown stories

All are welcome!

2016 Tax Letters

Your 2016 tax letter of donations is ready to be picked up. You will find them in the vestibule of the church.

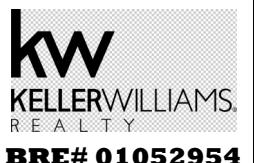
Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike McGrath, Renee Burns, Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, Patricia Becker, Paulette Brady, James Reslock, Sandy Sneary, Barbara Jeong, John Newaz, Marne Merino, Jim Carlson, Darryl Gallagher, Fr. Goodwin, FSSP, Margaret Northan, Jean Haun, Sandra De Monaco, Mary & Ramon Daley,



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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!*



Saint Stephen

The First Martyr Parish

Served by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter

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Rev. Fr. Joshua Curtis, F.S.S.P., Parochial Vicar
Rev. Fr. Dominic Savoie, 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: | 8:00 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 |

CONFESSON

- 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.