

**Sunday, March 22, 2015
Passion Sunday**



Sun. 22 Mar.	Passion Sunday, I Class
8:30 am	Stella Zapata & Family
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Stella Zapata
3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction	
Mon. 23 Mar.	Feria of Passiontide, III Class
7:00 am	Fr. Lyons, FSSP
12:15 pm	Pacita Gonzales
Tues. 24 Mar.	Feria of Passiontide, III Class
7:00 am	Jocelyn Rico
6:30 pm	Souls in Purgatory
Wed. 25 Mar.	Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I Class
7:00 am	Tish Gallagher & Family
12:15 pm	Barbara Dittmer
7:00 pm	Special Intention
Thurs. 26 Mar.	Feria of Passiontide, III Class
7:00 am	Marena Yumena
12:15 pm	Priests of FSSP
Fri. 27 Mar.	Feria of Passiontide, III Class
7:00 am	Holy Souls
12:15 pm	Priests in Purgatory
6:30 pm	Zenida Cozzati
Sat. 28 Mar.	Feria of Passiontide, III Class
7:00 am	Emma Wilson
9:00 am	Eligco Gonzales
Sun. 29 Mar.	Palm Sunday, I Class
8:30 am	Albino Gabriel
10:00 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Bill Salierno
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

March 22—Production of "Therese"
 March 27—High School Youth Group
 March 27—Stations of the Cross after 12:15 & 6:30 Masses
 April 3—Good Friday
 April 5—Easter Sunday
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm
 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

Directions For Thanksgiving

The best model for our [Communion] thanksgiving is Mary receiving the Word in her womb. The most pleasing reception we can make Jesus, and the one best and most rich in graces for us, is to join with His Blessed Mother in adoring Him present in our hearts.

Without doubt, Mary's adoration in this solemn moment began with an act of deepest humility, for her whole being was overcome by the august majesty of the Word, by the choice it had pleased Him to make of her, His lowly handmaid, and by His unspeakable goodness and love for her and for all mankind.

This also must be my first act, my first thought of adoration after Holy Communion. So did Elizabeth receive the Mother of God, who came to her bearing her Savior still hidden in her womb, when she cried out: *Unde hoc mihi!*—"Whence is this to me," this happiness I so little deserve!

Mary's second act was necessarily an expression of joyous thankfulness for God's inexpressible and infinite goodness toward man; an act of humble gratitude that He had chosen His unworthy but only too happy handmaid for His extraordinary favor. Mary's gratitude is breathed forth in acts of love, in acts of praise and blessing; it exalts the divine goodness.—For gratitude is all that; it is a great and loving outpouring of the heart to the one who gives the benefits. Gratitude is the very heart of love.

The third act of the holy Virgin was an act of devotion, the offering and the gift of herself and all her life to the service of God: *Ecce Ancilla Domini*. It was an expression of regret at being and having so little, at her powerlessness to serve Him in a manner corresponding to His worth.

She offers herself to serve Him in whatever way He wills, and make every sacrifice He is pleased to demand. Only too happy is she to please Him at this price and respond thus to the love He has shown to men through His Incarnation.

Mary's last act was doubtless one of compassion for poor sinners, for whose salvation the Word became Flesh. She knew how to win His infinite mercy in their behalf; she offered herself to make reparation for them, to do penance for them, in order to obtain their pardon and their return to God.

Oh, if I could but adore the Lord as did His good Mother! Like her, I possess Him in Holy Communion.—O my God, give her, who so adored Thee, to be my true Mother! Let me share her grace and her state of continual adoration to the God she had received in her virginal womb, that heaven of virtue and love!

I will spend this day in union with Mary and, like her, live solely for Jesus present in my heart.

(Excerpt from *Holy Communion* by Saint Peter Julian Eymard)
 St. Peter Julian Eymard's nine volume library is available at St. Stephen's bookstore, singly or as a set.

...In Memoriam

†Joan Blackburn, †Thomas Joseph Greco

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday – April 2nd
 Tenebrae: 9:00 am
 Confessions: 5:45 pm – 6:45 pm
 Solemn High Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 pm
Good Friday – April 3rd
 Tenebrae: 8:00 am
 Stations of the Cross: 12:00 noon
 Confessions: 11:30 am – 12:45 pm
 Solemn Liturgy: 1:00 pm
Holy Saturday – April 4th
 Tenebrae: 9:00 am
 Confessions: 7:00 pm – 7:45 pm
 Easter Vigil: 8:00 pm
Easter Sunday – April 5th
 8:30 am: Low Mass
 10:30 am: High Mass
 1:00 pm: Low Mass
 (No Vespers Today)

Baby Bottles Due Today!

Thank you to all who have participated in the Sacramento Life Center Baby Bottle Project this Lent. We will be collecting bottles before and after Masses **today**. If you were unable to bring your bottle, please bring it to the book store as soon as possible!

Palms Needed

We are in need of palm branches for Palm Sunday. If you can help please call the office as soon as possible. 916-455-5114

Help Needed with Palms

Much help will be needed after the 9:00 am Mass on Saturday, **March 28th**. Please bring gloves and clippers and join in the yearly preparation of palms.

If you have any questions please call the parish office.

God bless you for your assistance with this!

Do You Have Calla Lilies in Your Yard?

Would you like to share some of your lilies for our altar for Easter? Please call the office if you can help us out. We need many to make it beautiful! 916-455-5114

Altar of Repose

Many flowers are also needed for our Altar of Repose. Please bring cut flower, potted Easter Lilies (**not** the type with heavy scent), and flowers of your choice in order to make our **Altar of Repose** really beautiful for Our Lord. Flowers may be brought to the gym during Holy Week—we need them for Holy Thursday evening. Let's try to have every family participate in this tradition.

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 over **three quarters 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.

Therese
 The Story of a Soul

Therese: The Story of a Soul, the moving, live production performed by actress Audrey Ahern and directed by Patti Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented at St. Stephen Church Gym on Sunday, March 22 at 4:30 pm.

In this one-woman performance, Therese speaks directly to you, the audience, with humor, grace and humility. Her honest, direct spirituality speaks powerfully to our busy culture, with the encouraging message that anyone can become a saint. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 75 minutes, and is suitable for all ages.

Admission is a free-will offering. For addition information, contact St. Stephen Parish Office at 916-455-5114 or stephenproto@yahoo.com or visit www.sacfssp.com

Lenten Soup Supper

Calling All Cooks! Each Friday evening during Lent we will have soup and bread in the gym following Stations of the Cross. We need several people to bring soup and bread each Friday evening. For more information call the parish office.

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 "defenders 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.

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!

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