

Sunday, November 24, 2013
24th and Last Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 24 Nov. 24 and Last Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Very Rev. Fr. John Berg
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Bill Rhoads

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 25 Nov. St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am †Richard Alfred Becker
 12:15 pm Fr. John Lyons

Tues. 26 Nov. St. Sylvester, Abbot, III Class

7:00 am Fr. Beaugrand
 6:30 pm Judy Boyd

Wed. 27 Nov. Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, IV Class

7:00 am Diana Angosto
 12:15 pm Kathryn Osborn

Thurs. 28 Nov. Feria, IV Class

7:00 am Pat
 9:00 am Lynn Taylor
 10:30 am Thomas Brennan

Fri. 29 Nov. St. Saturninus, Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am the Romaike Family
 12:15 pm All Homeschooling Mothers
 6:30 pm Mr. Richard Szabo

Sat. 30 Nov. St. Andrew, Apostle, II Class

7:00 am Mrs. Sergio Reali
 9:00 am Donna Hopkins

Sun. 1 Dec. First Sunday of Advent, I Class

8:30 am †Alice Marie Becker
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Peter Obi

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, †Rhoda Bowen, †Mary Margaret Mantsch

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Dec. 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Jan. 25—Walk for Life
 March 26—Confirmation
 May 3—May Procession & Solemn Mass at the Cathedral
 May 10—First Holy Communion
 June—21-28—Camp Sacred Heart

Humble and Reverent Love

The love which audaciously urges the soul on to the conquest of divine union is, at the same time, full of reverence and respect, for the soul understands, much better than before, how sublime and lofty is the majesty of God. If, on the one hand, love makes it impatient to be united to Him, on the other, the clear and continual consciousness of its misery renders it more eager than ever to keep strict watch over its conduct, so that nothing may be found in it which could displease such great majesty.

“The soul,” says the Mystical Doctor, “immediately perceives in itself a genuine determination and an effective desire to do naught which it understands to be an offense to God, and to omit to do naught that seems to be for His service. For that dark love cleaves to the soul, causing it a most watchful care and inward solicitude concerning that which it must do, or must not do, for His sake, in order to please Him. It will consider and ask itself a thousand times if it has given Him cause to be offended.” Evidently there is question here of something far exceeding mere flight from sin: it is the firm resolution to shun every imperfection, omission, or voluntary negligence; and since the soul knows from experience that, in spite of all its good will, many of these faults may escape it, either through inadvertence or through frailty, it desires to intensify its vigilance in order to avoid even these as far as is possible.

This solicitude proceeds from love and not from scruples, a truly loving anxiety, like that which made St. Teresa Margaret continually repeat: “What am I doing now, in this action? Am I loving God?” or that which St. Angela of Foligno expressed in these burning words: “See, O Lord, if there is anything in me which is not love!”

If you would have a sure sign of your love of God, test the firmness of your resolution to fly from every least thing which might displease Him. This resolution must be so deeply rooted in your will that not only is it continually present to you— as are the things you really care for— but is also strong enough to withdraw you from every imperfection as soon as you become aware of it. This is absolutely indispensable, because, as St. John of the Cross teaches, “for the soul to come to unite itself perfectly with God through love and will...it must not intentionally and knowingly consent with the will to imperfections, and it must have power and liberty to be able not to consent intentionally”.

Knowing of its lowliness helps keep the soul humble in its love, driving away all presumption. Far from relying on its own merits and good works, it sees clearly that however much it might accomplish, it is as nothing in comparison with the exalted majesty of God. “Wherefore it considers itself useless in all that it does and thinks itself to be living in vain.” The words of the Gospel: “We are unprofitable servants,” are for it a living actuality, and they express very well its habitual state. The light poured forth in the soul by the Holy Spirit is too great to let it fall into any illusion concerning its own worth, or to allow it to take complacency in its works. Even more, the soul “Considers itself as being, most certainly, worse than all other souls: first, because love is continually teaching it how much is due to God” and secondly, because, as the works which it here does for God are many and it knows them all to be faulty and imperfect, they all bring it confusion and affliction, for it realizes in how lowly a manner it is working for God, who is so high”. It is wonderful to see how profound humility is not only the fruit of light but also of love: love makes the soul esteem God so highly that, while ardently desiring to possess Him, it is profoundly convinced of being absolutely incapable of reaching Him. On the other hand, although humble and reverent, love maintains its characteristic audacity and the soul does not cease to aspire to divine union. Precisely in this spirit St. Therese of the Child Jesus wrote: “Notwithstanding my littleness, I dare to gaze upon the divine Sun of love”. “Divine Intimacy” by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Registration for First Holy Communion

For children who will be at least 7 years old by January
 Please pick up a registration packet in the office or bookstore for First Communion classes. Completed forms and copy of your child’s Baptism certificate can be returned to the office or bookstore. Classes will begin January 11, 2013.

FSSP Calendars and Ordos

Fraternity of St. Peter calendars and ordos are available to purchase in the bookstore. Please get them early as we often run out.

Christmas Anticipation Prayer

Beginning on St. Andrew the Apostle’s feast day, November 30, the following beautiful prayer is traditionally recited fifteen times a day until Christmas. This is a very meditative prayer that helps us increase our awareness of the real focus of Christmas and helps us prepare ourselves spiritually for His coming.

Prayer:
 Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Savior, Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

Epiphany Around the World

Mark your calendars!
 You are invited to an international potluck to celebrate the Great Feast of Epiphany at St. Stephen’s .

The festivities will begin at 5 o’clock, on Saturday, January 4th, 2014

The talents of your family and other parish groups are wanted as our entertainment for the evening!
 If you are interested in leading a carol or two, reading poetry, performing a short skit or helping with our celebration in any other way, please contact Pat Feldman at FeldmanPat@ymail.com or (916)383-2231

Our celebration would not be the same without you!

The Immaculate Conception Novena

Immaculate Virgin Mary, you were pleasing in the sight of God from the first moment of your conception in the womb of your mother, St. Anne. You were chosen to be the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I believe the teaching of Holy Mother the Church, that in the first instant of your conception, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race and your beloved Son, you were preserved from all stain of original sin. I thank God for this wonderful privilege and grace He bestowed upon you as I honor your Immaculate Conception.

Look graciously upon me as I implore this special favor: (Mention your request).

Virgin Immaculate, Mother of God and my Mother, from your throne in heaven turn your eyes of pity upon me. Filled with confidence in your goodness and power, I beg you to help me in this journey of life, which is so full of dangers for my soul. I entrust myself entirely to you, that I may never be the slave of the devil through sin, but may always live a humble and pure life. I consecrate myself to you forever, for my only desire is to love your Divine Son Jesus.

Mary, since none of your devout servants has ever perished, may I, too, be saved. Amen.

The novena begins November 29th, and will be said publically at all low Masses.

2014 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for next year are available for you to pick up in the vestibule of the church. If you do not see a box with your name on it and would like a set, please ask for them in the bookstore. Using weekly envelopes is very helpful to us, it eliminates a lot of extra paperwork, as all checks must be copied and recorded if they are loose.

Philippine Disaster Relief

The following items are needed for a Philippine disaster relief collection. Please bring any of the following items before Friday, November 29th. They will be shipped to families in the Philippines at the end of the month.

For Children	For Adults
Baby food	Clothing: T-shirts, pants, skirts
Clothes & Underwear	Shoes
Children’s vitamins	Flip-flops
Baby bottles	Canned food
Baby milk (Similac)	Blankets
Pacifiers & Bibs	Towels
Socks & Shoes	Shampoo
Blankets	Combs & brushes
Cloth diapers (not disposable)	Tooth paste
Safety pins (for diapers)	Tooth brush
Baby powder	Underwear
Baby Shampoo & Lotion	Soap
Petroleum jelly (for rashes)	Rosaries
Baby toys	

Our Trials are Never Greater Than Our Strength to Bear Them

Do not let ourselves be troubled when we are sometimes beset by adversity, for we know that it is meant for our spiritual welfare and carefully proportioned to our needs, and that a limit has been set to it by the wisdom of the same God who has set a bound to the ocean. Sometimes it might seem as if the sea in its fury would overflow and flood the land, but it respects the limits of its shore and its waves break upon the yielding sand. There is no tribulation or temptation whose limits God has not appointed so as to serve not for our destruction but for our salvation. *God is faithful*, says the Apostle, *and will not permit you to be tempted* (or afflicted) *beyond your strength*, but it is necessary for you to be so, since *through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God* in the steps of our Redeemer, who said of Himself, *Did not the Christ have to suffer all these things before entering into his glory?* If you refused to accept these tribulations you would be acting against your best interests. You are like a block of marble in the hands of the sculptor. The sculptor must chip, hew and smooth it to make it into a statue that is a work of art. God wishes to make us the living image of Himself. All we need to think of is to keep still in His hands while He works on us, and we can rest assured that the chisel will never strike the slightest blow that is not needed for His purposes and our sanctification; for, as St. Paul says, *the will of God is your sanctification.*

(“Trustful Surrender to Divine Providence” by Fr. Jean Baptiste Saint-Jure & St. Claude De La Colombiere)

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

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

Save the Date!

Save the date—**Saturday, January 25, 2014.** Tenth Annual Walk for Life. Contact **Mike (916) 335-4553 or Kathleen (916) 204-9125** to make bus reservations.