

**Sunday, January 5, 2014
Most Holy Name of Jesus**



Sun. 5 Jan. Most Holy Name of Jesus, II Class

8:30 am Rose Wedinsky
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Fr. Jeff Wilson

2:30 pm Epiphany Blessing

Mon. 6 Jan. Epiphany of the Lord, I Class

7:00 am Matthew & Jennifer Gallagher
12:15 pm Emily Katzakian & family
7:00 pm Juliann McDonough

Tues. 7 Jan. Feria after Epiphany, IV Class

7:00 am Rose Nino
6:30 pm Fr. Simon Slana

Wed. 8 Jan. Feria after Epiphany, IV Class

8:30 am Paulo Ferazza Dichoso
12:15 pm John Burns

Thurs. 9 Jan. Feria after Epiphany, IV Class

7:00 am Zeta Cammarota
6:30 pm Beatrice Solton

Fri. 10 Jan. Feria after Epiphany IV Class

7:00 am for poor souls
12:15 pm Brounwyn
6:30 pm Michaela

Sat. 11 Jan. St. Hyginus, Pope & Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am †Phillip Behymer
9:00 am Jeff Hjmstad & family

Sun. 12 Jan. Holy Family, II Class

8:30 am Saralyn Taormina
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Thomas & Dee McDonough

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, †Teresa Reali

Important Upcoming Dates

Jan. 5—Confirmation class 12:30 in classroom
Jan. 5—Blessing of Epiphany Water
Jan. 6—Epiphany
Jan. 11—First Communion Classes begin
Jan. 16—CSP Evening of Recollection
Jan. 21—Chesterton Society meeting 7:30 pm
Jan. 25—Walk for Life
Feb. 2—Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
March 26—Confirmation
May 3—May Procession & Solemn Mass at the Cathedral
May 10—First Holy Communion
June—21-28—Camp Sacred Heart

Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

This Feast complements the circumcision mystery, since it was during the rite of circumcision that the name Jesus was given to the Child. On the first day, the Church directed our attention to the humility of the Son of God; today she invites us to meditate upon and celebrate the glories of His Name.

That these glories flow especially from His prodigious humiliations is clearly affirmed by St. Paul: “Brethren, Christ humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even to the death of the Cross. For which cause God also hath exalted Him and hath given Him a Name which is above all names: that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow.” The Church, by placing on our lips this theme from today’s Office, invites us, her children, to render grateful, pious homage to Him who humbled Himself so profoundly for us.

The heart of every Christian should respond to this invitation and exalt the most Holy Name of Our Savior, that is, His very Person, for the Name of Jesus expresses what He is: Savior, Redeemer. This sacred Name, announced by the Angel to both Mary and Joseph, was given to Our Lord by God Himself. “Thou shalt call His Name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.” This Name expresses and synthesizes the great mysteries of the Incarnation and the Redemption; it is at the center of the universe like a point of contact, like a bridge between God and all mankind. Man can reach God only by means of Jesus and in the Name of Jesus: “for there is no other name under heaven whereby we must be saved.”

Today’s Mass, continuing St. Paul’s thought, offers us a majestic picture of the glory which is due the holy Name of Jesus: “That at the Name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is in the glory of God the Father.” The entire Church—triumphant, militant, and suffering—is prostrate in adoration; the whole of creation seems to be silent, having stopped in its course for a moment to hear this most holy Name which gives glory to God and salvation to mankind. “Thy name is as oil poured out,” says Holy Scripture, and St. Bernard comments, “Oil gives light, it nourishes, it anoints... . See how well this applies to the Name of the true Bridegroom. It is light when it is preached; it is food in Meditation; it is balm and healing when it is invoked for aid... . All food is as dry husks to the soul unless it is steeped in this oil; insipid unless seasoned with this salt. If you write, it has no savor for me, unless I read there the Name of Jesus. If you discourse or converse, it has no taste unless the Name of Jesus shall sound. The Name of Jesus is honey to the mouth, music to the ear, gladness to the heart. It is healing.” Let us lovingly bless and invoke this most sweet Name which contains all our hope and our salvation, all our life and our glory. “May Thy Name, O Jesus, resound in our voices! May our actions express Thy life and our hearts love Thee now and forever!”

“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.

Mass Intentions

Our Mass intentions for next year are almost half filled, therefore we are asking that families request no more than 10 Masses during the year.

We now have a calendar which will allow for requesting special dates from June forward as they are available.

Blessing of Epiphany Water

The beautiful ceremony of blessing the Epiphany water will take place at 2:30 today, everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. There will not be sung Vespers today.

If you would like to leave water to be blessed, please do not leave small containers—gallon size minimum. Smaller containers may be filled up from the containers in the vestibule after the blessing. Also, make sure your container is well marked with your name—on the bottle, not on the lid.

We Can Ask For Everything in the Name of Jesus

The Angels are our dearest and best friends and are most ready and able to help us in every difficulty and danger.

It is most regrettable that many Catholics do not know, love and ask the Angels for help. The easiest way to do so is **to say the Name of Jesus in their honor**. This gives them the greatest joy. They in return will help us in all our troubles and keep us safe from many dangers.

Let us say the Name of Jesus in honor of all the Angels, but especially in honor of our dear Angel Guardian, who loves us so much.

We may do most perfect penance for our sins by offering the Passion and Blood of Jesus many times each day for this intention.

The Precious Blood purifies our souls and raises us to a high degree of holiness. It is all so easy! We have only to repeat lovingly, joyfully, reverently, **“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.”**

The Wonders of the Holy Name by Fr. Paul O’Sullivan, O.P.

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.

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.

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 & Ceasar Morales, Mark Garcia Family, Richard Corbin, Philip Rutschow, Manuel Nino

The Philosophy of Pleasure

We all want happiness. We should all take the sensible step of learning that there are three laws of pleasure which, if followed, will make the attainment of happiness immeasurably easier.

The first law: *If you are ever to have a good time, you cannot plan your life to include nothing but good times.* Pleasure is like beauty; it is conditioned by contrast. A woman who wants to show off her black velvet dress will not, if she is wise, stand against a black curtain, but against a white backdrop. She wants the contrast. Fireworks would not delight us if they were shot off against a background of fire, or in the blaze of the noonday sun: they need to stand out against the darkness. Lilies bring us a special pleasure because their petals rise, surprisingly, on the waters of foul ponds. Contrast is needed to help us see each thing as being vividly itself.

Pleasure, by the same principle, is best enjoyed when it comes to us as a “treat,” in contrast to experiences that are less pleasurable. We make a great mistake if we try to have all our nights party nights. No one would enjoy Thanksgiving if every meal were a turkey dinner. New Year’s Eve would not delight us if the whistles blew at midnight every night.

Fun rests on contrast, and so does the enjoyment of a funny situation. If a Bishop has a miter thrust on the side of his head by an errant master of ceremonies, it makes us laugh; it would not be funny if all Bishops always wore their miters askew.

Our enjoyment of life is vastly increased if we follow the spiritual injunction to bring some mortification and self-denial into our lives. This practice saves us from being jaded; it preserves the tang and joy of living. The harp-strings of our lives are not thin, made slack by being pulled until they are out of tune; instead, we tighten them and help preserve their harmony.

Self-discipline brings back to us the excitement of our childhood, when our pleasures were rationed—when we got our desert at the end of the meal and never at the start.

The second law: *Pleasure is deepened and enhanced when it has survived a moment of tedium or pain.* This law helps us to make our prized pleasures last for a whole lifetime. To do so, we must keep going at anything we do until we get our second wind. One enjoys a mountain-climb more after passing through the first moment of discouraged exhaustion. One becomes more interested in a job or work after the first impulse to drop it has been overcome.

In the same way, marriages become stable only after disillusionment has brought the honeymoon to an end. The great value of the marital vow is in keeping the couple together during the first quarrel; it tides them over their early period of resentment, until they get the second wind of true happiness at being together. Married joys, like all great joys, are born out of some pain. As we must crack the nut to taste the sweet so, in the spiritual life, the cross must be the prelude to the crown.

The third law: *Pleasure is a by-product, not a goal.* Happiness must be our bridesmaid, not our bride. Many people make the great mistake of aiming directly at pleasure; they forget that pleasure comes only from the fulfillment of a duty or obedience to a law—for man is made to obey the laws of his own nature as inescapably as he must obey the law of gravity. A boy has pleasure eating ice-cream because he is fulfilling one of the “oughts” of human nature: eating. If he eats more ice-cream than the laws of his body sanction, he will no longer get the pleasure he seeks, but the pain of a stomachache. To seek pleasure, regardless of law, is to miss it.

Shall we start with pleasure or end with it? There are two answers to the question: the Christian and the pagan. The Christian says, “Begin with the fast and end with feast, and you will really savor it.” The pagan says, “Begin with the feast and end with the morning-after headache.” Excerpt from *Way to Happiness*, by Fulton J. Sheen