

Sunday, November 29, 2015
1st Sunday of Advent



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| Sun. 29 Nov. | <u>1st Sunday of Advent</u>, <i>I Class</i> 8:30 am Aaron Joseph Avila (Cure for cancer) 10:30 am Pro Populo 1:00 pm All Who Were Part of The Bolen Family Baptism & Entering the Church 3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction |
| Mon. 30 Nov. | <u>St. Andrew</u>, <i>Apostle, II Class</i> 8:30 am FSSP 12:15 am Fr. Peter Carota |
| Tues. 1 Dec. | <u>Feria of Advent</u>, <i>III Class</i> 7:00 am Poor Souls 6:30 pm †Ross Kasten |
| Wed. 2 Dec. | <u>St. Vivian</u>, <i>Virgin & Martyr, III Class</i> 7:00 am †Joseph Coleman 12:15 pm Eric Westmark |
| Thurs. 3 Dec. | <u>St. Francis Xavier</u>, <i>Confessor, III Class</i> 7:00 am Poor Souls 6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality |
| Fri. 4 Dec. | <u>St. Peter Chrysologus</u>, <i>Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class</i> 7:00 am Egan Family 12:15 pm Bolen Family 6:30 pm Renee Burns |
| Sat. 5 Dec. | <u>Feria of Advent</u>, <i>III Class</i> 5:30 am Judy Roberts’s Family 7:00 am Veronica Bellocchi 9:00 am Bronson Family |
| Sun. 6 Dec. | <u>2nd Sunday of Advent</u>, <i>I Class</i> 8:30 am Bernadette Meauze 10:30 am Pro Populo 1:00 pm Rachel Pineda 3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction |

...In Memoriam

†Joan Blackburn, †Thomas Joseph Greco, †Bruce Perry,
†Catherine Owen, †Gregory Nicholas,
†Jeannemarie Crabtree, †Dr. George Alexeeff,
†Edward Coleman, †Marilyn Goyette, †Gilbert Perry
†Ruth Rodgers

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec. 5—Rorate Mass 5:30 am
Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Dec 11—High School Youth Group
Dec. 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 25—Midnight Mass
Dec. 26—St. Stephen Guild Mass & Medal Ceremony
Jan. 9—First Communion Classes begin
Jan. 23—West Coast Walk for Life
March 13—Confirmation
May 7—First Holy Communion

The “Yes” of Perfect Consent

St. John of the Cross very aptly says that the characteristic of union of wills is the *yes* of the soul’s “free consent” by which it gives itself entirely to God, surrendering itself completely to Him by the full and total gift of its will. In other words, the soul is henceforth so determined not to will anything but God and His good pleasure, that in every circumstance it only repeats its *yes*, by accepting with love all that He wills and does for it. This *yes* is effective, and not simply a desire; it is a *yes* by which the soul truly gives itself with all the generosity of which it is capable.

From the beginning of the spiritual life, the fervent soul should desire to give itself to God without reserve, always saying *yes* to Him. But in practice, being still hampered by the bonds of passions and attachment to creatures, it often happens that the soul’s gift is not a complete one. Frequently, in the concrete instances of life, when faced with the bitterness of renunciation and interior conflict, its ideal *yes* is changed into a virtual *no*. In the state of union, however, this is no longer true. Here the soul is so surrendered to the holy will of God that it does not take back anything of its gift; its *yes* is so definitive and efficacious that it offers and unites the soul to God as a bride to her Bridegroom; that is why the mystics call this state “spiritual espousals.”

It is important to realize, that, on the part of the soul, the intensity of its union with God depends on the perfection of its *yes*; it should be a consent that is perfect in breadth and in depth: in breadth, because it should extend not only to what God commands, but even to all that He desires, to all that would give Him greater pleasure. Love must keep the soul so vigilant and attentive that it can discern in various circumstances what pleases God most, and this same love should make the soul generous enough to accomplish all without the least hesitation. The *yes* must be equally perfect in depth, because the soul should adhere to the divine good pleasure, not with negligence, niggardliness, nor even with the slightest bad grace, but with all the ardor of its will, happy to be able to give itself to God, whatever sacrifice this might entail.

(taken from *Divine Intimacy*, written by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.)

What We Shall Be Asked to Give

We shall not be asked to do more than the Mother of God; we shall not be asked to become extraordinary or set apart or to make a hard and fast rule of life or to compile a manual of mortifications or heroic resolutions; we shall not be asked to cultivate our souls like rare hothouse flowers; we shall not, most of us, even be allowed to do that.

What we shall be asked to give is our flesh and blood, our daily life—our thoughts, our service to one another, our affections and loves, our words, our intellect, our waking, working, and sleeping, our ordinary human joys and sorrows—to God.

To surrender all that we are, as we are, to the Spirit of Love in order that our lives may bear Christ into the world—that is what we shall be asked.

(taken from *The Reed of God* by Caryll Houselander. Available at St. Stephens Book & Gift Store)

2016 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for next year are available for you to pick up in the vestibule of the church. If you do not see a box with your name on it and would like a set, please ask for them in the bookstore. Using weekly envelopes is very helpful to us, it eliminates a lot of extra paperwork as all checks must be copied and recorded if they are loose.

West Coast Walk for Life

Save the Date: January 23, 2016
12th Annual Walk for Life West Coast.
Thanks to the enthusiastic support of our parish at the food fundraiser, bus tickets will only be \$10 each instead of \$27 per person! Only 14 tickets left! For more information, and to purchase a bus ticket, see or call:
Mike & Kathleen DeSantis
916-204-9125 or 916-335-4553

Registration for First Communion Classes

Registration is open for First Communion preparation classes. Please pick up forms in the bookstore or parish office.

First Communion classes will begin Saturday, January 9th. Children age 7 by May 1st 2016 may register. Please bring a copy of your child’s baptism certificate when you register unless baptized at St. Stephens.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath,
Barbara Graichen, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns,
Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary,
Di Giovanni Family, John Reyes, Patricia Becker,
Augustine Guzman, Luis Salazar, Paulette Brady,
Joseph Michael Jaeger, Norman Sayles, Mary Foose,
Fr. Peter Carota, Helen DiCarlo, Beverly Longtin,
James Reslock

~Around the Parish~

~ Congratulations to Fernando & Gloria Santana on the birth of their 6th child, Therese Chiara! Therese was baptized on November 28th at St. Stephens.



The Rorate Mass

December 5th
5:30 AM

The Rorate Mass is a traditional Advent devotion wherein the Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Advent is offered just before dawn. This sung Mass is lit only by candlelight; the interplay of light and darkness speak to the meaning of Advent and the coming of the Light of the world. Since it is a votive Mass in Mary’s honor, white vestments are worn instead of Advent violet.

In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the Light of the world, He who is soon to be born, and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illumined by the sun as our Faith is illumined by Christ.

The readings and prayers of the Rorate Mass foretell the prophecy of the Virgin who would bear a Son called Emmanuel, and call on all to raise the gates of their hearts and their societies to let Christ the King enter; asking for the grace to receive eternal life by the merits of the Incarnation and saving Resurrection of Our Lord.



St. Andrew Christmas Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

(To be said 15 x each day from the Feast of St. Andrew, November 30, until Christmas.)

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Mother of Perpetual Help! Thank you for all the Blessings for our Family!

Saint Stephen the First Martyr Parish

Served by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter

Fr. John Lyons, F.S.S.P., Pastor

Fr. Ashley Perry, Parochial Vicar

Fr. Zachary Akers, F.S.S.P., Parochial Vicar

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

Devotions

Rosary: Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m., after the 1p.m. Mass and five minutes after many weekday Masses

Monday at 7:00 pm Rosary for World Peace

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

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

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

Fatima Procession: 13th of the month May to October

Mass Schedule

Traditional Roman Rite

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Low Mass

10:30 a.m. High Mass

1:00 p.m. Low Mass

3:00 p.m. Vespers and Benediction

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., 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

Confessions

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

Exposition and Benediction of 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. Mass to 8:45 a.m.—Holy Hour for Vocations

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

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.

Parish Swap

Do you have items you no longer need? List them by contacting Rose-Mary at ParishSwap@gmail.com

View available items by clicking on the "links" button on the front page of www.sacfssp.com