

Sunday, November 9, 2014
Dedication of the Archbasilica of Our Holy Savior



Sun. 9 Nov. Dedication of the Archbasilica of Our Holy Savior, II Class

8:30 am Raymond Alatorre & family
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †John & Nancy Yetto

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 10 Nov. St. Andrew Avellino, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Christopher Polo
 12:15 pm All Souls Novena

Tues. 11 Nov. St. Martin of Tours, Bishop & Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Father Ted Fisher, SJ
 6:30 pm Holy Souls

Wed. 12 Nov. St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Father John Lyons
 12:15 pm Dr. Gerald Foy

Thurs. 13 Nov. St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin, III Class

7:00 am †Dr. Ralph Isola
 6:30 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Fri. 14 Nov. St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Stephanie Sullivan
 12:15 pm Father Brian Soliven
 6:30 pm †Emmanuel Bautista

Sat. 15 Nov. St. Albert the Great, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am Rosemary Cozzo
 9:00 am †Teresa G. Magana

Sun. 16 Nov. 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Connie Presley & family
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Manuel Bautista

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

November 18—Chesterton Society Meeting
 November 20—CSP Evening of Recollection
 November 27—Thanksgiving Day
 November 30—First Sunday of Advent
 December 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 December 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 January 24—11th Annual Walk For Life
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations

Union With God

The whole life of man is a return journey to God: he came from God and must go back to Him. The more complete this return, the more intimate his union with God will become and the better will he have attained the end for which he was created: he will be perfect and eternally happy. St. Thomas teaches that a being is perfect when it attains its end; thus the perfection of man consists in rejoining God and uniting himself to Him, his last end. Man finds in union with God all that he can desire: he finds his peace, the assuaging of his hunger for the infinite, of his thirst for love and imperishable felicity. "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in Thee." Man finds his eternal happiness in union with God; and the life of heaven is nothing else than this union carried to its ultimate perfection, wherein man gives God the greatest glory and the greatest love which, in turn, redounds to man's own eternal beatitude.

The soul that truly loves God does not resign itself to waiting for heaven in order to be united to Him, but desires ardently to anticipate this union here below. Is this possible? Yes, Jesus has said so: "If anyone love Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him; and We will come to him and will make Our abode with him." Our Lord Himself tells us in these words the condition for living united to Him: love. Love is the great power which unites us to God even in this life, where, imprisoned in matter, we cannot yet enjoy the direct contact, the face to face vision of Him.

St. John of the Cross explains wherein union of love with God consists. It is not a question of the *substantial union* which always exists between God and everything created and by means of which He is preserving their being. That kind of union is *natural* and can never be lacking in any creature, not even in the greatest sinner. The union of love, however, is *supernatural* and only takes place in souls "when there is produced that likeness that comes from love," that is, in souls that are in the state of grace. The Saint says: "Although...God is ever in the soul, giving it, and through His presence conserving within it, its natural being, yet He does not always communicate supernatural being to it. For this is communicated only by love and grace, which not all souls possess; and all those that possess it have it not in the same degree; for some have attained more degrees of love and others fewer." He concludes: "God communicates Himself most to that soul that has progressed farthest in love."

The state of grace is the point of departure for the union of love with God. The goal is the full development of grace, so that the soul remains totally supernaturalized, and all its powers, its entire will, all its affections are concentrated in God, neither desiring nor loving anything henceforth but what God wills and loves. Grace is the life of God in us, a life which develops through progress in love. The more the soul loves, the more grace increases in it, with the result that its participation in the divine life becomes more profound, leading it to an ever more intense and perfect union with God. Grace and love are the precious seeds of union with God; they put the soul in intimate communion with Him: communion of life, of thought and of will. God always remains God, distinct from His creature; the creature always keeps its own personality, and yet the soul becomes so permeated with divine life, God so "communicates to it His own supernatural Being that it seems to be God...rather than a soul." (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Consecration

The Consecration! This is the great central act of the Mass. You can readily understand why the Church surrounds it with the most impressive ceremonies. Well for all of us to know just what they mean, word for word, act for act. The Last Supper and what followed, the awful scene of the Crucifixion, took place once in far-off Palestine. But our Lord wanted it to be continued for His followers, always and everywhere. So He instituted the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Fain would He have us all gathered about his altar, as the three Marys and John the Beloved were grouped at the foot of His cross; and for this did He allow the scene of His mercy and love to be reenacted every day in the Mass.

As you follow the words of the Consecration in your prayer book you note that the ritual makes it unmistakably clear that our Lord is now about to descend upon our altar and offer Himself in a great act of worship. Directly we shall have Him with us Himself. Hence from now on we must keep in mind both the presence of Jesus and His sacrifice. Lo! He is coming to renew the offering of Calvary for us and for our salvation. Once more will He be the victim and offer up from the depths of His sacred heart the act which signifies atonement.

With the Consecration comes the holiest, the most divine moment of the Mass. It is the time when Christ visits us as the Prince of Priests. "He is the Great High Priest Who is ever offering up His meritorious sacrifice, and the Mass is the earthly presence of it." Endeavor, therefore, to bring yourselves up to some understanding of this tremendous act. And do not forget that the offerers of the sacrifice of the Mass are as follows: First, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name and place the priest stands and speaks. After Jesus the priest himself is the chief offerer. Next come the people, who also offer through, and with, the priest. They have their part, since they are of the mystical body of Christ. Christ, the priest, the people—all offer up a sacrifice to God, the Father Almighty. Partakers, therefore, with Christ, we can cast all our life, thoughts, actions, sufferings with Christ's and present them to the Eternal Father as one great act of obedience.

In the Consecration we have the renewal of God's love for us. Once more He has compassion on the multitude, coming down from heaven just as of old He came down from the mountain to meet the crowds waiting for Him. "Of this action of the Infinite God the priest is the true minister. Although God does it all, yet the priest also does it." No wonder, then, the priest's voice drops to a whisper as he calls to mind the event of the Last Supper, takes the bread as Christ took it, raises his eyes to heaven just as our Lord raised His eyes to heaven before the breaking of the bread, and repeats the words of our Lord. The supreme moment at hand, the priest, every motion subdued to reverence, recites what Christ did and said at the Last Supper. (*The Mass* by Fr. Joseph Dunney)

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—December 19, 2014

...In Memoriam

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

Reminder—Chesterton Society meeting:

November 18th at 7:30pm

We will be reading :
 Selection from "What's Wrong With the World" : "Part II
 Imperialism, or the Mistake about Man
 and
 Fr. Brown: "The Miracle of Moon Crescent"
 All are welcome!

Rosa Mystica Bake Sale TODAY!

Please come over to the gym today after Mass and enjoy some delicious treats prepared for you by the young ladies of Rosa Mystica. Your support is very much appreciated!

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.

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*

Sacred Heart Families

If you are interested in joining the parish e-loop, let us know. It is a moderated loop set up to send out news on parish events and announcements. It is also for sending out prayer requests. All posts are read by moderators before they are put through to the loop. Members are asked to reply privately to prayer requests and other comments which are not meant for the entire group. It's a great way to stay informed!

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.

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.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, John Reyes, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Ceasar Morales, 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