

Sunday, February 24, 2013
2nd Sunday of Lent



Sun. 24 February, 2nd Sunday in Lent, II Class

8:30 am †Irene Brennan
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Mary Steil

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 25 February, Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am †Fidelina Paguio
 12:15 pm Christopher Bardet

Tues. 26 February, Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Steve & Chris Pince
 6:30 pm Carol A Christ

Wed. 27 February, Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Fr. McNeely
 12:15 pm †Miko Villafior

Thurs. 28 February, Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Fr. Novokowsky
 6:30 pm The O'Brien Family

Fri. 1 March, Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am †Msgr. Schons
 12:15 pm Special Intention
 6:30 pm Thanksgiving

Stations of the Cross after 12:15 & 6:30 pm Masses

Sat. 2 March, Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Joan Muriel Carleton Pacheco
 9:00 am †George Phillips

Sun. 3 March, 3rd Sunday of Lent, II Class

8:30 am Eric Reslock, Sr.
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Ursula Uclaray

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

†Ray Keller, †Elin Frances Terra, †Martha Robison,
 †Gabriel Vargas, †Olympia Gonzalez,

Important Upcoming Dates

March 8 & 9—Lenten Recollection (Preached by Fr. Harkins)
 March 29—Good Friday
 March 31—Easter Sunday
 April 14—Confirmation
 May 4—May Procession
 May 11—First Holy Communion
 June 1—Ordinations in Nebraska
 June 16-22—Camp Sacred Heart
 July 8—12 Annual Parish Retreat (Preached by Fr. Goodwin)
 Aug. 4—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance

The Transfiguration

The soul of Jesus, personally united to the Word, enjoyed the Beatific Vision, which has as its connatural effect the glorification of the body. But this effect was impeded by Jesus, who, during the years of His life on earth, wanted to resemble us as much as possible by appearing “in the likeness of sinful flesh.” However, in order to confirm the faith of the Apostles who were shaken by the announcement of His Passion, Jesus permitted some rays from his blessed soul to shine forth for a few brief instants on Thabor, when Peter, James, and John saw Him transfigured: “His face did shine as the sun and His garments became white as snow.” The three were enraptured by it, and yet Jesus had revealed to them only one ray of His glory, for no human creature could have borne the complete vision.

Glory is the fruit of grace, the grace possessed by Jesus in an infinite degree is reflected in an infinite glory transfiguring Him entirely. Something similar happens to us: grace will transform us “from glory to glory” until one day it will bring us to the Beatific Vision of God in heaven. But while grace transfigures, sin, on the other hand, darkens and disfigures whoever becomes its victim.

Today’s Gospel brings out the close connection between the Transfiguration and the Passion of Jesus. Moses and Elias appeared on Thabor on either side of the Savior. They conversed with Him, and as St. Luke explains, talked specifically about His coming Passion: “They spoke of His decease, that He should accomplish in Jerusalem.”

The divine Master wished to teach His disciples in this way that it was impossible—for Him as well as for them—to reach the glory of the Transfiguration without passing through suffering. It was the same lesson that He would give later to the two disciples at Emmaus: “Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and so to enter into His glory?” What has been disfigured by sin cannot regain its original supernatural beauty except by way of purifying suffering.

In ecstasy before the vision on Thabor, Peter cried out with his usual eagerness, “It is good for us to be here,” and offered to make three tabernacles: one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elias. But his proposal was interrupted by a voice from heaven: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him!” and the vision disappeared.

Spiritual consolations are never an end in themselves, and we should neither desire them nor try to retain them for our own satisfaction. Joy, even that which is spiritual, should never be sought for itself. Just as in heaven, joy will be the necessary concomitant of possessing God, so too on earth, it should be nothing but a means, enabling us to give ourselves with greater generosity to the service of God. To Peter, who wanted to stay on Thabor in the sweet vision of the transfigured Jesus, God Himself replied by inviting him to listen to and follow the teachings of His beloved Son. The ardent Apostle would soon learn that following Jesus meant carrying the Cross and ascending Calvary with Him.

God does not console us for our entertainment but rather for our encouragement, for our strengthening, for the increase of our generosity in suffering for love of Him.

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

**Instruction on the Vice of Envy,
 And the Means to Overcome It**

Envy is either a pain, a kind of sadness because of another’s prosperity, or joy at his misfortunes. He is envious who is inwardly disturbed, grieved, and sad, if his neighbor possesses more, is more honored, or gains more than he, or who rejoices if his neighbor is injured, if shame falls upon him, or if he loses his reputation. Envy is felt towards those who occupy a higher position, because the envious one cannot become their equal; towards those of inferior condition, because he fears they will become equal to him; and to his equals, because he possesses no more than they. Such was the envy of Saul towards David, of the Pharisees towards Christ.

Envy is one of the most detestable of vices, because it is so frequently found on earth and none other so destroys individual happiness, as well as the welfare of whole nations. Its consequences are often enmity, vengeance and murder. It at once opposes the love of our neighbor, and is therefore hated by God.

To exterminate the roots of this vice as soon as they germinate in the heart, it is well to consider often:

I. That envious people are like the devil who is dissatisfied at our good works, and who feels the greatest pain on account of them, because of the eternal reward promised, and which he has lost, and can never regain. St. Augustine says: O, that God would turn away the pest of envy from all Christian souls, for envy is a diabolical crime, the only one of which the devil is in an unforgiving manner properly guilty, because as a fallen spirit, he most furiously envies man who remains standing;”

II. That nothing is gained by the vice, but the envious one embitters his own life; peace of heart abandons him, whether he sees his neighbor in prosperity or in adversity;

III. That the envious one loses the benefit of all his neighbor’s good works, because he has no love for him, and is not in the state of grace; he becomes constantly poorer and more corrupt the more his neighbor increases in good works. This St. Gregory indicates, when he says: “Love, by its love has a share in the good deeds of its neighbor, but envy transforms them, by its hatred into so many heart-sores;”

IV. That envy devours the heart, consumes the body, tortures the spirit and frightens away all joy from the soul. The Scriptures call envy the rottenness of the bones; some Fathers of the Church call it the judge and executioner of man, because the envious person destroys himself by his own self-torments; finally,

V. That envy is generally born of the mother of all sins: Pride. As a proud person cannot endure any one who stands higher than he, has more than he, or makes himself equal to him, so envy springs up in his heart towards those who excel him, who gain or possess more than he. Strive therefore, to practice the virtue of humility, and consider that God regards not the dignity, nor the wealth, nor the honor of man, but the humble, meek, and loving heart, which he makes still richer with His blessings.

(“The Church’s Year” by Rev. Fr. Leonard Goffine)

**Lenten Mission
 March 8th & 9th**

Fr. Simon Harkins will come to St. Stephens to preach our Lenten Mission. The mission will begin with Holy Mass at 6:30 pm on Friday, March 8th. The second day begins with Holy Mass at 9:00 am on March 9th. Both days will include a conference, rosary, opportunity for Confession and Benediction.

Fr. Harkins will also offer the High Mass on Sunday, March 10th and preach at that Mass.

This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare for Easter, please take advantage of it.

Invite your relatives and friends, perhaps those who have not been practicing their faith or even those who have never been to Mass before.

The Great Magdalens

By Msgr. Hugh Francis Blunt

Here are over 20 true stories of women who had been guilty of adultery, murder, fornication and abortion, plus engaged in hatred, envy, lying and other sins—yet found forgiveness, mercy, healing and peace through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Starting with the great St. Mary Magdalen, out of whom Our Lord had cast seven devils, the stories continue, often giving a whole new picture of some of the most famous and infamous women in secular and Church history.

These women were as passionate in atonement as they had formerly been in sin. Some had been rejected by their partners in sin; others had to make a supreme effort and tear themselves away. Some had children. Some were punished by civil law. Some had to turn their backs on riches. Some had to disentangle themselves from political relationships. But all received the mercy and healing of Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church.

And how did they spend the rest of their lives/ This book answers that question, showing the elements of a pattern of holy repentance and redemption that would be repeated till the end of time by many other *Great Magdalens*.

(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.

**“Holy Mass - Gate to Heaven”
 2013 Annual Retreat—July 8—12**

Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP will be preaching our retreat this year. It will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. This is a silent retreat, each retreatant will have a private room/bath. If you would like to hold a space call the parish office or stop in the bookstore. Space is limited. For more information call 916-455-5114.

“In the fever and agitation of modern life, the need of meditation and spiritual repose impresses itself on Christian souls who desire to reflect on their eternal destiny, and direct their life in this world towards God.”

Calling All Cooks

Soup is needed for Fridays during Lent. Please sign up for one or more weeks. Soup and bread will be available for all after the 6:30 pm Masses on Fridays. Questions? Stop by the Parish Office or Bookstore.

**Confraternity of St. Peter FSSP Anniversary Pilgrimage
 25 Years**

Travel to Rome, Italy to attend a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at the Fraternity of St. Peter’s Rome Parish on the 25th anniversary of the order’s founding. See the most important religious sites of the Eternal City and then travel south to visit the shrines of Pompei, Nettuno, Materdomini, Naples & Amalfi.

Highlights: General Audience w/Pope Benedict XVI, Four Major Churches of Rome, Catacombs, Holy Staircase (Scalla Santa), Shrines of St. Gerard Majella, St. Maria Goretti & St. Philomena.; Rosary Basilica of Pompei (tomb of Bl. Bartolo Longo); Home of St. Guiseppe Moscati; tomb of St. Andrew the Apostle. For more information call 916-223-3112 or visit the website @ www.syversentouring.com/confraternity

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, Peter Van Steyn, Elizabeth Van Steyn, Dr. Gerald Foy; Sally Cameron