

Sunday, May 19, 2013
Pentecost Sunday



Sun. 19 May, Pentecost Sunday, I Class

8:30 am Teresita Harbaugh
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm All Dairy Farmers

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 20 May, Monday after Pentecost, I Class

7:00 am †father of Dale Codiphly
12:15 pm Michael Szumowski

Tues. 21 May, Tuesday after Pentecost, I Class

7:00 am Marie Merino & Family
6:30 pm Peter Yzaguirre

Wed. 22 May, Ember Wednesday of Pentecost, I Class

7:00 am †Deceased of St. Rose of Lima Parish
12:15 pm Family of Mr. Andrew Solari

Thurs. 23 May, Thursday after Pentecost, I Class

7:00 am Joseph W. Haun & Family
6:30 pm Michael Trainor

Fri. 24 May, Ember Friday of Pentecost, I Class

7:00 am Mr. Vernon & Joanne Baray
12:15 pm Celia McQuillan
6:30 pm Nicolini Brothers

Sat. 25 May, Ember Saturday of Pentecost, I Class

7:00 am Dan Lightfoot & Family
9:00 am Family of Peter Kartzarian

Sun. 26 May, Trinity Sunday, I Class

8:30 am Dixon Haun & Family
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Catherine Kaehler

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.

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.

...In Memoriam

†Ray Keller, †Elin Frances Terra, †Martha Robison,
†Gabriel Vargas, †Olympia Gonzalez, †Forrest Long,
†Jenna Telles, †Bernard Beronio, †Georgia Munsill
†Patricia Greco, †Draga Kozina

Important Upcoming Dates

May 21—Chesterton Society Meeting
May 24—World Day of Prayer for the Church in China
June 1—Ordinations in Nebraska
June 13—Fatima Procession
June 16-22—Camp Sacred Heart
July 8—12 Annual Parish Retreat (Preached by Fr. Goodwin)
July 26—27—N.CA Home School Conference—St. Stephens
Aug. 4—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance

The Spirit of Christ

In Sacred Scripture, the Holy Spirit is called “the Spirit of Christ,” an expression that is pregnant with meaning. Christ is the Incarnate Word. Although He became Man, He remains the Word, the Son of God. From Him, as from the Father, the Holy Spirit proceeds; therefore, the Holy Spirit is properly termed the Spirit of Christ, because the Person of Christ is none other than that of the Word. When we speak of Christ, however, we do not speak of Him as God only but also, and especially, as Man, that is, as the *Incarnate* Word. In this sense too, it can be said that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. We know, in fact, that the divine Paraclete, with the Father and the Son, dwells in every soul that is in the state of grace, and not only does He dwell there, but He delights to abide there. The higher the degree of grace He finds in a soul, the greater is His delight, for wherever grace is more abundant, there is a more intense and luminous reflection of God's nature and goodness. This is why the Holy Spirit took such great complacency in the soul of the Blessed Virgin, who, although she was full of grace, continually grew from plenitude to plenitude. Yet the grace possessed by Mary was but a pale reflection of the grace which filled the soul of Jesus, grace which theologians call “infinite.”

If, then, Jesus possessed grace in an infinite manner, it can be said that the Holy Spirit took complacency in the soul of Christ in an infinite manner and dwelt there as in His temple of predilection. This idea is expressed in the Encyclical *Mystici Corporis*, when it says that the divine Paraclete “finds His delight in dwelling in the soul of the Redeemer as in His favorite temple.” And if we can say that the Holy Spirit is *ours* because He dwells in our souls sanctified by grace, with infinitely greater reason can we say that He is “Christ's,” whose sacred soul possesses grace in an immeasurable degree.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and dwells in Him as in His chosen temple. The Holy Spirit is in the soul of Christ to bear it continually to God, to direct it in the accomplishment of its redemptive mission and to the fulfillment of the will of the heavenly Father. We see this in the Gospel where St. Luke, after describing Jesus' baptism, when the Holy Spirit “descended in a bodily shape, as a dove, upon Him,” adds “Jesus, being full of the Holy Ghost, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the desert.” This is an explicit statement of the immeasurable plenitude with which the Holy Spirit dwelt in the soul of Jesus; without doubt, this plenitude existed from the first moment of the Savior's life, but God wished to make it sensibly manifest at the time of His baptism. It is also a striking example of the unceasing operation of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' soul, inspiring all His actions and guiding Him to the accomplishment of His redemptive mission. According to St. Paul: “By the Holy Ghost, Christ offered Himself unpotted unto God.” If we wish a more profound understanding of this mysterious action of the divine Paraclete in the sacred soul of Jesus, it will suffice to think of what He accomplishes in a soul who has reached the transformation of love. St. John of the Cross teaches that, in this very exalted state, the Holy Spirit invades the soul, henceforth totally docile to His motions; He directs it and moves it in all its acts, impelling it unceasingly toward God by a perfect adherence to His divine will. The Holy Spirit accomplished immeasurably more in the sol of Christ which was supremely capable of docility and correspondence to His inspirations. The divine Spirit encountered the sublime creature, the soul of Jesus; He invaded it, directed it, guided it in the accomplishment of its mission and brought it to God with unparalleled transports, because it was completely under His sway.

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

The Holy Spirit Within

By St. John of Avila

You know, of course, my brethren, that although the feasts of God are past events as far as history is concerned, the effects of these feasts are still with us. The time when Jesus Christ suffered is over. How unfortunate for us if the effects of His sufferings were over also. What would happen to us if the effects of the Passion, which took place over 1,000 years ago, were not to last? But they will persist to the end of the world. And although the feast of the Holy Spirit took place for the first time many years ago, you must bear in mind that the coming of the Holy Spirit will have exactly the same effect on your soul today, as it would have had in the time of the apostles: take care that you receive Him well.

Oh, who would not wish to have seen Jesus Christ when He was on earth suffering such hardships and to have been able to ask favors of Him! If when He was in the world you could have thrown yourself at His feet, you feel certain that by virtue of His mercy and His infinite charity He would not have refused your requests. Do you believe this, brethren? Believe then that He is as ready and as willing to grant you those favors today though He is in heaven as ever He was when He lived amongst us on earth. And if at this time in your preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit, you do everything that is necessary, I tell you on His behalf that the Holy Spirit will come to you bringing grace, just as He did to the apostles while they were living in the world.

The *first* requirement for the coming of the Holy Spirit to our souls is that we should be aware of His power, and that we should believe that He can accomplish marvels. However sad a soul may be, He is sufficient to console it; however worthless, he can make it valuable; however lukewarm, he can fire it; however weak, He can strengthen it; however lacking in piety, He can inflame it with ardent devotion. What is the way to bring the Holy Spirit to us? It is to be aware of His might. And it has been said of the might of the Holy Spirit: “For, great is the power of God alone: and He is honored by the humble.”

The *second* requirement for the Holy Spirit to be willing to come into our hearts is to have the will to receive Him as our guest, sincerely and anxiously to desire His coming. “Oh, if only the Holy Spirit would come! Oh, if that Comforter would only visit me and console my soul!”

Be devoted and faithful in the service of Jesus Christ and in your hopes for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and have no dealings with evil and meanness, because the consolation of the Spirit is very gentle. Very little will hinder its coming and it does not take pleasure in the things of this world. St. Bernard says: “The Divine consolation is gentle and exacting, and it is not given to those who accept human consolation.” Let every soul rid itself of human consolation if it wishes the Holy Spirit to console it and wishes His consolation to remain always with it. For, as we said, it is right and proper that the Holy Spirit should wish to be desired.

(Available at St. Stephen's Bookstore)

~ Summer Dress Code ~

Please recall that everyone is expected to dress with modesty and in a way befitting the house of God. Our choice of clothing is an expression of our worship; it may also affect the ability of others to worship. Dress should conceal rather than reveal. There is a sign in the vestibule that gives more details regarding proper dress. It is further expected that modesty in dress be maintained on the church grounds at all times.

We do request that the correction of strangers in this matter be left to the priests or their delegates.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne, Elizabeth Pierini, Charles Cantoni, Hayden Garcia, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes; Lori Bates; Ken Taylor, Dr. Gerald Foy,

Start Saving!!

Start saving white elephant prizes gently used or new for the *Fatima's Bazaar Booth* at the Pig Roast.

Help will be needed as well. For more information call Fatima 916-451-9752. Prizes may be left at the parish office.

Reminder for the May Chesterton Society meeting:

May 21st at 7:30pm.

The reading for the May meeting will be:

From Tremendous Trifles:

"The Lion"

"Humanity: an Interlude"

"The Little Birds Who Won't Sing"

The Father Brown Story will be "The Eye of Apollo"

All are welcome 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 with Pope Francis, 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

"Holy Mass - Gate to Heaven"
2013 Annual Retreat—July 8—12

About 10 more spaces available—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.

World day of Prayer for the Church in China

Prayer to Our Lady of Sheshan
by Pope Benedict XVI

Virgin Most Holy, Mother of the Incarnate Word and our Mother, venerated in the Shrine of Sheshan under the title “Help of Christians,” the entire Church in China looks to you with devout affection. We come before you today to implore your protection. Look upon the People of God and, with a mother's care, guide them along the paths of truth and love, so that they may always be a leaven of harmonious coexistence among all citizens.

When you obediently said “Yes” in the house of Nazareth, you allowed God's eternal Son to take flesh in your virginal womb and thus to begin in history the work of our redemption. You willingly and generously cooperated in that work, allowing the sword of pain to pierce your soul, standing beside your Son, who died that we might live.

From that moment, you became, in a new way, the Mother of all those who receive your Son Jesus in faith and choose to follow in His footsteps by taking up his Cross. Mother of hope, in the darkness of Holy Saturday you journeyed with unflinching trust towards the dawn of Easter. Grant that your children may discern at all times, even those that are darkest, the signs of God's loving presence.

Our Lady of Sheshan, sustain all those in China, who, amid their daily trials, continue to believe, to hope, to love. May they never be afraid to speak of Jesus to the world, and of the world to Jesus. In the statue overlooking the Shrine you lift your Son on high, offering Him to the world with open arms in a gesture of love. Help Catholics always to be credible witnesses to this love, ever clinging to the rock of Peter on which the Church is built. Mother of China and all Asia, pray for us, now and for ever. Amen!