

**Sunday, January 18, 2015**  
**2nd Sunday after Epiphany**



**Sun. 18 Jan. The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, II Class**

8:30 am Souls of Departed Priests  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm Weston James Pope

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

**Mon. 19 Jan. SS. Marius, Martha, Audifax & Abachum,**

*Martyrs, IV Class*

7:00 am †Mr. Zygar  
 12:15 pm Edgardo & Ching Bacani

**Tues. 20 Jan. Ss. Fabian, Pope, & Sebastian, Martyrs, III**

*Class*

7:00 am †Ethel Davis  
 6:30 pm Debbie Bercume

**Wed. 21 Jan. St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr, III Class**

7:00 am Raymond Bercume  
 12:15 pm †Charles & Polly Updike

**Thurs. 22 Jan. SS. Vincent & Anastasius, Martyrs, III Class**

7:00 am †Andrew J. Davis  
 6:30 pm Matt Dana

**Fri. 23 Jan. St. Raymond of Peñafort, Confessor, III Class**

7:00 am Irene Dana  
 12:15 pm †Carl Frederick Becker  
 6:30 pm Charles Matthews

**Sat. 24 Jan. St. Timothy, Bishop & Martyr, III Class**

7:00 am Forgotten Souls  
 9:00 am †Mr. & Mrs. Andrew J. Davis

**Sun. 25 Jan. 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, II Class**

8:30 am Tish Gallagher  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm Pati Obi

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

**Sick Calls**

If anyone is in need of the Sacrament (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?**

Please stop by the office or bookstore and pick up a registration form. It is very helpful for us to have contact information for your family, even if you cannot come to St. Stephen's every week.

If you do not have envelopes and would like them you can pick up a box in the bookstore. The use of envelopes is very helpful for our bookkeeping system.

**Important Upcoming Dates**

January 20—Chesterton Society Meeting  
 January 22—Day of Prayer and Penance for Life  
 January 24—11th Annual Walk For Life  
 January 30—High School Youth Group  
 February 2—Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 6:30 pm High Mass  
 February 18—Ash Wednesday  
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm  
 May 2—May Procession & Solemn Mass  
 May 9—First Holy Communion  
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations  
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart

**The Power of the Divine Teacher**

Jesus not only imparts truth to us, He also helps us to accept it. This is the task of any teacher, but he can work only from the exterior, trying to clear his pupil's mind of the errors which obscure it and to present the truth in a clear and convincing manner. Jesus, however, does much more than this; His activity is far more intimate and profound. He is the only Teacher capable of acting directly on the souls, the minds and the wills of His pupils. Jesus moves our souls *interiorly* to accept His teachings and to put them into practice.

The truths Jesus teaches are divine mysteries; therefore, we cannot master them by the art of human reasoning. To accept them, our minds must be equipped with a new supernatural light and power, the light and power of faith. Faith comes to us through Jesus; not only did He merit it for us, together with grace, the other infused virtues, and the gifts, but He is continually obtaining it for us and producing it in us. "He is always the author of faith...He infuses the light of faith into the faithful." Therefore, while Jesus is revealing eternal truths to us, He is also filling our souls with the light of faith, until He produces in us, by means of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, a profound, mysterious knowledge giving us an intuition, a *sense* of divine things. He acts on our wills in the same way by the virtue of charity, drawing us to love Him and our heavenly Father, impelling us to put His teachings into practice. While Jesus is teaching us, He is kindling in us the fire of divine love just as He did in the two disciples from Emmaus. After they had heard His explanation of the events that had taken place in Jerusalem, they said to each other: "Was not our heart burning within us, whilst He spoke in the way?"

"Our Master," writes St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, "has no need of book or teacher to instruct a soul. The Teacher of teachers instructs without sound of words, and though I have never heard Him speak, yet I know He is within me, always guiding and inspiring me; and just when I need them, lights, hitherto unseen, break in upon me." Jesus interiorly teaches souls who are willing to listen to Him, and He teaches them above all by His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, thus carrying out His promise to the Apostles: "The Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things, and bring all things to your mind, whatsoever I shall have said to you." Jesus and the Father are always sending the Holy Spirit from heaven into our souls; this Divine Spirit makes us understand the profound meaning of Our Lord's teaching and suggests practical applications for our daily life. Jesus teaches us through the authority of the church, to which He has entrusted the task of preserving His doctrine and transmitting it unchanged to all the faithful.

When we accept Jesus as our Teacher, we must also accept all His teachings: the written words of the Gospel, the living word of the Church, and the mysterious, secret word by which He teaches our souls individually, making us perceive intuitively the way He wishes us to live. If His word is to be truly a treasure, it is not enough for us merely to hear it; we must sound its depths. This demands silence and interior recollection. We must imitate Mary, who "kept all these words, pondering them in her heart."

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

**In the Holy Mass Christ Renews His Life on Earth**

If we were to contemplate attentively the great mysteries of Holy Mass and impress forcibly upon our minds that the officiating priest as the representative of Jesus Christ, arrayed in the garments of gladness, reproduces before our eyes the mysteries of the wondrous life and death of the Saviour, we should surely hasten to church at the first stroke of the bell, eager to assist at this consoling spectacle, because, as Fr. Sanchez says, "In this sacred drama the merits of our Redeemer are bestowed upon us and given us for our very own."

If our eyes were enlightened by faith, this sacred spectacle would fill us with intense joy. For Holy Mass is a brief compendium of the whole life of Christ and a renewal of all the mysteries comprised in it—not, indeed, a fictitious portrayal of past events, but a real and actual repetition of all that Christ did and suffered upon earth.

Thus in Holy Mass we have the same child lying before us Whom the shepherds beheld wrapped in swaddling clothes, but under a form still more lowly, that of bread and wine; yes, the same child to whom the Three Kings paid homage and whom Simeon took in his arms is before us upon the altar, and we may adore Him piously and embrace Him lovingly, as did they. In the course of the Mass, the Gospel is preached to us; it is, indeed, the voice of the priest that we hear, but the words have the same weight as if Christ Himself uttered them. Furthermore, we see Him perform a greater miracle than the one He wrought at Cana in Galilee, for there He changed water into wine; here He changes wine into His Sacred Blood. In the Mass, the scene of the Last Supper is reenacted, for the bread and wine undergo a change similar to what they did then. Father Sanchez, writing on this subject, says: "He who desires to profit by Holy Mass will be able to obtain forgiveness of sins and the gift of divine grace just as readily by assisting at it devoutly as if he had in person witnessed all these mysteries." Hence it will be seen how salutary is this solemn service and how much may be gained by those who are present at it.

Let us hear how Denys, a pious Carthusian, explains the representation of the mysteries of Our Lord's life in Holy Mass. He says: "The whole life of Christ which He led upon earth was one long celebration of Mass, He being Himself the altar, the priest, the victim."

It may be said that Our Lord put on the sacerdotal vestments when, hidden from sight in His Mother's womb, He took our flesh and assumed the garb of mortality. Issuing thence on the night of the Nativity as from the sacristy, He began, on His entrance into the world, the *Introit*, which is the commencement of the Mass. The cries He uttered in the crib were the *Kyrie Eleison*. The *Gloria* was sung by the Angels who appeared to the shepherds and accompanied them to the stable at Bethlehem. The *Collects* represent the petitions He offered when He spent the night in prayer, imploring for us the mercy of God. The *Epistle* represents the instructions He gave on the prophecies of Moses and the prophets, showing how they were fulfilled in Himself. He read the *Gospel* when He traversed the country of Judea proclaiming His divine doctrine. The *Offertory* was when He daily made an oblation of Himself to God the Father for the redemption of mankind as a propitiatory victim. The *Preface* represents His daily tribute of praise to God the Father, His thanksgiving for the benefits conferred upon man. The *Sanctus* was sung by the Hebrew people on Palm Sunday, when they cried: "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest!" ...The *Pater Noster* represents the seven words He uttered upon the Cross; the *Breaking of the Host*, the separation of His sacred soul and Body...

Such was the great act of worship which Christ performed upon earth and which He enjoined upon His Apostles and their successors to repeat daily in a short form.

(*The Incredible Catholic Mass* by Fr. Martin von Cochem, OSF)

**January 22: A Day of Prayer and Penance for Life**

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed 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. Participation at Mass, fasting, abstinence and alms giving are among the best ways to observe this day of penance.

**11th Annual Walk for Life—Save the Date!**

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Bus tickets are still available — contact Mike at 916-335-4553 or Kathleen at 916-204-9125.

**Saint Francis Xavier Mission Trips**

1. Guadalajara, Mexico: 3/28-4/11 \*Application deadline - 1/23
  2. Piura, Peru: July 28—Aug. 10 \*Application deadline - 2/ 9
  3. Piura, Peru: Aug. 14—24 \*Application deadline - 2/ 9
- www.sfxmission.com SFXMission@gmail.com

**High School Youth Group**

Beginning Friday, January 30, a High School Youth Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. Meeting begins with the 6:30 pm Mass followed by a light dinner, theological talk and group discussion, and games. Service projects and other social events will be included. Parents will be needed as volunteers. Contact Fr. Akers for more information.

**Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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 let us know. We will have 100% beeswax candles for purchase, you may also bring your own candles to be blessed. Make sure you bring them early (6:20 pm or earlier).

The blessing of candles will take place at the beginning of the 6:30 pm Mass on Feb. 2nd, we will then process into the church for Holy Mass. You will be able to pick your candles up following the Mass.

**Reminder—Chesterton Society Meeting:**

**January 20th at 7:30pm**

We will be reading:

**Orthodoxy:** "What's Wrong With the World" - Part III

"Education, or the Mistake About the Child"

**Fr. Brown:** "The Curse of the Golden Cross"

All are welcome!

**Prayer to St. Joseph**

**V. He made him lord of his house.**

**R. And prince over all his possessions.**

*Let us pray:*

**O God, in Thy marvelous providence, Thou hast deigned to choose St. Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother. We ask Thee to grant that we may deserve to have him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our protector; who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.**

**Please Keep in Your Prayers ...**

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Cesar Morales, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar, Joan Blackburn, Luis Salazar, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Jeannemarie Crabtree

**...In Memoriam**

Please pray for all our Beloved Dead listed in our Memorial Book in the sanctuary.

*Names are placed there at the beginning of each new year.*