

Sunday, December 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday



- Sun. 17 Dec. Third Sunday of Advent, I Class**
 8:00 am Ana Cristina Hernandez
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:30 pm Luiza Diaz
 6:00 pm Isabella & Matthew Wagner
- Mon 18 Dec. Greater Feria of Advent, II Class**
 7:00 am Gary Ochea
 12:15 pm †Christopherson Cortes
- Tues. 19 Dec. Greater Feria of Advent, II Class**
 7:00 am Benjamin Kasak
 6:30 pm †Christopherson Cortes
- Wed. 20 Dec. Ember Wednesday, II Class**
 7:00 am Jacob Kasak
 12:15 pm †Josef Schuchmann
- Thurs. 21 Dec. St. Thomas, Apostle, II Class**
 7:00 am †Paulette Brady
 6:30 pm Jacob & Benjamin Kasak
- Fri. 22 Dec. Ember Friday, II Class**
 7:00 am †Christopherson Cortes
 12:15 pm Holy Death for Margarita Santana
 6:30 pm †Francis J. Daley
- Sat. 23 Dec. Ember Saturday, II Class**
 7:00 am Louis G. Daley
 9:00 am James & Teala Cabral
- Sun. 24 Dec. Vigil of Christmas, I Class**
 8:00 am †Christopherson Cortes
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:30 pm †Paulette Brady

NO 6:00 PM MASS TODAY

...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. 17—Gaudete Sunday
 Dec. 26—St. Stephen’s Day—Altar Guild Ceremony
 Dec. 27—Feast of St. John—blessing of wine
 Dec. 31—No 6:00 pm Mass
 Jan. 5—Blessing of Epiphany water
 Jan. 6—Annual Christmas Party
 Jan. 13—Girls groups meet
 March 20—Confirmation 6:00 pm
 Jan. 1—Octave of the Nativity

Seeking God in Faith

“He that cometh to God, must believe” (*Heb 11,6*), says St. Paul, and he gives us this definition of faith: “Faith is the substance of things to be hoped for, the evidence of things that appear not” (*ibid. 11,1*). In heaven we shall see God by the light of glory, but on earth we know Him by the light of faith.

We must not base our interior life, our search for God, on sentiment or spiritual consolations, but on an intensive practice of the theological virtues. St. John of the Cross gives this advice to a soul seeking God, “Hear a word full of substance and unapproachable truth: it is that thou seek Him in faith and in love, without desiring to find satisfaction in aught” (*SC, I,11*). Therefore, we must learn to seek God without any desire for pleasure, consolation, satisfaction, even though it be purely spiritual; we must learn to walk in the path of “naked faith.” Faith, more than any kind of knowledge or of reasoning, puts the soul into direct contact with God. Faith is “the proximate and proportionate means whereby the soul is united with God; for such is the likeness between itself and God, that there is no other difference save that which exists between seeing God and believing in Him” (*J.G. AS II, 9,1*). Faith places us before God as He is; it does not make us see Him, but it makes us believe in Him, and thus puts our intellect in contact with Him. By means of faith, “God manifests Himself to the soul in divine light which passes all understanding. And therefore, the greater the faith of the soul, the more closely is it united with God” (*ibid.*). Faith unites the soul with God, even though it experiences no spiritual consolation; on the contrary, God often deprives the soul of all spiritual consolation that it may exercise itself more in faith and grow in it.

“Faith and love are like the guides of the blind which will lead thee by a way which thou knowest not to the hidden place of God” (*J.C. SC, I,11*). Faith is an obscure but firm adherence to the divine Word which reveals the supreme greatness of our God, who is so sublime, so omnipotent, but also so good and merciful. Faith says to the Christian soul, “You are the temple of the living God”; and the more lively the soul’s faith, the more it believes Jesus’ words, “If any one love Me . . . My Father will love him and We will come to him, and will make Our abode with him” (*Jn 14, 23*). By faith the soul believes in the infinite love of God, who deigns to lower Himself to His creature even to making His dwelling within it, inviting it to live in intimate union with Him. . . . This is our great act of faith, by which, although we do not see or experience by our senses, we proceed with the confidence of one who does see. (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen)

From the Vicar

Dear parishioners,

A happy and joyful *Gaudete* Sunday to you. Today is the first use of our new Rose vestments, so I thought to give you some of the preparatory prayers the priest uses while vesting before Holy Mass. Here they are:

- At the washing of hands: *Give strength to my hands, Lord, to wipe away all stain, so that I may be able to serve Thee in purity of mind and body.*

- Resting the amice – a large white linen cloth – over his head: *Lord, set the helmet of salvation on my head to fend off all the assaults of the devil.* Afterwards the priest lowers the amice around the neck and ties it at the chest.

- Putting on the alb, the white linen garment which covers the cassock: *Make me white, O Lord, and cleanse my heart; that being made white in the Blood of the Lamb I may deserve an eternal reward.* The alb is a symbol of holiness and consecration.

- Wrapping the cincture about the waist: *Gird me, O Lord, with the cincture of purity, and quench in my heart the fire of concupiscence, that the virtue of continence and chastity may abide in me.* The cincture is a sign of chastity. There are several popular sacramentals that have the same signification, such as the cord of St. Philomena.

- Placing the maniple on the left arm: *May I deserve, O Lord, to bear the maniple of weeping and sorrow in order that I may joyfully reap the reward of my labors.* The maniple is a symbol of service. It also recollects the bindings that restrained Our Lord’s wrists during his arrest and imprisonment.

- Fixing the stole about the neck: *Lord, restore the stole of immortality, which I lost through the collusion of our first parents, and, unworthy as I am to approach Thy sacred mysteries, may I yet gain eternal joy.* The stole represents the authority of the priest. Traditionally, at Mass the bishop wears the stole with each side hanging straight down, while a priest crosses the ends of the stole. This is a reminder that the juridical authority of the priest is bound and subordinate to the bishop. This distinction has unfortunately been lost, however, outside of the Traditional Mass.

- Putting on the chasuble: *O Lord, who has said, ‘My yoke is sweet and My burden light,’ grant that I may so carry it as to merit Thy grace.* The chasuble is a sign of charity, which fittingly adorns and rests upon all of the other vestments. In particular, the chasuble cloaking and covering the stole is a beautiful symbol of the precedence of charity over authority.

The priests are continuing to commission new vestments to build up the patrimony of the parish, and we anticipate receiving a few new sets relatively soon. If you are interested in donating for this purpose, please speak to one of us.

God bless you,
 Fr. Curtis

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.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Holy Day of Obligation

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11:00 | Confessions |
| 11:15 P.M. | Hymns and Carols |
| 12:00 | Midnight Solemn Mass |
| 8:00 A.M. | Low Mass |
| 10:30 A.M. | Solemn Mass |
| 1:30 P.M. | Low Mass |
| 6:00 P.M. | Low Mass |

Annual Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party will be on Saturday, January 6, 2018! Tickets are \$10 or \$25 per family and will be sold after the Sunday Masses. If you would like to volunteer to help or be a part of the talent show entertainment, please contact Yesenia Rangel at (916) 682-9600 or YeseniaLovesLife@gmail.com.

Chesterton Society Meeting: DATE CHANGE!

December 19th 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!

Nativity Scene Blessing

Sacramento, December 17 at 3 p.m.

Please join the Sacramento Nativity Scene Committee, St. Michael’s Knights of Columbus, and Knights from many other local councils as Auxiliary Bishop Cotta, of the Diocese of Sacramento, blesses the Nativity scene which will be on Display in the days leading up to Christmas on the steps of the state Capitol building for the second year in a row. The ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. The ceremony will conclude around 3:30 with hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies. For more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/SacNativity2017> or email SacramentoNativity@gmail.com

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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Realtor
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fran@francammarota.com

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Peter S. Nazarkewich
Agent
Peter Nazarkewich Insurance Agency
281 Iron Point Road
STE 287
Folsom, CA 95630
Tel 916.993.3721
Fax 916.238.1679
pnazarkewich@farmersagent.com
0j14398



Matt Gallagher
REALTOR®

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5461 44th Street,
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Tel: (916)455-5114
Fax: (916)455-1018

Rev. Fr. John Lyons, F.S.S.P., *Pastor*
Rev. Fr. Joshua Curtis, F.S.S.P., *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Fr. Dominic Savoie, F.S.S.P., *Parochial Vicar*

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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!
Donations may be made on-line.