

**Sunday, February 8, 2015**  
**Sexagesima Sunday**



<b>Sun. 8 Feb.</b>	<b>Sexagesima Sunday, II Class</b>
8:30 am	Pat Feldman
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Julia Pilegaard
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
<b>Mon. 9 Feb.</b>	<b>St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop, Confessor &amp; Doctor, III Class</b>
7:00 am	Charles & Maryana Cuny
12:15 pm	†Denise Greco Bethel
<b>Tues. 10 Feb.</b>	<b>St. Scholastica, Virgin, III Class</b>
7:00 am	Mrs. Agnes Costa
6:30 pm	Enrique Mendoza
<b>Wed. 11 Feb.</b>	<b>Our Lady of Lourdes, III Class</b>
7:00 am	Candace Weinrich
12:15 pm	Eleanor Dana
<b>Thurs. 12 Feb.</b>	<b>Seven Holy Servite Founders, Confessors, III Class</b>
7:00 am	†Daryl Stephens
6:30 pm	Em Coffey
<b>Fri. 13 Feb.</b>	<b>Feria, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	†Elena Louise Kitchens
12:15 pm	Joseph Greco Bogaczyk
6:30 pm	†Olga Cigarovich
<b>Sat. 14 Feb.</b>	<b>St. Valentine, Priest &amp; Martyr, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	Natasha Alaterre
9:00 am	Priests of the FSSP
<b>Sun. 15 Feb.</b>	<b>Quinquagesima Sunday, II Class</b>
8:30 am	†Father Jerome Lynch
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Father Joseph Terra
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**

February 13—High School Youth Group  
 February 17—Chesterton Society Meeting  
 February 18—Ash Wednesday  
 February 19—CSP Evening of Recollection  
 March 2—5 Lenten Mission—Fr. Anthony Mastroeni  
 March 6-7—Traveling Statue of Our Lady of Fatima  
 March 22—Production of “Therese”  
 April 5—Easter Sunday  
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm  
 May 2—May Procession & Solemn Mass  
 May 9—First Holy Communion  
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations  
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart  
 July 19—23—**Spiritual Exercises** - Annual Parish Retreat

**Desire For Communion**

There is one hunger for Communion which we can always feel, one desire we can always have. That is the desire of the sick person who awaits his physician, of one who, burning with fever, begs for a drink of water. So each one of us poor children of Adam, grievously wounded, appears before our Lord and says to Him: “Lord, all I have is my misery and suffering; come and help me! Do not be revolted by the poorness of my pallet. I want to receive Thee because I need a little strength. Have pity on my misery!” Such is the prayer of almost all who desire Communion.

Look at this converted sinner, for instance. He has but just come from confession and he drags himself along with difficulty. He has been sent to the Holy Table, and rightly so. “Give me bread,” he says to our Lord; “I am starving! How else could I take the rough and narrow path of the Christian life, I who come from the broad and easy highway of evil?” This hunger is good and pleases our Lord; it exalts Him and lowers us to our true place. It is my wish that you may often feel this poor man’s hunger and may always bring forward this right you have to Communion: your need of it.

There is touching evidence in the Gospel that this need, together with purity of conscience, is sufficient to make a good and fruitful Communion. A king had prepared a splendid marriage feast; but they that were invited, when they were called, would not come because, so interpreters of the Scriptures tell us, they would have to make presents to the bride and groom. The king, therefore, sent his servants into the highways and byways to seek out the poor. And they brought in the beggars and the disabled, whom Jesus prefers to the proud rich. But mark well that each one upon entering put on the wedding garment proffered by the servants at the door of the hall. The king entered and rejoiced to see the happiness depicted on all these faces ordinarily so sad. He perceived, however, that one of the guests had kept on his old clothes; this he considered a mark of disrespect toward himself and he ordered him to be put out. This man truly deserved such treatment; he had not been asked to bring wedding presents, but only to be suitably attired.

Now we, too, are poor and suffering; let our desires, consequently, be more vehement. The Lord is so happy to heal us when we show Him our wounds! During His earthly life we hardly ever see Him in the dwellings of the rich and the powerful. He accepted the invitations of no more than two or three Pharisees perhaps, and that principally because He hoped to heal them of their pride and errors of intellect; for they, too, were sick, though in another way. But to the homes of the poor Jesus went with pleasure and was revolted at nothing.

Then come, come to Him for strength, for a little courage! Say to him: “Lord, I can do no more; I throw myself upon Thy mercy!” Come again and again! Not because you think yourself worthy, but because you have need of Him.

Say with confidence: “Lord, give us this day our daily Bread. We are poor beggars who lay no claim to any right; we do but come in response to Thine own invitation.” And the Lord will receive you graciously. Since He has invited you, He will not repulse you but, on the contrary, will receive you in His arms and enrich you with the treasures of His grace and goodness.

(*Holy Communion* by Saint Peter Julian Eymard)

**Excellence of the Association  
 of the Friends of the Cross**  
**“Grandeur of the Name, Friends of the Cross”**

Friends of the Cross, you are a group of crusaders united to fight against the world, not like those religious, men and women, who leave the world for fear of being overcome, but like brave, intrepid warriors on the battlefield, refusing to retreat or even to yield an inch. Be brave. Fight with all your might.

Bind yourselves together in that strong union of heart and mind which is far superior, far more terrifying to the world and hell than the armed forces of a well-organized kingdom are to its enemies. Demons are united for your destruction, but you, be united for their overthrow; the avaricious are united to barter and hoard up gold and silver, combine your efforts in the pursuit of the eternal treasures hidden in the Cross; reprobates unite to make merry, but you, be united to suffer.

You call yourselves “Friends of the Cross.” What a wonderful name! I must admit that it charms and fascinates me. It is brighter than the sun, higher than the heavens, more imposing and resplendent than any title given to king or emperor. It is the great name of Christ Himself, true God and true Man at one and the same time. It is the unmistakable title of a Christian.

Its splendor dazzles me but the weight of it frightens me. For this title implies that you have taken upon yourselves difficult and inescapable obligations, which are summed up in the words of the Holy Ghost: “A chosen generation, a kingly priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people.”

A Friend of the Cross is one chosen by God from among ten thousand who have reason and sense for their only guide. He is truly divine, raised above reason and thoroughly opposed to the things of sense, for he lives in the light of true faith and burns with love for the Cross.

A Friend of the Cross is a mighty king, a hero who triumphs over the devil, the world and the flesh and their three-fold concupiscence. He overthrows the pride of Satan by his love for humiliation, he triumphs over the world’s greed by his love for poverty and he restrains the sensuality of the flesh by his love for suffering.

A Friend of the Cross is a holy man, separated from visible things. His heart is lifted high above all that is frail and perishable; “his conversation is in heaven;” he journeys here below like a stranger and pilgrim. He keeps his heart free from the world, looks upon it with an unconcerned glance of his left eye and disdainfully tramples it under foot.

A Friend of the Cross is a trophy which the crucified Christ won on Calvary, in union with His Blessed Mother. He is another Beroni or Benjamin, a son of sorrow, a son of the right hand. Conceived in the sorrowful heart of Christ, he comes into this world through the gash in the Savior’s right side and is all empurpled in His blood. True to this heritage, he breathes forth only crosses and blood, death to the world, the flesh and sin and hides himself here below with Jesus Christ in God. He can say with truth: “I live, now not I, but Christ liveth in me.” (*Friends of the Cross* by St. Louis De Montfort)

**Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius**  
 Preached by Fr. John Lyons, FSSP  
 July 19-23

Registration is open for our annual retreat which will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. Forms are 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.

Space is limited and we have already had many inquiries, so hold your place as soon as possible.

**Babysitting on St. Valentine’s Day**

Parents would you like to spend a few hours alone with your spouse on Saturday, February 14th? The Parish Youth Group will be offering babysitting in the gym, from 5:00-8:30 pm, as an opportunity for parents to celebrate a special evening together. Several adults will assist the teens in babysitting. Snacks will be served. Donations accepted. For more information, please contact the parish office.

**Lenten Parish Mission, March 2nd—5th**

Fr. Anthony Mastroeni from the Diocese of Paterson, NJ will preach our Lenten mission each evening beginning with 6:30 Mass

Father has been chaplain for Christendom College and Franciscan University of Steubenville. He was also a professor of the University of San Francisco Ignatius Institute.

We are very blessed to have Fr. Mastroeni come to our parish. Please save the date and invite family, neighbors and friends to come with you.

**International Traveling Statue of Our Lady of Fatima  
 Coming to St. Stephens**

On the First Friday and Saturday of March, we will be blessed to have the International statue of Our Lady of Fatima visiting. She will arrive before the 7:00 am Mass on Friday March 6th and stay until 2:30 pm on March 7th. There will be a talk given on the message of Fatima on Saturday morning. Stay tuned for more information!

**“Therese” St. Luke Productions  
 March 22, 2015 at 4:30 pm**

The live production of “Therese” will come to St. Stephens on Sunday, March 22. Space will be limited, so hold your place early. Free will offerings will be greatly appreciated to defer the cost.

Rosa Mystica Girls Society will have sandwiches and sodas available for purchase that day so that people will not have to go home after Mass or Vespers.

You may hold you place for the performance and order your sandwiches through the parish office or bookstore.

**Annual Catholic Appeal**

The Annual Catholic Appeal collection will take place this today, February 8th. This is the most important diocesan collection of the year. 25% comes back to our parish. Please be generous!

**BABY BOTTLE PROJECT BEGINS!!**

Baby bottles will be handed out before/after Masses on Sunday February 15th for those who wish to support the Sacramento Life Center’s Baby Bottle Project for Lent. Please call Maureen @ 916-482-7137 if you have questions!

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

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Cesar Morales, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar, Joan Blackburn, Luis Salazar, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Jeannemarie Crabtree, Michelle Di Giovanni & Children