

Sunday, August 5, 2012

10th Sunday after Pentecost

External Solemnity of the Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen



Sun. 5 August, 10th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class, External Solemnity of the Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen, Protomartyr, I Class

8:30 am Holy Souls in Purgatory

10:30 am Pro Populo

1:00 pm Jordan Elizabeth Pope

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 6 August, Transfiguration of the Lord, II Class

7:00 am †Fr. McDonald

12:15 pm †Anita Daos

Tues. 7 August, St. Cajetan, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Lois Dawes

6:30 pm Nancy Butchy

Wed. 8 August, St. John Mary Vianney, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Isabel Dugyon

12:15 pm Leonard Greenstone

Thurs. 9 August, Vigil of St. Lawrence, III Class

7:00 am †Msgr. Cyril Navin

6:30 pm Juliann McDonough

Fri. 10 August, St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory

12:15 pm †Fr. Alexander Lewis

6:30 pm Fr. Fernando Cuenca

Sat. 11 August, SS. Tiburtius & Susanna, Virgin, Martyrs, IV Class

7:00 am †Arthur Caponera

9:00 am †Dolores Munez

Sun. 12 August, 11th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am †Jonan Sneeringer

10:30 am Pro Populo

1:00 pm Bishop Soto

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, leave a message, and the priest-on-call will be paged immediately.

Important Upcoming Dates

Aug. 5—Patronal Feast—Pig Roast & Square Dance

Aug. 13—Fatima Procession

Aug. 14—Chesterton Society meeting

Aug. 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Aug. 18—Parish Clean-up Day

Aug. 20—24—Adult Retreat “A Deeper Look at the Our Father”

Sept. 1—Rosa Mystica & Little Flowers

Sept. 17—27—CSP Pilgrimage to Fatima, Madeira & Spain

Sept. 27—Ward Class begins

Oct. 27—*Salute to Life* Dinner & Auction

The Measure of Fraternal Charity

When Jesus gave the precept of fraternal charity, He Himself set its measure: “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” This measure is so great that it would be difficult to exceed it, when we consider how much every man is inclined to love himself. The good that each of us desires for himself is so great that if we could succeed in desiring just as much for our neighbor—for any neighbor—our charity would be truly magnanimous. Jesus has said, “And as you would that men should do to you, do you also unto them in like manner,” which, in practice, signifies that we treat others exactly as we wish to be treated ourselves; for example, showing, toward our neighbor, the same consideration of thought, word, and deed, as we would desire for ourselves; serving and pleasing others, accommodating ourselves to their wishes, as we ourselves would wish to be served, pleased, and condescended to. Alas! our self-love incites us, instead, to use two different measures: one, very large—even exaggerated—for ourselves; the other, very small – even miserly – for our neighbor. The attentions we receive from others always seem to be so trifling, and how easily we complain that we are treated thoughtlessly! Yet how very far we are from showing such thoughtfulness toward our neighbor; although in retrospect, we always think we have done too much. We are very sensitive to the wrongs done us; and even when, in reality, they are slight, we consider them as almost unbearable; whereas we consider as mere nothings the things by which we offend others so freely. The greatest enemy of fraternal charity is self-love, which makes us too sensitive and demanding in what refers to ourselves, and very careless in what refers to others. For the sake of virtue we should force ourselves to cultivate the same thoughtfulness toward our neighbor as we instinctively feel is due to us, and this, not so much for our neighbor himself, as for God, who wills that we act in this way and whom we must see in our neighbor. If we were really convinced that God is present in our brethren and that in them He is awaiting the delicacy of our love, how could we think it too much to love them at least as much as we love ourselves?

The love which each one of us bears to himself is not a theoretical nor abstract love, but a very definite and concrete one. It includes our person with all its peculiarities, needs, tastes, and feelings. We are so ingenious in justifying our own way of thinking, in maintaining our rights, in defending our cause, and in excusing our faults: how much understanding and sympathy we show in this realm! Yet, this is the attitude we should have toward our neighbor also. To love others for God does not mean that we confine ourselves to a general, platonic love, embracing them altogether as a group, without taking into account individual persons. No, it is necessary to love each one individually, in the actuality of his own personality, adapting ourselves to his feelings, tastes, and mentality, compassionating his faults, and concealing them just as carefully as we do our own. We must desire and seek his good, not by words alone but by deeds, just as we do for ourselves. And as we do not cease to love ourselves even though we have defects, so our love for our neighbor should be such as not to be lessened by the deficiencies we may find in him.

The first and greatest good we should wish for our neighbor is that which we should wish for ourselves: eternal salvation, sanctity, grace, and the ineffable joy of being a child of God, of sharing in His divine life, and enjoying Him in Heaven for all eternity. (“*Divine Intimacy*” by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Join us Today after Vespers!

Tickets are still available

**The Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen
Annual Pig Roast & Square Dance**

Biggest & Best Raffle Yet!

B&B on the Delta King! Weekend at a mountain cabin! Premium + wine. Plus other great prizes. See Mary Pope after Mass to get your tickets.

New Events This Year

- ◆ **Bingo**—in an air-conditioned classroom
- ◆ **Duck Races**—water game

Confirmation 2013

Registration is now open for Confirmation preparation classes. Those age 12 and up may pick up forms in the parish office or bookstore. The first class will be September 8, 2012 beginning with 9:00 am Mass.

Adults who have not been confirmed should also register—they will be contacted by one of the priests.

Chesterton Society Meeting

The next meeting of the newly formed Chesterton Society will meet after the evening Mass on Tuesday, August 14 (about 7:30 pm), in one of the classrooms. Please join us!

Theatre Classes

(ages 8—18)

Theatre classes, \$150.00 for 23—25 classes in St. Stephen’s auditorium (South Sutter Charter School funds accepted). Bernadette Celestin, St. Stephen’s parishioner, BA Theatre Arts. Begins October 1st—Registration: September 16th - 30th. For more information 916-637-9945 or brofmary@yahoo.com

Fatima + Santiago de Compostela + Madeira Isle

Just a little time left to sign up for our pilgrimage to Fatima, Santiago de Compostela (St. James), and Madeira Isle (Bl.Karl of Austria), Lisbon (St. Anthony).

It’s not too late, but call today or visit

[www.http://syversentouring.com/confraternity](http://syversentouring.com/confraternity)

More information is available in the office or bookstore or by calling 916-223-3112

St. Stephen Parish Retreat 2012

“A Deeper Look at the Our Father”

August 20th—24th

Please pray for the success of our annual retreat and for the intentions of our retreat master, Fr. Gerard Saguto.

We have 45+ retreatants signed up but there are still a few slots left, let us know soon if you are interested.

More information is available at the parish office or bookstore.

916-455-5114 - stephenproto@yahoo.com

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Katy Fiori, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Patricia Becker, Munsill Family, Benny Stinson, Michael Gould; Sister Marie Jeanne, Elizabeth Pierini, Richard Becker; Charles Cantoni, Hayden Garcia, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes; Lori Bates; Fred & Terry Bose; Ed Wedinsky

...In Memoriam

†Mark Trachera; †Fr. Lawrence Ryan (Sacramento Diocese);

†Joseph Cortese; †Frank Farinha; †Cesar Chaves;

†Msgr. Gerard Schons; †Rodolfo Servande; †Felice Johnson;

†Jim Chun

Christianity, Democracy, and the American Ideal

Why democracy needs Christianity

Some Americans claim we should exclude Christian values from the public square. On the contrary, argues philosopher Jacques Maritain, good Christians make good citizens.

They live by gospel values: honesty, integrity, and compassion. They obey the law. They resist the selfishness that unbelief and materialism breed. And they subordinate their own interests to the common good.

No wonder says Maritain, American democracy—which arose from a Christian people—has served so well and lasted so long.

Here Maritain shows that in a society unleavened by religious ideals, and enduring democracy can never take root. And once a religious people abandons its faith, even the greatest democracy must wither and die. Untethered from transcendent values, democracy becomes little more than a struggle to be won by the most powerful and the ruthless.

The hour is late. Too long have we stood by while politicians promise never to let their religious beliefs influence their political judgments. Too long has a false understanding of democracy cowed us into laying aside our Christian values when we vote.

As Maritain demonstrates in these lucid pages, Christians are vital to democracy. Good Christians make good citizens, and good citizens make strong democracies. If America and her ideals are to endure, argues Maritain, Christians and their values must not be excluded from public discourse, but eagerly welcomed into it.

(Published by Sophia Press & available at St. Stephen’s Bookstore)

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.

Salute to Life Dinner—October 27th

If you are interested in sharing a table with St. Stephen parishioners / priests, put your name on the list in the parish office. Cost is \$125.00 per person.

CHOIR & CHORISTERS IN RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

The Choir & Choristers have finished their Trinity Choral term as of July 1. For the rest of July, the High Masses will be sung by the cantors and volunteer choir members. The last High Masses at St. Stephen’s this Summer will be August 5, external solemnity of our patronal feast, the Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen, and August 15, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. High Masses will resume on September 9.

PIANO LESSONS AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER

Mr. Morse, the Director of Music at St. Stephen’s, has some slots available in his schedule for piano lessons. Future or existing choristers are strongly encouraged to take piano concurrently with chorister training. Please call Mr Morse on 916.835.0841 if you have questions or would like to reserve a time slot.

~ Summer Dress Code ~

Please recall that all are required to dress with modesty and dignity. A sign in the vestibule gives some details for proper dress. The spirit of these rules is to produce an atmosphere befitting the house of God and the worship of Him through the Sacrifice of the Mass. Our choice of clothing becomes an expression of our worship. Therefore it is not a matter of trying to follow arbitrary rules, but doing our best for God in such a privileged place. Especially for women, this requires us to be counter-cultural. It is also important to dress well on the church grounds too.

At the same time, we request that you leave the business of making any corrections of individuals to the priests at St. Stephen’s or their delegates. It will not be helpful to have all take on the duty of policing the church.