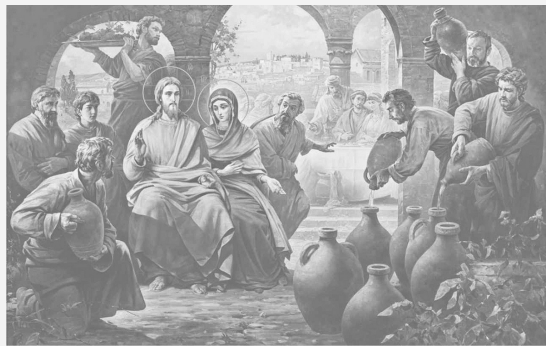


Sunday, January 15, 2017
2nd Sunday after Epiphany



Sun. 15 Jan. 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, II Class
 8:00 am Marcellinus Cuatto
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:30 pm †Maria Lopresti
 6:00 pm Intentions of Indre McCluskey

Mon. 16 Jan. St. Marcellus I, Pope & Martyr, III Class
 7:00 am †Joseph Holcraft
 12:15 pm †Anita McLaughlin

Tues. 17 Jan. St. Anthony, Abbot, III Class
 7:00 am Nicholas McDonough
 6:30 pm Barbara Ryan

Wed. 18 Jan. Feria, IV Class
 7:00 am †Patricia Ruth Louks
 12:15 pm Edward Wedinsky

Thurs 19 Jan. Feria, IV Class
 7:00 am †Maria Lopresti
 6:30 pm Alison & Penny Parker

Fri. 20 Jan. SS. Fabian, Pope, & Sebastian, Martyrs, III Class
 7:00 am Dr. Gerald Foy
 12:15 pm Deanna Westmark
 6:30 pm Martin McFadden Jr. & His Children

Sat. 21 Jan. St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr, III Class
 7:00 am †Frank Prieto
 9:00 am Ann Richardson

Sun. 15 Jan. 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
 8:00 am Fr. Goodwin, FSSP
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:30 pm †Maria Lopresti
 6:00 pm Intentions of Indre McCluskey

...In Memoriam

†Maria Lopresti, †George Klopff, †Nell Keim, †John Reyes,
 †Margaret Melusky, †Robert O’Kane

Important Upcoming Dates

Jan. 15—First Communion classes begin
 Jan. 21—West Coast Walk for Life
 Feb. 2—Feast of the Purification—Candlemas
 Feb. 22—Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
 March 1—Ash Wednesday
 March 11—Confirmation
 April 23—Live Performance of “Faustina”
 May 6—First Holy Communion
 June 18—24 Camp Sacred Heart
 July 23—27—Annual Retreat

The Doctrine of Jesus

The truths Jesus taught are so important and essential that, to know them or not, to believe them or not, is a matter of life or of death. His doctrine is not optional; rather, it is so essential that we cannot attain eternal life without it. “Whosoever believeth in Him . . . may have life everlasting. . . but he that doth not believe is already judged: because he believeth not in the Name of the only-begotten Son of God.” Compared to the truths taught by Jesus, all others are insufficient.

Because the doctrine of Jesus is absolutely indispensable, He proved its truth by miracles in order to help our weak faith to adhere to it. To the blindly obstinate Jews who refused to believe in Him, He said, “The works which the Father hath given Me to perfect; the works themselves which I do, give testimony of Me.” When the disciples of John the Baptist asked Him if He were the Messiah in whom they were to believe, He answered simply, “Go and relate to John what you have heard and seen: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead rise again.” The Gospel almost always concludes a recital of the wonders performed by Jesus with such words as : “and His disciples believed in Him;” “All wondered and glorified God..” Jesus is the only Teacher who can guarantee with miracles the truth of His doctrine.

Jesus wants everyone, even the simple and the ignorant, to understand His doctrine; He often said that He came especially to evangelize the poor. Jesus is not a teacher seeking glory and praise; He seeks only the good of His disciples. He uses simple language which can be understood by all, and He illustrates the most sublime truths by very ordinary things. Thus, for example, He uses the water in the well to represent the living water of grace, and the vine to explain the mystery of our union with Him, the true Vine. Further, Jesus does not wait for us to seek Him; He is the Master who goes Himself in search of His disciples, and He seeks them everywhere—in the tax-collectors’ office, in the homes and haunts of the publicans, in the streets and squares, in the country. He teaches in the synagogues and from the porch of the Temple as well as in Peter’s boat or on the grassy slopes of the hillsides. He welcomes Nicodemus at night and stops at the well of Sichem to wait for the Samaritan woman.....

(*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD.

From the Pastor

January 22nd marks the 44th anniversary of the infamous *Roe vs. Wade* Supreme Court decision. Since then more than 50 million unborn babies have been killed surgically in this country alone, and the number grows daily. Talk about a holocaust! How can we as a nation denounce the atrocities of Hitler’s Germany, Stalin’s Soviet Union, Mao’s China, and more recently ISIS, and, at the same time, condone the killing of unborn babies in our own country?

The United States Bishops’ Conference has declared that “**this day (Jan. 22nd) shall be observed in all dioceses as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life.**” Since Jan. 22 falls on a Sunday this year, we are asked to make **Monday, Jan. 23rd**, a day of penance instead.

Suitable penances would include fasting and/or abstinence. Participation at Holy Mass would be the best prayer possible on that day; the praying of the Rosary and the chaplet of Divine Mercy are also highly recommended – especially outside of abortion sites. Perhaps black armbands could be worn as a sign of mourning for the many babies put to death. When people ask why you’re wearing the armband you could let them know.

Let us hope and pray that this will be the year that *Roe vs. Wade* is overturned, and the right to life for all humans – born and unborn – is fully restored. During this 100th anniversary celebration of Our Blessed Mother’s appearances at Fatima, let us entrust this intention to her under the title she gave herself - Our Lady of the Rosary!

Around the Parish

~ **The Explorers boys** of the Saint Junipero Serra Troop had their first campout of the scouting season on December 28—30, at Pinnacles National Park. These were three memorable and blessed days spent at the park within the Octave of Christmas, 2016. It was an awesome experience for our troop which included both a 3 & 10 mile hike through caves and to the top of peaks, campfires, skits and songs, daily prayer, talks from Father Savoie and great food cooked over open fire. We are thankful to our Lord, our priests and for your prayers. Please consider supporting our troop financially by contacting Father Savoie, Brendan McDonough (Knights), or Mia Reinares (Ladies) directly and participating in our fundraisers.

~ **St. Stephen Altar Guild** will be changed to the fourth Saturday of the month, just for January, due to the Walk for Life.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Mike McGrath, Renee Burns,
 Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson,
 Patricia Becker, Paulette Brady, James Reslock, Sandy Sneary, Barbara Jeong, Beverly Longtin, John Newaz,
 Marne Merino, Jim Carlson, Darryl Gallagher,
 Fr. Goodwin, FSSP, Margaret Northan, Jean Haun

Candles for the Feast of the Purification

If you are interested in buying candles to be blessed on the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary stop by the bookstore and place your order. We will have 100% beeswax candles for purchase, also 7 day candles are available.

St. Agnes of Rome

Agnes of Rome was born in 291 AD and raised in a Christian family. Agnes was very beautiful and belonged to a wealthy family. Her hand in marriage was highly sought after. However, Agnes made a promise to God never to stain her purity. Her love for the Lord was great and she hated sin even more than death!

Whenever a man wished to marry Agnes, she would always say, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse."

According to legend, the young men she turned away became so angry and insulted by her devotion to God and purity that they began to submit her name to authorities as a Christian follower.

In one incident, Procop, the Governor's son, became very angry when she refused him. He tried to win her for his wife with rich gifts and promises, but the beautiful young girl kept saying, "I am already promised to the Lord of the Universe. He is more splendid than the sun and the stars, and He has said He will never leave me!"

In great anger, Procop accused her of being a Christian and brought her to his father, the Governor. The Governor promised Agnes wonderful gifts if she would only deny God, but Agnes refused. He tried to change her mind by putting her in chains, but her lovely face shone with joy.

At last, she was condemned to death. Even the pagans cried to see such a young and beautiful girl going to death. Yet, Agnes was as happy as a bride on her wedding day. She did not pay attention to those who begged her to save herself. "I would offend my Spouse," she said, "if I were to try to please you. He chose me first and He shall have me!" Then she prayed and bowed her head for the death-stroke of the sword.

At first, Agnes was tied to a stake, but either the wood would not burn or the flames parted away from her. This prompted an officer to draw his sword and behead the girl. It is believed that her blood, which poured out to the stadium, was soaked up with cloths by Christians. She died a virgin-martyr at the age of 12 or 13 on 21 January 304.

St. Agnes is widely known as the patron saint of young girls. She is also the patron saint of chastity, and the Children of Mary. She is often represented with a lamb, the symbol of her virgin innocence, and a palm branch, like other martyrs. She is shown as a young girl in robes holding a palm branch with the lamb either at her feet or in her arms.

Her feast day is celebrated on January 21. On her feast day, it is customary for two lambs to be brought in to be blessed by the pope. On Holy Thursday the lambs' wool is removed and woven into the pallium the pope gives to a newly consecrated archbishop as a sign of his power and union with the pope.



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St. Joseph, powerful patron, thank you for favors granted!



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 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

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

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.