

Sunday, May 22, 2016  
Trinity Sunday



<b>Sun. 22 May</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday, I Class</b>
8:30 am	†Jerry Risse
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Charles Watts
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
<b>Mon. 23 May</b>	<b>Feria, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	Jim Gallagher
12:15 pm	Tom Humenny
<b>Tues. 24 May</b>	<b>Feria, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	Jeffrey & Elena Inferrera Family
6:30 pm	†Bruce Semler
<b>Wed. 25 May</b>	<b>St. Gregory VII, Pope &amp; Confessor, III Class</b>
7:00 am	†Margaret Gertken
12:15 pm	†Gloria Booth
<b>Thurs. 26 May</b>	<b>Corpus Christi, I Class</b>
7:00 am	†Joan Pacheco
6:30 pm	†Jerry Risse
<b>Fri. 27 May</b>	<b>St. Bede the Venerable, Confessor &amp; Doctor, III Class</b>
7:00 am	Robert Haun
12:15 pm	Stephen Roundtree & Family
6:30 pm	Jose Magabo
<b>Sat. 28 May</b>	<b>St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop &amp; Confessor, III Class</b>
7:00 am	†John Micheli
9:00 am	Rosa Mystica Confirmation Girls
<b>Sun. 29 May</b>	<b>2nd Sunday after Pentecost, II Class</b>
8:30 am	†Gregory Nicholas
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Stephen & Robin Roundtree & Family
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction

...In Memoriam

†Edward Coleman, †Marilyn Goyette, †Gilbert Perry  
†Ruth Rodgers, †Concepcion Cristi, †Mary Gilbert,  
†Mary Foose, †William Munsill, †Richard Corbin,  
†Mikyla Pina Mutuc, †Joseph Michael Jaeger  
†Jerry Risse, †Anne Cummings

Important Upcoming Dates

May 26—Corpus Christi  
May 28—FSSP Priestly Ordinations  
May 28—Graduation Mass 1:30 pm  
May 31—Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
June 3-5— Saints of “Mercy Relics “ at St. Stephens  
June 12—First Mass of Fr. Alex Estrella & 1st Blessings  
June 19-25—Camp Sacred Heart  
June 29—SS. Peter & Paul, Apostles  
July 10—14—Silent Retreat  
Aug. 7—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen - Pig Roast & Square Dance  
Sept. 5-14—CSP Pilgrimage to Ireland

The Virtues and the Gifts

St. Thomas teaches that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us as a help to the virtues. This is a very meaningful expression: note that we receive the gifts to *help* the virtues, *not* to substitute for them. If the soul does its best, seriously applying itself to the practice of the virtues, the Holy Spirit, by means of the gifts, will complete the soul’s work. To make the gifts operative then, personal activity and application are essential. The whole Catholic tradition places them at the starting point, for “if a soul is seeking God, its Beloved is seeking it much more.... He attracts the soul and causes it to run after Him.”

Although the assiduous practice of the virtues will not suffice to bring the soul to God, the manifestation of good will implied by this practice is very necessary. The sailor who is anxious to reach the port does not lazily wait for a favorable wind, but begins at once to row vigorously; similarly, the soul who seeks God, while waiting for Him to attract it, does not abandon itself to indolence; on the contrary, it searches fervently on its own initiative: making efforts to overcome its faults, to be detached from creatures, to practice the virtues and to apply itself to interior recollection. The Holy Spirit perfects these efforts by activating His gifts. Thus we see how erroneous is the attitude of certain souls who remain too passive in the spiritual life, failing to exert their own initiative to advance in holiness and to meet God. These souls are wasting their time and easily exposing themselves to deception. It is necessary to take up the task vigorously, especially at the beginning of the spiritual life. Only by so doing can one hope to have the aid of the Holy Spirit.

Generally, at the outset of the spiritual life, the influence of the gifts, although never wanting, is rather hidden and rare. At this time, the soul’s initiative—the active exercise of the virtues and prayer—must naturally predominate. But as the spiritual life develops, according to the measure of charity, the influence of the gifts increases too. If the soul is faithful, this influence gradually becomes stronger and more frequent until the soul’s own initiative is eclipsed by it. Thus, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, the soul attains sanctity.  
(taken from *Divine Intimacy*, written by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.)

Saints of Mercy Relics Tour

St. Stephen’s Church is hosting the “Saints of Mercy Relics” June 3rd — June 5th. Come and venerate the relics of 30 saints noted for living lives of faith-filled mercy through daily life and service.

Choir News

The **St. Stephen’s Choir** is always looking for new members. Do you love to sing? Would you like to glorify God with music? Our parish choir director, Keven Smith, is willing to offer a weekly training class for parishioners (teen through adult) who are interested in becoming choir members. For more information, please contact Keven at [ksmith\\_writer@yahoo.com](mailto:ksmith_writer@yahoo.com) or (916) 202-0187.

Healing After Abortion Retreat  
July 8—10

Do you know someone who is carrying the secret burden of shame, anger, grief and the inability to forgive themselves and others because of a past abortion(s)? In this Year of Mercy, we invite you to consider participating in the Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat weekend sponsored by the Diocese of Sacramento, July 8—10th. Come experience this unique and effective healing retreat that presents the mercy, compassion and healing of God. Open to anyone touched by abortion. Cost is \$175. per person, financial assistance is available. For more information visit our website: [www.scddec.org/post-abortion-care](http://www.scddec.org/post-abortion-care) or contact Paul Segno at 916-733-0161 or e-mail [projectrachel@scd.org](mailto:projectrachel@scd.org)  
All inquires and participation are strictly confidential.

A Confraternity of St. Peter pilgrimage to...  
Holy Ireland  
With Fr. Simon Harkins, FSSP  
Sept. 5—14, 2016

Discover the land that St. Patrick converted to Christianity in the 5th century; a magnificent land whose spectacular scenery hints of Heaven’s beauty!  
For more information call:  
916-223-3112 or 1-800-334-5425  
Or visit: [www.syversentouring.com/confraternity](http://www.syversentouring.com/confraternity)

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Mike McGrath, Renee Burns, Barbara Graichen, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, John Reyes, Patricia Becker, Augustine Guzman, Luis Salazar, Paulette Brady, James Reslock, Sandy Sneary, Barbara Jeong, Eleanor Roberts, Fr. Carota, Beverly Longtin, Mary Daley, Ramon Daley, John Newaz

~Around the Parish~

~ **Congratulations** to Mike & Carolyn Perez on the birth of their sixth child, Cecelia Margaret Majella. Cecelia was baptized at St. Stephens on May 14th.

The Immeasurable Value of Retreat

A retreat refreshes and revitalizes, gives the opportunity for more time spent in prayer and contemplation, and rekindles and deepens one’s relationship with God. One may take this opportunity to more clearly hear God’s call and to seek God’s healing grace and thereby attain a degree of spiritual renewal. The purpose of a spiritual retreat, as an addition to daily spiritual activities, is to temporarily leave behind the usual distractions we all face for a time long enough to allow relaxation and for an inner change to occur: the ongoing conversion of heart that is critical to deepening faith. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* describes the necessity of such retreats: “In the fever and agitation of modern life, the need of meditation and spiritual repose impresses itself on Christian souls who desire to reflect on their eternal destiny, and direct their life in this world towards God.”

Yet, it is not only modern life that sends us forth to a period of quiet contemplation. A scriptural basis for understanding the importance of retreat that long preceded the modern world is easily found. We can turn to Jesus’ actions and his suggestions to others as transmitted in the gospel accounts: “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. He undertook his solitary respite not when there were no other important matters to tend to, but because of the essential need to make time for prayer *despite* all the things to be done. Sometimes Jesus would spend an entire night in retreat: “In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. And, this is also relayed: “The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, ‘Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.’ People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.” No doubt, the apostles were energized by the response of the crowds they encountered, but they still needed a chance to recharge before carrying on.

Five Lessons in Spiritual Combat

Preached by Fr. Simon Harkins, FSSP  
July 10-14

Retreat is over HALF full—sign up today!

The retreat is open to men and women age 18 and over. For more information call: 916-223-3112

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

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

5461 44th Street, Sacramento, California 95820

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

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

Devotions

Rosary:

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m., after the 1p.m. Mass and five minutes after many weekday Masses

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

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