

Sunday, May 18, 2014
Fourth Sunday After Easter



Sun. 18 May **Fourth Sunday after Easter, II Class**
 8:30 am †Donna Foy
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Souls of Priests

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 19 May **St. Peter Celestine, Pope & Confessor, III Class**
 7:00 am †Jonan Sneeringer
 12:15 pm †Claire McQuillan

Tues. 20 May **St. Bernardine of Siena, Confessor, III Class**
 7:00 am Randi Marie Kwoka-Coleman
 6:30 pm Donald & Janet Wardlaw

Wed. 21 May **Feria of Paschaltide, IV Class**
 7:00 am McGrath Family
 12:15 pm McGrath Family

Thurs. 22 May **Feria of Paschaltide, IV Class**
 7:00 am St. Stephen Parish
 6:30 pm Thomas White

Fri. 23 May **Feria of Paschaltide, IV Class**
 7:00 am †Stephen The
 12:15 pm J.L. Band Company
 6:30 pm †Vincia De Leo & Company

Sat. 24 May **Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class**
 7:00 am †William John Foy
 9:00 am Frank & Josepine Convy

Sun. 25 May **Fifth Sunday after Easter, II Class**
 8:30 am †Geraldine Foy
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Celestin & Fredericksen Children

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, and the priest-on-call will be paged immediately.

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.

...In Memoriam

†Charles Cantoni, †Manuel Nino, †Margaret Correa,
 †Cindy Yumoto, †Fr. Vladimir Kozina, †Philip Rutschow,
 †Norman Madejas, †Rodrigo Fernandez

Important Upcoming Dates

May 20—Chesterton Society meeting
 May 29—Ascension of Our Lord
 May 31—Ordinations in Omaha, Nebraska
 June 14—Ordinations in Leesburg, Virginia
 June 22-28—Camp Sacred Heart
 July 13—17—Silent Retreat

The Handmaid of the Lord

All the splendors—divine filiation, participation in divine life, intimate relations with the Trinity—which grace produces in our souls are realized in Mary with a prominence, a force, a realism, wholly singular. If, for example, every soul in the state of grace is an adopted child of God and a temple of the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin is so par excellence and in the most complete manner, because the Triune God communicated Himself to her in the highest degree possible for a simple creature, to such a degree that Mary's dignity, according to St. Thomas, touches "the threshold of the infinite." This can easily be understood when we think that, from all eternity, Mary was chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son. As the Incarnation of the Word was the first work of the mind of God, in view of which everything was created, so also Mary, who was to have such a great part in this work, was foreseen and chosen by God before all other creatures. It is fitting that the words of Sacred Scripture are applied to her: "The Lord possessed me in the beginning of His ways, before He made anything from the beginning."

When Adam, deprived of the state of grace, was driven out of Paradise, only one ray of hope illumined the darkness of fallen humanity: "I will put enmities between thee and the woman," God said to the serpent, "and...she shall crush thy head." Here Mary appears on the horizon as the beloved Daughter of God, as she who will never be, for a single moment, a slave of the devil; as she who will always be spotless and immaculate, belonging wholly to God: as the Daughter whom the Most High will always look upon with sovereign complacency, and whom He will introduce into the circle of His divine Family by bonds of the closest intimacy with each of the three divine Persons: Daughter of the Father, Mother of the Incarnate Word and Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Mary lived her divine filiation in a profound sentiment of humble dependence and loving adherence to God's every will. Mary was aware of her position as a creature in relation to the Creator, and although she had been raised to such high dignity that, "after God's, it is the greatest that can be imagined", she could find no better way to express her relations with God than to declare herself His "handmaid." Like Jesus, who, when He came into the world, announced, "I have come to do Thy will", so Mary, who was to be the most faithful likeness of Jesus, offered herself to the will of her heavenly Father when she said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to Thy word." Faithful to her word, she would accept without reserve not only every manifest will of God, but also every circumstance permitted by Him: the long inconvenient journey which would bring her far from home, just when she was about to bring into the world the Son of God; the poor, humble shelter of a stable; the flight into Egypt by night, the privations and inconveniences of exile, the labor and weariness of a life of poverty, the separation from her Son when He would leave her to begin His apostolate, the persecutions and insults He would endure and of which her maternal heart would be well aware, and finally, the disgrace of the Passion and death of her beloved Son on Calvary. We have good reason to believe that in each of these events, her interior dispositions were the same as on the day of the Annunciation: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord." What an example for us of humble dependence on God, of absolute fidelity to His will, and of perseverance in our vocation, in spite of the difficulties and sacrifices we shall have to encounter.

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

The Risen Christ

Our Christ-life is the life of the Risen Christ. We know what the Incarnation means to us, that God the Son, by becoming man, caught up our human nature into his, made each one of us one with him. He took our human nature for his own and gave us his. He experienced everything that we do, excepting sin, and he even took upon himself the guilt and punishment of sin.

He made himself subject to our limitations: to discomfort, poverty, hunger and thirst, and pain. He knew fear, temptation, and failure. He suffered loneliness, betrayal, unrequited love, utter desolation of spirit, the sense of despair and death. He suffered all these things, and all the secret, incommunicable things known to each individual, which can never be told; and he overcame them all. He overcame even death, and came back to the world bringing it life and peace and joy.

Christ seems to have fallen in love with our suffering, so passionately has he laid hold of it and made it his. He is known to the whole world as the Man of Sorrows. Yet he came to give us life, life full of joy.

It was not with our suffering that Christ fell in love, but with us. He identified himself so wholly with our suffering, because our lives are necessarily made up of it. It is the inescapable consequence of sin. No one can escape it; everyone must somehow either make friends with suffering or be broken by it. No one can come close to another, let alone love him, without coming close to his suffering. Christ did far more; he wed himself to our suffering, he made Death his bride, and in the consummation of his love, he gave her his life. Christ has lived each of our lives, he has faced all our fears, suffered all our griefs, overcome all our temptations, labored in all our labors, loved in all our loves, died all our deaths.

He took our humanity, just as it is, with all its wretchedness and ugliness, and gave it back to us just as *his* humanity is, transfigured by the beauty of his living, filled full of his joy. He came back from the long journey through death, to give us his Risen Life to be *our* life, so that no matter what suffering we meet, we can meet it with the whole power of the love that has *overcome* the world. "I have said this to you, so that in me you may find peace. In the world, you will only find tribulation; but take courage, I have overcome the world."

He has come back as spring comes back out of the ground, renewing the earth with life, to be a continual renewing of life in our hearts, that we may continually renew one another's life in his love, that we may be his Resurrection in the world. We are the resurrection, going on always, always giving back Christ's life to the world.

In every life there are many secret resurrections. In our sin, we are the tombs in which Christ lies dead, but at the first movement of sorrow for sin he rises from the dead in us, the life of the world is renewed by our sorrow, the soul that was in darkness radiates the morning light. In the moment that we are forgiven, the world is flooded with forgiveness.

No wonder that the angels rejoice when one sinner does penance more than over the ninety-nine who need no penance, for the resurrection in the soul of the sinner is complete. It is not just the poor sinner licking his wounds and limping on, crippled by the past; it is Christ risen, alive, whole.

(*The Risen Christ* by Caryll Houselander)

Camp Sacred Heart 2014

Camp Sacred Heart will be held June 22—28 this year. Registration is open to boys age 9—18, boys unknown to the chaplain must get a letter of recommendation from a priest.

For more information call the parish office or 916-223-3112. Forms may be obtained by e-mail stephenproto@yahoo.com You may also stop by the parish office or bookstore.

Sponsors needed for Camp

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

Confraternity of St. Peter 2014 Pilgrimage

English Martyrs

"Our Lady's Dowry" a glorious title that England was commonly known by in the Middle Ages. Visit the shrines and sites halloved by the saints and martyrs of England's past and be a part of the closing events of the largest Traditional pilgrimage in the UK, to witness the ancient Faith anew! Join Fr. James Fryar, FSSP, Chaplain of the Confraternity of St. Peter on August 23—September 1, 2014. For more information call Tish at 916-223-3112 or visit the website www.syversentouring.com/confraternity.

Reminder: Chesterton Society meeting:

May 20th at 7:30pm

We will be reading:

Orthodoxy - Authority & the Adventurer &

Fr. Brown - The Salad of Colonel Cray

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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).

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*

Spiritual Adoption Progress Report—Month 5

Check out the new Spiritual Adoption poster in the vestibule to see the development progress of our parish spiritually adopted "babies"! He/she is now five months old in utero. Your spiritually adopted baby weighs over one pound now. His mother can feel him moving. Before, he was too small for her to feel. Although he swam with ease in his watery world, he needed to be big and strong enough to kick hard against the outside uterine wall and dent it—the inside wall of the uterus has no feeling. We are mid-way through the pregnancy now. Your prayers have helped your baby's mother continue with her pregnancy and seek the help she needs. Keep praying!

"Christian Perfection & Love for the Cross of Christ"

Sunday, July 13—Thursday, July 17

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. Here is your opportunity to do just that, don't put it off.

Fr. Chrysostom Baer, O. Praem. will preach our 2014 Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center. This silent retreat is open to all adult men and women. Each retreatant will have a private room/bath and all meals will be provided.

Daily Latin Mass, opportunity for Confession & Spiritual direction

More information is available at the parish office or bookstore. 916-455-5114 - stephenproto@yahoo.com

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes, Dr. Gerald Foy, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Cesar Morales, Richard Corbin, Robert Nunez, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, John Patrick Corr