

Sunday, October 6, 2013
20th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 6 Oct. 20th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Rose Wedinsky
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm John & Mary Alyce Gisla

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 7 Oct. Our Lady of the Rosary, II Class

7:00 am Wynette Sills
 12:15 pm †Mrs. Laverne LeMere

Tues. 8 Oct. St. Bridget of Sweden, Widow, III Class

7:00 am †Jonan Sneeringer
 6:30 pm Wehn Family

Wed. 9 Oct. St. John Leonardi, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Patricia Eshiwu
 12:15 pm †Michael Kelleher

Thurs. 10 Oct. St. Francis Borgia, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Stanford Family
 6:30 pm Stephanie Reali

Fri. 11 Oct. Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class

7:00 am James Barrett
 12:15 pm Diep Nguyen
 6:30 pm †Mike Robinson

Sat. 12 Oct. Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class

III Class
 7:00 am Matthew & Jennifer Gallagher
 9:00 am Juanita Haedinger

Sun. 13 Oct. 21st Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am †Patricia Eschiowu
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Crump 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

Oct. 11—Youth Group
 Oct. 13—Fatima Procession
 Oct. 18—25th Anniversary of the Fraternity of St. Peter
 Oct. 31—All Saints Eve Party
 Nov. 1—All Saints Day—Holy Day of Obligation
 Nov. 2—All Souls Day
 Nov. 3—Day Light Savings **ends**
 Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Dec. 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 March 26—Confirmation

The Road to Our Eternal Home

The liturgy of the last Sundays after Pentecost has a special note, warning us of the approaching end of all things. In fact, the liturgical year is almost at its close, and, as it ends, it invites us to consider the uncertainty of the present life and to turn our eyes toward the eternal life awaiting us. Spontaneously we stop to reflect on the condition of our own soul: How have we employed the time that God has given us? In the Introit we find the humble confession: “O Lord, we have sinned against Thee, we have not obeyed Thy commandments,” and in the Collect we pray to obtain forgiveness: “Grant unto Thy faithful people pardon and peace, we beseech Thee, merciful Lord.” In the Epistle St. Paul counsels us to use the time that remains to us in the best possible way, to attain eternal glory. “See, therefore, brethren, how you walk circumspectly, not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” The Apostle then explains what the nature of our wisdom should be: “Become not unwise, but understand what the will of God is.” It would be the height of folly and imprudence to go through life following our own whims and desires. This is a most dangerous way and one which will never lead us to our destination. The only road that takes us to our eternal home is that of the will of God. Anyone who sincerely seeks God’s will and follows it, will be guided, not by his own spirit, but by God’s Spirit, the Holy Spirit, and can be sure that he will not go astray. “Be ye filled with the Holy Spirit,” exhorts St. Paul, “speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual canticles, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord. . . being subject one to another.” When a soul allows itself, with childlike docility, to be led by the Holy Spirit, He takes complete possession of it, filling it entirely with Himself; and from this plenitude, the spirit of prayer, virtue, humble submission and fraternal love spontaneously blossoms forth. To follow God’s will under the direction of the Holy Spirit is the quickest and safest way of reaching our heavenly home.

It is impossible to discover and walk in the way of God’s will without faith; today’s Gospel expressly treats of this faith and the qualities it must have in order to be pleasing to God.

A certain ruler, having heard of the marvelous cures performed by Jesus, went to Him and begged Jesus to come to his house and “heal his son, for he was at the point of death.” This man had faith in the miraculous power of the Master, but he was far from believing that He was the Son of God. Jesus knew this and replied: “Unless you see signs and wonders, you believe not.” These words, which historically were addressed to the ruler and his companions, were meant for all whose faith depends on what they see and hear. There are very few who believe with simplicity in the Gospel, in Revelation, in the teachings of the Church; most people remain indifferent and are moved only in the presence of something unusual which strikes their senses. It is true that the Lord can use such things to help our weakness, but this is not the faith which pleases Him. “Blessed are they that have not seen and have believed,” He said to Thomas, who would not believe unless he saw the place of the nails and put his finger into His wounds. True faith is not based on our experience, on what we see and touch, but on the authority of God. God has revealed Himself; He can neither deceive nor be deceived; and we believe firmly on His word. To believe on the word of God is supernatural faith, the pure faith which is pleasing to God.

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

All Saints Eve—Donations and Help Needed

Please help us to celebrate the Communion of Saints by making a **donation of candy and cash**. This is an evening for everyone—young and old alike.

Would you be interested in running a game or snack booth? What fun it is to give treats to miniature St. Therese or St. John Bosco! Envelopes for **donations** and sign-up sheets are available in the vestibule.

Youth Group

St. Stephen’s Youth Group will have their first meeting on the 2nd Friday of October (October 11th), beginning with the 6:30 pm Mass.

Please sign-up today in the vestibule with your name, e-mail address and phone number.

Confraternity of St. Peter News

Many Confraternity members may be aware of a ceremony which will take place each year for new CSP members on the first Sunday after the FSSP anniversary. For this year only, all members of CSP may participate in the ceremony, as this is the first one. Because of the pilgrimage to Rome, we have been given permission to postpone the ceremony to the 27th of October. It will take place just before Vespers, please be at the church by 2:30 .

Those who wish to participate, please let us know at least a week in advance, there is a sign-up sheet in the bookstore. Please remember to bring your certificate of membership which you received when you were enrolled. For more information call 916-455-5114.

Save the Date!

Save the date—**Saturday, January 25, 2014**. Tenth Annual Walk for Life. Tickets on sale in gym after all Sunday Masses in October.

You can also contact **Mike (916) 335-4553 or Kathleen (916) 204-9125** to make reservations.

Wedding Banns

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

Joseph Cristi & Marissa Kakar(4)

Christopher Magabo & Nweni Naing(4)

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.

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.

Pro-Life News
40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life begins Sept. 25th and ends Nov 3rd. Father McNeely has chosen Wed., October 9th as the day for St. Stephen’s Parish to participate in the Prayer Vigil at the Women’s Health Specialists clinic, located 1442 Ethan Way, Sac. from 7am to 7pm. If you are unable to go on Oct 9th, please sign-up for other days and times.

The Hidden Treasure—Holy Mass

By St. Leonard of Port Maurice

“Where there is no Mass,” writes one of the Fathers of the English Oratory, “there is also no Christianity.” The reason is plain: Christ’s life was one of sacrifice—not merely of the figurative sacrifice of praise and prayer, but one of outward act, of suffering and of death. His religion must be like Himself: it must be the continuation of the divine-human life that He led upon earth, representing and perpetuating, by some sacred rite, the sacrifice that began in the womb of Mary and ended upon the Cross of Calvary. That rite is the holy Mass. Do we always realize it as such? Does the conviction sink deep into us, when offering, or assisting, at the adorable Sacrifice, that Jesus is reenacting, in our presence, the mysteries of His life and death?

The altar of the Mass is the holy house of Nazareth, the crib of Bethlehem, the Egyptian place of exile, the hill of Calvary, the garden-tomb in which Our Saviors corpse reposed, and the Mount of Olives from which He ascended. The Passion, it is true, is that which is primarily represented and continued in the holy Mass; yet the prayers and rites of the Sacrifice refer, at times, to other mysteries. Thus the dropping of a part of the sacred Host into the Chalice, before the *Agnus Dei*, represents the reunion of Christ’s soul with His body and blood on the morning of the Resurrection. For a description of the many and beautiful analogies between the Eucharistic life of Our Lord and His sacred Infancy, we refer the reader to Fr. Faber’s treatise on the Blessed Sacrament.

The Mass is truly a “hidden treasure,” and, alas, our cold, dead faith allows it to remain so. If we valued it as we ought, we would hurry every morning to the church, careless of the snows of winter and the heats of summer, in order to get a share of the riches of this treasure.

The saints knew the value of one Mass: that was a dark day in their calendar on which they were deprived of the happy privilege of saying or hearing Mass. Although St. Francis de Sales was overburdened with apostolic work on the Mission of the Chablais, he made it a point never to miss his daily Mass. In order to keep his holy resolution, he had frequently to cross the river Drance, to the village of Marin, in which there was a Catholic church. It happened, in the winter of 1596, that a great freshet carried away a portion of the bridge over the stream, and the passengers were, in consequence, compelled to cross on a plank laid over those arches of the broken structure that had withstood the waters. Heavy falls of snow, followed by severe frosts, made this board very slippery, so that it became dangerous to attempt passing on it; but St. Francis was not to be deterred, for, despite the remonstrance of his friends he made the perilous journey every morning, creeping over the icy plank on his hands and feet, thus daily risking his life rather than lose Mass.

Dear Christian reader! Beg this glorious Saint to obtain for you and me some portion of his burning love for the most holy and adorable Sacrifice of the altar.

(available at St. Stephen’s Bookstore)

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne, Charles Cantoni, Mitzi Vandenburgh, John Reyes, Dr. Gerald Foy, Cindy Yumoto, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Cesar Morales