

Sunday, December 13, 2015
3rd Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday



Sun. 13 Dec. **3rd Sunday of Advent, I Class**

8:30 am Veronica Bellocchi
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Trinita Cordero

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 14 Dec. **Feria of Advent, III Class**

7:00 am Airoso Family
12:15 am Domingo Cordero

Tues. 15 Dec. **Feria of Advent, III Class**

7:00 am Millissen Cordero
6:30 pm Alejandro Zepeda

Wed. 16 Dec. **Ember Wednesday of Advent, II Class**

7:00 am Andre Provost
12:15 pm Huguette Bibaud

Thurs. 17 Dec. **Greater Feria of Advent, II Class**

7:00 am Elizabeth Pierini
6:30 pm Mariette Legault

Fri. 18 Dec. **Ember Friday of Advent, II Class**

7:00 am Lucie Vinchlette
12:15 pm Bolen Family
6:30 pm Elba Zepeda

Sat. 19 Dec. **Ember Saturday of Advent, II Class**

7:00 am Jeannine Provost
9:00 am Marisol Zepeda

Sun. 20 Dec. **4th Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), I Class**

8:30 am Father Peter Carota
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Brenton Smith

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. 15—Chesterton Society Meeting
Dec. 17—CSP Evening of Recollection
December 25—Midnight Mass
Dec. 26—St. Stephen Guild Mass & Medal Ceremony
Jan. 2—Parish Christmas/Epiphany Party
Jan. 5—Blessing of Epiphany Water
Jan. 6—Epiphany
Jan. 9—First Communion Classes begin
Jan. 23—West Coast Walk for Life
March 13—Confirmation
May 7—First Holy Communion

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 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 any one love Me...My Father will love him and We will come to him, and will make Our abode with him.” By faith the soul believes in the infinite love of God, who deigns to lower Himself to His creature even to making His dwelling within it, inviting it to live in intimate union with Him.

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

From the Pastor

The Advent Season is quickly slipping by. How are your spiritual preparations for Christmas going? In case someone has not yet begun, now is the time. Better late than never; better to have done something than nothing. What should you do? First on the list is making a good **confession** – being in a state of grace is all important. Next, **Mass** attendance – make an extra effort to go as often as you can during the remaining days of Advent. Spend extra time in **prayer** – Eucharistic adoration, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, etc. Offer up little **sacrifices** – for example, abstaining from something you like to eat or drink, or some entertainment. Make extra efforts to **be kind** to others – beginning with the people you live with! And don’t forget the needy. If God has blessed you with a sufficiency, do **share** according to your means. If you’re looking for a good charity to donate to, please remember the **St. Bernadette Fund**, set up especially to assist St. Stephen parishioners. Contributions may be placed in an envelope and marked “St. Bernadette Fund” and either placed in the collection basket or left in the office. Donations may also be made online.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Holy Day of Obligation

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



Advent Evening of Recollection
Confraternity of St. Peter
December 17, 2015

Don’t miss out on the spiritual benefits of our CSP Evening of Recollection on Thursday, December 17, beginning with Holy Mass at 6:30 pm. Each month we are given a wonderful sermon and conference along with Holy Mass and CSP prayers.

The Confraternity of St. Peter is a group of lay men and women united to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

For more information visit www.confraternityofstpeter.com or call the parish office 916-455-5114.

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.

~Around the Parish~

~ **Congratulations** to Tom & Katie Scarry on the birth of their 4th child, Robert Lawrence! Robert was baptized at St. Stephens on Dec. 6th.

Help Decorate the Church!

We will be decorating the church on Wednesday, December 23. Many hands will be needed. We will begin about 9:00 am. Please join us!

Parish Christmas / Epiphany Party

Save the Date

Our annual Christmas / Epiphany Party will be on Saturday, January 2nd. Ticket sales to begin soon.

St. Francis Xavier Mission
Fundraiser

Please help support our missionaries from St. Stephen’s! After 8:30 and 10:30 Masses today there will be a fundraiser in the gym to raise money for our missionaries to Peru. Please check out the tables in the back of the gym. Many of us cannot go on mission, but we can all participate in this wonderful service to the poor through offering our prayers and financial aid.

Reminder— Chesterton Society Meeting:
December 15 at 7:30pm

We are continuing with the book: *Heretics*
Read Chapters 19 & 20
Also: Fr. Brown—The Worst Crime in the World
Go to: <http://www.sacfsp.com/>
For online book and Fr. Brown stories
All are welcome!

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.

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, Barbara Jeong, Patricia Dunlap

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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@yahooogroups.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.

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.

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