

Sunday, July 1, 2012
Most Precious Blood of Our Lord



Sun. 1 July, The Precious Blood of Our Lord, I Class

8:30 am JLB & Company
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Beverly Bardet

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 2 July, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class

7:00 am Joseph McDonough
 12:15 pm †Remedios Mortensen

Tues. 3 July, St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am †Msgr. Schons
 6:30 pm †Mac Weisel

Wed. 4 July, Feria, IV Class

7:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
 12:15 pm United States of America

Thurs. 5 July, St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
 6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality

Fri. 6 July, St. Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am Pierini Family
 12:15 pm Belloci Family
 6:30 pm †Gerald Graichen

Sat. 7 July, SS. Cyril & Methodius, Bishops & Confessors, III Class

7:00 am Christopher & Linda Bardet
 9:00 am Viviana Stanford

Sun. 8 July, 6th Sunday after Pentecost, I Class

8:30 am Jim & Jane Cummings
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Doug Espinoza

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, leave a message, and the priest-on-call will be paged immediately.

New CD by Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary

IN SAECULA SAECULORUM

Help support our seminary and our parish by purchasing a copy of this beautiful CD. It makes a great gift too!

Available at St. Stephen's Bookstore.

Important Upcoming Dates

July 1—Feast of the Precious Blood
 July 3—General Chapter FSSP
 July 13—Fatima Procession
 Aug. 5—Patronal Feast—Pig Roast & Square Dance
 Aug. 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Aug. 20—24—Adult Retreat “A Deeper Look at the Our Father”
 Sept. 17—27—CSP Pilgrimage to Fatima, Madeira & Spain

Feast of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ

In today's liturgy the majestic figure of Jesus stands before us as that of a king who presents himself to his people robed in his royal mantle. The first antiphon of Vespers says: “Who is this that cometh . . . With dyed garments? This beautiful one in his robe.” But the mantle Jesus wears is not beautiful by reason of fine linen or purple, but rather because it is sprinkled with *His* Blood, which was shed for our sins. “He was clothed in a robe sprinkled with blood, and His Name is called the Word of God.” That blood which the Word, when He became incarnate, took from our human nature, He gave back to us—every drop of it—as the price of our redemption. And He gave it back, not as if constrained by anyone, but freely, because He willed to, because He loved us. “Christ . . . hath loved us,” says St. John, “and washed us from our sins in His own Blood.” All the mysteries of our redemption are mysteries of love; and, therefore, all urge us to love. But the one on which we meditate today is especially moving, since it makes us consider the redemption from its most terrible aspect: the shedding of the Blood of Jesus, which, from Calvary, flowed forth to crimson the whole world, to sprinkle all souls. Christ has redeemed us, “neither by the blood of goats or of calves, but by His own Blood,” St. Paul exclaims in the Epistle. This is a great truth which, if really understood, would more than suffice to make us genuine saints. We must have a “sense” of Christ's Blood, that Blood which He shed to the last drop for us, and which, through the Sacraments, especially Penance, continually flows over our souls to cleanse them, purify them and enrich them with the infinite merits of the Redeemer. “Bathe in His Blood, immerse yourself in His blood, clothe yourself in the Blood of Christ, “Was St. Catherine of Siena's continual cry.

In the Office of the day, St. Paul earnestly invites us to correspond with Christ's gift. “Jesus . . . that He might sanctify the people by His own Blood, suffered outside the gate. Let us go forth therefore to Him. . . Bearing His reproach.” If we want the Blood of Christ to bear all its fruit in us, we must unite our own blood with it. His alone is most precious, so precious that a single drop is sufficient to save the whole world; nevertheless, Jesus, as always, wants us to add our little share, our contribution of suffering and sacrifice, “bearing His reproach.” If we are sincere we will have to admit that we do all in our power to escape Christ's shame and disgrace. A lack of consideration, a slight offense, a cutting word, are all that it takes to arouse our passions. How can we say that we know how to share in Christ's humiliations? Behold our divine Master treated like a malefactor, dragged amidst the coarse insults of the soldiers outside the gate of Jerusalem and there crucified between two thieves! And we? What part do we take in His Passion? How do we share in His reproach?

To redeem us, “Jesus . . . endured the Cross despising the shame. . . and “you,” St. Paul reproaches us, “have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.” Can we say that we know how to struggle “unto blood” to overcome our faults, our pride, our self-love? Oh! How weak and cowardly we are in the struggle, how self-indulgent and full of pity for ourselves, especially for our pride! Jesus, Innocence itself, expiated our sins even unto a bloody, ignominious death! We, the guilty ones, far from atoning for our faults unto blood, cannot even sacrifice our self-love. The blood which flows from sincere, total renunciation of self, from humble, generous acceptance of everything that mortifies, breaks, and destroys our pride : this is the blood which Jesus asks us to unite with His!

(“Divine Intimacy” by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Letter to Members of the Confraternity of St. Peter

Dear Members of the Confraternity of St. Peter,

Many of you are no doubt already aware that the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter will celebrate its fifth General Chapter from July 3—18, this summer.

Every six years the General Chapter marks the most important event in the life and government of our Fraternity. During these days the essential decisions which will guide the next 6 years will take place. The Capitulants will vote for the members who will govern our Fraternity until the following Chapter. Particular laws, which are the proper domain of the General Chapter, such as directories will also be discussed and promulgated. Finally, the delegates of the Chapter will outline a course to be followed for the development—both spiritual and material—over the next six years.

One example of the fruits of the meeting of the General Chapter is the Confraternity of St. Peter itself. Six years ago it was suggested by a number of priests that a group be established for the laity which would allow them to concretely attach themselves spiritually to the work of our Society of Apostolic Life. The Chapter quickly approved the idea, and shortly after the prayer and engagements demanded by the Confraternity were approved.

Having had a chance to work with all of our priests in many varying situations over these last six years, I believe I am well qualified to attest the many graces which have been the fruit of our prayers. We have of course enjoyed unprecedented support from the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, and in particular, following *Summorum Pontificum*, we have seen a great demand on the part of diocese for our Fraternity.

More importantly, we have had the Year for Priests which was a reminder for all of us of the central place of the sacrifice of the Mass in the life of the priest and his corresponding need to translate this sacrifice into every aspect of his day. Thanks in part to the prayers and sacrifices of the members of the Confraternity we have been able to train over one hundred diocesan and religious priests to offer Mass in the Extraordinary Form. And finally, we will not know until the next life how often the prayers of the Confraternity were an aid to each of us as priests of the Fraternity. We are each in need at different moments of the grace of patience, perseverance, wisdom, and the other virtues that we might be ‘sanctified in the truth’ and that we might receive ‘the Spirit which was given to the apostles, to make us in all things, like unto Christ.’

Because of this powerful intercession on the part of the members of the Confraternity, I turn to you now on behalf of all of my confreres to ask for your particular prayers and sacrifices in the weeks leading up to the Chapter and while it meets. Being well aware of the need to be led by the Holy Ghost in the important decisions which will guide our Fraternity over the course of the next six years, the Chapter will begin with a day of recollection preached by Bishop Fabian Bruskwitz and Mgr. Guido Pozzo of Ecclesia Dei. We will also be asking a number of religious convents to keep us particularly in their intentions during these weeks. But we will be counting especially on the prayers of our own Confraternity. We thank you in advance for your generosity. May our common patron, St. Peter, intercede for us!

Sub Petro,
 Very Rev. John Berg
 Superior General, FSSP

...In Memoriam

†Mark Trachera; †Fr. Lawrence Ryan (Sacramento Diocese);
 †Joseph Cortese; †Frank Farinha; †Cesar Chaves;
 †Msgr. Gerard Schons; †Rodolfo Servande; †Felice Johnson;

Confraternity of St. Peter Pilgrimage 2012

Join Fr. James Fryar, FSSP & Fr. Gregory Pendergraft, FSSP on this exciting and holy pilgrimage.

Highlights— Beautiful island of Madeira, last home, & relics of Bl. Karl of Austria; Santiago de Compostela—relics of St. James, the Apostle & famous Botafumeiro; Fatima, Candlelight Procession at the Sanctuary, chapel of apparitions and basilica where the children are buried, homes of the children in Aljustrel; Lisbon, convent where Bl. Jacinta stayed before her death & birthplace of St. Anthony. All this and much more! Call today or visit [www.http://syversentouring.com/confraternity](http://syversentouring.com/confraternity)
 More information is available in the office or bookstore or by calling 916-223-3112

Mandatory Recycling Begins Today

Please place all plastic & glass bottles and all cans in the place provided. We will also have to separate cardboard and “junk mail” type paper.

Thank you for your help with this.

First announcement for enrollment in Ward I/Pre-Chorister Class to begin in September

This is the first call for registering your child/children for the WARD I/Pre-Chorister class which is for all children, boys and girls who are potentially interested in being a child chorister at St Stephen's Church. As enrollment will be limited this year, this class is ONLY FOR THOSE CHILDREN INTERESTED IN BEING A CHORISTER. The chorister program is open to boys and girls 8-12. Some exceptions might be made on an individual basis to the age requirement at the discretion of the director. The Ward I class is a beginning music class which teaches children solfege singing (do, re, mi, fa, etc), rhythm, musical notation both modern and Gregorian and musical theory. It's purpose is to prepare the children to take their place alongside the Choir in singing the services at St Stephen's on Sundays and feast days. The opportunity this presents a child is unequaled, many of our former choristers have moved on to universities or colleges or soon will, winning scholarships and places based on their work and training as a chorister.

The Ward Method was developed by Justine Bayard Ward in the early 1900's as a method for teaching music in Catholic Schools. It was used in the best schools until the early 1970's with amazing results. It's popularity waned as more popular forms of music took the place of Gregorian Chant and polyphony. It is now being rediscovered once again and is favored by many in secular academia (not to mention Catholic academia!) over the more known methods of Orff and Kodaly, and as it has at its heart the teaching of Gregorian Chant, is a perfect beginning for pre-choristers.

The Ward I/Pre-Chorister class will Begin on Thursday, 27 September from 4-5 pm, and will take place TWICE A WEEK on Thursdays 4-5 and on Sundays from 12.15-1.00pm. Attendance at both classes weekly is required. Please register at the bookstore. The text required for the course is THAT ALL MAY SING WORKBOOK and may be ordered at the time of registration. There is no charge for the class and is offered by the parish.

Enrollment in piano lessons concurrently is highly recommended for the successful chorister.

Please call me if you have any questions, Jeffrey Morse 916-835-0841, I am always happy to talk to parents about the chorister program.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Katy Fiori,
 Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Patricia Becker, Munsill Family,
 Benny Stinson, Jim Chunn, Michael Gould; Sister Marie Jeanne,
 Elizabeth Pierini, Richard Becker; Charles Cantoni,
 Hayden Garcia, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes; Lori Bates