

**Sunday, August 19, 2012**  
**12th Sunday after Pentecost**



**Sun. 19 August, 12th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class**

8:30 am †Marion & †John O'Connor  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm Ian Convv

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

**Mon. 20 August, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot & Doctor, III Class**

7:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory  
 12:15 pm Overturn Roe vs. Wade

**Tues. 21 August, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Widow, III Class**

7:00 am Allan & Doris Celestin  
 6:30 pm Uhl Family

**Wed. 22 August, Immaculate Heart of Mary, II Class**

7:00 am Joseph McDonough  
 12:15 pm †Adele Trieschmann

**Thurs. 23 August, St. Phillip Benizi, Confessor, III Class**

7:00 am †Msgr. Schons  
 6:30 pm Michael Solton

**Fri. 24 August, St. Bartholomew, Apostle, II Class**

7:00 am Fr. Jason Clark  
 12:15 pm †Joaquin Dugyon, Sr.  
 6:30 pm †Adele Trieschmann

**Sat. 25 August, St. Louis IX, King & Confessor, III Class**

7:00 am †Adam & †Julia Nicholas  
 9:00 am Priests of St. Stephen's

**Sun. 26 August, 13th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class**

8:30 am Rose Wedinsky  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm Gene Bartolemei

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.

**...In Memoriam**

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

**Important Upcoming Dates**

Aug. 20—24—Adult Retreat "A Deeper Look at the Our Father"  
 Sept. 1—Rosa Mystica & Little Flowers  
 Sept. 8—Confirmation Classes begin  
 Sept. 13—Fatima Procession  
 Sept. 17—27—CSP Pilgrimage to Fatima, Madeira & Spain  
 Oct. 27—*Salute to Life* Dinner & Auction

**Diligence**

A prudent man is also diligent; he carefully examines and selects the means best suited to his sanctification, and diligently makes use of them. "He hath done all things well," St. Mark said of Jesus. Speaking absolutely, such praise belongs only to Jesus, whose care and diligence in accomplishing the mission He had been given by his heavenly Father, were most perfect and totally free from the smallest defect. Nevertheless, in due proportion, we should be able to say the same of a diligent person; in fact, this should be the program of his life: to do all things well. It is not enough to do good works; we must do them well, that is, not in a half-hearted sort of way, but with care, solicitude, and promptness - in a word, diligently. What distinguishes saints is not so much their great works or the important position they may occupy in the Church, but their perfect diligence in the performance of every duty, even the humblest.

It often happens, for example, that in a group of people who lead the same kind of life, have the same duties, practice the same exercises of piety, austerity, and mortification, and perform the same apostolic works, some will reach a high degree of charity and union with God, while others will lead a mediocre life, the difference depending on the degree of diligence, greater or less, with which each one applies himself to the fulfillment of his duties. Diligence makes the soul attentive and alert in what is good, so that all its acts are vivified by charity and accomplished with great exactness in every detail. "He that feareth God neglecteth nothing." When this fear is not servile, but the fruit of love which avoids everything that might be displeasing to God, it makes the soul so much the more diligent as it is the more loving.

"Diligence is the application of the soul in the prompt performance of good works. It makes man like the angels who fly with wonderful speed to fulfill God's commands." Promptness in doing good works is a special characteristic of diligence.

A negligent person goes to his work unwillingly, slowly, and with needless delay, whereas the diligent man hastens to it cheerfully, with promptness and concern. The prompt doing of a thing that should be done, even when it would be more convenient to do something else, is the fruit of diligence. Above all, one who is bound to a definite rule of life, either privately or in a community, must observe it punctually and exactly. In fact, any rule which has been approved by one who represents God, is, for the soul who is bound to it, a manifestation of the divine will, which must be carried out without delay or postponement. Punctuality exacts self-discipline and detachment; it often asks us to interrupt some interesting, pleasant work in order to give ourselves to another kind, perhaps less attractive or less important. However, it would be a great mistake to esteem our duties and to dedicate ourselves to them according to the attraction we have for them or according to their more or less apparent importance. All is important and beautiful when it is the expression of the will of God, and the soul who wishes to live in this holy will at every minute of the day, will never omit the slightest act prescribed by its rule of life. To prolong what we are doing beyond the prescribed time, or to dispense ourselves from a duty without a serious reason, is to abandon the will of God; it shows an attachment to our own will, and often enough, to our own convenience.

"In carefulness not slothful. In spirit fervent, serving the Lord" wrote St. Paul to the Romans; and to the Ephesians he recommended, "See therefore, brethren, how you walk circumspectly; not as unwise, but as wise, redeeming the time...."

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

**Please keep our 45 Retreatants in your prayers this week, that they come back with renewed zeal for Christ, their families and our parish!**

**Feast of St. Bartholomew**  
*Apostle—August 24*

Bartholomew, a native of Cana in Galilee, is probably that Nathanael, whom Philip took with him when our Lord called him. Chosen by Christ to be an apostle, Bartholomew left all at once, followed Him, and witnessed His sufferings and death, His resurrection and ascension. Filled with the Holy Ghost, he preached the gospel first to the Jews; gaining but little fruit from their stubbornness he turned to the heathens in India, where he carried a copy of the Gospel of St. Matthew; from India St. Bartholomew went to Phrygia and Lycaonia, everywhere preaching the faith of the cross, coming finally to Great Armenia, where after gaining a rich harvest for the faith, he received the crown of martyrdom. In Great Armenia he smote with dumbness the devil who had been prophesying in a temple of the idols, freed the king's daughter of an evil spirit and converted the king and many of his court to the Christian religion. Enraged at this, the priests of the idols took an oath to put him to death, and at their instigation the saint was killed, after frightful tortures, by Astyages, a brother of the converted king and a zealous idolater. The general belief is, that he was crucified with his head downwards, and while still alive the skin stripped from his body. His sacred relics were brought to Benevent, Italy, in the year 809, and to Rome in 983, where they are venerated in the church of St. Bartholomew.

("The Church's Year" by Rev. Fr. Leonard Goffine)

**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. Begins October 1st—Registration: September 16th - 30th. For more information 916-637-9945 or brofmary@yahoo.com

**Fatima + Santiago de Compostela + Madeira Isle**

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

**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 the Steps of Humility**

This beautiful treatise was St. Bernard's first book: a very striking commentary on the seventh chapter of the Rule of St. Benedict, which the young abbot of Clairvaux wrote down at the express urging of his monks.

The seventh chapter of the Rule is concerned with the twelve degrees of humility, which St. Benedict sets out as twelve rungs of a ladder, with the two sides composed of the body and the soul. For St. Bernard, it is only through humility that we come to true self-knowledge, which, in turn, leads us to Christ, the perfect model of humility. Thus, to live a life of humility is to live a life united to Christ.

The second part of this little book is an analysis of the degrees of pride, the downward path that leads to alienation from God and, ultimately, to damnation.

This work is characteristic of the legendary powers of observation of this great saint, often referred to as the last of the Fathers of the Church.

(available at St. Stephens Bookstore)

**"Let us not imagine that we obscure the glory of the Son by the great praise we lavish on the Mother; for the more she is honored, the greater is the glory of her Son. There can be no doubt that whatever we say in praise of the Mother gives equal praise to the Son."**

-Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, Father and Doctor of the Church

**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.

**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.

**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.

**~ 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.