

**Sunday, April 8, 2018**  
**Low Sunday**



- Sun. 8 Apr. Low Sunday, I Class**  
8:00 am † Jerry Juarez  
10:30 am Pro Populo  
1:30 pm Nathan Rose  
6:00 pm Marcus Johnson
- Mon. 9 Apr. Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I Class**  
7:00 am Tish Gallagher & Family  
12:15 pm Charlie Houk
- Tues. 10 Apr. Feria of Paschaltide, IV Class**  
7:00 am Brother Miguel Lozano OFM  
6:30 pm Alexander McCluskey
- Wed. 11 Apr. St. Leo the Great, Pope, Confessor, & Doctor, III Class**  
7:00 am Julius & Zenaida & Families  
12:15 pm † Fern Schicle
- Thurs. 12 Apr. Feria of Paschaltide, IV Class**  
7:00 am † Jerry Scarry  
6:30 pm Sarah Cummings
- Fri. 13 Apr. St. Hermenegild, Martyr, III Class**  
7:00 am FSSP  
12:15 pm Mary "Quincy" Felix  
6:30 pm All Souls in Purgatory
- Sat. 14 Apr. St. Justin, Martyr, III Class**  
7:00 am Gary Rose  
9:00 am Barbara Jeong
- Sun. 15 Apr. Second Sunday After Easter, II Class**  
8:00 am Brother Miguel Lozano OFM  
10:30 am Pro Populo  
1:30 pm † Father James Wilmes  
6:00 pm † Sister Mary Joseph Bregin

**...In Memoriam**

†Fatima Moitoso, †George Lane, †William Eckerman;  
Msgr. Edward Kavanaugh, †Edward Upczak, †Roy Nelson

**Important Upcoming Dates**

April 9—Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin (transferred)  
May 5—First Communion  
May 12—May Procession  
May 10—Ascension of Our Lord  
June 8—Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
June 17-23—Camp Sacred Heart  
July 8-12—Annual Retreat

**Intimate Converse With God**

Meditation, like meditative reading, is a means to attain to the heart of prayer which, according to St. Teresa of Jesus, is "nothing but friendly intercourse, and frequent solitary converse with Him who we know loves us" (*Life*, 8). It makes no difference whether we attain this end by means of meditation, or reading, or even by the slow, pious recitation of a vocal prayer. All these ways are good; the best for each one, however, will be that which will lead him more quickly to the end, that is, to intimate converse with God. Once we reach the heart of prayer, we must learn how to persevere in it, in other words, to converse "in friendly intercourse with the Lord." Here, likewise, the manner will differ according to one's attraction and personal dispositions, which will often vary with the days and with circumstances. Sometimes, as soon as we are sufficiently convinced of God's love for us, we feel incited to express our gratitude to Him, desiring to return love for love, and we spontaneously begin an intimate conversation with the Lord. We express our gratitude, protesting that we want to be more generous in giving ourselves to Him; we beg His pardon for not having done so in the past; finally, we go on to make practical resolutions and to ask His help to keep them faithfully. Of course, this means an intimate colloquy, wholly personal and spontaneous, without preoccupation about form or order, and proceeding only from the superabundance of the heart. In this way, having interrupted the reading or the meditation which has aroused in us so many good thoughts, we "stop to have solitary converse with God," returning to the book or the reflection when we feel the need of seeking new reasons or of arousing new affections to maintain our colloquy with God. Here is a genuine colloquy, because not only does the soul speak, but God often answers—not audibly, of course, but by sending it graces of light and love through which the soul will have a better understanding of the divine ways, and will feel more eager to advance in them with generosity. It is well, therefore, not to make use of many words in the colloquy, but to stop often and listen interiorly in order to perceive the movements of grace, which are really God's answer.

We must not believe that in order to treat intimately with God and to show Him our love, it is always necessary to do so by means of words. On the contrary—and this happens spontaneously with progress in the spiritual life—we will often prefer to be silent in order to fix our gaze calmly on the Lord, to listen to Him, the interior Master, and to return Him love in silence. The manifestation of our love thus becomes less lively and impetuous, but it gains in depth what it loses in emotion and outward appearance.  
*(Divine Intimacy Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen)*

**The Annunciation and Fiat: Mary's Specific Call**

With the mystery of the Annunciation, we are in fact presented with the first act of explicit Christian faith. Elizabeth tells us in the mystery of the Visitation that Mary's blessedness in this mystery is purely and primarily a blessedness of faith. She is blessed because she believed. Our Lord Himself tells us this in the Gospel: when someone says to Him: "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that fed you!" Jesus replies: "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

In his treatise on virginity, St. Augustine states the following concerning these words of Christ: "Mary is more blessed in receiving the faith of Christ, than in conceiving the flesh of Christ. Her nearness as a Mother would have been of no profit to Mary, had she not borne Christ in her heart after a more blessed manner than in her flesh."

This act of faith of the Most Holy Virgin must not only lead us into the full mystery of her divine motherhood, which begins with this act of faith, but must also help us understand in an immediately practical way what our Christian faith should be and how we must behave as believers receiving God's Word.

Through her fiat to the angel's words, Mary's spirit, in its deepest, most vital and intimate core, fully adheres to the words of God's messenger as God's Words for her. In this living and loving act of faith, Mary's spirit touches the Word of God Himself in His personal mystery; or, more accurately, the Word of God acts upon her spirit, which totally surrenders to this divine hold over it. The Word of God imprints Himself on her spirit from the inside, so to speak, so that Mary's spirit is as though possessed by the Person of the Word. "Christ dwells in our hearts through faith." The Word of God Himself dwells in her spirit and possesses it.

In Mary's fiat, her act of faith, her spirit acquires a new certainty, which enables her to stand firm, as though her spirit were able to see face to face Him who is given to her in an invisible way and in darkness, but who is more intimately present than ever.

**Chesterton Society Meeting**  
**April 10th at 7:30pm -**

We will discuss St. Francis of Assisi chapter 6: "The Little Poor Man".

**Brown Bag Lunch Project**

As a result of your dedication and generosity, we are currently stocked up on fruit-cups, waters, and crackers. However, we are in need of MEATS and DESSERTS at this time. Meat donations must be non-perishable i.e., tuna foil packets, cans of meat with flip tops (single servings ~5 oz), boxed meat/cracker kits i.e "Bumblebee Snack-on-the Run " -4oz), canned vienna sausages- (5 oz). Dessert donations are best if individually wrapped (i.e., 3-5 cookies/pastries per package) or granola bars. The black box in the vestibule is always ready to receive your food items! Cash donations also welcome at the office or bookstore.

Thank you for participating in this corporal work of mercy. Questions or comments, please contact Julie Solorio @ 209 300-4270.

**Around the Parish**

**Congratulations** to Brendan & Ana Stasik on the birth of their 5th child, Charles Aloysius! Charles was baptized at St. Stephen's on April 1st.

**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.

**Organ Concert**

Jacob and Rebekah Kasak invite you to attend an organ concert of sacred music to take place here at St. Stephen's today, following the Divine Mercy Holy Hour. A reception in the parish hall will follow the concert. All are invited.

**Prayer for Priestly and Religious Vocations**

**Priest:** Let us pray for priestly and religious vocations.  
**All:** O God, we earnestly beseech Thee to bless the Church with many priests, brothers, and sisters, who will love Thee with their whole hearts, be faithful to their vocations, and gladly spend their entire lives to teach Thy truths, serve Thy Church, and to make Thee known and loved.  
**Priest:** Bless our families, bless our children.  
**All:** Choose from our homes those who are needed for Thy work.  
**Priest:** O Mary, Queen of priestly and religious vocations:  
**All:** Pray for us. Pray for our priests, seminarians and religious. Obtain for us the grace of many more. Amen.  
*(Please offer your reception of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month for vocations)*

**Prayer of Parents for Priestly and Religious Vocations**

O God, grant that at least one of our sons may become a priest or religious brother, and one of our daughters a religious sister. We ourselves want to live as good Christians, and to guide our children always to do what is right, so that we may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give Thee a holy priest, brother, or sister! Amen.  
*(Conclude with an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be)*

**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, Helen DiCarlo, Barbara Cogan, Ramon and Robert Daley, Liz Nicolini, William (Pat) Cummings, Lorraine Peterson, John Testa, Mitzi Vandenburg, Richard Cummings, Nellie Reyes, Gretchen Medel, Dario Gonzalez, Rick Rabenau, "Holly" Hollingsworth, Mike Hays, Michael Cuellar





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**St. Jude**  
**Thank You**  
**For Prayers Answered!**



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**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

**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.

**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

**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](http://www.sacfssp.com)

**St. Bernadette Fund – to aid parishioners in need!**  
 Donations may be made on-line.