

Sunday, August 17, 2014
10th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 17 Aug.	10th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Dittmer Family
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Angela & Joe Patch
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 18 Aug.	St. Agapitus, Martyr, IV Class
7:00 am	Renee Burns
12:15 pm	Sue McGrath
Tues. 19 Aug.	St. John Eudes, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	Oscar Nuno
6:30 pm	FSSP
Wed. 20 Aug.	St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot & Doctor, III Class
7:00 am	†Nadine Luis
12:15 pm	Glen Hopkins
Thurs. 21 Aug.	St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Widow, III Class
7:00 am	†Marie Marshall
6:30 pm	Darryl Gallagher
Fri. 22 Aug.	Immaculate Heart of Mary, II Class
7:00 am	†Norman C. Staub
12:15 pm	Elizabeth McDonough
6:00 pm*	Confraternity of St. Peter
Sat. 23 Aug.	St. Philip Benizi, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	Perez Family
9:00 am	Brendan & Tomoko McDonough
Sun. 24 Aug.	11th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	James Austin Klaas
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	†Nadine Luis
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,
- †Jennie Tomasi

Important Upcoming Dates

- August 19—Chesterton Society Meeting
- August 21—CSP Evening of Recollection
- August 22 & 23—"Much Ado About Nothing" (6:00pm Mass)
- August 23—English Martyrs Pilgrimage
- September 6—Girls' Club resumes
- September 7—Confirmation Classes begin
- October 18—26th Anniversary of the FSSP
- October 31—All Saints Eve Party

Be Ye Merciful

Jesus revealed to us the mystery of His heavenly Father's merciful love not only for our own consolation and personal benefit, not only to give us absolute confidence in God, but also to teach us to be merciful to our neighbor. "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." God attracts good, goodness engenders goodness, kindness inspires kindness; therefore, the more a soul penetrates the mystery of infinite mercy, the more it will be incited to emulate it. When we feel irritated with someone and little disposed to indulgence and pardon, we ought to plunge with all our strength into the consideration of the infinite mercy of God, in order to stifle all harshness, resentment, and anger in ourselves. If we had but the slightest experience of our own wretchedness, it would not be difficult for us to realize that there is no moment of our lives in which we do not need the mercy of God. Our merciful Father is so forbearing that He never casts us off despite all our falls, never reproaches us about the many times He has forgiven us, never refuses us His paternal embrace of love and peace. Nothing softens a soul more, making it full of good will toward others, than this consideration. Oh! if others could see in our attitude toward them a reflection of God's infinite mercy!

Peter had not yet completely understood the deep mystery of merciful love when he asked Jesus if it were enough to pardon his neighbor seven times. Jesus' reply must have sounded like an exaggeration to him: "I say not to thee, till seven times, but till seventy times seven times." Later, Peter's heart was completely changed when he experienced the goodness of Jesus, who, without a single word of reproach, forgave him his threefold denial so generously. This man, who was so impetuous, so quickly moved to anger, and so ready to threaten, was later to give to the primitive Church this gentle exhortation to goodness and pardon: "Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one on another, being lovers of the brotherhood, merciful...not rendering evil for evil, nor railing for railing, but contrariwise, blessing: for unto this are you called." How can we fail to hear in these words an echo of the words of Jesus: "Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you"?

We notice in the Gospel how the words of Jesus, generally so mild and loving, even when addressed to the greatest sinners—like Mary Magdalen, the woman taken in adultery, and even Judas—become exceptionally severe and almost harsh, when He speaks of failures in fraternal charity. God loves us infinitely, and He has but one desire: to pour out upon our souls the torrents of His boundless mercy; yet His love and mercy seem to vanish and are replaced by severity in the measure that He finds us harsh and exacting toward our neighbor. We need God's mercy so much; we have such need of His mild judgment, His pity, forgiveness, and mercy. Why, then, do we not do as much for others? Perhaps because they have offended us, have made us suffer? And have we never offended God? Have we not, by our sins, contributed to the most bitter Passion of Jesus? Too often we are like the cruel servant in the parable who, having received pardon from his master for a big debt, was not willing to pardon a trifling debt which one of his companions owed to him, but cast him into prison until he could pay the last cent. How can we expect mercy and forgiveness from God if we are so exacting with our neighbor? Let us not forget the words we repeat every day in the *Our Father*: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." "In the evening of life, we shall be judged on love," that is, we shall be judged on our love for God and for our neighbor. (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Saint Bernard

The Twelve Degrees of Humility and Pride

The first degree of pride is curiosity. This you may detect by the following signs. Look at that monk, whom you have hitherto supposed to be a sensible man. He has now taken to staring about him, whether he is standing up, walking about or sitting down. He thrusts his head forward, and pricks up his ears. From his outward movements you can clearly see the inward change that he has undergone. For it is the forward man who *winketh with the eye, presseth with the foot, and speaketh with the finger*, and from the unusual movements of his body is seen to have lately contracted disease of the soul—the careless sluggishness of which in self-examination makes it inquisitive about others. So since it takes no heed to itself it is sent out of doors to feed the kids. And as these are the types of sin, I may quite correctly give the title of 'kids' to the eyes and the ears, since as death comes into the world through sin, so does sin enter the mind through these apertures. The curious man, therefore, busies himself with feeding them, though he takes no trouble to ascertain the state in which he has left himself. Yet if, O man, you look carefully into yourself, it is indeed a wonder that you can ever look at anything else. You inquisitive fellow, listen to Solomon—you silly fellow, hearken to the wise man, as he says, *With all watchfulness guard thy heart*, in other words, keep all your senses on the watch to protect that which is the source of life. For whither, inquisitive man, will you retire from your own presence—to whom will you in the meantime intrust yourself? How dare you, who have sinned against heaven, lift up your eyes to the sky? Look down to the earth if you want to recognize yourself. It will show you what you are, for *earth thou art, and to earth shalt thou go.*"

Now there are two reasons for which you may raise your eyes without being to blame for so doing—one is to seek, the other is to render, assistance. David raised his eyes to the mountains for the former, the Lord lifted His over the crowd for the latter purpose. The motive of the one was misfortune, that of the other was mercy, neither was to blame. If you likewise with due regard to place, time and occasion, look up when you or a brother are in distress, I not only do not blame you, I highly commend you. For misfortune allows the one action, mercy approves the other. But in different circumstances I should call you an imitator not of the Prophet nor of the Lord, but of Dina or of Eve, aye, verily, of Satan himself. For Dina when she went out to feed her kids, was snatched away from her father and her maidenhood was taken from her. O Dina, what need was there for thee to look on strange women? Was it necessary—did it serve any useful purpose—or was it done out of mere curiosity? Thy look may have no purpose, but it is not without purpose that men gaze on thee. There is curiosity in thy look, but more in the look that is turned on thee. Who could have supposed that thy curious carelessness or careless curiosity would afterwards prove to be not reckless but ruinous to thee, thy friends and thine enemies? (This entire article can be found in *Saint Bernard The Twelve Degrees of Humility and Pride* by Barton Mills, M.A.)

Confirmation Classes to Begin September 7th

Registration is now open for Confirmation classes. Students must have completed their 12th birthday by June 1, 2012 in order to enroll. **Baptism Certificates** are required prior to the first class in order to participate.

Registration forms are available in the bookstore.

Classes will be held at 12:30 every Sunday in one of the classrooms.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

- Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath,
- Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne,
- MitziVandenburgh, John Reyes, Dr. Gerald Foy, Carlos Aldana,
- Liliana, Luz & Ceasar Morales, Richard Corbin, Robert Nunez,
- Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, John Patrick Corr,
- Ron Carlon, Katy Fiori, Heather Cuellar, Michael Cuellar

Much Ado About Nothing

Much Ado About Nothing, a play by William Shakespeare, will be performed by St. Stephen's teenagers Aug. 22 & 23 as a fundraiser for Our Lady of Guadalupe seminarians. Generally considered one of Shakespeare's best comedies, it combines elements of slapstick humor with more serious meditations on love and honor. This joyful comedy is appropriate for the entire family and ends with multiple happy marriages (and no deaths!). Purchase \$5 tickets in the bookstore.

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for young ladies ages 14-20, begins Saturday, Sept 6th and generally meets the First Saturdays of the year through May. From The Catholic Girl's Guide, by Fr. Lasance: *The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Congregation of the Children of Mary, has for its object to assemble its members at the feet of the Mother of God, to dedicate them in a very special manner to the veneration and service of the Blessed Virgin, and to place them under her particular patronage and protection both in life and at the hour of death.* Thus, the main focus is to deepen our spiritual lives through the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Meetings consist of prayers, activities (like altar linens and flowers), and a spiritual talk. The year will include reading assignments from the Fr. Lasance Girl's Guide and other activities, like singing Christmas carols at a nursing home. Participants will be expected to follow the Sodality Handbook, a copy of which is available in the bookstore. Please review the handbook and sign up in the bookstore. For additional information, please email Miss Amy Rutschow at amyrutschow@sbcglobal.net.

Chesterton Society Meeting

August 19 at 7:30pm—All Are Welcome!

Readings will be : Orthodoxy: "What's Wrong With the World"
Fr. Brown: "The Resurrection of Fr. Brown"

Mass Change : Please Note

Due to the play, the evening Mass on Friday, Aug. 22 will begin at 6:00 pm, NOT at 6:30 pm

Evening of Recollection Confraternity of St. Peter

Don't miss out on the spiritual benefits of our CSP Evening of Recollection on Thursday, **August 21**, beginning with Holy Mass at 6:30 pm. Each month we are given a wonderful sermon and conference along with Holy Mass and CSP prayers.

The Confraternity of St. Peter is a group of lay men and women united to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

- Conforming our lives in the Spirituality of the Holy Mass
- Praying for the priests and seminarians of the FSSP
- Praying for more vocations to the Holy Priesthood

For more information visit www.confraternityofstpeter.com or call the parish office 916-455-5114.

Spiritual Adoption Progress Report—Month 8

Please check out the new Spiritual Adoption poster in the vestibule to see the development progress of our parish spiritually adopted "babies"! He is now eight months old in utero and tells us: "Thank you for praying for me. I am eight months old now. I'm busy getting ready for my birthday. I can't wait to see my Mom and Dad. Thanks to you and your prayers, I'll see them soon."

It's time to prepare for the **"Baby Shower"** which will be next month, Sunday September 14th. There will be special receptacles for your gifts on that day. We will be collecting disposable diapers, layette items, and new baby cloths (up to 24 months size) for mothers who cannot afford these items. We will also accept checks made out to either: **Sacramento Life Center** or **Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home**. Thank you in advance for your generosity.