

Sunday, August 26, 2012
13th Sunday after Pentecost



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

Mon. 27 August, St. Joseph Calasance, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Ellen Cruz
 12:15 pm †Adele Trieschmann

Tues. 28 August, St. Augustine, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am Jennifer Culking and Company
 6:30 pm Alvaro Zapata Jr.

Wed. 29 August, Beheading of St. John the Baptist, III Class

7:00 am Richard Becker
 12:15 pm Andrea Miranda

Thurs. 30 August, St. Rose of Lima, Virgin, III Class

7:00 am Celestin Children
 6:30 pm †Ray Tormanen

Fri. 31 August, St. Raymond Nonnatus, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Ellen Cruz
 12:15 pm Selene Convy
 6:30 pm Joseph Kaehler

Sat. 1 September, Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class

7:00 am Francis Dugyon
 9:00 am Ursula Uclaray

Sun. 2 September, 14th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Patricia Patch
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Angela Nicolini

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

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. 17—*Salute to Life* Dinner & Auction
 Oct. 31—All Saints Eve Party

Sincerity

“Lord, who shall dwell in Thy tabernacle, or who shall rest in Thy holy hill?” asks the Psalmist. And he gives the answer: “He that walketh without blemish, and worketh justice.”

God is truth, and no one can be admitted to His intimacy who does not strive as much as he can, to live in truth and to be sincere in all his actions. First of all, we must seek to possess truth in the depths of our heart, that we may know ourselves as we really are in the eyes of God, stripped of all disguise and artificiality. To do this we must accept, not only the truths which please us, but also those which are painful and wound our pride in the quick, revealing our faults and evil tendencies. A person who is sincere never closes his eyes to these truths, but values them, even if they are humiliating, knowing that humiliation which reveals the truth is worth more than illusion which flatters pride and keeps us in error. Sometimes God permits difficult circumstances which are especially hard and trying for the practice of virtue, that we may see the truth and know ourselves as we really are. Under the onset of contradiction, we experience movements, hitherto unknown, surging up within us: movements of anger, rebellion, selfishness, from which perhaps we had had the illusion that we were free. In such cases, instead of turning our gaze away, it is necessary to have the courage to recognize these faults and confess them, humbly and frankly. St. John of the Cross speaks of certain pious souls who, in confession, “palliate their sins and make them appear less evil, and thus ...excuse themselves rather than accuse themselves.” A soul that loves the truth is very far from acting in this way; even if it has only venial sins and imperfections of which to accuse itself in confession, it exposes them all very sincerely, without magnifying or minimizing them, never blaming circumstances, but only itself for all that is faulty. Sincerity in confessing our faults is the first step toward freeing ourselves from them.

A soul can be insincere in its interior life and its relations with God, but it can never deceive Him, and its lack of sincerity will only rebound to its own dis-advantage. But with respect to our neighbors it is not so; a want of sincerity can easily harm them, or at least deceive them. Hence, not only charity, but also justice demands that we conduct ourselves with the greatest sincerity in our relations with our neighbor. “Wherefore putting away lying,” St. Paul exhorts, “speak ye the truth every man with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” Because of the natural ties, and still more, the supernatural one, which bind us to our neighbor, he has every right not to be deceived either by our words or by our actions.

To be sincere, our words must, first of all, correspond to our thoughts. To be convinced of one thing and to affirm another, without the intention of deceiving someone, is directly contrary to truth and, therefore, an offense against God, who is infinite Truth. Such an act is absolutely inadmissible in any soul, and especially in one who aspires to union with God: How can falsehood hope to be united to supreme Truth? And yet under a more subtle form certain deficiencies in sincerity are not wholly absent from the conduct of devout souls—little subterfuges, words spoken in such a way that they ward off a just rebuke, conceal a mistake which one does not wish to admit, or even attract a little praise or admiration ...and all this through vanity or human respect, in order to avoid humiliation or suffering. These are mean ways of acting, unworthy of a sincere, noble spirit. Any want of sincerity, however small, in a soul who has consecrated itself to God, is very displeasing to Him, and is a serious obstacle to its spiritual progress. St. Margaret Mary writes: “If I should see a soul adorned with all the virtues except sincerity, and if I knew that she had been favored with great graces, it would all seem to me but deceit and illusion.”

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

Philip II

By William Thomas Walsh

Philip II is one of the crucial books for Catholics today and for all who would understand how our world came to its present state. For this monumental life-story, Walsh’s greatest book, is far more than the definitive biography of the man considered to have been Europe’s most powerful king ever. It is besides a virtual panorama of Christendom in the 16th century, the pivotal century that gave birth to Protestantism—which, out of the 15 major heresies that have confronted the Catholic Church, was the first which the Church did not overcome. Not only is Spanish history covered in this fast-paced biographical masterpiece, but also the interrelated events simultaneously developing in England, France and Europe in general, so that the reader comes away with a global view of an entire era and of the forces which the Catholics of that day were facing as the Protestant Revolt, with its seductive rebellion against all authority, both human and divine, was carried from country to country, purposefully destroying the Ancient Faith and the Christian social Fabric.

Because Philip’s life and rule spanned the better part of the tumultuous 16th century and because Walsh is so well-versed in the historical background of this period, *Philip II* presents an encompassing history of the times and includes fascinating descriptions of many of the most famous people and events of that period, people such as Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Mary Tudor, Elizabeth I, Mary Queen of Scots, Catherine de’ Medici, Don Juan, Andrea Doria, William of Orange, William Cecil, the Duke of Guise, the Duke of Alba, the Duke of Parma, Pope Paul IV, Pope St. Pius V, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Francis Borgia and many, many others. Plus it covers great historical events such as the Sack of Rome, the Great Armada, the rise of Protestantism, and the Council of Trent.

(Available at an incredibly great price at St. Stephen’s Bookstore)

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

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.

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

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 Vandenburg, John Reyes; Lori Bates; Fred & Terry Bose; Ed Wedinsky

Self-Sacrifice

Self-denial is a necessary thing for all who aim at godliness. We cannot hope to reach perfection, even of a lesser degree, unless we school ourselves to generous sacrifice in things our natural love of self demands. Unless I train myself to freely forfeit pleasures that are quite legitimate, I shall most surely lack the strength to turn away from pleasures that would soil my soul. If I have not unflinchingly compelled my shrinking nature to embrace the bitter and the painful things of life, I have omitted something utterly essential to the making of a saint. And yet the very thought of self-denial, of sacrifice, is such an utterly abhorrent thing.

Then must I learn the spirit of self-immolation from Him who is its perfect Model, Jesus my Eucharistic Lord. How can I refuse the little sacrifices Jesus asks of me when, kneeling at His sacred feet, I dwell upon the life of Eucharistic immolation he gladly lives for me—the loneliness, the solitude, the narrow cell, the absence of splendor, the presence of all that nature most abhors! How can I shrink from the petty pains that from time to time are my portion when I see my Jesus, for love of me, freely embrace the bitterness of untold insults and injuries heaped upon Him in His Sacrament of Love; the coldness of those who call themselves His friends; the sacrilegious affronts of His sworn enemies!

Surely, with my Eucharistic Jesus leading the way, I can learn to live a life of generous self-sacrifice.

Sweet Sacrament, we Thee adore; oh, make us love Thee more and more.

(“*Minute Meditations*” by J.E. Mofatt, S.J.)

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.