# Sunday, February 19, 2017 Sexagesima Sunday



<b>Sun. 19 Feb.</b> 8:00 am 10:30 am 1:30 pm 6:00 pm	<u>Sexagesima Sunday</u> , <i>II Class</i> †Virginia Perkins Pro Populo President Donald Trump Edward Joseph Pierini III & Family
<b>Mon. 20 Feb.</b> 7:00 am 12:15 pm	<u>Feria</u> , <i>IV Class</i> Steve Spence Jackie Cristi
<b>Tues. 21 Feb.</b> 7:00 am 6:30 pm	<u>Feria</u> , <i>IV Class</i> Anne Marie Reslock Crumley & Assoc. Staff & Families
<b>Wed. 22 Feb.</b> 7:00 am 12:15 pm 6:30 pm	<u>Chair of St. Peter</u> , <i>I Class</i> Intentions of Indre McCluskey Philip Westmark FSSP & Confraternity
Thurs 23 Feb.	
7:00 am 6:30 pm	Doctor, III Class †Benjamin Garcia Atwood Family
Fri. 24 Feb.	St. Matthias, Apostle, II Class
7:00 am 12:15 pm	Margaret Northam Margaret Northam & Family
6:30 pm	Keven Smith
Sat. 25 Feb.	Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class
7:00 am	John & Érin Reilly & Family
9:00 am	†Julieta Aleonar
Sun. 26 Feb	<b>Quinquagesima Sunday,</b> II Class
8:00 am	†Virgina Perkins
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:30 pm 6:00 pm	Descendants of the O'Dell Family Claire Guernsey
0.00 pm	

...In Memoriam

†Maria Lopresti, †George Klopf, †Nell Keim, †John Reyes, †Margaret Melusky, †Robert O'Kane, †Savino Salierno, †Beverly Longtin

# Important Upcoming DatesFeb. 22—Feast of the Chair of St. PeterMarch 10—Ash WednesdayMarch 20—Feast of St. Joseph (*transferred*)March 11—ConfirmationMarch 20—24 - Lenten MissionApril 16—Easter SundayApril 23—Live Performance of "Faustina"May 6—First Holy CommunionJune 18—24 Camp Sacred HeartJuly 23—27—Annual Retreat

# The Divine Seed

Today Jesus, the divine Sower, comes to scatter the good seed in His vineyard the Church. He wishes to prepare our souls for a new blossoming of grace and virtue.

"The seed is the word of God." Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate, eternal Utterance of the Father, came to sow this word in the hearts of men; it is, as it were, a reflection of Himself. The divine word is not a sound which strikes the air and disappears rapidly like the word of men; it is a supernatural light which reveals the true value of things; it is a grace, the source of power and strength to help us live according to the light of God. Thus it is a seed of supernatural life, of sanctity, of eternal life. This seed is never sterile in itself; it always has a vital, powerful strength, capable of producing not only some fruits of Christian life, but abundant fruits of sanctity. This seed is not entrusted to an inexperienced husbandman who, because of his ignorance, might ruin the finest sowing. It is Jesus Himself, the Son of God, who is the Sower.

Then why does the seed not always bring forth the desired fruit? Because very often the ground which receives it does not have the requisite qualities. God never stops sowing the seed in the hearts of men; He invites them, He calls them continually by His light and His appeals; He never ceases giving His grace by means of the Sacraments; but all this is vain and fruitless unless man offers God a good ground, that is, a heart, well prepared and disposed. God wills our salvation and sanctification, but He never forces us; He respects our liberty.

O Jesus, divine Sower, rightly do You complain of the arid, sterile ground of my poor heart! What an abundant sowing of holy inspirations, interior lights, and grace You have cast into my heart! How many times You have invited me to come to You by special appeals, and how many times have I stopped, after following You for a short time! O Lord, if only I could understand the fundamental reason for my spiritual sterility, my instability and inconstancy in good! Will Your light fail me? No, for You are continually instructing and admonishing my soul in a thousand ways. Oh! If so many souls living in error and not knowing You had received but a hundredth part of the light which You have given me so profusely, how much fruit would they not have drawn from it!

(Divine Intimacy by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD.

# From the Pastor

This Wednesday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrate the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, an important feast day for the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP). It's an important day for me personally because it was on this day four years ago that I became an incorporated (ad annum) member of the FSSP. That means that I've had to renew my incorporation each year since then. This year, however, I will be permanently incorporated. I'm grateful to my superiors, most especially Fr. John Berg (general superior), for accepting me into the Fraternity. I will make my statement of permanent incorporation following the 6:30 p.m. solemn Mass this Wednesday. Fr. James Fryar, FSSP, has been appointed to receive my statement. Hopefully, many of you will be able to share this joyful occasion with me (and pray for me!). Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

## Feast of the Chair of St. Peter—February 22nd

Members of the Confraternity of St. Peter are able to receive a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions on this day.

# First Annual Men's Retreat: THIS Saturday!

All men (**18 years of age and older**) are invited to participate in a men's retreat here at St. Stephen's on Saturday, February 25th. Please spread the word. This is a great way to prepare for Lent.

There is no charge, but you are asked to register so we can have a better idea of how much food we'll need.

Registration forms may be found in the church vestibule or parish office.

# Annual Catholic Appeal

The Annual Catholic Appeal for 2017 will take place next Sunday on February 26th. 25% of your donations come back to St. Stephen's Church. If you receive an appeal letter in the mail, make sure St. Stephen's is listed as your parish if you wish to donate. You may make a one time donation or choose to make a recurring gift, e.g., \$10.00 a month for the next twelve months. Giving may be done on-line. Just go to the Diocese of Sacramento home page and look for the Bishop's Appeal.

## **Brown Bag Lunch Program**

Please don't forget that the "Brown Bag Lunch Program" is an on-going apostolate of St. Stephens Parish. The list of items which are needed is posted in the vestibule. A monetary gift to purchase food may also be given.

Your donations are very much appreciated!

# <u>Around the Parísh</u>

~ Congratulations to Colin & Catherine (Dugyon) McNamara who were married at St. Stephen's Church on February 25th!

~ Thanks to everyone who supported the bake sale and lunch last Sunday for the young ladies scouting program. It was a great success!

# Bible Study this Thursday 7:30 pm

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF A PATRIARCH The Abraham Narrative: Genesis 12-25

# St. Francis Xavier Mission

**Guadalajara, Mexico** ~April 7-19 (Holy Week and Easter Week) ~July 19-August 1 Cost: \$950 (does not include airfare) For Families and individuals 16 and up. Cost slightly less for children.

# Piura, Peru

~July 21-August 3 ~August 5-18 Cost: \$2350 (includes airfare from Miami) For Youth 16-21

For details or more information, contact Anne Roundtree. (530)417-1671 Or go to our website www.sfxmission.com.

# <u>Man Mission</u> Saturday, March 25—Saturday, April 1

Looking for 12 men to spend one week in Guadalajara, Mexico, working on Casa Cristo Rey, the new house of formation.

Daily Mass and spiritual talks. Fr. Saguto will preach. Cost: \$300.00 (Does not include airfare) Contact <u>danielheenanfssp@gmail.com</u> Or <u>alrtree@hotmail.com</u>

## Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike McGrath, Renee Burns, Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, Patricia Becker, Paulette Brady, James Reslock, Sandy Sneary, Barbara Jeong, John Newaz, Marne Merino, Jim Carlson, Darryl Gallagher, Fr. Goodwin, FSSP, Margaret Northan, Jean Haun, Sandra De Monaco, Mary & Ramon Daley, Mitzi Vandenburg, Gerald Foy, Pamela Lewis



- Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and after the 1:30 p.m.

St. Monica Novena: First Thursday of every month,

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena: after 6:30 p.m. Mass

Fatima Procession: 13th of every month- May to October following the 6:30 p.m. Mass on weekdays, the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturdays, and the 1 p.m. Mass on Sundays

Men's Holy League: 3rd Wednesday of each month. Holy

Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or

**ENVELOPES AND ON-LINE GIVING** 

Envelopes are very helpful for our bookkeeping. PLEASE

For on-line giving go to the parish website:

St. Bernadette Fund – to aid parishioners in need!