

Sunday, May 12, 2013
Sunday after the Ascension



Sun. 12 May, Sunday after the Ascension, II Class

8:30 am Catherine Fippin
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Anthony Nicolini

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 13 May, St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am Suffering Souls in Purgatory
 12:15 pm Rose / Racquel Magabo
 6:30 pm Special Intention

Tues. 14 May, St. Boniface, Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am Nestor & Celia Bacani Family
 6:30 pm †Ron Ertl

Wed. 15 May, St. John Baptist de la Salle, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Donna Earnest
 12:15 pm Jeffrey Long

Thurs. 16 May, St. Ubaldus, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Jennie Tomasi
 6:30 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Fri. 17 May, St. Paschal Baylon, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Rose Wedinsky
 12:15 pm Pat Feldman
 6:30 pm Bob Mansgher

Sat. 18 May, Vigil of Pentecost, I Class

7:00 am Charles & Loretta Cantoni
 9:00 am Barbara Ryan

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

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
 †Patricia Greco, †Draga Kozina

Important Upcoming Dates

May 13—Fatima Procession following special 6:30 pm Mass
 May 21—Chesterton Society Meeting
 June 1—Ordinations in Nebraska
 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

Waiting

This Sunday is like a prolongation of the Feast of the Ascension. The Introit reflects the feelings which the Apostles must have experienced during the time between the departure of Jesus and the descent of the Holy Spirit: "Hear, O Lord, my voice calling to You... I seek Your face, O Lord, do not hide Your face from me." As on the day of the Ascension, the eyes of the Apostles are turned toward heaven, where they saw their Master disappear, and their hearts sigh after Him. As long as we are on our earthly pilgrimage, far from God, He must be the constant yearning of our souls. But we should not remain idle while we are waiting to go to our fatherland. In the Epistle of the day Peter teaches us what we must do to make our life on earth a real preparation for our meeting with God: "Watch in prayers. But before all things, have a constant mutual charity among yourselves." This is exactly what the Apostles did as they waited for the Holy Spirit: together in the Cenacle they were persevering in prayer in the unity of fraternal love. God does not look with favor on the prayers and sacrifices of one who does not love his neighbor—no matter who he may be—with sincere benevolence. Jesus has expressly said: "If therefore thou offer thy gift at the altar, and there thou remember that thy brother hath anything against thee; leave there thy offering. . . and go first to be reconciled to thy brother." Prayer alone will not suffice to draw down divine graces, nor will it acquire eternal life for us. Fraternal charity, the surest pledge of the sincerity of our love for God, is an absolute requisite. The Holy Spirit, who is the spirit of charity, who is substantial love, cannot enter a heart which is narrow and mean in its relations with its neighbor; lack of charity is one of the greatest obstacles to His action, because it is directly opposed to His essence. Just as water paralyzes the action of fire, so does lack of charity paralyze the action of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, as long as we live on earth, we are all liable to fall; all of us, therefore, need pardon; "charity," says the Epistle, "covers a multitude of sins."

In today's Gospel Jesus reiterates His promise concerning the descent of the Holy Spirit; "When the Paraclete cometh, whom I will send you from the Father. . .you shall give testimony of Me." As on the day of His Ascension, He connects the coming of the Holy Spirit with the mission of the Apostles, that mission which will consist essentially in giving testimony of Christ. "You shall receive the power of the Holy Spirit. . .and you shall be witnesses unto Me. . .even to the uttermost part of the earth." Today's Gospel explains the scope of this testimony which the Apostles, as well as all future Christians, will be called upon to give. "They will put you out of the synagogues; yea, the hour cometh that whosoever killeth you, will think that he doth a service to God." Jesus died on the Cross to give testimony to the Father; His disciples will have to suffer, undergo persecution, and even death itself, to give testimony to Him. We cannot follow a road different from the one which Jesus has trodden; "If any man will come after Me, let him. . .take up his cross and follow Me," He repeats to us. A calm, tranquil testimony, which is made without facing danger—still less of risking life—will always have only relative value and ordinarily gives no guarantee of its genuineness or its strength; on the contrary, the more it costs, the greater its value in proving the fidelity of him who renders it. To witness to Christ, without regarding the difficulties, sufferings or struggles that may be encountered, is the program of the true Christian.

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

Camp Sacred Heart 2013

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

Holy Water

When they enter a church, Catholics first go to a font or basin containing Holy Water, dip their fingers into it and make an ordinary Sign of the Cross on their persons.

This Holy Water is ordinary water to which a little salt has been added and which has been blessed by a priest with a formal and official blessing in the name of the Church, which blessing also includes an exorcism of the devil.

There is abundant evidence that Holy Water has been used in the Church from early times. St. Epiphanius records that at Tiberias a man called Joseph poured water on an insane person, having first made the Sign of the Cross and pronounced these words over the water: "In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, crucified, depart from this unhappy man, thou infernal spirit, and let him be healed!" Theodoret relates how Aphraates cured one of the emperor's horses by making it drink water blessed by the Sign of the Cross.

It is a Catholic custom for Holy Water to be sprinkled over the people before the principal Mass each Sunday. The ceremony is called the *Asperges*, because that is the first verse of the Antiphon usually sung while it is taking place. This practice dates from at least the ninth century, according to the historical records that are available.

Salt is added to the water during the blessing of Holy Water because it is a preservative, and the use of Holy Water will preserve us against the disease of sin. Used entering the church, it reminds us that we need purifying before we enter the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Good Catholics always keep a supply of Holy Water in the home. It is required when the priest brings Holy Communion to the sick, when he administers Extreme Unction, or when he wishes to perform some special blessing. It is customarily used by all practicing Catholics morning and night, after rising and before retiring, and it is usual to keep it in fonts by the doors of the principal rooms for frequent use.

The devout use of Holy Water undoubtedly brings us many blessings from God. It is especially powerful as a safeguard against temptation and as a relief of the Poor Souls in Purgatory when sprinkled on the ground or floor on their behalf, and especially when sprinkled on their graves.

The great St. Teresa of Avila tells us the following: "I have often found by experience that there is nothing from which the devils fly more quickly and return not again than from Holy Water. They also fly from a Cross, but they return again immediately. Certainly, the power of Holy Water must be great; for my part, my soul feels particular comfort in taking it, and very generally a refreshment and interior delight which I cannot express and which comforts my soul."

("This is the Faith" by Canon Francis Ripley)

Mother's Day Rose Sale –

Today, the Sacramento Life Center is sponsoring its annual Mother's Day Rose Sale. Beautiful, long-stemmed roses, individually packaged, will be available for a \$5.00 donation after all Masses. Please consider honoring a mother, grandmother, sister, daughter, and/or friend and celebrating the sanctity of life by purchasing a rose. For more information about the Sacramento Life Center, visit their website: saclife.org

Wedding Banns

Please pray for the following couples who are preparing for the sacrament of Holy Matrimony:

Mark Kwasny & Danetta Souza (3)
 Karen Realı & Mirco Terenzoni (3)
 Anthony Jorin & Mariah Soto (3)

Wedding banns are published to provide notification of a couple's intent to marry. Any person who may know of an impediment or other reason why a particular couple should not be married has an opportunity to inform the Pastor.

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.

"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.

~ 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; Douglas McNeely