

**Sunday, July 14, 2013**  
**8th Sunday after Pentecost**



**Sun. 14 July, 8th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class**  
 8:30 am Brendan & Tomoko McDonough  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm Bob Cools

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

**Mon. 15 July, St. Henry the Emperor, Confessor, III Class**  
 7:00 am Dale & Paulette Codipilly & Family  
 12:15 pm Melody Jaime & Family

**Tues. 16 July, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, IV Class**  
 7:00 am Edith Solari & Family  
 6:30 pm †Jerry Valenti

**Wed. 17 July, St. Alexis, Confessor, IV Class**  
 7:00 am Culbreath Family  
 12:15 pm Intentions of Alexander Pince

**Thurs. 18 July, St. Camillus de Lellis, Confessor, III Class**  
 7:00 am Joseph Ducato  
 6:30 am FSSP

**Fri. 19 July, St. Vincent de Paul, Confessor, III Class**  
 7:00 am Sr. Marie Jeanne, P.C.C.  
 12:15 pm Andy Solari  
 6:30 pm †Irene Barber

**Sat. 20 July, St. Jerome Emiliani, Confessor, III, Class**  
 7:00 am †Jaema Gomez  
 9:00 am Juliann McDonough

**Sun. 21 July, 9th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class**  
 8:30 am Christina Nicolini  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm Sarah Solari & Family  
 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, †Doug McNeely, †Louis Solton

**Important Upcoming Dates**

July 16—Chesterton Society Meeting  
 Aug. 4—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance  
 Aug. 9—**Cathedral Organ Scholar Recital—Jacob Kasak. Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00 pm. All invited.**  
 Aug. 13—Fatima Procession  
 Aug. 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 Oct. 18—25th Anniversary of the Fraternity of St. Peter  
 Oct. 31—All Saints Eve Party

**The Excellence of Charity**

The three theological virtues, having God for their immediate object, are superior to the moral virtues which are directed to the government of our conduct; but among the three theological virtues, charity holds the primacy. It holds the primacy because, being inseparable from grace, it is the constitutive and indispensable element of our supernatural life. Where there is no charity there is neither grace nor life, but only death. "He that loveth not, abideth in death, and contrariwise, "He that abideth in charity abideth in God, and God in him. Faith and hope can subsist in a soul which has lost grace, but charity cannot. It is so *vital* that it cannot co-exist with the death that is caused by sin. Furthermore, it is so vital that it is imperishable and will remain unchanged for all eternity. In heaven, faith and hope will cease because they bear with them some imperfection: faith makes us know God without giving us the vision of Him, and hope lets us hope in Him without giving us possession of Him. Hence, "when that which is perfect is come," that is, the beatific vision, these two virtues will have no further reason for existing. However, it is not the same with charity which implies no imperfection, since by it, we love God either in the obscurity of faith, or in the clarity of vision, and therefore St. Paul says, "Charity never falleth away." Here on earth, to adhere to God, "these three remain: faith, hope, and charity: but the greatest of these is charity."

Faith and hope are incomplete virtues, because without charity they cannot unite us to God and produce the works of eternal life. The faith and hope of a sinner, one who has lost charity, are inactive and inoperative; they remain in him, it is true, but they are there as if dead. "Faith without works is dead," and only "faith that worketh by charity. . . availeth anything," and this to the extent, that "if I should have all faith so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." It is charity that gives the warmth and strength of eternal life to faith and hope; it is charity that infuses vigor into these virtues, for only he who loves is capable of abandoning himself to God with eyes closed.

The moral virtues can make a man honest and virtuous, and can regulate his actions according to reason, but they can in no way bring him into friendship with God or even give him the possibility of meriting eternal life. Without the life-giving breath of charity, everything is dead, sterile, cold; without charity, man is confined to the natural level; he cannot be a child of God, nor His friend; he cannot live in intimacy with the three divine Persons. Charity is the principle, root, source, and measure of our supernatural life. The more we love, the more the life of grace increases in us and the more we live in God: "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love."

It is a truly impressive thought: the greatest and most beautiful works, such as the apostolate, works of beneficence, and even martyrdom, are of no value without charity. "If I should distribute all my goods to feed the poor, and if I should deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. But when charity is present, everything changes in appearance, like a landscape under the sun's caress, and with the change in appearance, the value also changes; even the lowliest works, the most secret acts of virtue, if performed out of love for God, acquire value for eternal life. This is the miracle worked by charity, which St. Thomas calls with good reason, the "form and mother" of all the virtues. "It is love alone which gives value to all things," says St. Teresa, "and the most needful thing is that it be so great that nothing can hinder its operation." All this enables us to understand that charity is truly "the greatest and the first commandment," on which "the whole law" depends. The soul that has understood this great truth, is no longer preoccupied with so many more or less accessory practices and exercises in its spiritual life, but aims straight at the heart, at the center of this life, at charity. ("Divine Intimacy" by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

**How Everything Must Return to God as its Final End**

*Based on the "Imitation of Christ", Book 3, Chapter 9*

My son, I must be your highest and final end, if you truly wish to be happy. By having this intention, your affections will be purified, which more often than not, are wrongly bent towards yourself and created things. For if you seek yourself in anything, you will only encounter failure and become spiritually dry. Refer, therefore, all things principally to Me, because I am the One Who has given you all things. Look upon everything as flowing from Me, and therefore it is that all things must be returned to Me, as to their source.

Out of Me, both little and great, rich and poor, draw living water as from a living fountain, and those who, of their own will, freely serve Me, will receive grace for grace. But he who will glory in anything outside of Me, or take delight in any private good, will not find true joy in his heart, but in very many ways will meet with perplexities and anguish.

You must, therefore, ascribe no good to yourself, nor attribute virtue to any man, but ascribe all to God, without Whom man has nothing. I gave all, I wish to repossess all—and I strictly require thanks for all I give.

This is truth, by which the emptiness of boasting is put to flight and, if heavenly grace and true love have entered in, there will be no envy or narrowing of the heart, nor will self-love lay hold of you. For divine charity conquers all things and enlarges all the powers of the soul, because there is no one good save God alone, Who is to be praised above all things and in all things blessed. (*meditation from "Consecration to Mary"*)

**Sunday Vespers/Benediction**

Sunday Vespers takes place **every Sunday at 3:00pm** followed by Benediction. Pamphlets are available in the church entrance. "*All should come to our churches and there sing the praises of God, and be enriched with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*" - Pope Pius XII, *Mediator Dei*

**Reminder for the May Chesterton Society meeting:  
 July 16th at 7:30pm.**

The reading for the July meeting will be:

From Tremendous Trifles:

"The Diabolist"

"A Glimpse of My Country"

"A Somewhat Improbable Story"

The Father Brown Story will be "The Three Tools of Death"

All are welcome to attend!

**~ 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.

**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.

**Please Keep in Your Prayers ...**

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne, Charles Cantoni, Hayden Garcia, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes, Dr. Gerald Foy, Cindy Yumoto

**Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Marv, Rosa Mystica & Little Flowers**

Registration is now open for Rosa Mystica (ages 9-14) & Little Flowers (ages 5—8). Forms are available at the Parish Office, bookstore, or by e-mail. The **deadline** for registration is July 31st and **space is limited**.

Registration forms are also available for the Sodality of Our Lady, (ages 14 & up)

**Calling all Mothers and Grandmothers & all Ladies of the Parish!**

Do you have skills you would like to share with the young ladies of the parish? Homemaking skills of any kind; sewing, knitting, embroidery, crochet, proper table setting, being a good hostess, flower arranging, etc. We need you!

The Rosa Mystica Girls Society meets the 1st Saturday of the month during the school year and is looking for women who would enjoy sharing their time and talent with our young ladies.

For more information please call Jean Gomez 530- 672-2076

**Make Your Work a Means to Holiness**

One of the means of sanctification at the disposal of practically all men, except the sick and the infirm, is work. Ever since the Fall of man, work has borne a double aspect: it is a fulfillment of human possibilities, and at the same time it is a chastisement of human sin.

In the second chapter of Genesis, we are told that "the Lord God took man, and put him into the paradise of pleasure, to dress it, and to keep it." As God had "worked" six days in creating the world, so man, made in His image, was also to work in the world in which God had placed him. This work in Paradise, then, must have been a work resembling the "work" of God; that is to say, it must have been creative (in the human sense) work that developed all the faculties with which human nature had been endowed, both physical and intellectual abilities. For Adam was called not only to tend the Garden of Eden, but also to give names to all living creatures and thus by naming them, to recreate them in some way, to assimilate them intellectually.

Two conclusions may be drawn from this work of Adam in Paradise. First, work must be necessary for man, or God would not have imposed it on him immediately after his creation; it must be an essential ingredient of human life. Second, work must be perfectly compatible with even the highest forms of contemplation, for Adam in Paradise was in constant intimate relationship with God, and contemplation is precisely this.

But when sin came into the world, work, too, took on a different aspect. Then God said to Adam, "Cursed is the earth in thy work; with labor and toil shalt thou eat thereof all the days of thy life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herbs of the earth. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread till thou return to the earth, out of which thou wast taken.

What had been a fulfillment of the human being now became punishment. But, by the mercy of God, it also became a means of making reparation for sin.

(*Read more in "The Commonsense Book of Catholic Prayer and Meditation."* by Hilda Graef)

**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.

**Confraternity of St. Peter FSSP Anniversary Pilgrimage 25 Years**

**We are nearly full—If interested, contact us soon!**

Travel to Rome, Italy see the most important religious sites of the Eternal City and then travel south to visit the shrines of Pompei, Nettuno, Materdomini, Naples & Amalfi.

For more information call 916-223-3112 or visit the website @ [www.syversentouring.com/confraternity](http://www.syversentouring.com/confraternity)