

Sunday, December 11, 2016
3rd Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)



- Sun. 11 Dec. 3rd Sunday of Advent, I Class**
 8:00 am Veronica Bellocci
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:30 pm Ben Roundtree
 6:00 pm Kerana Rodgers
- Mon. 12 Dec. Our Lady of Guadalupe, I Class**
 7:00 am †Alice Cahanes
 12:15 pm Bronson Children
 6:30 pm Bellocci Family
- Tues. 13 Dec. St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr, III Class**
 7:00 am †George Klopff
 6:30 pm †Herman Schuchmann
- Wed. 14 Dec. Ember Wednesday of Advent, II Class**
 7:00 am †Maria Lopresti
 12:15 pm Eva Hernandez
- Thurs 15 Dec. Feria of Advent, I Class**
 7:00 am †Eluterio Hernandez
 6:30 pm Priests of FSSP
- Fri. 16 Dec. Ember Friday of Advent, II Class**
 7:00 am †Manuel Travao
 12:15 pm Richard Cummings
 6:30 pm Julian Tomlinson
- Sat. 17 Dec. Ember Saturday of Advent, II Class**
 7:00 am †George Klopff
 9:00 am Hernandez & Peterson Families
- Sun. 18 Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent, I Class**
 8:00 am †Richard Corbin
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:30 pm Johnathan Peschke
 6:00 pm Daniel Rogers

...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 Klopff, †Nell Keim, †John Reyes

Important Upcoming Dates

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

Seeking God in Faith

He that cometh to God, must believe,” says St. Paul, and he gives us this definition of faith: “Faith is the substance of things to be hoped for, the evidence of things that appear not.” In heaven we shall see God by the light of glory, but on earth we know Him by the light of faith.

We must not base our interior life, our search for God, on sentiment or spiritual consolations, but on an intensive practice of the theological virtues. St. John of the Cross gives this advice to a soul seeking God, “Hear a word full of substance and unapproachable truth: it is that thou seek Him in faith and in love, without desiring to find satisfaction in aught.” Therefore, we must learn to seek God without any desire for pleasure, consolation, satisfaction, even though it be purely spiritual; we must learn to walk in the path of “naked faith.” Faith, more than any kind of knowledge or of reasoning, puts the soul into direct contact with God. Faith is the proximate and proportionate means whereby the soul is united with God; for such is the likeness between itself and God, that there is no other difference save that which exists between seeing God and believing in Him. Faith places us before God as He is; it does not make us see Him, but it makes us believe in Him, and thus puts our intellect in contact with Him. By means of faith, “God manifests Himself to the soul in divine light which passes all understanding. And therefore, the greater the faith of the soul, the more closely is it united with God.” Faith unites the soul with God, even though it experiences no spiritual consolation; on the contrary, God often deprives the soul of all spiritual consolation that it may exercise itself more in faith and grow in it.

“Faith and love are like the guides of the blind which will lead thee by a way which thou knowest not to the hidden place of God.” Faith is an obscure but firm adherence to the divine Word which reveals the supreme greatness of our God, who is so sublime, so omnipotent, but also so good and merciful. Faith says to the Christian soul, “You are the temple of the living God”; and the more lively the soul’s faith, the more it believes Jesus’ words “If anyone love Me. . . My Father will love him and We will come to him, and We will make Our abode with him.”

“I do believe, Lord: help my unbelief!”
 (taken from *Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.)

From the Pastor

Thankfully, for most of us, our basic needs – food, shelter, clothing, education, medical assistance - are met. For some people, however, this is not the case; they lack the very basics. What better time of year than Christmas, when God became man for our sake, to be mindful of the needs of our neighbors. There’s nothing wrong with giving small gifts to our family members and friends to show our love for them. But instead of spending a lot of money on gifts for people who aren’t in need, let us spend it on those who are in need. Not only will we have treasure in heaven, but we will be training our children to eschew materialism and develop truly generous hearts.

There are many worthy causes. One of them is our own St. Bernadette Fund. 100% of all that goes into the fund is used to help others – mostly, fellow parishioners. We’ve established a “Giving Tree” this year (located in the church vestibule, near the doors to the hall) to help fund the St. Bernadette Fund. All you need to do is take an envelope from the tree, put in your donation, and drop it off in the office or book store, or put it into the collection basket.

“... remember the word of the Lord Jesus, how He said: It is a more blessed thing to give, rather than to receive.” (Acts 20, 35)

Christmas Mass Schedule

Holy Day of Obligation

11:15 P.M. Hymns and Carols
12:00 Midnight Solemn Mass
8:00 A.M. Low Mass
10:30 A.M. Solemn Mass
1:30 P.M. Low Mass
6:00 P.M. Low Mass

Parish Christmas Party

Mark your calendars! The festivities will begin at 5:30 pm, Saturday, January 7rd, 2017. Tickets are on sale in the vestibule after Sunday Masses.

Volunteers are needed! Sign-up sheets are on the back tables; please help make this a wonderful community event. For more information please call or e-mail Yesenia Rangel at 916-682-9600 YeseniaLovesLife@gmail.com

***Auditions:** If you would like to participate in the talent program, please contact Yesenia for audition times.

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 15, 2017. Baptismal certificates are needed at the time of registration, unless your child was baptized at St. Stephen’s.

Around the Parish

~ **Congratulations** to Mark & Jeannine Cavanaugh on the birth of their 4th child Jude! Jude was baptized on December 3rd at St. Stephen’s.

Saint Francis Xavier Mission Trips 2017

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. (530)417-1671 Or go to our website www.sfxmission.com.

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!

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.)

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, 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!

Your message here

Your Greeting Here



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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@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

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

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.

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.