

**Sunday, March 31, 2013
Easter Sunday**



Sun. 31 March, Easter Sunday, 1 Class

8:30 am Fr. McNeely
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Joe & Angela Patch

No Vespers today

Mon. 1 April, Easter Monday, 1 Class

7:00 am Wynette Sills
12:15 pm Victoria Mercado

Tues. 2 April, Easter Tuesday, 1 Class

7:00 am †Jonan Sneeringer
6:30 pm Gian Paolo Flores & Family

Wed. 3 April, Easter Wednesday, 1 Class

7:00 am Jose Yumena
12:15 pm Elizabeth Pierini

Thurs. 4 April, Easter Thursday, 1 Class

7:00 am Ricardo Yumena
6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality

Fri. 5 April, Easter Friday, 1 Class

7:00 am Fr. Matthew McNeely
12:15 pm Ignacio Mercado
6:30 pm †Martha Robison

Sat. 6 April, Easter Saturday, 1 Class

7:00 am †Lawrence Capraro
9:00 am Teofilo Yumena

Sun. 7 April, Low Sunday, 1 Class (Mercy Sunday)

8:30 am Ricardo Yumena
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Ignacio Yumena

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet, 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, †Forrest Long,
†Jenna Telles, †Bernard Beronio

Important Upcoming Dates

April 7—Low Sunday “Divine Mercy 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

Whom Seek You?

In the Masses of Easter week the Gospels recount the various apparitions of the risen Jesus; the first, and one of the most moving, is that to Mary Magdalene. In this episode Mary appears with her characteristic trait, that of a soul completely possessed by the love of God. When she reaches the sepulcher, she has scarcely seen “the stone rolled away,” before she is seized with one only anxiety: “They have taken away my Lord.” Who could have taken Him? Where could they have put Him? She repeats these questions to everyone she meets, supposing that they are filled with a like apprehension. She tells it to Peter and John who come running to see for themselves; she tells it to the Angels, and she tells it even to Jesus. The other women, finding the sepulcher open, go in to find out what has happened, but Magdalene runs off quickly to bring the news to the Apostles. Then she returns. What will she do near that empty tomb? She does not know, but love has impelled her to return, and it keeps her at the place where the body of the Master had been, the body that she wants to find at any cost.

She sees the Angels, but she does not marvel or become frightened like the other women; she is so possessed by her grief that there is no room in her soul for other emotions. When the Angels ask her: “Woman, why weepest thou?” she has only one answer: “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him.” Later, Jesus asks her the same question and Mary, absorbed in her same thoughts, does not even recognize Him, but “thinking that it was the gardener,” she says to Him: “Sir, if thou hast taken Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away.” The thought of finding Jesus so occupies her mind that she does not even feel the need of giving His name; it seems to her that everyone must be thinking of Him, that everyone would understand immediately—as though everyone were in the same state of mind as she.

When love of God and desire for Him have taken full possession of a soul, there is no longer room in it for other loves, other desires, other preoccupations. All its movements are directed to God, and through all things the soul does nothing but seek God alone.

“If a soul seeks for God, her Beloved seeks for her even more.” Mary sought with much love, and lo! The Lord Himself seeks her, and seeks her calling, “Mary!” Although He has risen gloriously, Jesus is always the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep individually; and He “calleth His own sheep by name. . . and the sheep follow Him because they know His voice.” When Mary hears her name, she recognizes the Lord and cries: “Rabboni! Master!”

Once again Mary is at the feet of Jesus, her favorite place. We saw her in the same attitude at Bethany, while Martha was busy preparing the meal. We remember her in the house of Simon the leper, the Saturday before the Passion, when she broke the vase of precious ointment, pouring it over the feet of Jesus, bathing those feet with her tears and wiping them with her hair. We met her again at the foot of the Cross, unwilling to tear herself away from the Crucified. Always it is the same ardent love which makes her forgetful, makes her indifferent to everything else. Mary seeks only the Lord, she wants Him and Him alone; the rest does not interest her, does not concern her.

“Whom seekest thou?” It is to each one of us, as to Mary Magdalene, that Jesus addresses this question today. Can we reply that we are seeking Him alone? Jesus appeared to Mary who “loved Him much” before appearing to the other holy women. If we wish to find the Lord quickly, we must love Him much and seek Him with great love.

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

*The Priests of
St. Stephen, the First Martyr Parish
Wish all our parishioners a very blessed and joyful Easter!
God bless you.*

Apologetical Gluttony

We might call the First Deadly Sin of Catholic Apologetics the Sin of Biting Off More than You Can Chew. Not ordinary gluttony; this is a failure to respect the limits of what apologetics can accomplish. We might also have named this the Deadly Sin of Apologetical Gluttony.

What are the limits of apologetics? Subject matter is one. Some things are beyond the human mind’s power to know on its own. Even in the natural order, some mysteries, both scientific and philosophical, are impenetrable by the human mind. And if our knowledge of the natural world is limited, as it seems to be, how much more must be our knowledge of the supernatural order, of God and the things of God?

Unfortunately, some apologists try to prove the un-provable. They forget that apologetics is a branch of sacred theology, which rests on the supernatural mysteries of divine revelation, the word of God, and upon faith. Human reason cannot, on its own power, come to know supernatural mysteries; they are above the “natural light of reason.” They require *revelation* on God’s part and *faith* on ours if we are going to affirm them.

Read *How Not to Share Your Faith* by Mark Brumley and read more about this “First Deadly Sin of Catholic Apologetics” along with the other six.

“In writing about the seven deadly sins of apologetics, Brumley is not rejecting apologetics but rather defending it from itself. He shows how an apologetics that seeks to prove too much can undermine the very faith it is intended to support. He also shows how an apologetics that builds on reason alone, instead of deferring to the word of God, can impoverish the faith of Christians, as did liberal Protestantism.” ~ Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J. (available at St. Stephen’s Bookstore)

**“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.”

Camp Sacred Heart 2013

Camp Sacred Heart will be held June 16—22 this year. Registration is open to boys age 9—18, boys unknown to the chaplain must get a letter of recommendation from a priest.

For more information call the parish office or 916-223-3112. Forms may be obtained by e-mail @ stephenproto@yahoo.com You may also stop by the parish office or bookstore.

Sponsors needed for Camp

If you are able to help sponsor a boy for camp, there is a great need, especially for large families. Your help is very much appreciated!

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.

BABY BOTTLE PROJECT: Thank you to all who have participated in the Sacramento Life Center Baby Bottle Project during Lent. If you still have a bottle, please return it as soon as possible.

The Relationship of Faith

If we are to try to understand the heart of Christ, the beloved disciple John is the person to go to. It was he who heard that heart beating at the Last Supper, and between himself and Jesus there was an intimacy equaled perhaps only by our Lady. He had understood our Lord’s love for people and that is why he goes out of his way to tell us of it. “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,” plain simple people like you and me, making himself one with them, sharing their table and home.

When the Master came and called for Mary “she rose quickly and went to him.” In the scene we see Jesus calling and Mary responding immediately. Then we are told that our Lord entered so deeply into Mary’s sorrow that he too wept. The Word of God, second Person of the Blessed Trinity, wept because one whom He loved was sorrowful. He had a wonderful capacity for compassion; He never adopted a superior attitude, as if their sadness did not matter; He entered into their feelings. He was close to Mary, His beloved child and disciple, in her weeping.

This leads us to a particular problem which crops up very often in the spiritual life. Quite a number of people admit frankly that our Lord seems “remote.” “I can understand Mary responding to him, they will say, “because she saw him often, heard him, and he came often to their home. It was comparatively easy for her to believe in Him and love him but to me he seems almost unreal.” Many who realize that the Master should mean much to them in their daily lives have this problem. In spite of daily Communion, meditations, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, our Lord is for them someone distant, someone who is not making the sort of impact on their minds and hearts which enables them to respond quickly and eagerly. They feel that if he were more real to them they would respond, as Mary did, with all that they have.

First of all, let us have no illusions. It is a fact that if we have a lack of faith in the Master who is invisible, we should have had likewise a lack of faith in the Master who was visible. Faith does not increase by sight or by touch. If our Lord appeared here and now, we should each respond in the measure of our present faith and love. The people He spoke to every day, did they all believe in Him? The apostles spent more than two years in His presence, watching Him, eating with Him, having the sense of being loved and cared for by Him in a special way. How deep did their faith go? It was not until the sending of the Holy Spirit that their faith really became a light in their lives, the abiding principle of their lives, when it was possible for them to establish a really intimate relationship with our Lord.

That is why our Lord told the apostles that it was better for Him to go. He had to go; otherwise they would never have got to know each other deeply. (Read more in “*Help My Unbelief!*” by Bonaventure Perquin, O.P.)

**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. 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; Ken Taylor, Peter Van Steyn, Elizabeth Van Steyn, Dr. Gerald Foy, Patricia Greco; Eleanor Knecht