

Sunday, February 15, 2015
Quinquagesima Sunday



Sun. 15 Feb. Quinquagesima Sunday, II Class

8:30 am †Father Jerome Lynch
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Father Joseph Terra

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 16 Feb. Feria, IV Class

7:00 am Frank J. Petzold
 12:15 pm Pat Feldman

Tues. 17 Feb. Feria, IV Class

7:00 am †Edward P. Haun
 6:30 pm †Judy Robrecht

Wed. 18 Feb. Ash Wednesday, I Class

7:00 am James A. Klaas
 12:15 pm Louise Szabo—90th Birthday
 7:00 pm †James Dunning

Thurs. 19 Feb. Thursday after Ash Wednesday, III Class

7:00 am Ed Pierini, Jr.
 6:30 pm Holy Souls

Fri. 20 Feb. Friday after Ash Wednesday, III Class

7:00 am Barbara Ryan
 12:15 pm Arnold Mendoza
 6:30 pm Rose Wedinsky

Sat. 21 Feb. Saturday after Ash Wednesday, III Class

7:00 am Anne Marie Reslock
 9:00 am †Gus Robrecht

Sun. 22 Feb. First Sunday of Lent, II Class

8:30 am Edward J. Pierini IV
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Nancy E. Burns

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

February 18—Ash Wednesday
 March 1—Explorer Promise Day
 March 2-5—Lenten Mission—Fr. Anthony Mastroeni
 March 6-7—Traveling Statue of Our Lady of Fatima
 March 22—Production of “Therese”
 April 3—Good Friday
 April 6—8—Explorer Camp-out
 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

Preparation by the Holy Spirit

In a certain sense, Holy Communion renews the sublime mystery of the Incarnation. You know that the Holy Spirit was the divine agent of the Incarnation. He had prepared Mary to become the Mother of God. He it was Who preserved her immaculate in the conception; Who implanted in her soul at that very first moment, and thenceforward cultivated therein, the most beautiful virtues; and when the time came to form and give life to the Body of Jesus, it was the Holy Spirit Who impregnated Mary's womb. After the accomplishment of this mystery, He continued to dwell in her soul, casting His shadow over her to assuage the ardor of the divine Splendor she bore within her. Let us learn to prepare ourselves for Communion in union with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, we say, sanctified Mary in order to make her worthy to become the Mother of God. Although all the Persons of the Most Blessed Trinity co-operate in the sanctification of souls, this work is attributed especially to the Third Person, Who is the supernal Gift, the Bond between the Father and the Son, and He Who, by entering into our souls, unites us to God. He, the Holy Spirit, adorned Mary with all virtues. And when she hesitated to accept the high station of Mother of the Word, believing it to be incompatible with her vow of virginity, the angel reassured her, explaining that her being with child would be the work of the Holy Spirit Who would come down to accomplish it in her. Observe, however, that the Holy Spirit was already in Mary, since she was “full of grace.” What is then the meaning of the words, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee”? As, He will come to strengthen and prepare you, a feeble creature, for this mystery of omnipotence! However feeble you may be, can you still tremble if God Himself, by an extraordinary presence, is within you to receive your God there? For it was the Holy Spirit Who received the Word in Mary and gave Him human form.

By receiving the Holy Eucharist we share in the glory of Mary and in the joys of her maternity.

“But,” you ask, “who will receive the Word of God in me? I myself cannot do it, poor and miserable as I am. Though I seem to myself to be in the state of grace, yet, alas, that grace may not be perfect; and even if it were, what is it in the eyes of One Who is Holiness itself? My little virtues? But God possesses them all in the highest degree. Therefore I shall receive Jesus quite unworthily if I am all alone to receive Him.” But in your state of grace the Holy Spirit dwells within you, and He Himself is to receive Jesus for you. Unite yourself therefore to this divine Spirit when you are going to receive Communion.

Let us bear in mind that the preparation Jesus most desires to see in us is that of Mary when she said, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord.” We do not unite ourselves often enough to the Holy Spirit or seek earnestly enough to know Him; yet we are His temples, and He dwells within us. There are a great many Christians who, if asked what the Holy Ghost is, would reply that they had never been told anything about Him. Ah, the fact is, that to know the Holy Ghost we must live interiorly, for His activity is wholly interior. Pray therefore frequently to this divine Spirit; unite yourself to Him; let Him prepare you for Communion, speak for you, and give thanks to Jesus; let Jesus, through Him, reign within you.

(Holy Communion by Saint Peter Julian Eymard)

BABY BOTTLE PROJECT BEGINS!!

Baby bottles will be handed out before/after Masses today for those who wish to support the Sacramento Life Center's Baby Bottle Project for Lent. Please call Maureen @ 916-482-7137 if you have questions!

40 Days for Life

Ash Wednesday, February 18th—April 3rd

There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule. You are asked to be generous with your time and to come and spend just one hour, as often as you like! Your presence at an abortion site speaks powerfully of your commitment to the unborn. By God's grace and through the power of prayer 8,245 babies have been saved from abortion, 66 abortion workers have experienced conversion of heart and quit their jobs, and 44 abortion mills closed down for good!

This life-saving, peaceful, prayerful apostolate will be at 1442 Ethan Way, Sacramento (across the street from Cal Expo), Monday through Friday 7 am—7 pm. We offer women help, compassionate support, and encouragement so that they are better able to choose life for their babies.

Rules For Fasting And Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of universal fast and abstinence. Fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year and have not yet reached their 60th year. Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken, not to equal one full meal. Abstinence (from meat) is obligatory for all who have reached their 14th year. Every Friday in Lent is an obligatory day of abstinence.

Other forms of “fasting,” especially regarding alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, internet use and social entertainment - are of true spiritual value and are strongly encouraged.

In order to deepen one's love for Christ, Catholics are urged to spend time in spiritual reading (especially Sacred Scripture), to study the catechism, to participate in devotions offered by the parish, and to pray more fervently. The faithful are exhorted to pray the rosary, to make private visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and to pray especially for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

7:00 am, 12:15 pm & 7:00 pm Solemn High Mass. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross devotions are scheduled for all Fridays during Lent after the 12:15 and 6:30 pm Masses.

Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

Preached by Fr. John Lyons, FSSP - July 19-23

Registration is open for our annual retreat which will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. Forms are 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.

Space is limited and we have already had many inquiries, so hold your place as soon as possible.

...In Memoriam

†Joan Blackburn

Lenten Parish Mission, March 2nd—5th

Fr. Anthony Mastroeni from the Diocese of Paterson, NJ will preach our Lenten mission each evening beginning with 6:30 Mass

Father has been chaplain for Christendom College and Franciscan University of Steubenville. He was also a professor of the University of San Francisco Ignatius Institute.

We are very blessed to have Fr. Mastroeni come to our parish. Please save the date and invite family, neighbors and friends to come with you.

International Traveling Statue of Our Lady of Fatima Coming to St. Stephens

On the First Friday and Saturday of March, we will be blessed to have the International statue of Our Lady of Fatima visiting. She will arrive before the 7:00 am Mass on Friday March 6th and stay until 2:30 pm on March 7th. There will be a talk given on the message of Fatima on Saturday morning. Stay tuned for more information

“Therese” St. Luke Productions March 22, 2015 at 4:30 pm

The live production of “Therese” will come to St. Stephens on Sunday, March 22. Space will be limited, so hold your place early. Free will offerings will be greatly appreciated to defer the cost.

Rosa Mystica Girls Society will have sandwiches and sodas available for purchase that day so that people will not have to go home after Mass or Vespers.

You may hold you place for the performance and order your sandwiches through the parish office or bookstore.

Reminder— Chesterton Society Meeting:

February 17th at 7:30pm

We will be reading :

Orthodoxy: "What's Wrong With the World" - Part V
 “The Home of Man”

Fr. Brown: "The Daggar With Wings"
 All are welcome!

Evening of Recollection Confraternity of St. Peter February 19, 2015

Don't miss out on the spiritual benefits of our CSP Evening of Recollection on Thursday, February 19, 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.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Cesar Morales, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar, Luis Salazar, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Jeannemarie Crabtree, Di Giovanni Family, Africa Medal