

Sunday, November 11, 2012
5th Resumed Sunday after Epiphany



Sun. 11 November, 5th Resumed Sunday after Epiphany, II Class

8:30 am Mark & Ellie Powers Family intentions
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm †Jonan Sneeringer

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 12 November, St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am †Jonan Sneeringer
12:15 pm Obdulia Nunez

Tues. 13 November, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin, III Class

7:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
6:30 pm †David Ellis

Wed. 14 November, St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Asuncion Pearson
12:15 pm †Felice Johnson

Thurs. 15 November, St. Albert the Great, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am †Kent Daynis
6:30 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Fri. 16 November, St. Gertrude, Virgin, III Class

6:30 am †Jonan Sneeringer
12:15 pm Robert Pearson
6:30 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Sat. 17 November, St. Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop & Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Norma Lucio
9:00 am Richard Cummings

Sun. 18 November, 6th Resumed Sunday after Epiphany, II Class

8:30 am †Marjorie Hansen
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Asuncion Pearson

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.

...In Memoriam

†Mark Trachera; †Fr. Lawrence Ryan (Sacramento Diocese);
†Joseph Cortese; †Frank Farinha; †Cesar Chaves;
†Msgr. Gerard Schons; †Rodolfo Servande; †Felice Johnson;
†Jim Chun; †Aida Apaza; †Bessie Perez; †Robert Perez;
†Richard Becker, †George Phillips

Important Upcoming Dates

Nov. 13—"Year of Faith" Class
Nov. 15—CSP Evening of Recollection
Nov. 20—Chesterton Meeting
Nov. 22—Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 1—Divine Mercy Conference/Devotion
Dec. 6—St. Nicholas (High Mass)
Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception (High Mass)
Dec 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe (High Mass)
Dec. 15—Rorate Mass
April 14—Confirmation
May 11—First Holy Communion

The Reciprocal Gift

"God does not give Himself wholly to us until He sees that we are giving ourselves wholly to Him." God respects man's liberty so much that, although desiring to have him share His divine Life, He actually communicates Himself only in the measure of our consent; when this consent is total, He does not hesitate to give Himself wholly... To the perfect gift of the will on the part of the soul corresponds the full communication of grace on the part of God; grace is granted in all its perfection, accompanied by the wealth of the infused virtues and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Grace and love necessarily go together, and as perfect adherence to the will of God is the sign of perfect love, it follows that God gives the superabundance of grace to the soul which is completely conformed to His divine will.

St. John of the Cross explains... "When the will of God and the will of the soul are as one in a free consent of their own, then the soul has attained to the possession of God through grace of will, insofar as can be, by means of will and grace; and this signifies that God has corresponded to the *yes* of the soul with the true and entire *yes* of His grace... The soul, says the Saint, possesses God "through grace of will," that is by the reason of the perfect communication of grace, which is God's response to the total gift of the will. By this perfect communication, God gives Himself to the soul, allowing it to participate more and more in His supernatural Being and divine Life, and dwelling in it in a manner even more intimate and profound.

...How long has Our Lord, the divine Sun, let the luminous ray of His grace shine upon your soul; how long has he knocked at your door: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Each confession, each Holy Communion, each Mass, each occasion for the exercise of virtue, each inspiration, each command or request of obedience: are not these God, knocking repeatedly at the door of your heart? And what are you doing? Why do you keep Him waiting? Wake from your torpor, open your soul. "Lift up your gates... And be ye lifted up, O eternal gates, and the King of glory shall enter in!" Do not be satisfied with opening the door half-way, or even three quarters; open it completely. It is necessary to lift up the gates, to remove every obstacle: your God must enter in.

If you find it costly to deny your will in everything, think how good it is to be guided in all things by the will of God. If you are reluctant to die to self, ponder how glorious it is to live to God. St. Teresa of Jesus cried out in a burst of enthusiasm, "What nothingness is all that we have given up, and all that we are doing, or can ever do, for a God who is pleased to communicate Himself in this way to a worm! If we have the hope of enjoying this blessing while we are still in this life, what are we doing about it, why are we waiting? What sufficient reason is there for delaying even a short time instead of seeking this Lord, as the Bride did, through streets and squares?"

Our Lord wills to communicate Himself to your soul, to give Himself entirely; He wills to come and live with you: "If any man shall hear my voice and open to me the door, I will come into him and shall sup with him and he with Me. Oh! May you not lose this immense gift through your own fault, your own negligence!

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

Feast of St. Martin, Bishop

St. Martin was born in Hungary of pagan parents, but a secret instinct of his soul urged him from childhood to the acknowledgment of the only true God and to the acceptance of the Christian religion. In his tenth year he was placed among the catechumens, that is, those who were preparing to receive the holy Sacrament of Baptism. His pagan father sought to restrain him, but in vain; he had him placed in a company of soldiers, but the fear of God kept him in this position not only free from the excesses common to it, but gave him opportunities to practice the love of his neighbor by distributing his pay among the poor. Once he was met at the gate of the city of Tours by a beggar without clothes, and having nothing else to give him, Martin with his sword cut his own cloak in two, and gave half to the beggar. The following night our Lord appeared to him with that part of the cloak wrapped around him, and said: "With this mantle has Martin, the catechumen, clothed me." Moved by this consoling vision, Martin no longer delayed receiving baptism; he left the army and went to St. Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, and under his direction made wonderful progress in Christian virtue. But however much he labored for his salvation, he did not forget to strive equally for the salvation of others, especially of his parents and relations, for whose conversion he undertook a long and perilous journey back to his native country. On his return he built a monastery, in which he and a number of other monks led a very strict and virtuous life. His great faith and his ardent love made him equal to the apostles in the performance of miracles, his first was the raising to life of a catechumen who had died without baptism. The fame of his sanctity and the miracles which he wrought, led to his election to the bishopric of Tours, in spite of his determined resistance to the acceptance of the position. This new dignity changed nothing in his manner of life, except that it increased his humility, his zeal for God's honor, and his love for his neighbor. Thus he took charge of his diocese for twenty-six years. When over eighty years old, he settled an insurrection which had broken out at Cande, but returning home his strength left him; he called his disciples together, and said: "My children, I am dying!" To which they responded: "Alas, father, wilt thou leave us? To whom wilt thou leave thy orphans?" Touched by this, the saint prayed: "Lord! If I am still necessary to Thy people, I refuse not the work." But he had toiled enough, his end was approaching; when the priests surrounding him, asked him to change his position in order that he might be easier, he replied: "Let me rather look towards heaven, my brethren, than turn again to earth, that my spirit which is already on its way to the Lord, may not be disturbed from the straight way to Him." He saw Satan near him, and said: "What dost thou here, thou wild beast? Miserable fiend, thou canst not harm me! Abraham's bosom will receive me." With these words he yielded up his spirit, which the angels, singing hymns of praise, carried to heaven.

O that we might learn from St. Martin's life to love God and to care not only for our own salvation, but also for the spiritual and corporal welfare of others, then indeed would we, at the hour of death, have nothing to fear from the temptations of the evil one. (*taken from "The Church's Year" by Fr. Leonard Goffine*)

Chesterton Society

The Chesterton Society will now meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is November 20th after the 6:30 pm Mass, in one of the classrooms. All are invited to attend.

Priest From St. Michael's Abbey

Fr. Victor Szczurek, a priest of the Norbertines of St. Michael's Abbey and Headmaster of St. Michael's Preparatory School, will be here the weekend of November 16, 17, 18. He will be speaking to the altar boys on Saturday, November 17 about the school, an all-boys boarding high school in Orange County; he will also be available after every Mass that weekend.



Discovering the Mass

By A Benedictine Monk

In the midst of the liturgical crisis with which we are all too familiar, this little book calmly lays forth the rich liturgical heritage of the traditional Roman Mass. What is a sacrament? What is the Mass? What is the liturgy? After addressing these questions, the author examines the detail, historical origin and meaning of the rites of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

It is our prayer that this book will in some measure help the faithful to appreciate and more profoundly to love the Mass, and so contribute to a deepening of what Pope St. Pius X called "that true Christian spirit" whose "indispensable fount ... Is the active participation in the holy mysteries and in the public and solemn prayer of the Church."

With this intention, we renew the call made by Dom Prosper Gueranger over 150 years ago: "Open your hearts, children of the Catholic Church, and come and pray the prayer of your Mother!" (*available at St. Stephen's bookstore*)

Mission Appeal

On the weekend of **November 25th**, a missionary priest from the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) will give a mission appeal at our parish. In 14 countries including the United States, SOLT Missionaries bring hope and the love of Jesus and Mary to people living in impoverished conditions. They serve migrant farm workers, refugees, Native Americans, orphans, the elderly, families and those undergoing drug rehabilitation.

SOLT missionaries serve in parishes and schools giving the sacraments and teaching catechism in remote areas. They also care for the needs of the poor through community and family development projects such as clean water, food and medical care. Your generosity makes it possible for these missionaries to bring Christ to the poor.

Sunday Vespers/Benediction

Sunday Vespers takes place **every Sunday at 3:00pm** followed by Benediction. Pamphlets are available in the church entrance. "*All should come to our churches and there sing the praises of God, and be enriched with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*" - Pope Pius XII, *Mediator Dei*

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.

Please note: No playing allowed on the stage. NO RUNNING IN GYM DURING COFFEE TIME OR MEALS! Thank you for your cooperation.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

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