

Sunday, May 17, 2015
Sunday After the Ascension



Sun. 17 May	Sunday after the Ascension, II Class
8:30 am	†Donald Dickson
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	James Reslock
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 18 May	St. Venantius, Martyr, III Class
7:00 am	Juhi Sho
12:15 pm	†Leonard Dana
Tues. 19 May	St. Peter Celestine, Pope & Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	†Joan Blackburn
6:30 pm	Joshua Pineda
Wed. 20 May	St. Bernardine of Siena, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	†Leonarda Mayor
12:15 pm	Mantz Family living & deceased
Thurs. 21 May	Feria after Ascension, IV Class
7:00 am	Coral A. Klaas
6:30 pm	†Charles Matthews
Fri. 22 May	Feria after Ascension, IV Class
7:00 am	Mary Kaehler
12:15 pm	Madeleine Reslock
6:30 pm	CSP
Sat. 23 May	Vigil of Pentecost, I Class
7:00 am	Jim Gallagher
9:00 am	†James Bogardus Jackson
Sun. 24 May	Pentecost Sunday, I Class
8:30 am	Ben Ebbink
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	†Charles Robert Matthews
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

May 19—Chesterton Society Meeting
 May 21—CSP Evening of Recollection
 May 24—40th Anniversary of Fr. Perry's Priesthood - Potluck
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations
 June 12—Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
 June 21-27—Camp Sacred Heart
 June 29—Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul
 July 19—23—**Spiritual Exercises** - Annual Parish Retreat
 Aug. 2—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance
 Oct. 3—G.K.Chesterton: Live w/Dale Ahlquist & Chuck Chalberg

Communion and the Law of Love

Not only does Communion enlighten our mind by a special grace, revealing to us, by impression rather than by reason, all our Lord is, but it is also, and above all, the revelation to our heart of the law of love.

The Eucharist is the Sacrament of love *par excellence*. Certainly the other sacraments are proofs of God's love for us; they are gifts of God. But in the Eucharist we receive the Author of every gift, God Himself.

So it is in Communion especially that we learn to know the law of love which our Lord came to reveal; there we receive the very special grace of love; there, finally, more than anywhere else, we acquire the practice, the virtue of love.

First of all, what is love? It is a *gift*. That is why the Holy Spirit, Who, as love, proceeds from the First and Second Persons of the Most Holy Trinity, is truly the *Gift*.

How do we recognize love? By what it gives.

Then see what our Lord gives us in the Eucharist: all His graces and all His possessions are for us; His gift is Himself, the source of every gift. Communion gives us participation in the merits of all His life and obliges us to recognize the love God has for us, because, in Communion, we receive the whole and perfect gift.

How did you begin to love your mother? Sleeping within you, without sign of life, was a germ, an instinct of love. Your mother's love awakened it; she cared for you, suffered for you, fed you with her body; by this generous gift you recognized her love.

Well then! Our Lord, by giving Himself entirely to you, and to you in particular, proves to you invincibly that He loves you personally with an infinite love. He is in the Eucharist for you and entirely for you. Others enjoy Him also, to be sure, but in the same way that they benefit from the sun without preventing you from enjoying its rays as much as you wish.

Ah, such is this law on tables of stone, but the New Law He has written in our hearts, with letters of fire. Oh, whoever does not know the Eucharist does not know the love of God! At most he knows certain effects of it, as the beggar recognizes the generosity of the rich man from the few coins he receives from him. But in Communion the Christian sees himself loved with all of God's power to love, with all of Himself. Therefore, if you would really know God's love for you, receive the Eucharist, and then look within you; you have no need to seek elsewhere for further proofs.

(Excerpt from *Holy Communion* by Saint Peter Julian Eymard - available in the St. Stephen Book Store.)

...In Memoriam

†Joan Blackburn, †Thomas Joseph Greco, †Bruce Perry,
 †Catherine Owen, †Gregory Nicholas

Sunday Vespers/Benediction

Sunday Vespers takes place **every Sunday at 3:00pm** followed by Benediction. Pamphlets are available in the church entrance. *"All should come to our churches and there sing the praises of God, and be enriched with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament"*
 - Pope Pius XII, *Mediator Dei*

Honoring Our Lady

Veneration paid to Our Lady must not be a veneration of simply any kind you please. Rather, it should be an immense and strong filial veneration.

Our Lady is Jesus' Mother and our Mother, lofty in her dignity, sublime in her holiness, and rich in "heavenly gifts above all the angelic spirits and far above all the Saints."

Our Lady is the woman preëminently "full of grace," as she was hailed by St. Gabriel the Archangel. St. Andrew of Crete wrote, "O Virgin, you are without an equal, O Saint holier than any saint, O sacred treasure of all holiness!" And St. Peter Damian: "Any creature, however great, is inferior to Mary. The Creator alone surpasses this creature."

How can anyone not see the duty of honoring such a sublime creature, given us from God's hand in order to enthrall Heaven and earth?

God himself taught us veneration for Our Lady when he sent an Angel to ask her consent for the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel, too, instructs us when he greets her with words that tell of her grace and speak her praise. The matron, St. Elizabeth teaches us when, on meeting Our Lady, she exclaims, "How have I deserved to be thus visited by the Mother of my Lord? ...blessed art thou..." St. Joseph, too, teaches us a lesson, as he stands by her in a silence which is filled with devoted veneration. We learn a lesson from the faith and piety of the Christian people who, down the centuries, have erected shrines, churches, and chapels honoring her, she who prophesied under divine inspiration, "All generations shall call me blessed." We learn this from all the Saints who inhabited this earth, seeing how they celebrated Mary's boundless love. Who could ever enumerate all the acts of veneration offered to the heavenly Mother throughout these two thousand years of faith and love?

(*Devotion to Our Lady* by Fr. Stefano M. Manelli, FI)

Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

Preached by Fr. John Lyons, FSSP

July 19-23

Be sure to sign up for this retreat ASAP as registrations are almost **half full!** The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius retreat will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. Forms are now 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.

Remember: space is limited and filling up fast, so hold your place as soon as possible.

Confraternity of St. Peter 2015 Pilgrimage

Historic pilgrimage to Spain & the Rock of Gibraltar, in the quincentenary year of St. Teresa of Avila's birth! By traveling back to the days of the great Spanish mystics—Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, Catholic monarchs—King St. Fernando III & Queen Isabella (Servant of God), and the wondrous events of the consecration of Europe to Our Lady on the Rock of Gibraltar, may we travel forward with the faith and courage of Spain's holy "Defender's of Christendom"!

Join Fr. James Fryar, FSSP, Chaplain of the Confraternity of St. Peter on September 14—September 24, 2015. For more information call Tish at 916-223-3112 or visit the website www.syversentouring.com/confraternity.

Fr. Perry's 40th Anniversary
 Pentecost Sunday

The St. Stephen community will celebrate Fr. Perry's anniversary by hosting a potluck in the parish hall after Vespers on Pentecost Sunday, May 24.

Congratulations, Fr. Perry!

Reminder— Chesterton Society Meeting:

May 19 at 7:30pm

We are starting a new book: *Heretics*
 Read Chapters 5 & 6

Also: Fr. Brown: "The Secret of Father Brown"

Go to: <http://www.sacfsp.com/>

For online book and Fr. Brown stories

All are welcome!

Evening of Recollection Confraternity of St. Peter

May 21, 2015

Don't miss out on the spiritual benefits of our CSP Evening of Recollection on Thursday, May 21, beginning with Holy Mass at 6:30 pm. Each month we are given a wonderful sermon and conference along with Holy Mass and CSP prayers.

The Confraternity of St. Peter is a group of lay men and women united to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

For more information visit www.confraternityofstpeter.com or call the parish office 916-455-5114.

Confraternity Prayer for Priests

V. Remember, O Lord, Thy congregation.
 R. Which Thou hast possessed from the beginning.
 Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, born to give testimony to the Truth, Thou who lovest unto the end those whom Thou hast chosen, kindly hear our prayers for our pastors. Thou who knowest all things, knowest that they love Thee and can do all things in Thee who strengthens them. Sanctify them in Truth. Pour into them, we beseech Thee, the Spirit whom Thou didst give to Thy apostles, who would make them, in all things, like unto Thee. Receive the homage of love which they offer up to Thee, who hast graciously received the threefold confession of Peter. And so that a pure oblation may everywhere be offered without ceasing unto the Most Holy Trinity, graciously enrich their number and keep them in Thy love, who art one with the Father and the Holy Ghost, to whom be glory and honor forever. Amen.

Prayer to St. Joseph

V. He made him lord of his house.
 R. And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray:

O God, in Thy marvelous providence, Thou hast deigned to choose St. Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother. We ask Thee to grant that we may deserve to have him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our protector; who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Norman Sayles, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary, Michelle Di Giovanni & Children, Africa Medal, John Reyes, John Patrick Corr, Augustine Guzman, Patricia Becker, Dr. George Alexeff