

Sunday, January 1, 2017
Octave Day of Christmas



Sun. 1 Jan. 8:00 am 10:30 am 1:30 pm 6:00 pm	<u>Octave Day of Christmas, I Class</u> Charlie Houk Pro Populo Tess Rowland †Marilyn McHugh
Mon. 2 Jan. 7:00 am 12:15 pm	<u>Holy Name of Jesus, II Class</u> Jose & Consuelo Gomez †Joseph Michael Jaeger
Tues. 3 Jan. 7:00 am 6:30 pm	<u>Feria in Christmastide, IV Class</u> Jean Haun †Maria Lopresti
Wed. 4 Jan. 7:00 am 12:15 pm	<u>Feria in Christmastide, IV Class</u> †Patricia Ruth Louks †Manuel Trovao
Thurs 5 Jan. 7:00 am 6:30 pm	<u>Feria in Christmastide, IV Class</u> Alison & Penny Parker St. Monica Sodality
Fri. 6 Jan. 7:00 am 12:15 pm 6:30 pm	<u>Epiphany of the Lord, I Class</u> Houk’s Family Souls in Purgatory Martin McFadden Jr. & His Children
Sat. 7 Jan. 7:00 am 9:00 am	<u>Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class</u> †Maria Lopresti †Joseph Michael Jaeger
Sun. 8 Jan. 8:00 am 10:30 am 1:30 pm 6:00 pm	<u>The Holy Family, II Class</u> Fr. Joshua Curtis, FSSP Pro Populo †Maria Lopresti Intentions of Indre McCluskey

...In Memoriam
†Richard Corbin,†Mikyla Pina Mutuc,
†Joseph Michael Jaeger †Jerry Risse, †Anne Cummings,
†Joe S. Villegas, †Lena G. Villegas, †William Philkill,
†Fr. Carota, †Linda Merino, †Kathy Solari,
†Maria Lopresti, †George Klopff, †Nell Keim, †John Reyes,
†Margaret Melusky, †Robert O’Kane

Important Upcoming Dates

Jan. 5—Blessing of Epiphany Water
Jan. 6—Epiphany of Our Lord
Jan. 7—Christmas Party
Jan. 8—Organ Recital
Jan. 15—First Communion classes begin
Jan. 21—West Coast Walk for Life
Feb. 2—Feast of the Purification—Candlemas
March 11—Confirmation
April 23—Live Performance of “Faustina”
May 6—First Holy Communion
June 18—24 Camp Sacred Heart
July 23—27—Annual Retreat

Jesus Our Mediator

During the Christmas days our thoughts, centered on Jesus, have revealed to us a little of the great “mystery which hath been hidden from eternity in God,” the mystery we now wish to consider in synthesis, in order to arouse in ourselves greater admiration for its “unfathomable riches.”

The infinite distance between God and man, the impassable abyss, the breaking of every bond of friendship—all this was the tremendous consequence of sin. Then between God and man appeared the sweet Babe of Bethlehem; suddenly and completely the whole situation changes: distance is overcome, and across the abyss a wonderful bridge is erected which unites earth with heaven and re-establishes relations of intimacy between God and men. This bridge is Jesus, the “only Mediator between God and man,” who “joins earth to heaven in a truly remarkable manner.” In His office as Mediator, Jesus is really “at the center” : He is the point of union between divinity and humanity. His mediation has all the qualifications necessary for perfectly pleasing God, since He Himself is true God; at the same time, because He is true man and, as such, represents the whole human race, Jesus can make worthy satisfaction to God for the entire debt of sinful mankind.

The divinity possessed by Jesus as the Word is united in His Person with the humanity He possesses as man. These two natures are not merely in juxtaposition, but they embrace each other; even more, they are united in one Person, the Person of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. In Him and through Him, all mankind is readmitted to friendship with the heavenly Father. In Him all can find again the way to reach union with the Trinity.

The eternal Father deigned to reveal this wonderful mystery to St. Catherine of Siena: “It is My wish that you consider the bridge I have built in the Person of my only-begotten Son, and that you notice that it reaches from earth to heaven, because in Him the majesty of the divinity is united with the lowliness of your human nature. It was necessary to construct this bridge in order to repair the road which had become impassable and to open a passage across the trials of this world to eternal life.” (*Dialogue*) (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD.

From the Pastor

A Happy New Year Means a Holy New Year

Everyone wants to be happy. That’s the way God made us. As a matter of fact, He created us with a desire for infinite happiness. Therefore, only something - or someone - who is infinite can satisfy that desire. Since God is the only infinite being, our desire for happiness can be satisfied only when we possess Him. No matter how hard we may try to satisfy that desire with the good things of this world and its pleasures, we’re never going to be able to do it. It would be easier to fill the Grand Canyon by dropping a grain of sand into it once a year than it would be to satisfy the longing in our souls with anything created. That, however, doesn’t stop most of us from trying - even engaging in seriously sinful behavior at times in our attempts to achieve happiness. We’re like the man in the desert who is dying of thirst. He thinks he sees water, but when he reaches it he finds it’s only more hot, dry sand. As long as we try to find our happiness in anything less than God, we will never find it.

If we wish, then, that the New Year be a truly happy one – for ourselves and others – we must try to make it a holy one. It will be a holy one if we remain in God’s grace, and grow in God’s grace. Only mortal sin can deprive of His grace. To help us to remain in a state of grace let us be sure to do the following:

- 1) Go to Holy Mass every Sunday and Holiday of Obligation (more often when possible).
- 2) Pray the Rosary daily.
- 3) Go to Confession at least once a month.
- 4) Avoid all unnecessary serious occasions of sin; that is, people, places, and things that lead us into sin (use the electronic media with the greatest caution!).
- 5) Frequently offer up little sacrifices.
- 6) Perform acts of mercy as frequently as possible; that is, helping others with their material and spiritual needs.
- 7) Do some spiritual reading or listening every day for at least a few minutes.

Obviously, it takes some effort to do these things. But we will be well rewarded. We will be happy with the happiness that only God’s presence can give us both now and in eternity.

Have a truly happy and holy New Year!

Blessing of Epiphany Water

This beautiful ceremony will take place after the 6:30 pm Mass on Thursday Jan.5th. 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.

Notes:

This Friday and Saturday are the first of the month.

~ **Please** remember to pray for the repose of the soul of Robert O’Kane, a charter member of St. Stephen’s. A requiem Mass will be offered for him within the next two weeks, the date will be announced soon.

Registration Open for 1st Communion Classes

Parents of children who will be 7 by May 1st of 2017 may register their child for class. Classes will begin January 15, 2017. Baptismal certificates are needed at the time of registration, unless your child was baptized at St. Stephen’s.

Organ Recital

Mr. Jacob Kasak will be giving an organ recital here on Sunday, Jan. 8th at 3:00 pm. All are invited.

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+17 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
17 and seventeen 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.

Parish Christmas Party

Mark your calendars! The festivities will begin at 5:30 pm, Saturday, January 7th, 2017. 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. For more information please call or e-mail Yesenia Rangel at 916-682-9600 YeseniaLovesLife@gmail.com

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Mike McGrath, Renee Burns, Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, Patricia Becker, Paulette Brady, James Reslock, Sandy Sneary, Barbara Jeong, Beverly Longtin, John Newaz, Marne Merino, Jim Carlson, DarrylGallagher, Fr. Goodwin, FSSP, Margaret Northan, Jean Haun, Joe Cuellar

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Mother of Perpetual Help! Thank you for all the Blessings for our Family!

St. Joseph, powerful patron, thank you for favors granted!

Saint Stephen

The First Martyr Parish

Served by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter

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Rev. Fr. John Lyons, F.S.S.P., Pastor

Rev. Fr. Joshua Curtis, F.S.S.P., Parochial Vicar

Rev. Fr. Dominic Savoie, F.S.S.P., Parochial Vicar

www.sacfssp.com

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

MASS SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL ROMAN RITE

Sunday:

8:00 a.m. Low Mass

10:30 a.m. High Mass

1:30 p.m. Low Mass

6:00 p.m. Low Mass

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. and 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

DEVOTIONS

Rosary:

- Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and after the 1:30 p.m. Mass
- Following the 12:15 p.m. Mass on weekdays

Holy Face Novena:

5:30 p.m. every Tuesday

St. Monica Novena:

First Thursday of every month, following the 6:30 p.m. Mass

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena:

after 6:30 p.m. Mass every Tuesday

Fatima Procession:

13th of every month- May to October - following the 6:30 p.m. Mass on weekdays, the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturdays, and the 1 p.m. Mass on Sundays

Men's Holy League:

3rd Wednesday of each month. Holy Hour 7pm—8 pm

CONFESSION

- One half hour before all Masses
- Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION

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. 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.

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.