

**Sunday, February 3, 2013
Sexagesima Sunday**



Sun. 3 February, Sexagesima Sunday, II Class

8:30 am †Betty McCarthy Ahaesy
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm †Alfred Scott

Blessing of Throats after all Masses Today (St. Blaise)

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 4 February, St. Andrew Corsini, Bishop & Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Wynette Sills
12:15 pm Sharif Jacob

Tues. 5 February, St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am †Jonan Sneeringer
6:30 pm Fawzia Jacob

Wed. 6 February, St. Titus, Bishop & Confessor, III Class

7:00 am 40 Days for Life
12:15 pm Elizabeth Pierini

Thurs. 7 February, St. Romuald, Abbot, III Class

7:00 am Pro Life
6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality

Fri. 8 February, St. John of Matha, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Ernest & Harriet Jacob
12:15 pm The Downing Family
6:30 pm Carol A. Christ

Sat. 9 February, St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am †David & Michael O'Brien
9:00 am Holy Priests

Sun. 10 February, Quinquagesima Sunday, II Class

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

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

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)

Rosa Mystica Bake Sale

Rosa Mysitca 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. 3—Blessing of Throats after all Masses today
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

Modesty

Perfect chastity presupposes an absolute dominion of spirit over matter. However, there is in us a disordered tendency toward sensible pleasure which is opposed to this dominion; even souls consecrated to God bear the treasure of chastity *in earthen vessels*, in the fragile vessel of flesh, which is attracted by satisfactions of the senses... "One who makes a vow to God of perfect chastity must struggle by prayer and penance, in order to preserve its integrity"—by prayer because no one can be chaste unless God grants it to him, by penance and mortification because the body must be subject to the spirit.

It is modesty which *moderates* and regulates all our actions, both interior and exterior, according to our vocation. St. Paul recommends this virtue to all Christians: "Let your modesty be known to all men." Souls consecrated to God are obliged to observe modesty more strictly, because they are called by their state of life to preserve the treasure of absolute chastity intact; therefore, they need to practice *mortification* of the senses more assiduously and delicately. They must be like men who, possessing material treasures of great value, take all necessary measures and precautions to protect them from thieves. "Brethren, be sober and watch," says St. Peter, for the enemy is always lying in wait.

The vow of chastity, by consecrating the body to God, also consecrates the senses. For this reason they must be freed from the base things of earth in order to be wholly employed in the service of God.

The more a soul aspires to the total gift of self and intimate union with God, the more its conduct must be imbued with perfect modesty—modesty of countenance, gesture, and manner. "Be modest in every action or conversation," St. Teresa of Avila instructs her daughters. St. Teresa Margaret of the Heart of Jesus "kept such a perfect restraint and guard over her faculties and senses that she refused herself every glance and every word which did not have in some way some reference to God." The golden rule of St. John of the Cross was *to use the senses solely for the service and glory of God and to raise the heart to Him*, which, in practice, means using them only as they are required for the accomplishment of one's duties or for an honorable or just purpose; "with this exception all must be left free for God." Therefore the soul must carefully guard its sight and hearing from vain curiosity, images, and news; for these encumber it uselessly and give entrance to impressions which are not entirely pure or holy.

Modesty, however, is not only a weapon of defense for chastity; it is the bulwark of the interior life. Only a soul who knows how to guard the senses is capable of recollecting itself interiorly in order to live in intimacy with God. By detaching the senses from earthly things, modesty concentrates and fixes them on God. "We put to death the curiosity of our eyes when, turning them away from all useless things, we fix them on ourselves, on the movements of our heart, and on the heart of Jesus." This is the positive value of modesty. Only one who loves God very much can impose such a discipline on himself.

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

Failure

We have looked into what sort of a presence Jesus was, at what was the character of His earthly existence. We thought to find the answer in considering Him as One Who "passed by." He was in the world, entered into the life of the world, into everything that makes it the kind of world it is. He took upon Himself the human condition, in its profoundest depths as well as its externals. He held back in nothing. He truly became "One of us, like us in all things except sin." But the manner in which He was all these things, the characteristic of His existence in the world of men, was that of someone passing by. And when we go deeply into ourselves we can feel that sublime unknown that was in Him. Put this same question once again, thus: What did all His dealings, and His struggles, and His doings add up to? And the answer is, they all took the shape of failure.

Is it not almost a precondition for failure that He who set out to be the Savior of the world should have been born in Palestine, no more than a tiny corner of the world of that time? No one of importance could really take it seriously. When Christ's accusers tried to advise as to the proper procedure in the matter, we mark the lack of esteem in his answer. "Am I a Jew?" asked Pilate.

And again, the place where He was born was that very bit of this small corner of the world which the Jewish people itself had the least regard for, Galilee. When Philip came to Nathanael saying, "We have discovered who it was Moses wrote of in his law, and the prophets too; it is Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth," we read astonishment in the answer: "Can anything that is good come from Nazareth?" Anything worth taking seriously?

...In the sense that He might have achieved a clear victory over the powers of darkness, He did not win out. In the historical sense they defeated Him.

But at the same time He knew well that, in God's order, "I have mastered the world."

The abiding figure of Jesus' life is failure, defeat. Humanly speaking, there has never been a great personality, filled with the glories of the spirit and endowed with grace, who came to such a wretched end as He did. Unless we open ourselves to this fact, the figure of Our Lord and His earthly life may appear trivial and idyllic, and its immense majesty will escape us.

...Failure lies at the heart of the life of Christ. It points the way, like the notion of passage, to the understanding of His intimate self.

(*excerpts taken from "Jesus Christ" by Romano Guardini*)

Lenten Mission

Fr. Simon Harkins will preach a Lenten Mission for us March 8th and 9th and preach at the 10:30 Mass on the 10th. The title of the Conference will be "Deus Deus Meus—Far From My Salvation are the Words of My Sins." Schedule: Friday beginning with 6:30 pm Mass; Saturday beginning with 9:00 am Mass—following Mass will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Conference and Confessions, ending with Benediction. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to grow in grace!

Little Flower Request

Do you have any of these items that you would like to donate?.... Little Flowers Girls Club is in need of a few things for their art projects. Low-temp glue guns, needle nose pliers, washable markers, and colored pencils. Before you discard any craft supplies, please check to see if it could be of use. Any of these items can be left in the Parish Office or 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.

2013 Annual Retreat—July 8—12

Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP will be preaching our retreat this year. More details will be available soon. If you would like to hold a space call the parish office or stop in the bookstore. Space is limited.

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.

Being Jesus for Mary

If we are to love Our Lady as sons and daughters, we have a very holy Model to copy; and that is Jesus, Mary's Son, our divine Brother.

The greatest disciples of Mary are those who resemble Jesus the most in being Mary's own, as He was, and in loving her like a son, as He did. It is these who reach the point of *being Jesus for Mary*. In this way the highest kind of devotion to Mary is found only in one who has become transformed and identified with Jesus, whereby he can truthfully repeat with St. Paul, "*I live now not with my own life, but with the life of Christ who lives in me.*"

It cannot be otherwise. To grow in the spiritual life means to make *the old man*—which is our selfishness—die within us, in order for Jesus to live there, who is *the new man*, by our adopting His sentiments, His way of life in our thoughts, words, affections, desires, and deeds.

The selfsame love of Jesus for His divine Mother thus becomes also the love of one who has reached this identification with Jesus, and this is so in the measure of one's conformity with Him. When a person is interiorly "one" with Jesus, he is also "one" with Jesus in loving Our Lady; although no one, not even all creatures together, could ever exhaust the infinite magnitude of Jesus' love for His Mother. It is something that will delight us forever in Paradise.

(*"Devotion to Our Lady" by Fr. Stefano Manelli, FI*)

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

Annual Catholic Appeal NEXT SUNDAY

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.

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