

Sunday, May 10, 2015
Fifth Sunday After Easter



Sun. 10 May	Fifth Sunday after Easter, II Class
8:30 am	†Patricia Michaelson
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	†Fr. Thomas J. Rynne
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 11 May	SS. Philip & James, Apostles, II Class
7:00 am	FSSP
12:00 pm	Virgelio S.Solis, MD (Rogation Mass)
Tues. 12 May	SS. Nereus, Achilleus, Domitilla, Virgin, & Pancras, Martyrs, III Class
7:00 am	Isabel Lopez Solis
6:30 pm	Ana Gualupe Solis
Wed. 13 May	Vigil of the Ascension, II Class
7:00 am	Holy Souls
12:15 pm	Juliann McDonough
6:30 pm	Rangel Family
Thurs. 14 May	Ascension of the Lord, I Class
7:00 am	Elizabeth McDonough
12:15 pm	FSSP
7:00 pm	Pro Populo
Fri. 15 May	St. John Baptist de la Salle, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	James A. Klaas
12:15 pm	Esther Harris
6:30 pm	Joseph McDonough
Sat. 16 May	St. Ubaldus, Bishop & Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	Elizabeth Pierini
9:00 am	Rangel Family
Sun. 17 May	Sunday after the Ascension, II Class
8:30 am	†Donald Dickson
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	James Reslock
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

May 11—Rogation Day Procession & Mass 12 noon
 May 13—Fatima Procession
 May 14—Ascension Thursday
 May 19—Chesterton Society Meeting
 May 21—CSP Evening of Recollection
 May 24—40th Anniversary of Fr. Perry's Priesthood - Potluck
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart
 July 19—23—**Spiritual Exercises** - Annual Parish Retreat
 Aug. 2—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance
 Oct. 3—G.K.Chesterton: Live w/Dale Ahlquist & Chuck Chalberg

Communion, Joy of the Spirit

There are no greater joys on earth than the joys of the spirit. Contentment of heart is less lasting because it is based on feeling, and feeling is apt to be inconstant. True joy is of the spirit and consists in the quiet knowledge of the truth.

The light-minded and coarse of soul enjoy nothing spiritually. Even pious souls that lack recollection will never experience spiritual joys. Frivolity of spirit is the greatest obstacle to the reign of God in the soul. If you wish to taste the sweetness of God and enjoy His presence, you must lead a life of recollection and prayer. Even so, your meditations will never yield true happiness if they are not based on Communion but will only leave you with the sense of perpetual sacrifice.

Lastly, the manifestation of our Lord in Communion makes His presence and His conversation indispensable to the soul. The soul that has known Jesus Christ and has enjoyed Him takes pleasure in nothing else. Creatures leave it cold and indifferent because it compares them with Him. God has left in the soul a need which no person, no creature can ever satisfy.

Moreover, the soul feels a constant desire for Jesus and for His glory. Ever onward, without pausing to enjoy a moment's rest, that is its motto. Its only longing is for Jesus, Who leads it *from clarity to clarity*. Our Lord being inexhaustible, whoever receives Him can neither be sated nor exhaust Him, but desires only to plunge deeper and deeper into the abyss of His love.

Oh, come and enjoy our Lord often in Communion, if you would truly understand Him!

"Beware of abusing this privilege," someone will say. Do the elect go to excess in their enjoyment of God? No! They never enjoy Him too much.—*Gustate!* Taste the Lord, and you will see; after you have received Communion, you will understand.

How sad that people will not believe us! They wish to judge of God only by faith. But taste first; afterwards you shall judge! And if the incredulous would but prepare themselves to receive Jesus Christ worthily, they would understand sooner and better than by any amount of persuasion and reasoning. Besides, the ignorant person who receives well knows more about it than the savant, however learned, who does not go to Communion.

To summarize briefly, I say that the intelligence finds its supreme happiness in Communion and that the more often one receives, the happier one is spiritually. God is the only source of happiness; happiness is in Him alone, and He has reserved the right to bestow it through Himself. And well it is for us that we must go to God Himself to find happiness! In this way we do not devote ourselves to creatures nor find in them our highest good.

Oh, come, let us rejoice! This Savior is still on the altar waiting to flood our hearts, upon His entrance therein, with as much joy and happiness as we are able to bear, in anticipation of the unspeakable and everlasting delights of the homeland of heaven!

(Excerpt from *Holy Communion* by Saint Peter Julian Eymard - available in the St. Stephen Book Store.)

...In Memoriam

†Joan Blackburn, †Thomas Joseph Greco, †Bruce Perry,
 †Catherine Owen, †Gregory Nicholas

The Church and Freedom

The Church, walking in the footsteps of Christ, was at all times the champion and the protector of every legitimate liberty and the enemy of every tyranny.

First of all, the Church championed the *physical liberty* of man and thus defended the crown of this king of creation. She condemned the theories of those heretics—like Luther, Calvin and Jansen—who held that Original Sin had destroyed free will, and in our days it condemned the nefarious doctrines of determinism and materialism.

Leo XIII, in his Encyclical *Libertas*, says: "Like the simplicity, spirituality, and immortality of the soul, so likewise its liberty; no one has affirmed in stronger terms or championed them more consistently than the Church that teaches them at all times, and upholds them as a dogma."

The Church, moreover, in the same way that she defended rights of authority against anarchistic theories, so she upheld the rights of moral freedom against the claims and the violence of oppressors. The Church of Christ, from its inception, not the French Revolution of 1789, was the first to proclaim the *rights of man*.

St. Paul, writing to the Christians of Ephesus, exhorts them: "And you, masters, do the same things to them [the slaves], forbearing threatenings, knowing that the Lord both of them and you is in heaven; and there is no respect of persons with him." And to the Christians of Galatia he clearly states: "There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither bond nor free; there is neither male nor female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus."

That means that before God there is no difference, either of *nationality* or of *social condition*, or of sex, contrary to what was then held among pagan peoples and among the Jews themselves.

These words of the Apostle of the Gentiles—which have since been reiterated unceasingly by the rulers of the Church—are clear condemnation of *slavery*, which among Christians soon ceased to exist in their minds, if not in their outward practices. The Christian master was bound to see a brother in his slave.

But the most effective teachings of the Church were, as always, her actions. In the internal life of the Church, slavery was soon abolished by means of the equal treatment that was accorded to free men and slaves. All, without distinction, were admitted to the same Sacraments, to the same honors, to the same spiritual favors. The words of St. Paul, "*There is no difference between a slave and a freeman*," immediately became a reality in the liturgical life of the Church.

The Church has made the highest proclamation of the highest liberty—religious liberty—through the martyrdom of countless sons of hers. Martyrdom is the declaration of the most sacred rights of man, written in blood. The purple army of Christian martyrs is a heroic defense of freedom.

Dante, in the *Divine Comedy*, puts in the mouth of Virgil the famous words: "He seeketh liberty, which is so dear, as knoweth he who life for her refuseth."

No one is better entitled to pronounce these words than the martyr of Christ, who has surrendered his life in order to save the dearest of all liberties, the liberty to serve the True God.

Thus Pius XII teaches us to distinguish between *liberty* and *license*, which is liberty without restraint and without limitations. "True liberty," he writes, "that which truly deserves this name and which constitutes the happiness of peoples, has nothing in common with license, with brazenness. True liberty is just the contrary of that. It is that which guarantees the profession and the practice of what is true and just under the guidance of the divine commandments within the sphere of public welfare. It has therefore need of just limitations."

(*How Christ Changed the World* by Msgr. Luigi Civardi)

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Michelle Di Giovanni & Children, Africa Medal, John Reyes, John Patrick Corr, Augustine Guzman, Patricia Becker, Dr. George Alexeeff

The Priests and community of St. Stephen, the First Martyr Parish wish all mothers a very blessed Mother's Day!
God bless you!

Fr. Perry's 40th Anniversary
 Pentecost Sunday

The St. Stephen community will celebrate Fr. Perry's anniversary by hosting a potluck in the parish hall after Vespers on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. Congratulations, Fr. Perry!

Rogation Day Procession & Mass

Rogation Day Procession and Mass is scheduled for Monday, May 11. We will begin in the church at 12 noon, we will process around the church grounds and conclude with Holy Mass. Families are invited to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after the Mass. The grill will be available if desired.

Reminder— Chesterton Society Meeting:

May 19 at 7:30pm

We are starting a new book: *Heretics*
 Read Chapters 5 & 6

Also: Fr. Brown: "The Secret of Father Brown"

Go to: <http://www.sacfssp.com/>

For online book and Fr. Brown stories

All are welcome!

Evening of Recollection Confraternity of St. Peter

May 21, 2015

Don't miss out on the spiritual benefits of our CSP Evening of Recollection on Thursday, May 21, 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.

Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

Preached by Fr. John Lyons, FSSP

July 19-23

Be sure to sign up for this retreat ASAP as registrations are almost **half full!** The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius retreat will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. Forms are now available in the office or bookstore, or you may print them from the parish web site.

The retreat is open to men and women age 18 and over. It will be particularly helpful to those discerning a vocation or other decision in their lives.

Remember: space is limited and filling up fast, so hold your place as soon as possible.

Confraternity of St. Peter 2015 Pilgrimage

Historic pilgrimage to Spain & the Rock of Gibraltar, in the quincentenary year of St. Teresa of Avila's birth! By traveling back to the days of the great Spanish mystics—Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, Catholic monarchs—King St. Fernando III & Queen Isabella (Servant of God), and the wondrous events of the consecration of Europe to Our Lady on the Rock of Gibraltar, may we travel forward with the faith and courage of Spain's holy "Defender's of Christendom"!

Join Fr. James Fryar, FSSP, Chaplain of the Confraternity of St. Peter on September 14—September 24, 2015. For more information call Tish at 916-223-3112 or visit the website www.syversentouring.com/confraternity.