

Sunday, April 14, 2013
2nd Sunday after Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday



Sun. 14 April, 2nd Sunday after Easter, II Class

8:30 am †Poblio Uclaray
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Richard Alfred Becker

3:00 Confirmation

Mon. 15 April, Feria of Paschaltide, IV Class

7:00 am Pat & Anne Cummings
 12:15 pm †Basilio Uclaray

Tues. 16 April, Feria of Paschaltide, IV Class

7:00 am †Cipriana Costales
 6:30 pm Leandro Uclaray

Wed. 17 April, St. Anicetus, Pope & Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am Robert Ball
 12:15 pm †Narcisco Costales

Thurs. 18 April, Feria of Paschaltide, IV Class

7:00 am Vincent Tran
 6:30 pm FSSP Priests

Fri. 19 April, Feria of Paschaltide, IV Class

7:00 am †Anthony Luevano
 12:15 pm †Trespola Paranaque
 6:30 pm Rheate Y. Lucina

Sat. 20 April, Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class

7:00 am Fr. McNeely
 9:00 am †Julia Costales

Sun. 21 April, 3rd Sunday after Easter, II Class

8:30 am †Calixta Paranaque
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Bernard Beronio

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, †Forrest Long,
 †Jenna Telles, †Bernard Beronio, †Georgia Munsill

Important Upcoming Dates

April 14—Confirmation 3:00 pm

April 18—CSP Evening of Recollection

May 4—May Procession
 May 9—Ascension of Our Lord
 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 Life of Prayer

A soul who longs for a life of intimacy with God is not satisfied to limit its relations with Him to the time of prayer, but tries to extend them throughout the whole day. This is a rightful desire, for one who loves tries to prolong continuously his relations with the beloved. This is true, therefore, of a soul who loves God; and its desire is the more easily realized, since God Himself is always with us; He is always present and working in us. We are treating, it is true, of a presence which is spiritual and invisible; it is, however, *real* and not merely affective and moral, as is the presence of a loved one in the heart and mind of a lover.

If God is always with us, why can we not be always in continual contact with Him? This contact is realized by thought and love, but much more by the latter than by the former. In fact, it is impossible to be always thinking of God, partly because the mind becomes tired and partly because our many occupations demand all the application of our intellect, which cannot pay attention to two different things at the same time. The heart, on the other hand, can always love, even when the mind is busy elsewhere; and it never grows weary of tending toward the object of its love. Since supernatural love does not consist in sentiment, but in an intimate orientation of the will toward God, we know that this turning is possible, even during the performance of duties which absorb all our attention. The will can strengthen this orientation of itself toward God precisely by the desire to fulfill each duty for love of Him, to please Him and give glory to Him. St. Thomas says that the heart can always tend Godward by “the desire of charity,” that is, by the desire to love Him, to serve Him, and to be united to Him in every action. “Prayer is nothing but a desire of the heart; if your desire is continuous, your prayer is continuous. Do you wish never to cease praying? Then never cease desiring.” (St. Augustine)

Since prayer does not consist in thinking much but in loving much, a life of continual prayer will consist much more in love than in thought. Nevertheless, a certain amount of mental activity is necessary, either to direct the heart toward God, or to maintain it in this direction.

The soul who applies itself well to mental prayer will easily be able to collect in itself some good thoughts which it can use during the day to keep its heart turned toward God. Therefore, it will be useful for the soul to try to recall these thoughts often in the midst of its occupations, and to apply them practically to its life.

Thus, for example, if during prayer, we have been considering God’s infinite mercy toward us, we shall strive to preserve this thought even during our occupations, recognizing many signs of this mercy in the various circumstances in which we find ourselves. In fact, many happenings which, from a purely human point of views, are unpleasant and painful, hide, in reality, great mercies of the Lord who, by means of the sorrows, fatigues, and the trials of life, wants to detach us from creatures, make us practice virtue, and advance in goodness. Likewise, in our dealings with our neighbor, we shall try to imitate God’s mercy. “Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.” Although our prayer was spent in aridity, without leaving us any definite thought, but only a deeper realization of our nothingness and the infinite greatness of God, we shall make a treasure of it by attempting during the day to fulfill our duties in a spirit of humility and homage to God. We shall rejoice if some opportunity occurs for humbling ourselves, acknowledging our littleness—even before creatures— and exalting the grandeurs of the Lord.

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

From Slave to Priest

*A Biography of the Rev. Augustine Tolton,
 The First Black Priest of the United States*

Fr. Augustine Tolton (1854-1897) was the first black priest in the United States. Born into a black Catholic slave family, Father Tolton conquered almost insurmountable odds to become a Catholic priest, and at his early death at 43, this pioneer black American priest left behind a shining legacy of holy service to God, the Church and his people.

With thorough scholarly research and inspirational writing by Sister Caroline Hemesath, the great legacy of this first black priest in the U.S., and his courage in the face of incredible prejudice, will be a source of strength and hope for modern Christians who face persecution for their faith.

He endured many rebuffs, as a janitor he spent long hours in the church chapel in prayer, and he attended clandestine classes taught by friendly priests and nuns who saw in his eyes the bright spark of the love of God, devotion to the Church and a determination to serve his people. Denied theological training in America, these friends helped him to receive his priestly education and ordination in Rome. He later became the pastor of St. Monica’s Church in Chicago and established a center at St. Monica’s which was the focal point for the life of black Catholics in Chicago for 30 years.

The author interviewed many people who knew Father Tolton personally (including St. Katharine Drexel), and she presents a deeply inspiring portrait of a great American Catholic.

(Available at St. Stephen’s 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. For more information call 916-223-3112 or visit the website @ www.syversentouring.com/confraternity

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

Retreat is well over half full—sign-up today!

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.

Chesterton Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 16th after the 6:30 pm Mass.

The readings for April are as follows:
 From Tremendous Trifles - "A Cab Ride Across the Country",
 "The Two Noises" and "Some Policemen and a Moral"
 From Father Brown - "The Hammer of God"

All are welcome! Please join us.

The Holy Will of God

Life on earth seems charming, particularly to younger people who have not as yet been make acquainted with failures, trials, mishaps and sufferings. With time, however, all children of the world are disappointed in their hunt for true happiness. They realize the indubitable fact that there are more thorns than roses in human life.

At least ninety-nine percent of the worldlings feel discounted, and many of them are utterly unhappy. Why? Because they have taken the wrong road to happiness.

What is the spirit of the world? What is the leading idea of its life and strivings? An easy-going existence, absolute freedom in every regard, complete independence, even from God and His eternal laws. In other words, man wants to be like God. . . In a wrong sense.

Meanwhile, peace and happiness are in store for man in humble submission to the eternal, immutable, infinitely adorable Will of his Creator. To tread the road to happiness, man must recognize his true condition, which is one of absolute dependence on God, and consequently, of complete dependence on God’s representatives on earth, as well. To feel and to see things otherwise means to put oneself in a false position, and thus to deprive oneself of real happiness.

Freedom? . . . Yes—man can and should have it as far as it proves essential to permanent happiness. All depends, however, upon the kind of freedom he covets. If he insists upon his alleged right to follow his natural inclinations, his likes and dislikes in everything, though he knows and feels that his nature is more prone to evil than to good, then he gradually draws away from God, the eternal source of true happiness. The only kind of freedom that becomes Christians and results in real happiness is the “freedom of the children of God.” It means freedom—real, perfect freedom—within the limits of Divine law, Divine Will.

Alas, the vast majority of mankind discard this genuine freedom since it is connected with self-control, with many acts of self-denial, and with solid virtue. They prefer unlimited freedom, not excepting the freedom to offend God. Is it a wonder, then, that peace and happiness have almost completely disappeared from our earth, so as to make it a real valley of tears?

Godless people are wont to complain that human life is only too often like Hell. They fail, however, to explain that they themselves are building and shaping that earthly hell, while revolting against the Maker of Heaven and earth and disregarding His commandments, insulting His Infinite Majesty or even denying His very existence. Yes, earthly life undoubtedly is a clear prelude to Hell, once people forget their Father in Heaven, since there is no perfect justice here below and never will be, on account of the basic imperfection of human nature, and much more as a result of Original Sin.

(available at St. Stephens Bookstore)

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