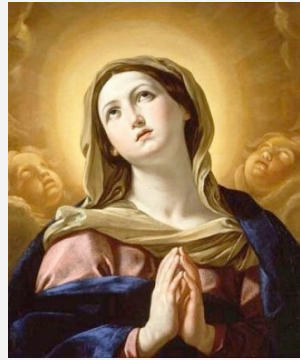


Sunday, December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent



Sun. 3 Dec. **First Sunday of Advent, I Class**
 8:00 am Suffering Souls in Purgatory
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:30 pm †Sarah Vierra
 6:00 pm Alexandra Hardin

Mon 4 Dec. **St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor, III Class**
 7:00 am Ann & Jim Mentkowski
 12:15 pm †Joseph Rubattino

Tues. 5 Dec. **Feria of Advent, III Class**
 7:00 am Ann & Jim Mentkowski
 6:30 pm Kristina Olney

Wed. 6 Dec. **St. Nicholas, Bishop & Confessor, III Class**
 7:00 am Ann & Jim Mentkowski
 12:15 pm Amanda Tindall

Thurs. 7 Dec. **St. Ambrose, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor, III Class**
 7:00 am Stephanie Herbert
 6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality

Fri. 8 Dec. **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I Class**
 7:00 am Jose & Racquel Magabo
 12:15 pm †Michael McGrath
 6:30 pm Pro Populo

Sat. 9 Dec. **Feria of Advent, III Class**
 7:00 am Kathy Neff
 9:00 am †Mr. & †Mrs. Anatolio Sr. & Marina Sabillo

Sun. 10 Dec. **Second Sunday of Advent, I Class**
 8:00 am Ann & Jim Mentkowski
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:30 pm †Sarah Vierra
 6:00 pm Colin & Catherine McNamara

...In Memoriam

†Maria Lopresti, †George Klopff, †Nell Keim, †John Reyes,
 †Margaret Melusky, †Robert O’Kane, †Savino Salierno,
 †Beverly Longtin, †Donald Strahota, †Ursula Uclaray,
 †Marina Servande, †Rizal Robancho, †Mike McGrath,
 †Sarah Vierra, †Mary Daley, †James Greenwell,
 †Josef Schuchmann, †Paulette Brady, †Felipa Lopez,
 †Jorge Munoz, †William J. Foy, †Patricia Becker,
 †David Munoz Ortiz, †Paige Langdon, †Francis Hadano,
 †Fatima Moitoso, †George Lane

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec. 3—Advent begins
 Dec. 8—Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Holy Day
 Dec. 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Dec. 16—Rorate Mass
 Dec. 17—Gaudete Sunday
 March 20—Confirmation 6:00 pm

Sanctity and My Duties

Jesus has said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.... If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in My love; as I also have kept My Father’s commandments, and do abide in His love” (*Jn 14,15—15,10*).

The perfection of charity consists in the perfect conformity of our wills with the divine will; this divine will is expressed, first of all, in the commandments of God and the precepts of the Church. Moreover, it is expressed in a more concrete and detailed way in the duties of my state and the various circumstances of life. The *duties of my state* determine particularly how I must act in daily life, so as to be always in conformity with the divine will: if I am a religious, these duties are set forth in my Rule, the customs of my Institute, the commands of my superiors, and the tasks imposed by obedience. If I am a priest, my duty is the care of souls; if I am a lay person, my duties are those required by my family life, my profession or occupation, my social activities and by good citizenship.

God’s will is also marked out for me by the *circumstances of my life*, whether important or not, down to the smallest detail, health or sickness, poverty or wealth, aridity or interior consolation, success or failure, misfortunes, losses, and struggles. From time to time, God asks me to fulfill special tasks of charity, patience, activity, or renouncement, detachments, submission, generosity, sacrifice. But everything is permitted by God, all is ordered by Him for my sanctification, “To them that love God, all things work together unto good” (*Rom 8,28*); “everything is a grace!” (T.C.J: NV).

“Sanctity properly consists only in conformity to God’s will, expressed in a constant and exact fulfillment of the duties of our state in life” (Benedict XV). This statement confirms my knowledge that sanctity does not consist in doing extraordinary things, but is *essentially* reduced to the *fulfillment of duty*; therefore, it is possible for me.

For this reason I must by punctual and persevering in the fulfillment of my duties: *punctual*, that is, diligent, being careful to please God in all my actions, in order to do His holy, sanctifying will. Hence, I must accustom myself to see the expression of God’s will in every one of my duties, for then everything I do will be an opportunity to submerge myself in God’s love and to unite myself to Him; *persevering*, that is, fulfilling my duties faithfully, not only when I feel great fervor, but also when I am sad, tired, or in aridity; constantly calls for generosity.

This untiring, generous fidelity will not always be easy; however, I must not become discouraged by my failures, but begin again every day, fully confident that some day, God will make my poor efforts fruitful. (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen)

From the Vicar

Dear parishioners,

You may be familiar with the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles, which is located in Gower, Missouri. They had their start in 1995 in Scranton, Pennsylvania until their invitation to Missouri by Bishop Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph in 2006. In 2014, they were erected as a Religious Institute of Diocesan Right under the authority of the Ecclesia Dei Commission.

The Benedictines in Gower are one of the very few religious communities in the United States that is strictly given to the traditional Mass and Divine Office. Being very close to their monastery while serving at my last apostolate, I have had many opportunities to visit the sisters. I have always found them to be both very balanced and a joy to be around. They are faithful and observant of their Benedictine rule. Young ladies in the parish who are investigating a religious vocation would do well to contact the prioress, Mother Cecilia, to seek her advice and perhaps even schedule a little visit.

The sisters have become somewhat famous in recent times due to their steady release of award winning albums of Gregorian chant, which have topped the classical music charts many times. They share the same producer that the Fraternity used in its recent release of *Requiem*. The voices of the sisters are sublime; their CD’s are available at our parish bookstore if you’re interested. In addition to this, the monastery also sews beautiful vestments for use at the altar. In our own sacristy we have several sets that were hand-crafted by the sisters. In fact, we are very grateful to an anonymous donor who very recently funded a rose Low Mass set with cope, which we plan on using for the first time this upcoming Gaudete Sunday.

The sisters are now right in the middle of a construction project for a chapel for their growing community. When I was at the priest house located on the monastery grounds for my retreat this spring, they were just getting ready to lay the foundation. Now they have already moved to framing and even the structural elements of some of the walls. They are still raising money for the completion of the chapel. You can view information about donating and find other information about their community at their website:

www.benedictinesofmary.org

Please pray for an increase of faithful religious communities in our United States! The Benedictines, in particular, I’m sure will have to start a new foundation soon; let us pray that an opportunity somewhere on the west coast presents itself to them.

God bless you,
 Fr. Curtis

**Chesterton Society Meeting:
 December 12th at 7:30pm**

We will meet in one of the classrooms right after the 6:30 pm Mass.

We will discuss chapter 3 of *St. Francis of Assisi* “Francis the Fighter.”

All are welcome!

Around the Parish

Pilgrim Virgin Statue - If you would like to have our Blessed Mother’s image spend a week with you in your home, sign up in the book store. First come, first served! You may pickup the statue on one Sunday and return it the next. By taking the image you’re agreeing to pray a family Rosary daily for the duration of the visit.

Registration for 1st Communion class is open for children of parishioners who will be 7 by June 1st. Forms are available in the office or bookstore. Classes begin in January. A copy of the child’s baptism certificate must accompany the registration.

High School Summer Programs in Italy

ProRome, a boutique Catholic tour company based out of Staunton, VA is offering two high school summer programs in Italy next year, Catholica Summer Program (for boys) and Bella Vita Summer Program (for girls). These twenty-day immersion experiences feature daily Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, survey courses in Church History and Art History, immersion courses in Latin and Italian, comprehensive tours throughout Rome, day and overnight trips throughout Italy and much, much more. For more information please visit ProRome on the web at www.prorome.com.

St. Francis Xavier Mission Trips

This year there will be four trips: two in Mexico (Holy Week and July), one in Peru, and one in the Dominican Republic. Registration is now open via the website www.sfxmission.com

Important Message about Offering Envelopes

The use of “offering-envelopes” makes the job of keeping track of your donations for tax purposes much easier; loose checks must be photo copied and recorded.

New envelopes for 2018 are now available to pick up in the vestibule. If you do not see a box with your name on it, it is either because you are not registered or you have not picked up your envelopes for the last two years.

If you would like to have envelopes, please stop by the office/bookstore and fill out a registration form and a box will be given to you.

It is also helpful to the counters if you write the amount on the envelope as the envelopes are used to record your donation.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish!

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Sandy Sneary,
 Barbara Jeong, John Newaz, Jim Carlson, Darryl Gallagher,
 Fr. Goodwin, Margaret Northan, Jean Haun,
 Sandra De Monaco, Pamela Lewis, Helen DiCarlo, Barbara Cogan,
 Ramon and Robert Daley, Liz Nicolini, Julie Jeong,
 William (Pat) Cummings, Lorraine Peterson, John Testa,
 Mike Trainor, Michael Cuellar, Alice Smith,
 Patricia Quinn, William Eckerman, Mitzi Vandenburg



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If you wish to receive official notifications from the parish, subscribe to email: ststephenssp-subscribe@yahoo.com

MASS SCHEDULE
TRADITIONAL ROMAN RITE

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Low Mass
 10:30 a.m. High Mass
 1:30 p.m. Low Mass
 6:00 p.m. Low Mass

Monday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday: 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Thursday: 7:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Friday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Saturday: 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days: Please call the office or consult the bulletin or website

DEVOTIONS

Rosary:

- Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and after the 1:30 p.m. Mass
- Following the 12:15 p.m. Mass on weekdays

Holy Face Novena: 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday

St. Monica Novena: First Thursday of every month, following the 6:30 p.m. Mass

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena: after 6:30 p.m. Mass every Tuesday

Fatima Procession: 13th of every month- May to October - following the 6:30 p.m. Mass on weekdays, the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturdays, and the 1 p.m. Mass on Sundays

Men's Holy League: 3rd Wednesday of each month. Holy Hour 7pm—8 pm

Knights of Columbus: 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6 pm

CONFESSION

- One half hour before all Masses
- Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION
THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Thursday: 3:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Friday: After 6:30 p.m. Mass

Saturday: After 7:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. (Holy Hour for Vocations)

First Friday: Benediction after 12:15 p.m. Mass

SICK CALLS

If anyone is in need of the Sacraments (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?

Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or Bookstore.

ENVELOPES AND ON-LINE GIVING

Envelopes are very helpful for our bookkeeping. PLEASE pick them up in the Parish Office or Bookstore.

For on-line giving go to the parish website:
www.sacfssp.com

St. Bernadette Fund – to aid parishioners in need!
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