

Sunday, April 12, 2015
Low Sunday
(Divine Mercy Sunday)



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	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 13 Apr.	St. Hermenegild, Martyr, III Class
7:00 am	Chet & Elizabeth Geneusz
12:15 pm	Julius Cozzatti
Tues. 14 Apr.	St. Justin, Martyr, III Class
7:00 am	Rosario Ortez & Family
6:30 pm	Carmel & Frank Mineni
Wed. 15 Apr.	Feria in Paschaltide, IV Class
7:00 am	Anna & Gregoria Sanchez
12:15 pm	Dittmer Family Living & Deceased
Thurs. 16 Apr.	Feria in Paschaltide, IV Class
7:00 am	Alexander & Martina Felix
6:30 pm	Julia & John Brown
Fri. 17 Apr.	St. Anicetus, Pope & Martyr, IV Class
7:00 am	Isabelle & Camilo Villanessa
12:15 pm	Stephanie & Ken Meyers
6:30 pm	Africa Medal
Sat. 18 Apr.	Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class
7:00 am	Holy Souls
9:00 am	Gulia & John Mineni
Sun. 19 Apr.	Second Sunday after Easter, (Good Shepherd Sunday), II Class
8:30 am	Sierra Butcher
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Fr. Lyons
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 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm
 April 16—CSP Evening of Reflection
 April 21—Chesterton Society Meeting
 May 2—May Procession & Solemn Mass
 May 9—First Holy Communion
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations
 June 7—First Mass of Fr. Tim O'Brien
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart
 July 19—23—*Spiritual Exercises* - Annual Parish Retreat
 Aug. 2—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance
 Oct. 3—G.K.Chesterton: Live w/Dale Ahlquist & Chuck Chalberg

Communion, Manna of the Elect

The manna which God sent down every morning into the camp of the Israelites had all sorts of flavors and virtues; it not only restored failing energies and gave vigor of body, but it was a bread of sweetness. The Holy Eucharist, which it prefigures, possesses likewise every virtue. It is a remedy for our spiritual infirmities, strength for our daily weaknesses, a source of peace, of joy and happiness.

The Eucharist, according to the Council of Trent, is a divine antidote which delivers us from common faults and preserves us from mortal sin. It is a fire which, in an instant, consumes the chaff of our spiritual imperfections.

Holy Communion is the war God wages in us against our concupiscence, against the devil, whom our evil passions constantly invite and who, through his connivance with our unruly appetites, holds some part of ourself in thrall. Did not Jesus say: "Come to Me, all you who labor beneath the burden of slavery of your past sins, and I will refresh you and deliver you"?

Holy Penance cleanses us from sin, yet, purified though we be, we are left with the marks of our chains, the tendency to fall again. The enemy though driven out, still keeps his agents within the walls. So Jesus comes to us to destroy the vestiges of our sins, counteract our evil tendencies, and prevent the devil from re-establishing his power over us.

Holy Communion is more than a remedy; it is a force which gives us powerful assistance in attaining goodness, virtue, and holiness.

Certainly it is not easy to acquire a Christian virtue. It means investing ourselves with a quality of Jesus; it is a divine education, a conformation of our ways to those of Jesus. Now, in Holy Communion, Jesus Himself forms His likeness within us. He becomes our own Teacher. By the inspirations of His love, He awakens the gratitude we owe Him as our Benefactor, the desire to resemble Him, a foretaste of the happiness which lies in imitating Him and drawing our life from His.

How attractive the learning of virtue becomes through Communion! How easy is humility when we have seen the God of glory humble Himself so far as to come to a heart so poor, a mind so ignorant, a body so miserable!

How easy is kindness when we are moved by the loving-kindness of Jesus in giving Himself to us in the goodness of His Heart!

How beautiful in our sight is our dear neighbor when we see him seated at the same divine Banquet, fed with the same Bread of Life, loved so generously by Jesus Christ!

How sweet do penance, self-mortification, and sacrifice become when we have received the crucified Jesus! And with what urgency we feel the need of embracing the life of Him Who saved us, of Him who gave us the Holy Eucharist!

(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

**Daily Readings From the Diary
 Of Saint Faustina Kowalska**

April 28

Today the Lord said to me, **I have opened My Heart as a living fountain of mercy. Let all souls draw life from it. Let them approach this sea of mercy with great trust. Sinners will attain justification, and the just will be confirmed in good. Whoever places his trust in My mercy will be filled with My divine peace at the hour of death.**

Today the Lord said to me, **My daughter, write down these words: All those souls who will glorify My mercy and spread its worship, encouraging others to trust in My mercy, will not experience terror at the hour of death. My mercy will shield them in that final battle...**

My daughter, encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given to you. It pleases Me to grant everything they ask of Me by saying the chaplet. When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one.

April 29

Tell souls not to place within their own hearts obstacles to My mercy, which so greatly wants to act within them. My mercy works in all those hearts which open their doors to it. Both the sinner and the righteous person have need of My mercy. Conversion, as well as perseverance, is a grace of My mercy.

Let souls who are striving for perfection particularly adore My mercy, because the abundance of graces which I grant them flows from My mercy. I desire that these souls distinguish themselves by boundless trust in My mercy. I myself will attend to the sanctification of such souls. I will provide them with everything they will need to attain sanctity. The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is—trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive. Souls that trust boundlessly are a great comfort to Me, because I pour all the treasures of My graces into them. I rejoice that they ask for much, because it is My desire to give much, very much. On the other hand, I am sad when souls ask for little, when they narrow their hearts.

April 30

My daughter, know that My Heart is mercy itself. From this sea of mercy, graces flow out upon the whole world. No soul that has approached Me has ever gone away unconsolated. All misery gets buried in the depths of My mercy, and every saving and sanctifying grace flows from this fountain. My daughter, I desire that your heart be an abiding place of My mercy. I desire that this mercy flow out upon the whole world. (Revelations of Divine Mercy by George W. Kosicki, C.S.B.)

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 is three-fourths 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.

Confirmation

Please keep in your prayers the 35 Confirmandi who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation here tomorrow, April 13th. Holy Spirit, strengthen the Confirmandi with your gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord, so they may serve as disciples of Christ!

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. 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!

**Reminder— Chesterton Society Meeting:
 April 21st at 7:30pm**

We are starting a new book: *Heretics*
 Read Chapters 3 & 4
 Also: **Fr. Brown:** "The Ghost of Gideon Wise"
 Go to: <http://www.sacfssp.com/>
 For online book and Fr. Brown stories
 All are welcome!

**Evening of Recollection Confraternity of St. Peter
 April 16, 2015**

Don't miss out on the spiritual benefits of our CSP Evening of Recollection on Thursday, April 16, beginning with Holy Mass at 6:30 pm. Each month we are given a wonderful sermon and conference along with Holy Mass and CSP prayers.

The Confraternity of St. Peter is a group of lay men and women united to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

For more information visit www.confraternityofstpeter.com or call the parish office 916-455-5114.

Confraternity of St. Peter 2015 Pilgrimage

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

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