

Sunday, March 27, 2016  
Easter Sunday



<b>Sun. 27 Mar.</b>	<b><u>Easter Sunday</u>, I Class</b>
8:30 am	Stella Penrose
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Pete & Liz Hernandez
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
<b>Mon. 28 Mar.</b>	<b><u>Easter Monday</u>, I Class</b>
7:00 am	Special Intention
12:15 pm	†Remedios Mortensen
<b>Tues. 29 Mar.</b>	<b><u>Easter Tuesday</u>, I Class</b>
7:00 am	†Lucina Mascarinas
6:30 pm	Morgan Erskine
<b>Wed. 30 Mar.</b>	<b><u>Easter Wednesday</u>, I Class</b>
7:00 am	Patricia Osuna & Family
12:15 pm	Violet Corr
<b>Thurs. 31 Mar.</b>	<b><u>Easter Thursday</u>, I Class</b>
7:00 am	Glen & Virginia McCarthy
6:30 pm	FSSP
<b>Fri. 1 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Easter Friday</u>, I Class</b>
7:00 am	Benefactor - In Thanksgiving
12:15 pm	Thanksgiving for Favors Received
6:30 pm	Donna Hopkins
<b>Sat. 2 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Easter Saturday</u>, I Class</b>
7:00 am	FSSP
9:00 am	Fr. Lyons, FSSP
<b>Sun. 3 Apr.</b>	<b><u>Low Sunday</u>, Divine Mercy Sunday, I Class</b>
8:30 am	Mary Pamela Bellard
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	†Ana Salierno & Donna Salierno
3:00 pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet, Vespers & Benediction

**...In Memoriam**

†Edward Coleman, †Marilyn Goyette, †Gilbert Perry  
†Ruth Rodgers, †Concepcion Cristi, †Mary Gilbert,  
†Mary Foose, †William Munsill, †Richard Corbin,  
†Mikyla Pina Mutuc, †Joseph Michael Jaeger  
†Jerry Risse

**Important Upcoming Dates**

April 3—Divine Mercy Sunday  
(Begin your novena on Good Friday)  
April 4—Annunciation of the BVM (transferred)  
May 5—Ascension of Our Lord  
May 7—First Holy Communion  
May 14—May Procession & Solemn Mass  
May 28—FSSP Priestly Ordinations  
May 28—Graduation Mass 1:30 pm  
June 19-25—Camp Sacred Heart  
July 10—14—Silent Retreat  
Sept. 5-14—CSP Pilgrimage to Ireland

**God Invites All Souls**

Commenting on the invitation of Jesus: “If any man thirst, let him come to Me, and drink,” St. Teresa of Avila says, “Consider that the Lord calls everyone. Now, He is Truth itself, we cannot doubt His word. If His invitation were not addressed to all, He would not call all of us.... But, as He puts no restriction on it...I am certain that all who do not stop on the way will drink this living water.” Therefore, it is not amiss for an interior soul to aspire to contemplation; in fact, it would be logical, since the Lord offers it to everyone, and since contemplation is a great means of introducing us into divine intimacy, of making us understand and enjoy the infinite greatness of God, of filling us with love for Him, and of quenching all thirst for earthly things. If Jesus has offered this living water to all souls, and if it is so precious, why should we not desire it?

However, the Saint instructs us to desire it without pretension, in humility and full abandonment to the divine will. God alone is Master of His gifts, and it is His privilege to distribute them to souls in the form and amount, and at the time He wishes. “God gives them as He wishes, when He wishes, and to whom He wishes, without prejudice to anyone.” St. Teresa clarifies any mistaken ideas we may have in this regard. To demand the favor of contemplation from God, would be exposing ourselves to illusions and deceptions. Besides, it would be a true sin of pride to interfere with the divine plans. Nevertheless, when a soul gives itself generously to God, He, who never lets Himself be outdone in generosity, will not refuse it at least a few sips of the living water which He offers to everyone.

“God does not force anyone,” says St. Teresa of Jesus, “But to those who follow Him, He gives them to drink in many ways, so that none may lack comfort or die of thirst.” This tells us that there are many forms and degrees of contemplation. In order to give us a better understanding of this, the Saint compares contemplation to “an abundant fountain from which spring many streams, some small, others large, and there are also little pools... .

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

**From the Pastor**

Next Sunday, Low Sunday, is also now known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Our Lord has made a marvelous promise to all those who worthily receive Holy Communion on that day, go to Confession (the experts say that having gone anytime during Lent or Easter Week would suffice, since it’s impossible for everyone to go to confession on the same day), and habitually practice some form of mercy (any one of the spiritual or corporal works will do). The promise is that all temporal punishment due to the sins of those who fulfill these relatively easy requirements will be taken away. It they were to die in that state they would go straight to heaven. I look forward ever year to gaining the benefits of this promise.

This promise is **not** an indulgence granted by the Church. It is a promise by Our Lord, Himself. However, there is **also** an indulgence attached to this particular day. It is the following: “a plenary indulgence, [is] granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!”). A partial indulgence, [is] granted to the faithful who, at least with a contrite heart, pray to the merciful Lord Jesus a legitimately approved invocation.” Admittedly, if one gains a plenary indulgence all of the temporal punishment due to his sins will be taken away, as well. However, the requirement to be completely detached from even venial sin is very subjective. We can never be sure (barring Divine intervention) whether we have gained the indulgence or not. Our Lord’s promise is easier to obtain and doesn’t rely on the subjective condition of detachment from all sin.

Which should we try to obtain? Try to obtain both! The granting of the promise will relieve you of the temporal punishment due to your sins. The indulgence can be applied to a soul in Purgatory – one more merciful deed!

**Camp Sacred Heart 2016**

Camp Sacred Heart will be held June 19—25 this year. Registration is open to boys age 9—18, boys unknown to the chaplain must get a letter of recommendation from a priest.

For more information call the parish office or 916-223-3112. Forms may be obtained by e-mail @ stephenproto@yahoo.com

You may also stop by the parish office or bookstore.

**Sponsors needed for Camp**

If you are able to help sponsor a boy for camp, there is a great need, especially for large families. Your help is very much appreciated!

**~Around the Parish~**

**~ Congratulations** to Mr. Julius Cozzati who entered the Church and received the Sacraments of Penance, First Communion and Confirmation!

*The Priests of  
St. Stephen, the First Martyr Parish  
Wish all parishioners a very blessed and joyful  
Easter!  
God bless you.*



**Divine Mercy Sunday**

To celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday as a continuation of the graces of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we are singing the chaplet of Divine Mercy. Please join us Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3rd at 3:00 pm for this devotion, followed by Vespers and Benediction.

The Church has granted a plenary indulgence on this day for those who participate in devotions to the Divine Mercy.

**Five Lessons in Spiritual Combat**

Preached by Fr. Simon Harkins, FSSP

July 10-14

**Retreat is 1/3 full—sign-up as soon as possible.**

**Five Lessons in Spiritual Combat** will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. Each retreatant will have a private room and bath. Space is limited, so hold your place as soon as possible with a deposit. Forms are now available in the office or bookstore. The retreat is open to men and women age 18 and over. For more information call: 916-223-3112

***A Confraternity of St. Peter pilgrimage to...  
Holy Ireland***

*With Fr. Simon Harkins, FSSP  
Sept. 5—14, 2016*

Discover the land that St. Patrick converted to Christianity in the 5th century; a magnificent land whose spectacular scenery hints of Heaven’s beauty!

For more information call:  
916-223-3112 or 1-800-334-5425  
Or visit: [www.syversentouring.com/confraternity](http://www.syversentouring.com/confraternity)

***Please Keep in Your Prayers ...***

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Renee Burns,  
Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson,  
John Reyes, Patricia Becker, Augustine Guzman, Luis Salazar, Paulette Brady, James Reslock, Sandy Sneary,  
Barbara Jeong, Eleanor Roberts, Fr. Carota, Beverly Longtin, Mary Daley, Ramon Daley, John Newaz

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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

5461 44th Street, Sacramento, California 95820

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If you wish to receive official notifications from the parish, subscribe to email: [ststephenfssp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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

Devotions

**Rosary:** Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m., after the 1p.m. Mass and five minutes after many weekday Masses

**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](http://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](mailto:ParishSwap@gmail.com)

View available items by clicking on the "links" button on the front page of [www.sacfssp.com](http://www.sacfssp.com)