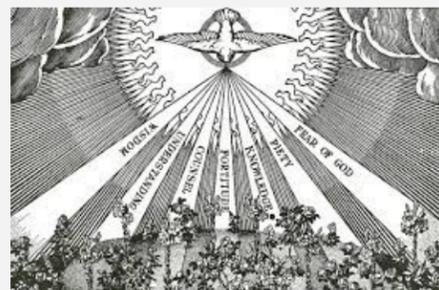


**Sunday, May 24, 2015  
Pentecost Sunday**



<b>Sun. 24 May</b>	<b><u>Pentecost Sunday, I Class</u></b>
8:30 am	Ben Ebbink
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	†Charles Robert Matthews
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
<b>Mon. 25 May</b>	<b><u>Pentecost Monday, I Class</u></b>
7:00 am	George Stote
12:15 pm	Rose Brennan & Family
<b>Tues. 26 May</b>	<b><u>Pentecost Tuesday, I Class</u></b>
7:00 am	†Denise Greco Bethel
6:30 pm	†Thomas Joseph Greco
<b>Wed. 27 May</b>	<b><u>Ember Wednesday in the Octave of Pentecost, I Class</u></b>
7:00 am	Jimmy Dichoso
12:15 pm	Rob Haun
<b>Thurs. 28 May</b>	<b><u>Pentecost Thursday, I Class</u></b>
7:00 am	†Filichetta Schettini
6:30 pm	FSSP
<b>Fri. 29 May</b>	<b><u>Ember Friday in the Octave of Pentecost, I Class</u></b>
7:00 am	†Joan Blackburn
12:15 pm	Lois Gullott
6:30 pm	†Dr. Ronald G. Connolly, MD
<b>Sat. 30 May</b>	<b><u>Ember Saturday in the Octave of Pentecost, I Class</u></b>
7:00 am	Helen Early
9:00 am	The Greco Children
<b>Sun. 31 May</b>	<b><u>Trinity Sunday, I Class</u></b>
8:30 am	Brenda Phelan
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Jackie Smith
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**

- May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations
- June 4—Corpus Christi
- June 12—Sacred Heart of Jesus
- June 13—Fatima Procession
- 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

**Communion and the Law of Love**

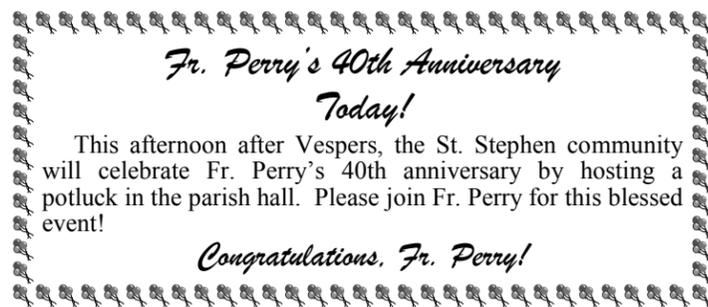
Communion makes us practice the virtue of love. True and perfect love finds its full expression only in Communion. If a fire can not spread, it goes out. So our Lord, wishing us to love Him and knowing how incapable of it we are of ourselves, fills us with His own love, He comes and loves in us. We then work on a divine object. There is no gradual passage or transition; we are simultaneously in the grace and in the object of love. That is why our best and most fervent acts of love are made during our thanksgiving; we are nearer then to Him Who forms them. Pour out your heart to our Lord at this time; love Him tenderly.

Do not try so hard to make this or that act of virtue. Expand; let our Lord grow within you; enter into partnership with Him; let Him be the capital in your soul's traffic, and your gains will be doubled with the doubling of your spiritual funds. Working with and by our Lord, your benefit will be greater than if you tried to increase your virtues simply by multiplied acts. Receive our Lord and keep Him as long as you can; make plenty of room for Him within you. To let Jesus Christ increase in one's soul is the most perfect act of love. Certainly penitent and suffering love is good and meritorious; but the heart is repressed by it, weighed down beneath the thought of the continual sacrifices it must bear. This way, on the contrary, the heart expands, opens fully and freely; it shows its happiness.

For one who does not receive Communion these words have no meaning; but let him plunge into this divine fire, and he will understand.

No, it is not enough simply to believe in the Holy Eucharist; we must also obey the laws It prescribes. Since It is above all the Sacrament of love, our Lord desires us to share in that love and draw inspiration therefrom. Then come to Jesus out of love for Him! We must come humbly, to be sure; but let love, or at least the longing to love, be our ruling motive. Let us desire to pour out our heart in His Heart; let us give evidence to Him of our tenderness and affection. Then we shall know what depths of love are in the adorable Eucharist.

(Excerpt from *Holy Communion* by Saint Peter Julian Eymard - available in the St. Stephen Book Store.)



**Fr. Perry's 40th Anniversary  
Today!**

This afternoon after Vespers, the St. Stephen community will celebrate Fr. Perry's 40th anniversary by hosting a potluck in the parish hall. Please join Fr. Perry for this blessed event!

**Congratulations, Fr. Perry!**

**...In Memoriam**

- †Joan Blackburn, †Thomas Joseph Greco, †Bruce Perry,
- †Catherine Owen, †Gregory Nicholas

**The Holy Spirit Possesses Us**

Love, we have said, is the foundation of devotion to the Holy Spirit, as it is also the foundation of Christian perfection. But love as a reflection of God, as his own image, is something that encloses within its simplicity a boundless wealth and a variety of forms. Who can fathom the depths of love?

Human love in all its manifestations is admirable in harmony with the love of charity. It is confident in filial love, trusting in friendship, sweet and fruitful in the love of husband and wife, disinterested and tender in the love of a mother. Our love of God must include all these forms of human love. Every fiber of our heart must vibrate when the harmonious and full canticle of love bursts forth from it. But since God is one in essence and triune in Persons, our love for him takes on a particular aspect accordingly as it is directed to each one of the divine Persons.

Our love for the Father is tender and confident like that of children, eager to glorify him as his only-begotten Son taught us to do by word and example. Love for the Father is the intense desire to have his will fulfilled on earth as it is in heaven. Our love for the Son, who willed to become flesh for us, is characterized by the tendency to union with him and transformation into him, by imitation of his example, participation in his life and the sharing of his sufferings and his cross. The Eucharist, mystery of love, of sorrow, and of union, reveals the characteristics of this love.

Love for the Holy Spirit also has its special character, which we should study in order completely to understand devotion to him. We have explained how the Holy Spirit loves us, how he moves us like a divine breath that draws us to the bosom of God, like a sacred fire that transforms us into fire, like a divine artist who forms Jesus in us. Surely, then, our love for the Holy Spirit should be marked by loving docility, by full surrender, and by a constant fidelity that permits us to be moved, directed, and transformed by his sanctifying action.

Our love for the Father tends to *glorify* him; our love for the Son, to *transform* ourselves into him; our love for the Holy Spirit, to *let ourselves be possessed and moved by him*.

In order to attain this holy docility to the motions of the Spirit, the soul must be so silent and recollected that it can hear his voice. It must be so pure and so filled with light that it can clearly perceive the meaning of the divine inspiration. It must be so surrendered to the will of God that it embraces that will without hesitation, and so selfless that it performs that will without stopping at any sacrifice. Love accomplishes all this alone or through the virtues and gifts which it coordinates and directs; for love, as St. Paul teaches, "believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Love brings recollection and silence to the soul. Whosoever loves, distinguishes among thousands of voices the voice of the beloved. Does not a mother know the voice of her child among all other sounds? Does she not hear it even when she is asleep? Love causes silence because it brings solitude and recollection, because it concentrates all its activity and desire on the beloved. The Holy Spirit frequently speaks to souls, breathes upon them and inspires them. But they do not hear him except in the measure of their love for him, in the proportion in which love has anointed them with silence. Closely united with the Holy Spirit through love, souls feel the secret palpitation of the heart of God.

One of the characteristics, then, that love for the Holy Spirit should have is this solicitous attention to the sound of his voice, to his inspirations, to his most delicate touches. We should struggle against all disturbances, all distracting noises. We must bravely detach ourselves from all creatures, from every affection. [This can be taken to mean disordered affections that would draw us away from God, not authentic human loves, which draw us closer to God.] Little by little, love will have power over our heart and spread its deep influence through all our faculties.

(Excerpt from *The Sanctifier* by Archbishop Luis M. Martinez)

**In the School of the Holy Spirit**

My Jesus, it is truly easy to become holy; it just takes a little good will! And if He finds this minimum of good will in a soul, He quickly gives Himself to her. And nothing can stop Him, neither our faults nor our falls, absolutely nothing. Jesus hurries to help that soul; and if the soul is faithful to this grace from God, she can in a short time reach the highest level of holiness that a created being can attain here below. God is very generous and does not refuse His grace to anyone. He gives even more than we ask for. The shortest road is faithfulness to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit.

This beautiful text taken from the diary of St. Faustina gives us an indication from her own experience that is worth paying attention to: the shortest way to holiness is *faithfulness to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit*. So, rather than scattering our efforts in areas of our lives where they might turn out to be sterile or unproductive, Sister Faustina proposes that we center them on this point: be alert to recognize, welcome, and put into practice the inspirations of the Holy Spirit.

(*In the School of the Holy Spirit* by Jacques Philippe)

**How to Dress for Church**

There is no holier place than a Catholic church, no holier activity than the Mass. This being so, we should dress in a way that reflects our awareness of the holiness of both. Not only do we show respect for the Lord when we dress nicely, but we also show our respect for each other. For men and boys this means either dressing in suit and tie, or wearing dress shirt, pants, and shoes to Mass (uniforms are an exception). Dresses, or skirt and blouse, are the most appropriate wear for women and girls. They are encouraged to wear head covering. To ensure modesty, dresses and skirts should reach below the knees; necklines should be no lower than two fingers width below the pit of the throat; shoulders should be covered. We are not in church to make fashion statements, or to draw the stares of others; we are there to worship God—both in body and spirit.

~From the Pastor

**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.

**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 95% 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.

**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 Patrick Corr, Patricia Becker, Dr. George Alexeeff