

**Sunday, February 11, 2018
Quinquagesima Sunday**



Sun. 11 Feb. Quinquagesima Sunday, II Class
8:00 am Barbara Ryan
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:30 pm †Theresa
6:00 pm †José Rafael & Family, & Tereza

Mon 12 Feb. Seven Holy Servite Founders, Confessors, III Class
7:00 am Tomas, Tommy, and Gloria Villalobos
12:15 pm American TFP Members & Their Families

Tues. 13 Feb. Feria, IV Class
7:00 am Mary Lou Reslock
6:30 pm Eric Geibel

Wed. 14 Feb. Ash Wednesday, I Class
7:00 am †Christopherson Cortes
12:15 pm Alexander McCluskey
7:00 pm Natalia Santana

Thurs. 15 Feb. Thursday After Ash Wednesday, III Class
7:00 am Richard Ursua
6:30 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Fri. 16 Feb. Friday After Ash Wednesday, III Class
7:00 am DiannaDao & Family
12:15 pm Katie & Tom Scarry & Family
6:30 pm Edward Joseph Pierini III & Family

Sat. 17 Feb. Saturday After Ash Wednesday, III Class
7:00 am Isabel & Marcos Jimenez
9:00 am Dianna Dao & Family

Sun. 18 Feb. First Sunday of Lent, I Class
8:00 am President Trump & His Family
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:30 pm Christine & Charlie Watts & Family
6:00 pm Suffering Souls in Purgatory

...In Memoriam

†Fatima Moitoso, †George Lane

Important Upcoming Dates

Feb. 14—Ash Wednesday
Feb. 20—Preparation for Marian Consecration begins
Feb. 22—Chair of St. Peter
March 19—Feast of St. Joseph
March 20—Confirmation 6:00 pm
March 25—Marian Consecration
March 30—Good Friday
April 1—Easter Sunday
May 5—First Holy Communion 10:30 am

The Spirit of Mortification

The spirit of mortification has more than a purely physical aspect of mortification; it also includes renunciation of the ego, the will, and the understanding. Just as in our body and in our senses we have unruly tendencies toward the enjoyment of material things, so also in our ego there are inordinate tendencies toward self-assertion. Love of self and complacency in our own excellence are often so great that, even unconsciously, we tend to make “self” the center of the universe.

The spirit of mortification is really complete when, above all, we seek to mortify self-love in all its many manifestations. The Pharisee who fasted on the appointed days, but whose heart was so puffed up with pride that his prayer amounted to nothing more than praise of himself and scorn of his neighbor, did not have the spirit of mortification and hence was not justified before God. There is little value in imposing corporal mortifications on ourselves if we then refuse to yield our opinion in order to accommodate ourselves to others, if we cannot be reconciled with our enemies, or bear an injury and a cutting word with calmness, or hold back a sharp answer.

“Why,” asks St. Teresa of Jesus, “do we shrink from interior mortification [of our ego, our will, and judgment] since this is the means by which every other kind of mortification may become much more meritorious and perfect, and may be practiced with greater tranquility and ease?” (*Way*, 12). As long as mortification does not strike at our pride, it remains at the halfway mark and never reaches its goal.

The true spirit of mortification embraces, in the first place, all the occasions for physical or moral suffering permitted by divine Providence. The sufferings attendant on illness or fatigue; the efforts required by the performance of our duties or by a life of intense labor; the privations imposed by the state of poverty—all are excellent physical penances. If we sincerely desire to be guided by divine Providence in everything, we will not try to avoid them, or even to lighten them, but will accept wholeheartedly whatever God offers us. It would be absurd to refuse a single one of those providential opportunities for suffering and to look for voluntary mortifications of our own choice. Likewise, it would be foolish for those in religious life to omit the least exercise imposed by the Rule in order to do a penance of their own choosing.

. . . In the mortifications offered to us by divine Providence, there is nothing of our own will or liking; they strike us just where we need it most, and where, by voluntary mortification, we could never reach.
(*Divine Intimacy* Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen)

From the Pastor

This Wednesday, Feb. 14, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. There’s an old saying: “Well begun is half done.” Let’s get off to a good start by going to Mass, receiving ashes, and (for those of whom it is required) fasting and abstaining from eating meat. We know from experience just how quickly Lent passes. Let’s not waste this holy season of Lent by doing little or nothing. There are three areas to which we want to apply ourselves throughout Lent: prayer, fasting, and alms giving. **Prayer:** The best prayer of all is the Mass; come daily, or, as often as you can during Lent. It’s to be hoped that everyone will make a good confession during this season. Make the Stations of the Cross – they will be prayed after the 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Mass every Friday of Lent. Participate in the preparation for consecration to Jesus through Mary. **Fasting:** Fasting from food is one of the oldest of religious practices. It may take some weight off us, but it adds weight to our prayers. Some people fast throughout Lent; others will do so two or three times a week; some give up eating between meals; and still others abstain from something they like to eat or drink (for example, sweets). Not only can we fast from food, we can “fast” from other things, for example, giving up recreational electronic use. **Alms giving:** This can best be done by practicing the corporal works of mercy – feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, etc. It may be done directly, or, indirectly by giving money to organizations that assist the needy. A good direct way to assist the most helpless of our brothers and sisters is to participate in “40 Days for Life.”

Have a blessed Lent!

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us!

Mass Schedule for Ash Wednesday

Ashes will be distributed before each Mass:
7:00 am
12:15 pm
7:00 pm (Solemn Mass)

40 Days for Life

40 Days for Life prayer vigil begins on Feb. 14th in hundreds of cities, including several in our Diocese. Christians will pray and offer assistance on the sidewalk, from 8 am to 6 pm Monday—Friday until March 25th. This life-saving, peaceful, prayerful ministry is endorsed by Bishop Soto who encourages all Catholics to participate. By God’s grace over 13,998 women worldwide have changed their minds, choosing LIFE for their babies rather than abortion because of people praying at the sidewalk. For more info see 40daysforlife.com/sacramento.

Fr. Lyons will be at the abortion site every Friday at 10 am throughout the 40 Days. Please join him to pray at 2322 Butano Drive, Sacramento.

Study Sacred Scripture with Fr. Savoie

Thursdays in February @ 7:30 pm Classroom 2
The Book of Job
Part 1 : Into the Dark

Around the Parish

Congratulation to Drew & Jennie Bolen on the birth of their sixth child, Matthew John! Matthew was baptized at St. Stephen’s on January 31st.

Congratulation to Hector and Angelica Hernandez on the birth of their sixth child, Adrian Jose! Adrian was baptized at St. Stephen’s on February 3.

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.

The Annual Catholic Appeal

Today the collection for the Annual Catholic Appeal will be taken up. Appeal pledges are available to fill out. You may have already received an appeal pledge in the mail. If you choose to send it in, please make sure that St. Stephen’s is listed as your parish as 25% of funds collected are returned to the parish.

Marian Consecration

Preparation will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 20, for those who would like to consecrate themselves (or, to renew their consecration) to Jesus through Mary according to the method of St. Louis de Montfort. A sermon will be preached on some aspect of the consecration every Tuesday at the 6:30 p.m. Mass until the consecration is made on Palm Sunday, March 25. Why March 25th? March 25th is the feast of the Annunciation, the day God entrusted Himself to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary. However, because it falls on Palm Sunday this year, it won’t be celebrated liturgically until after Easter.

Extra Confession Times During Lent

Throughout Lent, beginning Feb. 15, the priests of St. Stephen’s will make themselves available to hear confessions from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Please spread the word to those who do not come regularly to St. Stephen’s, but would like to go to confession.

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, William (Pat) Cummings, Lorraine Peterson,
John Testa, Mike Trainor, Michael Cuellar, Alice Smith,
Patricia Quinn, William Eckerman, Mitzi Vandenburg,
Richard Cummings, Nellie Reyes, Gretchen Medel,
Dario Gonzalez



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Agent
Peter Nazarkewich Insurance Agency
281 Iron Point Road
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Folsom, CA 95630
Tel 916.993.3721
Fax 916.238.1679
pnazarkewich@farmersagent.com
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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*

www.sacfssp.com

If you wish to receive official notifications from the parish, subscribe to email: ststephenfssp-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.