

Sunday, June 7, 2015
External Solemnity of Corpus Christi



Sun. 7 June	External Solemnity of Corpus Christi, II Class
8:30 am	†Denise Greco Bethel
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Andrew Burns Family
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 8 June	Feria, IV Class
7:00 am	Gabrielle Aranas
12:15 pm	Emily Fate
Tues. 9 June	SS. Primus & Felicianus, Martyrs, IV Class
7:00 am	Carolyn Locks
6:30 pm	Elizabeth Nicolini
Wed. 10 June	St. Margaret of Scotland, Queen & Widow, III Class
7:00 am	Mark Daley
12:15 pm	Carol DiGiovanni
Thurs. 11 June	St. Barnabus, Apostle, III Class
7:00 am	†Ida White
6:30 pm	†Thomas Joseph Greco
Fri. 12 June	Sacred Heart of Jesus, I Class
7:00 am	†Mr. Floyd Lewis
12:15 pm	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cuny & Family
7:00 pm	FSSP
Sat. 13 June	St. Anthony of Padua, Confessor & Doctor, III Class
7:00 am	Leonida Magabo
9:00 am	Fatima Moitosa
Sun. 14 June	3rd Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Rose Wedinsky
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Elvoterio Hernandez
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

June 12—Sacred Heart of Jesus
 June 13—Fatima Procession
 June 16—Chesterton Society Meeting
 June 18—Confraternity Evening of Recollection
 June 19—Bishop Cotta Mass & Installation of Pastor
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart
 July 19—23—**Spiritual Exercises** - Annual Parish Retreat
 June 29—Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles
 July 1—Feast of the Precious Blood
 Aug. 2—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance
 Oct. 3—G.K.Chesterton: Live w/Dale Ahlquist & Chuck Chalberg

The Sacrament of God's Goodness

Communion gives us perseverance to the end. One who rarely receives Communion may keep himself in a state of grace for heaven; but how far away heaven is, and what faith he must have to keep his eyes fixed constantly on so distant a hope! The life of faith is then but one continual sacrifice, a battle waged without truce or refreshment and with no effective, supporting force. He is like a traveler far from his native land; the long road consumes his strength and brings him to the point of despair.

But if we often receive Communion, oh, how much easier it is to preserve grace in its first purity! We no longer have to guard it carefully for a far-distant goal, but simply for tomorrow, for today. We know it is the garb of honor which admits us to the Feast. Therefore we avoid sin out of love, that we may not be deprived of Holy Communion. Thus Communion becomes a sure defense against sin and enables us to overcome it easily to the end of our life. I am speaking of willful sin.

How could the soul that communicates every day and to which Communion means so much yield to temptation? It knows that sin would deprive it of what it so greatly desires. The thought of its next Communion rises before the soul, strengthens it, encourages it, and prevents it from falling.

I confess that the state of grace is incomprehensible to me unless it is supported by Communion.

Besides, that is the intention of the Church who, through the Council of Trent, encourages us to receive Communion daily. There are those who would have us exercise great caution in this regard. Doubtless, say they, the Church is right in theory, but in practice we must make sparing use of this advice. It is enough, according to them, for the faithful in general to receive Communion on the principal feast days.

People sometimes ask how Europe lost the faith. Alas! It was by not receiving Communion any more, or hardly at all! Jansenism drove the faithful away from the Holy Table; they lost the awareness of Jesus Christ, the spirit of faith and love; now they are benumbed and paralyzed; they faint from hunger. How shall we restore their strength? Give them again the substantial Bread the Church offers them; revive them at the Eucharistic fire, place them beneath the influence of this life-giving Sun.

So Communion makes the state of grace desirable and assures its permanence, because Jesus Christ becomes its direct and immediate end. Communion gives us constancy in virtue and ease in its practice by nourishing the love of God in us; it makes virtue sweet and inviting by giving it a living and active object. We can never encourage frequent Communion too strongly. It is not an abuse. Is it an abuse for a child to visit its father and keep near him? It is the same with one of the faithful who seeks frequent Communion with our Lord.

(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,
 †Catherine Owen, †Gregory Nicholas

The Promises of the Sacred Heart

There is no greater proof of our Lord's earnest desire that we practice devotion to His Heart than the remarkable and almost unbelievable promises He made to those who carry out His requests.

When we stop to consider that the one who made these promises is the second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity, "who can neither deceive nor be deceived," we are amazed that individuals and families should hesitate to place all their trust in the Sacred Heart for the solution of each and every one of their difficulties. We can apply to the Sacred Heart the words of St. Paul to the Hebrews: "Do not let us waiver in acknowledging the hope that we cherish. We have a promise from One who is true to His word."

If Jesus promises, He intends to keep them. No one can ever accuse Him of breaking His word. For those who trust Him and who carry out His requests, He will, if necessary, work miracles to redeem His pledge. One day, He said to St. Margaret Mary, "Do you believe I can do this? If you believe, you will see the power of My Heart in the magnificence of My love."

The Gospels are filled with examples. Consider but one of them. Our Lord demanded of Martha and Mary a tremendous act of faith and trust before He restored their brother Lazarus to life. Yet when they made it, He worked one of His greatest miracles.

The same is true of those who believe in the promises of the Sacred Heart. How many miracles of grace has He not performed for those who trusted Him, even though they did not see how He could possibly solve their problems!

Take the case of a sister whose story was related by Father Mateo. When she became a nun she offered her prayers and sacrifices, her Masses and Communions, her hours of adoration, her entire life in fact, for the conversion of her brother, a hardened sinner. Long years went by, and reports from home became increasingly worse as her brother plunged deeper and deeper into a life of sin. But she never lost hope, nor did her confidence in the Sacred Heart fail. Finally, one day came the news that her brother had committed suicide. He had drowned Himself by jumping from a bridge. Everyone who knew him thought he went straight to hell.

Yet, his sister with the faith that moves mountains, never once doubted the mercy of the Heart of Jesus. "It is impossible," she said, "that after all these years of prayers and sacrifices my brother's soul is lost. I don't know how, but I believe my brother's soul has been saved."

Our Lord rewarded the blind faith of this generous sister. One night she was awakened from sleep in her cell. She seemed to see her brother in a coffin that was all on fire. He told her that he was in purgatory suffering for his sins, but assured of salvation. Thanks to her prayers and sacrifices, to her Masses and Communions, he had received the grace to make an Act of Contrition the moment he jumped from the bridge. Once more the Sacred Heart had proved that he never breaks His word.

(Excerpt from *Enthronement of the Sacred Heart* by Rev. Francis Larkin, SS.CC)

Confraternity of St. Peter 2015 Pilgrimage

Historic pilgrimage to Spain & the Rock of Gibraltar, in the quinquenary 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.

**Bishop Cotta to Offer Mass at St. Stephens
 Friday, June 19th at 6:00 pm**

Because Bishop Cotta was unable to come for Confirmation this year, he has asked to participate at a Mass to which all the newly confirmed would be invited.

This same evening, before the Mass, Bishop Cotta will install Fr. Lyons as Pastor of our parish.

Please bring sweet or savory finger foods to share following Mass.

We hope many of you can come for this happy event!

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 90% 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.

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)*

~ Summer Dress Code ~

Please recall that everyone is expected to dress with modesty and in a way befitting the house of God. Our choice of clothing is an expression of our worship; it may also affect the ability of others to worship. Dress should conceal rather than reveal. There is a sign in the vestibule that gives more details regarding proper dress. It is further expected that modesty in dress be maintained on the church grounds at all times.

We do request that the correction of visitors in this matter be left to the priests or their delegates.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen,
 Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Norman Sayles,
 Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Di Giovanni Family,
 John Reyes, John Corr, Augustine Guzman, Patricia Becker,
 Dr. George Alexeeff, Luis Salazar, Marilyn Goyette