

Sunday, July 22, 2012
8th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 22 July, 8th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Luke Schuberg
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Jane Frances Dugyon

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 23 July, St. Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am †Msgr. Schons
 12:15 pm Fr. John Berg

Tues. 24 July, St. Christina, Virgin & Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am John Cummings
 6:30 pm Carrizo Family

Wed. 25 July, St. James the Greater, Apostle, II Class

7:00 am Patricia Becker & Family
 12:15 pm The Convy Family

Thurs. 26 July, St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class

7:00 am Phyllis Giacomini
 6:30 pm Melissa Tovani

Fri. 27 July, St. Pantaleon, Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am †Eugenio Manlangit, †David Archilla, & †Trinidad Arcilla
 12:15 pm Mary Miller
 6:30 pm Thanksgiving & Benediction to God

Sat. 28 July, SS. Nazarius & Celsus, Martyrs, St. Victor I, Pope & Martyr, & St. Innocent I, Pope & Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Fr. Lyons
 9:00 am The Burns Family

Sun. 29 July, 9th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Felicitas Vincent & Family
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm The Priests of St. Stephen's

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

Aug. 5—Patronal Feast—Pig Roast & Square Dance
 Aug. 13—Fatima Procession
 Aug. 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Aug. 20—24—Adult Retreat "A Deeper Look at the Our Father"
 Sept. 1—Rosa Mystica & Little Flowers
 Sept. 17—27—CSP Pilgrimage to Fatima, Madeira & Spain

Hope

Faith makes us know God; we believe in Him with all our strength but we do not see Him. Our faith, therefore, needs to be supported by the certitude that some day we will see our God, that we will possess Him and will be united to Him forever. The virtue of hope gives us this certitude by presenting God to us as our infinite good and our eternal reward. Faith tells us that God is goodness, beauty, wisdom, providence, charity, and infinite mercy; and hope adds that this God so great, so good, belongs to us. He wants to be not only our eternal possession and our eternal beatitude, but even here below He wishes to be possessed by us through charity and grace, even *now* He invites us to live in intimate union with Him.

We look at the infinite God who is perfect and immensely higher than ourself, a weak, miserable creature, and we wonder: How can I ever reach Him and be united with Him, who is so infinitely beyond my capacity? And hope replies: You can, for God Himself wishes it; it was for this reason that He created you and raised you to the supernatural state, giving you all the help necessary for such an arduous undertaking. The Council of Trent affirms that we should all have "a very firm hope—*firmissimam spem*—in the help of God," help which He has formally promised to those who love Him and have recourse to Him with confidence: "Ask and it shall be given you," Jesus said; "Seek and you shall find; Knock and it shall be opened to you... If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven, give good things to them that ask Him?" The "good things" promised by Jesus are those contained in the act of hope: "eternal life and the graces necessary to attain it;" this is the object of hope and what we must ask for before everything else.

When we place ourselves in the presence of God with the intention of uniting ourselves to Him, we sense immediately that the great obstacles which seem to separate us from Him are our sins, our frailty, and our wretchedness, all of which make it so difficult for us to live in a manner worthy of God. But hope comes to assure us, on the part of infinite mercy, of both the pardon of our sins and the grace necessary to live a good—and even more—a holy life.

The pardon of our sins removes the obstacles to our union with God; grace brings us close to Him and finally consummates the union. What consolation floods our soul when we think that, in spite of the weakness which prevents us from avoiding all sin, God wants us to be certain of His forgiveness! Yes, every time we acknowledge our faults, being sincerely repentant, He pardons us by the merits of Jesus, and our sins are forgotten forever. Of this we must be certain and we may not doubt it, because we cannot and may not doubt God's mercy and promises. "If your sins be as scarlet," said the Lord, "they shall be made as white as snow." In addition, God wants us to be equally sure that He will give us all the graces necessary to lead a good life, overcome our temptations and our faults, and to advance in virtue. Thus we will attain to union with Him, not only in heaven, but even on earth. Our ideal, the ideal of sanctity, *can* be realized! God wills to expect all this from Him, not because of our merits, but because He is infinitely good, because He is the omnipotentia auxilians, the helping omnipotence, always ready to come to our aid. Of course, it would be rash to hope that God will save and sanctify us without our cooperation; but if, on our part, we do all we can to avoid even the slightest faults, and to practice virtue generously, we can hope with certainty that He will do for us what we, in spite of all our efforts, can never succeed in doing.

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

The Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen
Tickets on Sale for Our Annual Pig Roast & Square Dance

First to buy your ticket—First call to eat!

We also need lots of help! Please sign up for one of the events/committees. Sign-up sheets in vestibule of the church. This is our biggest event of the year, please help!

Biggest & Best Raffle Yet!

B&B on the Delta King! Weekend at a mountain cabin! Premium + wine. Plus other great prizes. See Miss Mary Pope & her entourage after Mass to get your tickets.

Registration for Girls Clubs Through July 31st

Little Flowers	ages 5—8
Rosa Mystica Girls Society	ages 9-13
Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary	ages 14-18

To register, please stop by the office or bookstore or call 916-455-5114.

Theatre Classes

(ages 8—18)

Theatre classes, \$150.00 for 23—25 classes in St. Stephen's auditorium (South Sutter Charter School funds accepted). Bernadette Celestin, St. Stephen's parishioner, BA Theatre Arts.
 For more information 916-637-9945 or brofmary@yahoo.com

Confraternity of St. Peter Pilgrimage 2012

Just a little time left to sign up for our pilgrimage to Fatima, Santiago de Compostela (St. James), and Madeira Isle (Bl.Karl of Austria), Lisbon (St. Anthony).

It's not too late, but 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

St. Stephen Parish Retreat 2012

"A Deeper Look at the Our Father"

August 20th—24th

Please pray for the success of our annual retreat and for the intentions of our retreat master, Fr. Gerard Saguto.

We have 45+ retreatants signed up but there are still a few slots left, let us know soon if you are interested.

More information is available at the parish office or bookstore.
 916-455-5114 - stephenproto@yahoo.com

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Katy Fiori, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Patricia Becker, Munsill Family, Benny Stinson, Michael Gould; Sister Marie Jeanne, Elizabeth Pierini, Richard Becker; Charles Cantoni, Hayden Garcia, Mitzi Vandenberg, John Reyes; Lori Bates; Fred & Terry Bose; Ed Wedinsky

...In Memoriam

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

The Unspotted Lamb

Behold! In the midst of this desert of sinfulness and helplessness there arises before our eyes an altar. A priest ascends the steps; a supernatural, indelible mark is impressed upon his soul. He places upon the altar a chalice and a host. From his lips proceed a few omnipotent words which he pronounces over this chalice and this host—and oh, wonder! The Body and Blood of the Son of God are present upon the altar. Earth awakens, its exiled children arise; they draw nearer and nearer; they gather about the altar, and from millions of hearts ascend humble and grateful prayers. Songs of praise resound; fervent petitions are heard; and from on high, from heaven's heights, resound melodies that betoken love and forgiveness, blessings and joy. Heavenly spirits proclaim glory to God and peace to men.

What has happened? Why this jubilation, this hope? The Church has offered upon the altar the pure, unspotted Lamb to the Eternal Father. By this Sacrifice man worthily acknowledges God's sovereign rights, thanks Him for His gifts, renders atonement for his misdeeds and petitions His help. The Eternal Father accepts the sacrifice of His Son, the homage of mankind: *It is Holy Mass*—the rescuing oasis where, as on another Calvary, God and man meet and offer friendship's hand. ("The Heart of the Mass")

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.

CHOIR & CHORISTERS IN RECESS UNTIL SEPTEMBER

The Choir & Choristers have finished their Trinity Choral term as of July 1. For the rest of July, the High Masses will be sung by the cantors and volunteer choir members. The last High Masses at St. Stephen's this Summer will be August 5, external solemnity of our patronal feast, the Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen, and August 15, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. High Masses will resume on September 9.

PIANO LESSONS AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER

Mr. Morse, the Director of Music at St. Stephen's, has some slots available in his schedule for piano lessons. Future or existing choristers are strongly encouraged to take piano concurrently with chorister training. Please call Mr. Morse on 916.835.0841 if you have questions or would like to reserve a time slot.

~ Summer Dress Code ~

Please recall that all are required to dress with modesty and dignity. A sign in the vestibule gives some details for proper dress. The spirit of these rules is to produce an atmosphere befitting the house of God and the worship of Him through the Sacrifice of the Mass. Our choice of clothing becomes an expression of our worship. Therefore it is not a matter of trying to follow arbitrary rules, but doing our best for God in such a privileged place. Especially for women, this requires us to be counter-cultural. It is also important to dress well on the church grounds too.

At the same time, we request that you leave the business of making any corrections of individuals to the priests at St. Stephen's or their delegates. It will not be helpful to have all take on the duty of policing the church.