

**Sunday, July 29, 2012**  
**9th Sunday after Pentecost**



**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

**Mon. 30 July, SS. Abdon & Sennen, Martyrs, IV Class**

7:00 am Joseph Abdallah  
 12:15 pm Luke Schuberg

**Tues. 31 July, St. Ignatius Loyola, Confessor, III Class**

7:00 am Jackie Ackerson  
 6:30 pm The Aranas Family

**Wed. 1 August, St. Peter in Chains, Apostle, IV Class**

7:00 am Andrea Miranda  
 12:15 pm Francis & Agnes Dugyon

**Thurs. 2 August, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class**

7:00 am Barbara Cogan  
 6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality

**Fri. 3 August, Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen, Protomartyr, I Class**

7:00 am †Msgr. Schons  
 12:15 pm Sr. Marie Jeanne of Eucharistic King  
 6:30 pm Nino Family—thanksgiving

**Sat. 4 August, St. Dominic, Confessor, III Class**

7:00 am †Mary Saporito  
 9:00 am Cecilia Dugyon

**Sun. 5 August, 10th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class**

**External Solemnity of the Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen, Protomartyr, I Class**

8:30 am Holy Souls in Purgatory  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm Jordan Elizabeth Pope

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. 18—Parish Clean-up  
 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  
 Oct. 27—*Salute to Life* Dinner & Auction

**The Excellence of Charity**

The three theological virtues, having God for their immediate object, are superior to the moral virtues which are directed to the government of our conduct; but among the three theological virtues, charity holds the primacy. It holds the primacy because, being inseparable from grace, it is the constitutive and indispensable element of our supernatural life. Where there is no charity there is neither grace nor life, but only death. “He that loveth not, abideth in death,” and contrariwise, “He that abideth in charity, abideth in God, and God in him.” Faith and hope can subsist in a soul which has lost grace, but charity cannot. It is so vital that it cannot co-exist with the death that is caused by sin. Furthermore, it is so vital that it is imperishable and will remain unchanged for all eternity. In heaven, faith and hope will cease because they bear with them some imperfection: faith makes us know God without giving us the vision of Him, and hope lets us hope in Him without giving us possession of Him. Hence, “when that which is perfect is come,” that is, the beatific vision, these two virtues will have no further reason for existing. However, it is not the same with charity which implies no imperfection., since by it, we love God either in the obscurity of faith, or in the clarity of vision, and therefore St. Paul says, “Charity never falleth away.” Here on earth, to adhere to God, “these three remain: faith, hope, and charity: But the greatest of these is charity.”

Faith and hope are incomplete virtues, because without charity they cannot unite us to God and produce the works of eternal life. The faith and hope of a sinner, one who has lost charity, are inactive and inoperative; they remain in him, it is true, but they are there as if dead. “Faith without works is dead.” and only “faith that worketh by charity . . . availeth anything,” and this to the extent, that “if I should have all faith so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” It is charity that gives the warmth and strength of eternal life to faith and hope; it is charity that infuses vigor into these virtues, for only he who loves is capable of abandoning himself to God with eyes closed.

The moral virtues can make a man honest and virtuous, and can regulate his actions according to reason, but they can in no way bring him into friendship with God or even give him the possibility of meriting eternal life. Without the life-giving breath of charity, everything is dead, sterile, cold; without charity, man is confined to the natural level; he cannot be a child of God, nor His friend; he cannot live in intimacy with the three divine Persons. Charity is the principle, root, source, and measure of our supernatural life. The more we live, the more the life of grace increases in us and the more we live in God: “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love.”

It is a truly impressive thought: the greatest and most beautiful works, such as the apostolate, works of beneficence, and even martyrdom, are of no value without charity. “If I should distribute all my goods to feed the poor, and if I should deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.” But when charity is present, everything changes in appearance, like a landscape under the sun's caress, and with the change in appearance, the value also changes; even the lowliest works, the most secret acts of virtue, if performed out of love for God, acquire value for eternal life. This is the miracle worked by charity, which St. Thomas calls with good reason, the “form and mother” of all the virtues. “It is love alone which gives value to all things,” says St. Teresa, “and the most needful thing is that it be so great that nothing can hinder its operation.” All this enables us to understand that charity is truly “the greatest and the first commandment,” on which “the whole law” depends.

(“*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 Mary Pope after Mass to get your tickets.

**New Events This Year**

- ◆ **Bingo**—in an air-conditioned classroom
- ◆ **Duck Races**—water game

**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.**

**Confirmation 2013**

Registration is now open for Confirmation preparation classes. Those age 12 and up may pick up forms in the parish office or bookstore. The first class will be September 8, 2012 beginning with 9:00 am Mass. Adults who have not been confirmed should also register—they will be contacted by one of the priests.

**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 Vandenburg, 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

**A Pilgrim's Journey**

*The Autobiography of Ignatius of Loyola*

Saint Ignatius of Loyola was a man who saw above and beyond his century, a man of vision and calm hope, who could step comfortably into our era and the Church of our time and show us how to draw closer to Christ.

Ignatius' autobiography spans eighteen very important years of this saint's 65-year life...from his wounding at Pamplona (1521) through his conversion, his university studies and his journey to Rome in order to place his followers and himself at the disposal of the Pope. These critical years reveal ithe incredible transformation and spiritual growth in the soul of a great saint and the events that helped to bring about that change in his life.

This classic work merits a long life. Apart from providing a splendid translation of the saint's original text, Father Tylanda has included an informative commentary which enables the modern reader to grasp various allusions in the text—and to gain a better view of a saintly man baring his soul.

(available at St. Stephen's Bookstore)

“Man is created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means to save his soul. And the other things on the face of the earth are created for man and that they may help him in prosecuting the end for which he is created. From this it follows that man is to use them as much as they help him on to his end, and ought to rid himself of them so far as they hinder him as to it.” (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

**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.

**Salute to Life Dinner—October 27th**

If you are interested in sharing a table with St. Stephen parishioners / priests, put your name on the list in the parish office. Cost is \$125.00 per person.

**~ 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.