

Sunday, November 15, 2015
6th Resumed Sunday after Epiphany



Sun. 15 Nov. **6th Resumed Sunday After Epiphany, II**
Class

8:30 am Greco Children
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm John & Diane Doering

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 16 Nov. **St. Gertrude the Great, Virgin, III Class**

8:30 am †Benjamin Black
12:15 am †Gregory Jackovich

Tues. 17 Nov. **St. Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop & Confessor, III Class**

7:00 am Justin Michael Greco
6:30 pm Thanksgiving

Wed. 18 Nov. **Dedication of the Basilicas of SS. Peter and Paul, III Class**

7:00 am †Gilbert Perry
12:15 pm Bro. Louis de Montfort Nguyen, OSB

Thurs. 19 Nov. **St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Widow, III Class**

7:00 am Joey & Carolina Dichoso
6:30 pm Angelica Aranas

Fri. 20 Nov. **St. Felix of Valois, Confessor, III Class**

7:00 am Elizabeth Pierini
12:15 pm Pete Salierno
6:30 pm †Brad Calhoun

Sat. 21 Nov. **Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, III Class**

7:00 am Lindy Vertin
9:00 am †Gregory Jackovich

Sun. 22 Nov. **24th & Last Sunday after Pentecost, II Class**

8:30 am Aaron Joseph Avila (Cure for cancer)
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm †Eleaterio Hernandez

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

Important Upcoming Dates

Nov. 17—Chesterton Society Meeting
Nov. 19—CSP Evening of Recollection
Nov. 25—Thanksgiving Day: **Mass: 7 am & 9 am** only
Dec. 5—Rorate Mass—5:30 am
Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Dec. 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 25—Midnight Mass
Dec. 26—St. Stephen Guild Mass & Medal Ceremony
Jan. 23—West Coast Walk for Life
March 13—Confirmation
May 7—First Holy Communion

Courageous and Impatient Love

Although the soul subjected to interior purifications by the Holy Spirit is profoundly conscious of its own misery and unworthiness, it is nevertheless “sufficiently bold and daring to journey toward union with God.” Whence comes such audacity? From the love which is ever growing within it; indeed, “the property of love is to desire to be united, joined, and made equal and like to the object of its love.” Therefore, the more love increases in the soul, the greater is the longing for union with God. Even if its love is still imperfect—since it has not yet brought the soul to union—nevertheless, it is sincere and thanks to “the strength set by love in the will,” the soul experiences “hunger and thirst for that which it lacks, which is the union” to which love tends. Besides, how could the soul which has grasped something of the infinite beauty and immense love of God not aspire to unite itself to Him? That same divine light which reveals to it the abyss of its own nothingness and that of creatures, enlightens it, by contrast, as to the infinite transcendence of God, so that the soul remains seized and captivated, while God Himself, in the measure that He purifies it, draws it to Himself by infusing new love in it.

Humbled by the knowledge of its own unworthiness, but emboldened by the love which is growing within, and by the invitation which God Himself addresses to it, drawing it secretly to Himself, the soul dares to aspire to this supreme good which is divine union. It is humble in its audacious desire, because it knows that it does not merit such a gift; but it is also daring, because it feels that God Himself wills to give this union, and because its hunger and thirst for God are so great that it cannot live apart from Him. “Why should not the confiding soul venture toward the One whose noble image and glorious likeness it is conscious of bearing within itself?” exclaims St. Bernard. God’s love has gone before it, willing to render it like unto Himself by creation and by grace. This divine resemblance, natural and supernatural, best expresses the desire of God to unite the soul to Himself and, at the same time, constitutes the basis of such union. God, who has established this basis, certainly wills to bring His work to completion; and to do it He only waits for the soul to concur with His action, letting itself be purified, despoiled of self, and clothed completely with divine Life. (taken from *Divine Intimacy*, written by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.)

From the Pastor

The Synod on the Family recently came to a close in Rome. The job of the Synod fathers is to advise the Holy Father. Without waiting for what Pope Francis will write about it, I think we can safely say that the family as an institution is in crisis. Years of easy divorce, the widespread use of contraception, cohabitation, and now “same sex” marriage have undermined marriage to the point of collapse. As goes marriage, so goes the family; as goes the family, so goes society. Things are not looking good! Always important to remind ourselves, however, that God’s grace is never lacking to those who desire it and avail themselves of it.

The more we can make our homes “domestic churches” the better our chances of maintaining strong family life, and eventually rebuilding society. What does a “domestic church” look like? It looks something like the church we attend for Mass – not with pews and a choir loft; rather, first and foremost, it has Christ at its center – He is the Lord of the home. In church we pray as a parish family; in the domestic church the family also prays together. In church we are modest and respectful; in the domestic church we are modest and respectful of each other, as well - we don’t yell at one another or call each other names. In church we don’t allow anything offensive to God; we shouldn’t allow anything offensive to Him into the domestic church, either. Let us ask ourselves what is lacking in our homes to make them true domestic churches. Then, let us do whatever is necessary to make them so.

Reminder— Chesterton Society Meeting:
November 17 at 7:30pm

We are continuing with the book: *Heretics*
Read Chapters 17 & 18
Also: **Fr. Brown:** “The Vanishing of Vaudrey”
Go to: <http://www.sacfssp.com/>
For online book and Fr. Brown stories

All are welcome!

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 2015 may register. Please bring a copy of your child’s baptism certificate when you register unless baptized at St. Stephens.

~Around the Parish~

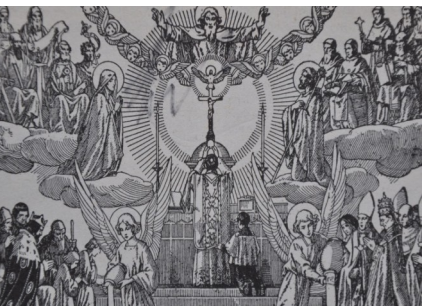
~ **Congratulations** to Frank & Melissa Mudd on the birth of their 7th child, Anthony Matthew Mudd! Anthony was baptized at St. Stephens on October 14th.

Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great

"Eternal Father, I offer Thee the most Precious Blood of Jesus, with all the Masses being said all over the world this day, for the Souls in Purgatory."

Our Lord showed St. Gertrude a vast number of souls leaving Purgatory and going to Heaven as a result of this prayer, which the Saint was accustomed to say frequently during the day.

St. Gertrude's life was the mystic life of the Cloister – a Benedictine nun. She meditated on the Passion of Christ, which many times brought a flood of tears to her eyes. She did many penances and Our Lord appeared to her many times. She had a tender love for the Blessed Virgin and was very devoted to the suffering souls in Purgatory. She died in 1334. Her feast day is November 16th.



An Explanation of the
Mass
November 19, 2015

This evening is the sixth in a series of talks explaining the Holy Mass. Don’t miss out on the spiritual benefits of our Evening of Recollection on Thursday, November 19, beginning with Holy Mass at 6:30 pm. Sponsored by the Confraternity of St. Peter. Everyone is welcome!

West Coast Walk for Life

Save the Date: January 23, 2016, 12th Annual Walk for Life West Coast.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of our parish at the food fundraiser, bus tickets will only be \$10 each instead of \$27 per person! For more information and to purchase a bus ticket see or call:

Mike & Kathleen DeSantis
916-204-9125 or 916-335-4553

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

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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

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.

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

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.