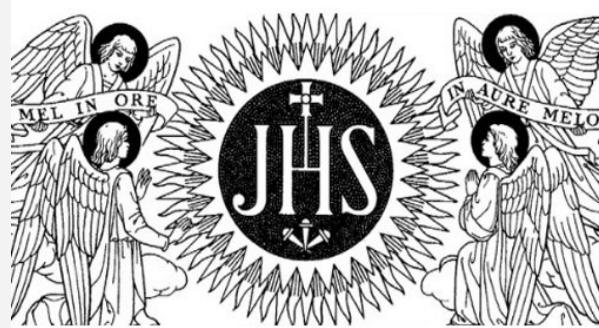


**Sunday, January 4, 2015**  
**Holy Name of Jesus**



<b>Sun. 4 Jan.</b>	<b>Holy Name of Jesus, II Class</b>
8:30 am	†Poblio Uclaray
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Heidi Rutschow
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
<b>Mon. 5 Jan.</b>	<b>St. Telesphorus, Pope &amp; Martyr, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	†Matthew Seubert
12:15 pm	Beatrice Vivien
6:30 pm	Special Intention
<b>Tues. 6 Jan.</b>	<b>Epiphany of the Lord, I Class</b>
7:00 am	Martin Beers
7:00 pm	Charles & Nola Bardin
<b>Wed. 7 Jan.</b>	<b>Feria after Epiphany, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	†Pedro Costales
12:15 pm	†Gaudencio Uclaray
<b>Thurs. 8 Jan.</b>	<b>Feria after Epiphany, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	Tim & Sarah Del Castillo
6:30 pm	FSSP Priests
<b>Fri. 9 Jan.</b>	<b>Feria after Epiphany, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	Joseph Verayska
12:15 pm	Mary Pope
6:30 pm	Mary Miller
<b>Sat. 10 Jan.</b>	<b>Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	John Beck
9:00 am	Marcellinus Joseph Archangelus Cuatto
<b>Sun. 11 Jan.</b>	<b>The Holy Family, II Class</b>
8:30 am	†Charles Cantoni
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Barbara Ryan
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**

January 5—Blessing of Epiphany Water after 6:30 pm Mass  
 January 6—Epiphany of Our Lord  
 January 10—1st Communion Classes begin  
 January 15—CSP Evening of Recollection  
 January 20—Chesterton Society Meeting  
 January 24—11th Annual Walk For Life  
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm  
 May 2—May Procession & Solemn Mass  
 May 10—First Holy Communion  
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations  
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart

**Jesus the Universal King**

Since Jesus is all things to us, it is fitting that we honor Him as our King. He Himself proclaimed, "I am a king." "All power is given to Me in heaven and in earth."

In the Encyclical *Quas Primas*, Pius XI teaches that "Jesus is King by right of nature and by conquest." By right of nature, "He possesses...power over all creatures, not that He seized it by violence, nor received it from another, but He possesses it by His own nature and essence; His power comes from that wonderful union which is called by theologians *hypostatic*. For this reason Christ is to be adored not only as God by angels and men, but these angels and men owe submission and obedience to Him also as man." In fact, Christ as man participates fully in the royalty and sovereign majesty of Christ as God; since, as man and as God, Christ is one Person, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. He is at the summit of all creation: the beginning and the end, the King of all things; He holds "the primacy in all things."

"What could be more pleasing and agreeable than the thought that Christ is our Ruler, not only by right of nature, but by a right of conquest, which He acquired when He became our Redeemer! O that ungrateful men would remember how much we have cost our Savior! We were not redeemed at the price of gold or silver...but by Christ's precious Blood. We no longer belong to ourselves, because Christ has paid a precious ransom for us." Jesus has every right to rule over us; He *must* reign; *oportet Illum regnare!*

From all eternity, God the Father beheld in Christ—His only-begotten Son, made man for the redemption of sinful humanity—the masterpiece of His hands, and therefore He decreed that *all* should be created by Him, given to Him as His royal allotment. St. Paul states that God the Father has set Christ "on His right hand in the heavenly places, above all principality and power, and virtue and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." Behold Christ the King set above the angels, above those pure spirits who also were created for His glory.

As for mankind, we must repeat with the Apostle that we have been chosen and predestined in Christ, "that we may be unto the praise of His glory." Like the angels, we have been created for the glory of Christ, the universal King. By glorifying Him on earth, we unite our praise with that of the angels in heaven.

To glorify Jesus as our King is to acknowledge His sovereign rights over us, that is to say, to live in docile submission to His gentle rule.

His reign is one of love: out of love for us and to save us, He came down from heaven and became one of us. He died on the Cross for the same reason, shedding all His sacred Blood for us. Jesus reigns in the crib; He reigns from the height of the Cross. Behold the price He paid to win our poor hearts, He who by His very nature was already our absolute ruler. Let us not resist the gentle violence of His infinite love; let us give ourselves entirely to Him, allowing Him to reign in our minds, in our wills, and in our hearts.

(*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

**Thank you!**

Thank you for the cards, prayers, and gifts that were given us for Christmas.  
 May Our Lord and His Blessed Mother reward you all!

Fr. Lyons, Fr. Perry, and Fr. Akers

**The Gift We Really Want**

On Christmas Day it's not uncommon for children to be asked, "Did Santa Claus bring everything you wanted?" The Christmas season has everything to do with gift giving because of the gift of love bestowed upon the world through the birth of Jesus. Our exchange of presents celebrates the presence that continues to remain with us so that we can "remain in him."

In today's First Reading St. John writes about the gift God has given us. It is an uncommon gift but is in fact the only thing our hearts have ever truly wanted: to be "God's children now." That which we have received from Christ both satisfies and purifies our hearts. We now can live as he lived and love as he loved, offering the same praise and thanksgiving Jesus offered to his Father, who has now become our Father as well.

In the Gospel St. John the Baptist greets Jesus as "the Lamb of God." The people who have come out to the Jordan for baptism hear in John's description a reference to sacrifice. For centuries the Israelites have been waiting for the lamb that God would provide in place of Isaac (see Genesis 22:8). John the Baptist is letting the people of Israel know that indeed their waiting has come to an end. God has visited his people.

John reveals Jesus as the one who has come to "take away the sin of the world." He knows that Jesus "is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit." The dove that hovers over Jesus fulfills what God told John before sending him on his mission: "On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit."

This dove is a sign from God that the floodwaters of lawlessness and destruction (see Genesis 8:11) have become the waters of rebirth and regeneration. In this man whom John "did not know," God has chosen to recreate the world, so that all women and men can live the very righteousness of God.

Every year the Church gathers us together to celebrate, "with the harp and melodious song, with trumpets and the sound of the horn" (Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 98:5-6), the gift we have received in Christ Jesus the Lord. Love enabled him to take flesh of the Virgin Mary; love compelled John the Baptist to prepare the way for him; love is the key that unlocks our hearts to make room for him; and love alone is the saving power of God. Those who accept the gift of God's love can testify that Jesus is the Son of God and look forward in hope to that time when they shall "see him as he is."

*The science of Love, ah, yes, this word resounds sweetly in the ear of my soul, and I desire only this science.*

(*The Little Way of Advent* by Fr. Gary Caster)

**Blessing of Epiphany Water**

This beautiful ceremony will take place after the 6:30 pm Mass on Monday 1/5. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

If you would like to leave water to be blessed, please do not leave small containers—gallon size minimum. Smaller containers may be filled up from the containers in the vestibule after the blessing. Also, make sure your container is well marked with your name—on the bottle, not on the lid.

**First Communion Class—Registration**

Registration is now open for 1st Communion classes which will begin on January 10th. Pick up forms in the bookstore or parish office.

**9th Grade Religion Class Openings Next Semester**

Fr. Perry's Religion class is open for next semester. The class follows the "Mother of Divine Grace" syllabus. Please call the parish office if you are interested.

**Epiphany Chalk Blessing**

*The lintel of the main door of the house is marked with the blessed chalk by the father of the household in the following manner:*

20+C+M+B+15 while saying the following prayer:

- The Three Wise Men
- C Caspar
- M Melchior
- B & Balthasaar, followed the star of God's Son who became Man
- 20 Two-thousand
- 15 and thirteen years ago
- + May Christ
- + Bless our home
- + and remain with us
- + through the new year.

Almighty God, incline Thine ear. Bless us and all who are gathered here. Send Thy holy angel who will defend us, and fill with grace all who dwell here. Amen.

**11th Annual Walk for Life—Save the Date!**

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Bus tickets are still available — contact Mike at 916-335-4553 or Kathleen at 916-204-9125.

**Saint Francis Xavier Mission Trip**

**3 Trips for 2015:**

1. Guadalajara, Mexico—Holy Week / Easter Week 2015 March 28—April 11. Cost \$900.00 plus airfare. Ages 16 and up. Or families (see website for more details)
  2. Piura, Peru—July 28—Aug. 10 Cost \$2,300. (ages 16—21)
  3. Piura, Peru—Aug. 14—24 Cost \$2,100. (ages 21 and up)
- www.sfxmission.com  
 SFXMission@gmail.com  
 Led by Fr. Heenan, FSSP & Fr. Lillard, FSSP  
 Application deadline—\*January 9, 2015  
 \*This is a change from December 19, 2014

**2015 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, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, John Reyes, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Ceasar Morales, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar, Msgr. Kavanaugh, Anaidel Perez Aravelo, Joan Blackburn, Luis Salazar, Bill Sneeringer, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary

**...In Memoriam**

Please pray for all our Beloved Dead listed in our Memorial Book in the sanctuary.

*Names are placed there at the beginning of each new year.*