

Sunday, December 20, 2015
4th Sunday of Advent



Sun. 20 Dec. 4th Sunday of Advent, I Class

8:30 am Father Peter Carota

10:30 am Pro Populo

1:00 pm Brenton Smith

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 21 Dec. St. Thomas, Apostle, II Class

7:00 am Alejandra Alvarado & Roberto Pacheco

12:15 am Veronica Bellocchi

Tues. 22 Dec. Greater Feria of Advent, II Class

7:00 am Isiah Maldonado

6:30 pm †Thin Do

Wed. 23 Dec. Greater Feria of Advent, II Class

7:00 am Airoso Family

12:15 pm Danielle Sally

Thurs. 24 Dec. Vigil of Christmas, I Class

7:00 am Greco Godchildren

12:15 pm Thanksgiving

12:00 Midnight Special Intention

Fri. 25 Dec. The Nativity of Our Lord, I Class

8:30 am Special Intention

10:30 pm Special Intention

1:00 pm Special Intention

Sat. 26 Dec. St. Stephen, Protomartyr, II Class

7:00 am Proser Fina Dichoso

9:00 am Teresa Rodda

10:30 am St. Stephen Altar Guild

Sun. 27 Dec. Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, II Class

8:30 am †Dan Purdy

10:30 am Pro Populo

1:00 pm James Reslock

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, †Concepcion Cristi, †Mary Gilbert,
†Mary Foose

Important Upcoming Dates

December 25—Midnight Mass
Dec. 26—St. Stephen Guild Mass & Medal Ceremony
January 2—Parish Christmas Party
Jan. 5—Blessing of Epiphany Water
Jan. 6—Epiphany
Jan. 9—First Communion Classes begin
Jan. 23—West Coast Walk for Life
Feb. 2—Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
March 13—Confirmation
May 7—First Holy Communion

The Call To the Apostolate

“Prepare ye the way of the Lord.” This cry of St. John the Baptist is implicitly a call to the apostolate, to that apostolate practiced by St. John himself, when he tried to prepare the hearts of his brethren for the coming and for the work of the Messiah. This invitation is addressed to us, too, not only by St. John, but also by Jesus, who wants to make of every Christian a collaborator in His work of Redemption. We know that Jesus alone has merited the vast, precious treasury of grace necessary to redeem and sanctify the whole human race. Yet He has not disdained our humble cooperation; rather, He has positively willed “to have need of us.” Pope Pius XII says in his Encyclical, *Mystici Corporis*: “It is manifestly clear that the faithful need the help of the divine Redeemer.... Yet this, too, must be held...Christ requires the help of His members.... This is not because He is indigent and weak, but rather because He has so willed it for the greater honor of His spotless Spouse.” The Spouse of Christ is the Church; the Church is the “company” of His faithful, that is, we ourselves. Certainly, Jesus had absolutely no need of us. As He alone merited grace for us, so He alone can apply it directly to each soul. “It was quite possible for Him personally to impart these graces immediately to men; but He wished to do so through a visible Church that would be formed by the union of men, and thus through that Church every man would perform a work of collaboration with Him in dispensing the graces of Redemption.” Jesus then, in His infinite goodness, has willed to associate us with Him, to give us the honor and joy of being His collaborators in the greatest work to be accomplished in the world: the salvation of souls. Since Jesus, in His infinite love for us, has willed to associate us with Him in His redemptive work, reserving in it a place for our activity, we must say that now, in the actual economy of the Redemption, our collaboration is necessary. Henceforth, to bring His work to a successful end, *Jesus has need of us*. We should have a holy pride in this, but we must not forget that it entails a tremendous responsibility: the salvation of our brethren depends also on the generosity with which we collaborate in Christ’s work. “A tremendous mystery certainly, and one never sufficiently meditated, that the salvation of many souls *depends* on the prayers and voluntary mortifications offered for this end. (taken from *Divine Intimacy*, written by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.)

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of Fr. Perry and Fr. Akers, I would like to wish you all a holy and blessed Christmas and New Year!
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who help out here - in one way or another - often with little or no recognition. We couldn’t do what we do without you. We are grateful for you, and ask that the Good Lord reward you.
As for ourselves, we are grateful for the opportunity to be able to serve at St. Stephen’s, and to get to know and work with so many wonderful people.

May we remain united in prayer.

Fr. Lyons

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 Party

Mark your calendars!
The festivities will begin at 5:30 pm,
Saturday, January 2nd, 2016

This year the Parish Christmas Party will include a catered meal. 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.
Our celebration would not be the same without you!

For more information please call or e-mail Yesenia Rangel at 916-682-9600 YeseniaLovesLife@gmail.com

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 Cesar & Ruby Oliva on the birth of their 8th child, Lucia Bibiana! Lucia was baptized at St. Stephens on December 12.

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

Love Does Such Things

By Fr. Raymond, OCSO

... What modern man, what worldling would have made the choices eternal Wisdom made? But Jesus Christ can neither deceive nor be deceived. Therefore the way to your goal, the way to real happiness, the way to a Merry Christmas in time and for eternity, is not the way of the world.
Jesus is saying: “My child, my loved one, you can have treasure which thieves cannot steal, rust corrode, or moth consume, without having any of the riches or wealth of this world. You can be great with a greatness that is real, without holding high social position or knowing any social prestige. You can be powerful without possessing a single implement that gives modern men and modern nations a sense of power. You can be happy with a happiness that is true joy of heart and gladness of soul without any of the tinsel pleasures of the senses. You can be safe with a security unobtainable by any material means if you will but listen to Me and learn wisdom. I your God, am wishing you a Merry Christmas. I am showing you the way to that merriment.”

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,
Fr. Peter Carota, Beverly Longtin,
James Reslock, Barbara Jeong

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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@yahoogroups.com

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

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: 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

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.

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