

Sunday, March 15, 2015

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Laetare Sunday



Sun. 15 Mar. **Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday, I Class**

8:30 am Isabella Burns
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Cecelia Baccay

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 16 Mar. **Feria of Lent, III Class**

7:00 am Joe & Diyon Haun & Family
12:15 pm Karen Haberstock

Tues. 17 Mar. **St. Patrick, I Class**

7:00 am Najwa Ruby
12:15 pm Carrie Locks
6:30 pm Erskine Family

Wed. 18 Mar. **Feria of Lent, III Class**

7:00 am Kaleb Long
12:15 pm Ed Wedinsky

Thurs. 19 Mar. **St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I Class**

7:00 am †James R. Sheldon
12:15 pm Bernadette Meauze
7:00 pm Special Intention

Fri. 20 Mar. **Feria of Lent, III Class**

7:00 am Fr. John Lyons, FSSP
12:15 pm Jean Haun
6:30 pm Fr. Akers, FSSP

Sat. 21 Mar. **Feria of Lent, III Class**

7:00 am Elizabeth Pierini
9:00 am Fr. Perry

Sun. 22 Mar. **Passion Sunday, I Class**

8:30 am Stella Zapata & Family
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Stella Zapata

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.

Important Upcoming Dates

March 17—Feast of St. Patrick—12:15 Sung Mass
March 17—Chesterton Society Meeting
March 19—Feast of St. Joseph—7 pm Solemn High Mass
March 20—Stations of the Cross after 12:15 & 6:30 Masses
March 22—Production of "Therese"
March 27—High School Youth Group
April 3—Good Friday
April 5—Easter Sunday
April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm
May 2—May Procession & Solemn Mass
May 9—First Holy Communion
May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations
June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart
July 19—23—**Spiritual Exercises** - Annual Parish Retreat
Oct. 3—G.K.Chesterton: Live w/Dale Ahlquist & Chuck Chalberg

Directions For Thanksgiving After Holy Communion

Having received Jesus [in Holy Communion] and enthroned Him in your heart, remain quiet for a moment, not praying in words, but resting in silent adoration. Bind your intelligence to His throne that it may nevermore go astray; or rather, lay it beneath His feet that He may press forth therefrom all pride and vanity.

Do not disturb your soul so long as it is recollected, at peace in the presence of the Lord; in this gentle slumber on the Heart of Jesus, it receives grace which nourishes it, unites it most sweetly to its Beloved, and profits it more than any other spiritual exercise.

When this moment is past, begin your thanksgiving, for which you may use with profit the four ends of the Holy Sacrifice.

Adore Jesus, Who is enthroned in your heart; kiss in awe His holy feet and hands; rest upon His Heart which burns with love for you; praise Him for His power; offer Him your entire being as a sign of your adoration and absolute submission; proclaim Him your Master, and yourself His happy servant, ready to follow His good pleasure in all things.

Thank Him for having so honored you, so loved you, for having so enriched you in this Holy Communion! Praise His goodness and love for you who are so poor, and imperfect, and unfaithful. Invite all the angels and saints, the Mother of God also, to bless Him, and praise Him, and thank Him for you.

Be *sorry* again for all your sins; weep for them like Magdalen at His feet; repentant love is always tearful, never thinks it has discharged its debt of gratitude. Make protestation of your faithfulness and love; sacrifice to Him your inordinate affections, your cowardice, your sloth in undertaking anything that calls for self-denial.

Ask whatever you will, for now is the moment of grace. Jesus is ready to give you His very Kingdom. Indeed, to give Him occasion to bestow His benefits is to give Him pleasure. Pray for your needs this day and for all who are dear to you. Pray for your priests, for the Holy Father, for the entire Church. Pray for the conversion of sinners, especially of the ones who most interest your charity; pray for all who have asked your prayers. Finally, pray that Jesus may be known, loved, and served by all mankind.

Before leaving Him, give an offering of love to your Savior, some sacrifice that you will make for Him during the day. At the last, say some prayers for the intentions of the Pope in order to gain the indulgences of the day which may demand Communion as a condition. Willingly apply these to the souls of purgatory, especially to those most dear to the Heart of Jesus.

(Excerpt from *Holy Communion* by Saint Peter Julian Eymard)

...In Memoriam

†Joan Blackburn, †Thomas Joseph Greco

Lent & Easter

Wisdom from Fulton J. Sheen

If you want to know about God, there is only one way to do it: get down on your knees. You can make his acquaintance by investigation, but you can win his love only by loving...

Most people who deny God do not do so because their reason tells them there is no God, for how could reason witness against Reason? Their denial is rather because of "wishful thinking." They feel they would be happier if there were no God, for then they could do as they pleased...

Think a little less about whether you deserve to be loved by him; he loves you even though you are not deserving. It is his love alone that will make you deserving. Most of us are unhappy because we never give God a chance to love us; we are in love only with ourselves.

Evil Suppresses Truth

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of those who by their wickedness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made. So they are without excuse; for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools. [Roman 1:18-22]

Prayer

Father, keep your children from foolish ways during this Lent and always. Purge us of our love of, and preoccupation with, ourselves and make sure that we give you a chance to love us fully. Amen.

Lenten Action

Honor God by making sure that you kneel in prayer today. (Lent and Easter compiled by John Timmerman)

Camp Sacred Heart 2015—Sign up soon to save a spot

Camp Sacred Heart will be held June 21—27 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 916-455-5114 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!

Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

Preached by Fr. John Lyons, FSSP

July 19-23

Be sure to sign up for this retreat ASAP as registrations are almost **half full!** The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius retreat will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. Forms are now available in the office or bookstore, or you may print them from the parish web site.

The retreat is open to men and women age 18 and over. It will be particularly helpful to those discerning a vocation or other decision in their lives.

Remember: space is limited and filling up fast, so hold your place as soon as possible.

Baby Bottle Project

Thank you to all who have participated in the Sacramento Life Center Baby Bottle Project this Lent. We will be collecting bottles before and after Masses on **March 22th**.

Therese
The Story of a Soul

Therese: The Story of a Soul, the moving, live production performed by actress Audrey Ahern and directed by Patti Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented at St. Stephen Church Gym on Sunday, March 22 at 4:30 pm.

In this one-woman performance, Therese speaks directly to you, the audience, with humor, grace and humility. Her honest, direct spirituality speaks powerfully to our busy culture, with the encouraging message that anyone can become a saint. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 75 minutes, and is suitable for all ages.

Admission is a free-will offering. For addition information, contact St. Stephen Parish Office at 916-455-5114 or stephenproto@yahoo.com or visit www.sacfssp.com

Saint Joseph Day

Celebrating St. Joseph's Day is very special especially for many Italians because in the Middle Ages, God, through St. Joseph's intercessions, saved the Sicilians from a very serious drought. So after our 7:00 p.m. High Mass, we'd like to continue this tradition and gather in the hall for some treats in honor of St. Joseph. We will provide beverages and some food, but we invite you to help out by bringing a dessert treat, i.e. cookies, biscotti, short bread, cannoli, etc.

Lenten Soup Supper

Calling All Cooks! Each Friday evening during Lent we will have soup and bread in the gym following Stations of the Cross. We need several people to bring soup and bread each Friday evening. For more information call the parish office.

Reminder—Chesterton Society Meeting:

March 17th at 7:30pm

We are starting a new book: *Heretics*
Read Chapters 1 & 2

Also: **Fr. Brown:** "The Doom of the Darnaways"

Go to: <http://www.sacfssp.com/>

For online book and Fr. Brown stories

Confraternity of St. Peter 2015 Pilgrimage

Historic pilgrimage to Spain & the Rock of Gibraltar, in the quincentenary year of St. Teresa of Avila's birth! By traveling back to the days of the great Spanish mystics—Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, Catholic monarchs—King St. Fernando III & Queen Isabella (Servant of God), and the wondrous events of the consecration of Europe to Our Lady on the Rock of Gibraltar, may we travel forward with the faith and courage of Spain's holy "Defender's of Christendom"!

Join Fr. James Fryar, FSSP, Chaplain of the Confraternity of St. Peter on September 14—September 24, 2015. For more information call Tish at 916-223-3112 or visit the website www.syversentouring.com/confraternity.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Ceasar Morales, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar, Luis Salazar, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Jeannamarie Crabtree, Michelle Di Giovanni & Children, Africa Medal, Frank Fegurur, Teresa Nevarez, John Reyes, John Patrick Corr