

Sunday, December 27, 2015
Sunday within the Octave of Christmas



Sun. 27 Dec. Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, II Class

8:30 am †Dan Purdy
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm James Reslock

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 28 Dec. Holy Innocents, Martyrs, II Class

7:00 am †Vivian Dickson
 12:15 am †Concepcion Cristi

Tues. 29 Dec. 5th Day in the Octave of Christmas, II Class

7:00 am †James White
 6:30 pm Courtship of Mercedes Bogaczyk & Jacob Avila

Wed. 30 Dec. 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas, II Class

7:00 am Roy Alatorre
 12:15 pm Gary Soria

Thurs. 31 Dec. 7th Day in the Octave of Christmas, II Class

7:00 am †Victor Seifert
 6:30 pm †Elren Seifert

Fri. 1 Jan. Octave Day of Christmas, I Class

8:30 am Veronica Bellocchi
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Neal Manning

Sat. 2 Jan. Immaculate Heart of Mary, III Class

7:00 am Fr. Carota
 9:00 am James Reslock & Family

Sun. 3 Jan. Holy Name of Jesus, II Class

8:30 am Fr. Akers' Grandfather
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Janice Aranas

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

...In Memoriam

†Joan Blackburn, †Thomas Joseph Greco, †Bruce Perry,
 †Catherine Owen, †Gregory Nicholas,
 †Jeannemarie Crabtree, †Dr. George Alexeff,
 †Edward Coleman, †Marilyn Goyette, †Gilbert Perry,
 †Ruth Rodgers, †Concepcion Cristi, †Mary Gilbert,
 †Mary Foose, †William Munsill

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec. 27—Feast of St. John: Blessing of the wine after each Mass
 Jan. 2—Parish Christmas Party
 Jan. 5—Blessing of Epiphany Water
 Jan. 6—Epiphany
 Jan. 9—First Communion Classes begin
 Jan. 9—Girls Clubs meet
 Jan. 23—West Coast Walk for Life
 Feb. 2—Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 March 13—Confirmation
 May 7—First Holy Communion

Let Us Make Good Use of Time

Time passes and does not return. God has assigned to each of us a definite time in which to fulfill His divine plan for our soul; we have only this time and shall have no more. Time ill spent is lost forever. Our life is made up of this uninterrupted, continual flow of time, which never returns. In eternity, on the contrary, time will be no more; we shall be established forever in the degree of love which we have reached now, in time. If we have attained a high degree of love, we shall be fixed forever in that degree of love and glory; if we possess only a slight degree, that is all we shall have throughout eternity." (Sr. Carmela of the Holy Spirit, OCD) This is the best way to use the time given us by God. Charity allows us to adhere to God's will with submission and love and thus at the close of life we shall have realized God's plan for our soul; we shall have reached the degree of love which God expects from each one of us and with which we shall love and glorify Him for all eternity.

The growth of charity depends upon meritorious acts, that is, good works done under the influence of charity. Every good act merits an increase of charity, which may be given to the soul at once or withheld until the end of life, according to whether the act had been performed with all the love of which the soul was capable, or whether, on the contrary, it was performed with less vigor, generosity, and carefulness than was possible at that moment. In the first case, the increase of charity comes like interest which is immediately accrued to the capital, and which then bears interest together with it. In the second case, it is like interest which is kept separate from the capital and hence does not increase with it, even though it remains the property of the one who has acquired it.

In order that the merit of our good works, that is, the increase of charity which we have merited by them, be granted immediately, it is necessary that these works be done with all the love possible, that is, with all the good will and generosity of which the soul is capable. Then it is as if the soul opens to receive the increase of love it has merited; and this is added at once to the capital of charity already possessed, immediately increasing its degree and intensity.

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

From the Pastor

Prince of Peace

One of the titles that the prophet Isiah attributes to the Messiah is "Prince of Peace." The peace that Our Lord wishes to bring to us, however (in His own words), is not the same as the peace that the world offers us. The world will grant us its peace if we accept its way of thinking; or, at least appear to accept its way of thinking - to not publicly express any contrary views. The peace Our Lord offers comes from knowing the Truth and living our lives accordingly. Not only does the Catholic Church possess the fullness of revealed truth, she also possesses living Truth - the Blessed Eucharist. Catholics, then, should experience the greatest peace of heart. If we do not now experience peace of heart, we would do well to ask ourselves how well we know our faith, how well we are living it, and what relationship we have with the living Truth - Our Eucharistic Lord.

Parish Christmas Party

Mark your calendars!
 The festivities will begin at 5:30 pm,
 Saturday, January 2nd, 2016

This year the Parish Christmas Party will include a catered meal. 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.

Our celebration would not be the same without you!

For more information please call or e-mail Yesenia Rangel at 916-682-9600 YeseniaLovesLife@gmail.com

Registration for First Communion Classes

Registration is open for First Communion preparation classes. Please pick up forms in the bookstore or parish office.

First Communion classes will begin Saturday, January 9th. Children age 7 by May 1st 2016 may register. Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate when you register unless baptized at St. Stephens.

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.

Notice to Parishioners

We have been requested to send in a copy of our list of parishioners to the District Headquarters of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP). The FSSP wishes to assure you that this list will never be shared with another group. The list will be used in order to send newsletters to those parishioners who are not presently receiving them. If you do not wish to receive the newsletters, simply return the envelope that will be provided with the first mailing, asking that your name be removed from the mailing list. By means of these newsletters the FSSP hopes to unite the faithful who attend its apostolates even more closely in its work.

Prayer for Priestly and Religious Vocations

Priest: Let us pray for priestly and religious vocations.

All: O God, we earnestly beseech Thee to bless the Church with many priests, brothers, and sisters, who will love Thee with their whole hearts, be faithful to their vocations, and gladly spend their entire lives to teach Thy truths, serve Thy Church, and to make Thee known and loved.

Priest: Bless our families, bless our children.

All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Thy work.

Priest: O Mary, Queen of priestly and religious vocations:
All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests, seminarians and religious. Obtain for us the grace of many more. Amen.

(Please offer your reception of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month for vocations)

Prayer of Parents for Priestly and Religious Vocations

O God, grant that at least one of our sons may become a priest or religious brother, and one of our daughters a religious sister. We ourselves want to live as good Christians, and to guide our children always to do what is right, so that we may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give Thee a holy priest, brother, or sister! Amen.

*(Conclude with an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be)
 (based on a prayer recited by the parents of Lu Monferrato, Italy)*

2016 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your envelopes in the vestibule. If you have not registered, stop by the bookstore for a registration form and envelopes.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath,
 Barbara Graichen, Richard Corbin, Renee Burns,
 Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, Sandy Sneary,
 Di Giovanni Family, John Reyes, Patricia Becker,
 Augustine Guzman, Luis Salazar, Paulette Brady,
 Joseph Michael Jaeger, Norman Sayles,
 Fr. Peter Carota, Beverly Longtin,
 James Reslock, Barbara Jeong

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



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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*



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

Devotions

- Rosary:** Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m., after the 1p.m. Mass and five minutes after many weekday Masses
- Monday at 7:00 pm Rosary for World Peace
- 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

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

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.

Parish Swap

Do you have items you no longer need? List them by contacting Rose-Mary at ParishSwap@gmail.com
View available items by clicking on the "links" button on the front page of www.sacfssp.com