

**Sunday, April 5, 2015  
Easter Sunday**



**Sun. 5 Apr. Easter Sunday, I Class**  
8:30 am †Tillie Banda  
10:30 am Pro Populo  
1:00 pm Paul Baccay

**No Vespers or Benediction today**

**Mon. 6 Apr. Easter Monday, I Class**  
7:00 am Joan Rutschow  
12:15 pm Sanctification of All Families

**Tues. 7 Apr. Easter Tuesday, I Class**  
7:00 am †Francis Baccay  
6:30 pm Christians under Persecution

**Wed. 8 Apr. Easter Wednesday, I Class**  
7:00 am †Forlunata Cruz  
12:15 pm †Denise Greco Bethel

**Thurs. 9 Apr. Easter Thursday, I Class**  
7:00 am †Leonila Garcia  
6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality

**Fri. 10 Apr. Easter Friday, I Class**  
7:00 am Lindy Vertin  
12:15 pm Brady Lendewig  
6:30 pm Kind Lexus Employees

**Sat. 11 Apr. Easter Saturday, I Class**  
7:00 am Rosalie Mezger  
9:00 am Fionbarr Roundtree

**Sun. 12 Apr. Low Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday, I Class**  
8:30 am Dugyon Family  
10:30 am Pro Populo  
1:00 pm Mason Lendewig

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet, 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**

April 10—High School Youth Group  
April 12—Divine Mercy Sunday  
(Begin your novena on Good Friday)  
April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm  
April 21—Chesterton Society Meeting  
April 23—CSP Evening of Reflection  
May 2—May Procession & Solemn Mass  
May 9—First Holy Communion  
May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations  
June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart  
July 19—23—**Spiritual Exercises** - Annual Parish Retreat  
Oct. 3—G.K.Chesterton: Live w/Dale Ahlquist & Chuck Chalberg

**The Bread of Life**

Whatever its appearance, moreover, bread possesses a certain attraction. The proof is that we never tire of it. Who has ever turned against bread, even when all food seemed tasteless? And where, pray, shall we find substantial sweetness if not in that honeycomb, the Holy Eucharist? So it follows that piety which is not frequently nourished by Holy Communion has no sweetness; it is not rooted in, nor animated by, the love of Jesus Christ. It neither attracts us nor appeals to our love; it is harsh, austere, rude; it would go to God by the way of sacrifice alone. A good way, surely, but how difficult it is not to give way to discouragement! The bow, bent too far, may break. Those who follow this road win much merit, without doubt, but they miss the heart, the sweetness of sanctity which are found only in Jesus.

You want to progress without Communion? But, my poor brother, Christian tradition is against you! No longer say the *Our Father*, since you ask in that prayer for your daily Bread, the Bread you think to do without!

No, without Communion, one is constantly in the heat of the battle; one knows only the difficulties in the acquisition of virtue, not the sweetness of its practice; that is, the joy of working, not simply for oneself and moved solely by the hope of reward, but purely for the glory of God, from love of Him, from affection, like little children. He who receives Communion finds it easy to understand that having received much, he must give a great deal in return. That is piety, intelligent, filial, and loving piety. Besides, even in the severest trials, Communion makes the soul happy, filling it with a tender and loving joy. The height of perfection is to remain united with God in the midst of the most violent interior temptations, and it is when you are most tempted that God most loves you. Yet in order that these storms may not overwhelm you, learn to return frequently to the divine fountain-head to renew your strength and to purify yourself more and more in that torrent of grace and love.

Receive Communion therefore! Eat the Bread of Life if you would live well, if you would obtain sufficient strength for the Christian combat, if you would possess happiness even in the thick of misfortune.

The Holy Eucharist is the Bread of the weak and of the strong. To the weak, clearly, it is necessary; but to the strong likewise, since they bear their treasure in fragile vessels and are threatened on every hand by desperate enemies.

Let us then take care that we have a guard, a sure escort, a fortifying viaticum; this will Jesus be, our Bread of Life.

(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

**Christ the Head of the Body**

Now our spirits will try to understand the effects that accepting Jesus of Nazareth — the only Lord and Savior — will have on our life and earthly obligations. To best accomplish this, let us summarize everything learned about him through divine revelation. He is the Messiah. Therefore, he comes to us through God's mystery. He fulfills our needs, overcomes our doubts, and responds to our endless questions.

He is the Living One. Rising up, he has opened a crack in death's barrier, the cruel obstacle to our life's journey. In its place, he has offered us hope. We can look forward without fear.

He is the Son of the Eternal One. By assuming our nature, he has restored us to the dignity of God's living image and likeness. He has forever joined a physical humanity, still subject to the forces of evil, to the blessed and elusive truth of divinity.

He is the perfect Man, holding and interpreting in himself all humanity. By saying yes to the Father's will and need for justice, proven by his heroic death on the Cross, he has overcome the no of Adam's rebellion.

With this in mind, each of us must say, "I feel called, drawn, and connected with Jesus of Nazareth, crucified and raised up. If he is the Messiah, he is the Messiah for me; if he is the Lord, he is my Lord; if he is the Savior, it concerns my salvation. I am not a spectator to the business of others; I am the party involved."

But the revelation of Christ, and the uniqueness of his saving grace, tells me that everyone benefits as much as I. If he is unique, his salvation is universal. If no one else saves, all must be saved in him. If he is the only one finding the truth in people and renewing them, then all must be receptive. They are connected to him. He unifies them. In our eyes, if he is the one giving meaning and consistency to life, then everything apart from him is diminished. Everything separated from him is stained, corrupted, and lost.

St. Paul expresses this fundamental concept of the Christian vision, using the image of the "head." Christ is the "head" of the Church. Even before, he is the "head" of the universe.

Crucified and raised up in the heavenly sanctuary, Jesus of Nazareth continuously offers his redemptive sacrifice to the Father. Through the same action, he pours his spirit out on the world and promotes the truth of the Church.

Therefore, Pentecost is not just an episode in the history of the apostles on the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of the Lord. It never stops being active. We are continually exposed to the aftershocks caused by the Lord's presence at the right hand of the Father.

From the pierced and glorified human heart of Jesus, the Spirit gushes forth like an endless spring. It irrigates the earth and makes it productive. It empowers fragile and imperfect creatures to be instruments more effective in the service of the new life. It touches souls and makes them divine. The Spirit sent by the crucified and risen Christ also empowers the invisible world inside—the minds, hearts, and consciences. This is the sanctifying effect.

(*The Man Christ Jesus* by Giacomo Cardinal Biffi)

**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 Priests of*

*St. Stephen, the First Martyr Parish  
Wish all parishioners a very blessed and joyful  
Easter!  
God bless you.*

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

To celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday as a continuation of the graces of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we are singing the chaplet of Divine Mercy. Please join us Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12th at 3:00 for this devotion, followed by Vespers and Benediction.

The Church has granted a plenary indulgence on this day for those who participate in devotions to the Divine Mercy.

**Camp Sacred Heart 2015—Sign up soon to save a spot**

Camp Sacred Heart will be held June 21—27 this year. Registration is open to boys age 9—18; boys unknown to the chaplain must get a letter of recommendation from a priest.

For more information call the parish office 916-455-5114 or 916-223-3112. Forms may be obtained by e-mail [stephenproto@yahoo.com](mailto:stephenproto@yahoo.com). You may also stop by the parish office or bookstore.

**Sponsors needed for Camp**

If you are able to help sponsor a boy for camp, there is a great need, especially for large families. Your help is very much appreciated!

**Confraternity of St. Peter 2015 Pilgrimage**

Historic pilgrimage to Spain & the Rock of Gibraltar, in the quinqucentenary 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](http://www.syversentouring.com/confraternity).

**BABY BOTTLE PROJECT:** Thank you to all who have participated in the Sacramento Life Center Baby Bottle Project during Lent. If you still have a bottle, please return it as soon as possible.

**Parish Swap**

View available items by clicking on the "links" button on the front page of [www.sacfssp.com](http://www.sacfssp.com). Contact Rose-Mary at [ParishSwap@gmail.com](mailto:ParishSwap@gmail.com) if you have items to list!

**Please Keep in Your Prayers ...**

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Ceasar Morales, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar, Luis Salazar, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Jeannemarie Crabtree, Michelle Di Giovanni & Children, Africa Medal, Frank Fegurur, Teresa Nevarez, John Reyes, John Patrick Corr, Augustine Guzman