

Sunday, December 4, 2016
2nd Sunday of Advent



Sun. 4 Dec. 8:00 am 10:30 am 1:30 pm 6:00 pm	<u>2nd Sunday of Advent,</u> †George Klopf Pro Populo Carlos Cortez Anne & Spencer Roundtree	<i>I Class</i>
Mon. 5 Dec. 7:00 am 12:15 pm	<u>Feria of Advent,</u> <i>III Class</i> Felipa Lopez Captain Matthew Bogan, U.S.A.F.	
Tues. 6 Dec. 7:00 am 6:30 pm	<u>St. Nicholas,</u> <i>Bishop & Confessor, III Class</i> †Ray Tormanen Captain Matthew Bogan, U.S.A.F.	
Wed. 7 Dec. 7:00 am 12:15 pm	<u>St. Ambrose,</u> <i>Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class</i> †Judy Downing †Remedios Mortensen	
Thurs 8 Dec. 7:00 am 12:15 am 7:00 pm	<u>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary,</u> <i>I Class</i> Margaret Melusky Confraternity of St. Peter †Maria Lopresti	
Fri. 9 Dec. 7:00 am 12:15 pm 6:30 pm	<u>Feria of Advent,</u> <i>III Class</i> †Manuel Travao †Ricky Limon Leti Pawdua	
Sat. 10 Dec. 5:30 am 7:00 am 9:00 am	<u>Feria of Advent,</u> <i>III Class</i> Annie Baccay †Martha Bianchi †Jack Bozzano	
Sun. 11 Dec. 8:00 am 10:30 am 1:30 pm 6:00 pm	<u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u> (<i>Gaudete Sunday</i>), <i>I Class</i> Veronica Bellocchi Pro Populo Ben Roundtree Kerana Rodgers	

...In Memoriam

†Richard Corbin,†Mikyla Pina Mutuc,
†Joseph Michael Jaeger †Jerry Risse, †Anne Cummings,
†Joe S. Villegas, †Lena G. Villegas, †William Philkill,
†Fr. Carota, †Linda Merino, †Kathy Solari,
†Maria Lopresti, †George Klopf

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec. 10—Rorate Mass 5:30 am
Dec. 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Jan. 5—Blessing of Epiphany Water
Jan. 7—Christmas Party
Jan. 21—West Coast Walk for Life
Feb. 2—Feast of the Purification—Candlemas
March 11—Confirmation
April 23—Live Performance of “Faustina”
May 6—First Holy Communion
July 23—27—Annual Retreat

In Search of God

“The kingdom of God is within you,” Jesus taught us, and St. Teresa of Avila comments, “If a soul wishes to speak with its Father and enjoy His company, it does not have to go to heaven... It needs no wings to go in search of Him but only to find a place where it can be alone and look upon Him present within itself.”

But if God is within us, why do we have so much difficulty in finding Him and recognizing His presence? St. John of the Cross answers, “It is to be observed that the Word, the Son of God, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, is hidden, in essence and in presence, in the inmost being of the soul. Wherefore, the soul that would find Him must go forth from all things, according to the affection and will, and enter within itself in deepest recollection, so that all things are to it as though they were not... God, then, is hidden within the soul and there the good contemplative must seek Him with love.”

The answer is clear: God is within us but He is *hidden*. If we wish to find Him, we must go forth from all things, according to the affection and will. To “go forth,” according to the terminology of the Saints, signifies to *detach oneself, deprive oneself, renounce oneself, annihilate oneself, to die* spiritually to oneself and to all things. This is the path of the “nothing,” of complete detachment: it is the death of the old man, the indispensable condition for life in God. St. Paul too has said, “You are dead; and your life is hid with Christ in God.”

The loving search for God hidden within us goes hand in hand with this dying to the world and to ourselves. The more we die to ourselves, the more we find God.

St. John of the Cross continues, “He that has to find some hidden thing must enter very secretly even into that same hidden place where it is, and when he finds it, he too is hidden like that which he has found. And since thy beloved Spouse is the treasure hidden in the field of thy soul, for which treasure the wise merchant gave all that he had, it will be fitting that, in order to find it, thou *forget all that is thine, withdraw thyself from all creatures*, and hide in the interior closet of thy spirit. This is a new invitation to detachment—to *forget* everything, to *withdraw* from everything—in order to *enter into* the depths of your soul, the place where God hides Himself. (taken from *Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.)

From the Pastor

Lots of attention is focused on the Blessed Virgin Mary during the Advent Season, and rightly so. This week we will celebrate Mary’s Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8th. Mary was granted the grace to be conceived without original sin in light of the fact that she was to be the Mother of God. Since God was going to take flesh from her, it was unthinkable that her flesh be tainted by sin in even the least way.

On Saturday, Dec. 10th, the Rorate Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 a.m. During this Mass the church is lit only by candle light. Together with Our Lady we await the Light that will soon be coming into the world, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. It’s a beautiful Mass. Even if you’re not an early riser it’s worth the effort to attend at least once.

Finally, on Monday, Dec. 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas will be celebrated. Mary’s appearance to St. Juan Diego began the conversion of millions of the native peoples. What Mary did then, she can do again; that is, obtain the conversion of millions of our fellow citizens. Come and pray for our country, and all of the Americas, on that day.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This Thursday, Dec. 8th, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception—a holy day of obligation. Masses will be at 7am, 12:15 pm, and 7pm.

Blessing of Nativity Scene at the Capitol Building

Please save the date and join his Excellency Bishop Cotta of Sacramento, on Sunday, December 18th at 5:30 pm for the first annual blessing of the Nativity scene and caroling on the steps of the State Capitol! For further details or questions please visit:

www.tinyurl.com/SacNativity
Location: 1315 Tenth St., Sacramento, CA 95814
(North side steps of the Capitol building, facing L St.)

Chesterton Society Meeting:
Dec. 13th at 7:30pm

We are continuing with the book: *The Everlasting Man*
Chapter 2 Part 3 “*The Strangest Story in the World*”
Also: Fr. Brown: “*The Vampire of the Village*”
Go to: <http://www.sacfssp.com/>
For online book and Fr. Brown stories
All Are Welcome!

Around the Parish

~ ***Congratulations*** to Adam & Lauren Frisch on the birth of their fourth child, Mary Elizabeth! Mary was baptized on November 26th at St. Stephen’s.

Saint Francis Xavier Mission Trips 2017

Become a missionary!
Now taking applications through January 15, 2017
Can't go? Donors and prayer warriors are valuable partners in this mission work.

Guadalajara, Mexico
~April 7-19 (Holy Week and Easter Week)
~July 19-August 1
Cost: \$950 (does not include airfare)
For Families and individuals 16 and up. Cost slightly less for children.
Piura, Peru
~July 21-August 3
~August 5-18
Cost: \$2350 (includes airfare from Miami)
For Youth 16-21

For details or more information,
contact Anne Roundtree. SFX Mission Secretary
(530)417-1671 Or go to our website www.sfxmission.com.

Mission Trip Presentation

Anne Roundtree will give a presentation in one of the classrooms after the 8:00 am, 10:30 am, and 1:30 pm Masses today for all who are interested in learning more about the St. Francis Xavier Mission Trips, for all those interested in becoming missionaries, as well as for anyone curious about what the FSSP is doing in South America.

Registration Open for 1st Communion Classes

Parents of children who will be 7 by May 1st of 2017 may register their child for class. Classes will begin January 14, 2017. Baptismal certificates are needed at the time of registration, unless your child was baptized at St. Stephen’s.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

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

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

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

Saint Stephen

The First Martyr Parish

Served by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter

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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@yahoogroups.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.