

Sunday, February 10, 2013
Quinquagesima Sunday



Sun. 10 February, Quinquagesima Sunday, II Class

8:30 am Rose Wedinsky
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm † Thomas á Kempis

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 11 February, Our Lady of Lourdes, III Class

7:00 am † James McQuillan
12:15 pm Carol A. Christ

Tues. 12 February, Seven Holy Servite Founders, Confessors, III Class

7:00 am † Jonan Sneeringer
6:30 pm Christopher Bardet

Wed. 13 February, Ash Wednesday, I Class

7:00 am Wynette Sills
12:15 pm Elizabeth Pierini
7:00 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Thurs. 14 February, St. Valentine, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Art & Carmen McGrath
6:30 pm Carmen McGrath

Fri. 15 February, Fridav after Ash Wednesday, III Class

7:00 am Art McGrath
12:15 pm Chet & Elizabeth Genieuz
6:30 pm Bri & Carrie Nino

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

Sat. 16 February, Saturday after Ash Wednesday, III Class

7:00 am Fr. Stinson, FSSP
9:00 am † George Reilly

Sun. 17 February, 1st Sunday of Lent, I Class

8:30 am Caroline Syversen
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Andres Dominquez

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Rosa Mystica Bake Sale—Today

Rosa Mystica Girls' Society will be hosting a St. Valentine's Bake Sale on Sunday, February 10. Stop by the gym after each Mass to support RMGS and get a pre-Lenten sweet treat.

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

†All those in our Memorial Book

Important Upcoming Dates

Feb. 13—Ash Wednesday
Feb. 19—Chesterton Meeting
Feb. 22—Chair of St. Peter—5th Anniversary of the CSP
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 Proof of Love

After the Incarnation, the Cross of Jesus is the greatest proof of His love for man. Similarly, mortification, which is suffering eagerly accepted for the love of God, is one of the greatest proofs of love that we can give Him. It means freely giving up a satisfaction or a pleasure in order to impose on ourselves, for love of God, something that is contrary to our own natural inclinations; we thus prove that we prefer to satisfy God rather than ourselves. Every act of voluntary mortification, whether physical or moral, says to God, "Lord, I love you more than myself!" And since a soul in love has an ardent desire to give proof of its love, it is very vigilant not to miss a single opportunity for renunciation.

...Using a different expression, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus called this practice "scattering flowers," that is, profiting by every least opportunity to suffer in order to give God a proof of her love. Knowing that the value of mortification depends on the generosity of the dispositions with which it is done, the Saint said, "I shall always sing, even should my flowers be gathered in the midst of thorns."

The value of voluntary mortifications consists more in the good will with which it is practiced than in the intensity of the suffering which is imposed, although the latter may contribute to it in the sense that a more painful mortification requires more good will."

The amount of suffering must be wisely proportioned, and limited to the physical strength of each one; but what must never be limited is the love, the spirit of generosity with which we perform each act of sacrifice. From this point of view, a slight mortification done with all the love of which a soul is capable has greater value than a painful penance performed in a material way, with no interior spirit...

Loving contemplation of the Crucified was the soul of all the austerities of St. Teresa Margaret. "This humiliated, suffering God, of whom she was constantly thinking, was the One who gave her the interior strength to overcome every difficulty, however arduous, and to take on spontaneously so many labors and works of charity and mortification; it was He who gave her an insatiable desire for suffering."

Contemplating Jesus Crucified, the soul feels that, even if it is mortifying itself much for love of Him, its sacrifices and renunciations amount to very little, and instead of conceiving sentiments of vain complacency for the mortifications already practiced, it feels the need of humbling itself and of always doing more. "Have great love for suffering," says St. John of the Cross, "and consider it very little to attain the favor of the spouse, who hesitated not to die for thee."

"O my Beloved, how shall I show my love, since love proves itself by deeds? I have no other means of proving my love than to strew flowers, and these flowers will be each word and look, each little daily sacrifice. I wish to make profit out of the smallest actions and do them all for Love. For Love's sake I wish to suffer and to rejoice: so shall I strew my flowers. Not one that I see but, singing all the while, I will scatter its petals before You. Should my roses be gathered from amid thorns, I shall sing notwithstanding; and the longer and sharper the thorns, the sweeter will grow my song."

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

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.

Other forms of "fasting," especially regarding alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, internet use and social entertainment, is of true spiritual value and is 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.

Denying material food, which nourishes our body, nurtures an interior disposition to listen to Christ and be fed by His saving word. Through fasting and praying, we allow Him to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God."--Pope Benedict XVI

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

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

TODAY—DON'T FORGET TO PICK YOUR UP BABY BOTTLE PROJECT: Baby bottles will be handed out before/after Masses on Sunday Feb. 10th for those who wish to support the Sacramento Life Center's Baby Bottle Project for Lent. Please call Maureen if you have questions (916-482-7137)

Annual Catholic Appeal TODAY!

The Annual Catholic Appeal collection will take place Sunday, February 10th. This is the most important diocesan collection of the year. 25% comes back to our parish. Please be generous.

"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."

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.

Paternal Love

Pater. When you enter upon your agonies, which are piercing enough for you, however slight they may be when compared with the Agony of Jesus, what prayer above all will you whisper with anguished heart? Should it not be the prayer the Lord has taught us, the prayer which He may be said to have lived in deed before He put it into words, the prayer that He enacted within His Heart in the garden of Mount Olivet, the "Our Father?" Like the hurt child who at once calls to its parent, you will cry "Father" to the God of love. Of old, God was far-off, awesome, mysterious. In the prayer which Jesus taught you, God is near you. Indeed, He feels and suffers like you through the human Heart He took upon becoming man.

It was the "Our Father," you may well believe, that Jesus expressed in His every act and thought and desire when He began His Passion with an hour of prayer. The Church commences prayers, as is quite natural with an appeal to the one addressed, under a title which is an evidence of trust and grounds for confidence. "Father" is the address on the quivering lips of Jesus; "Father" is the first utterance upon His Cross; "Father" is His last cry, when Jesus commends His soul to God and like a tired child closes His fevered eyes in the sleep of death.

Jesus is preparing to give to you the clearest testimony of His unequalled love, and when overshadowed by approaching death, He turns to Him who is Love Itself, to the Father. There you too will turn when the shadows close in upon you, knowing that the Father's eyes watch you, the Father's hand clasps yours and guides your faltering steps, and through the Heart of Jesus the Father warms your chilled heart.

(*"The Our Father in Gethsemane"* by Fr. Francis Donnelly, S.J.)

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.

Chesterton Society

The Chesterton Society will now meet February 19, after the 6:30 pm Mass, in one of the classrooms. Essays we will discuss are: "How I Met the President", "The Giant" and "A Great Man" from *Tremendous Trifles*. Next Fr. Brown story: "The Wrong Shape." All are invited to attend.

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; Martha Robison