

**Sunday, September 16, 2012
16th Sunday after Pentecost**



Sun. 16 September, 16th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am †Eloise Cervetti
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Mary C. Kaehler

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 17 September, Stigmata of St. Francis, IV Class

7:00 am †Frank Cervetti
12:15 pm †Gaudencio Uclaray

Tues. 18 September, St. Joseph of Cupertino, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Mrs. Praxedes DeLeon
6:30 pm †Janet Poyner

Wed. 19 September, Ember Wednesday, II Class

7:00 am †Auresta Collado
12:15 pm Fr. James Doran, OMV

Thurs. 20 September, SS. Eustache & Companions, Martyrs, II Class

7:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
6:30 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Fri. 21 September, St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist, II Class

7:00 am †Pedro Costales
12:15 pm †Janet Poyner
6:30 pm Angela Nicolini

Sat. 22 September, Ember Saturday, II Class

7:00 am †Frances Mae Johnson
9:00 am †Calixta Paranaque

Sun. 23 September, 17th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am †Msgr. Schons
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm †Rose Picciolo

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; †Richard Becker, †Aida Apaza; Bessie Perez; Robert Perez

Important Upcoming Dates

Sept. 15—Altar Guild & Ladies Altar Society
Sept. 17—27—CSP Pilgrimage to Fatima, Madeira & Spain
Sept. 22—Confirmation Class
Oct. 13—Fatima Procession
Oct. 18—24th Anniversary of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
Oct. 27—*Salute to Life* Dinner & Auction
Oct. 31—All Saints Eve Party
Nov. 1—All Saints Day - Holy Day
Nov. 2—All Souls Day

The Gift of Piety

By means of the gift of piety, the Holy Spirit gives a new touch to our spiritual life, a touch of delicacy and sweetness which perfects and simplifies our relations with God and our neighbor. Basically these relations are regulated by justice, the virtue which inclines us to fulfill every duty and to give to each one his due. But if we were guided in our lives by justice alone, our path would be very arid, and fidelity, difficult. When, however, a sense of *filial piety* toward our heavenly Father is developed in us by the action of the Holy Spirit—a sense which, in practice, is expressed in ardent desires to please Him in all things—then we pass beyond the limits of justice—always a little rigid—and devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the service of God. Incited by that profound cry of “Father!” which the Holy Spirit repeats within us, we rise toward heaven, longing to win God’s heart and to behave in all things as His true children; then the most difficult, laborious tasks become easy and sweet. This is how the gift of piety helps the virtue of justice as well as the virtue of religion. By this gift, “the Spirit Himself giveth testimony to our spirit, that we are the sons of God;” and this truth becomes a living personal experience, capable of elevating us to God with entirely new filial ardor, ardor which will make our prayer easier, transforming it into an intimate heart-to-heart talk with our heavenly Father.

Therefore, if we aspire to live in close union with God, it is right for us to desire and pray for this gift. Under its influence our prayer will become more affectionate, more filial, and we shall attend with greater facility to all that concerns divine worship. Let us ask for this gift, especially when we seem to be very dry and cold, so that in times of trial and interior suffering by its help we shall go to God as a child to its Father. Furthermore, our diligent, constant application to prayer, notwithstanding the lack of sensible devotion, is one of the best dispositions for bringing upon us the life-giving breath of the gift of piety.

If we wish to respond to the inspirations of the gift of piety, we must make every effort to be kind and gentle, and to form the habit of seeing in everyone, even in those who may be opposed to us, a child of God and our brother. When we find it very difficult to do this, instead of becoming discouraged, let us appeal more insistently to the Holy Spirit, begging Him to accomplish in us what we cannot do by ourselves.

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

9th Annual March For Life

January 26, 2013

Bus tickets available after the Masses in October

~ 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.

St. Joseph of Copertino

St. Joseph of Copertino (Cupertino in Spanish), who lived from 1603—1663, is one of the truly unusual saints of the Church. He was born in a stable and was so poor in school that he passed his exam for the priesthood only because the bishop asked the one question he was prepared for. Nonetheless, he developed great wisdom and knowledge of holy things. He performed severe penances, such as wearing a heavy chain around his waist and fasting seven times a year for forty days each! But he was most famous for his ecstatic flights or levitations, of which seventy are recorded in the acts of his beatification. He levitated almost daily at Mass—sometimes for two hours. People flocked to him because of his kindness, and so many attended his Masses that the church could not contain them. St. Joseph worked numerous miracles and, like St. Francis of Assisi, even spoke with animals. On one occasion he raised to life a flock of sheep that had been killed by enormous hailstones. Although he could smell the stench of sin in wrongdoers, he himself exuded a lovely bodily perfume. He performed exorcisms by reciting the Litany of Loreto. And the devil even said of him: “Friar Joseph is the worst foe we have.” This biography, portraying one of the great saints of the Franciscan Order, was written in 1753, at the time of his beatification. It is based on the Acta Sanctorum and the official documentation from the process for his beatification. Canonized in 1767, St. Joseph of Copertino is the Patron of Students and of those who fly.

(by Fr. Angelo Pastrovicchi, O.M.C.)

Confraternity Prayer for Priests

V. Remember, O Lord, Thy congregation.
R. Which Thou hast possessed from the beginning.
Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, born to give testimony to the Truth, Thou who lovest unto the end those whom Thou has chosen, kindly hear our prayers for our pastors. Thou who knowest all things, knowest that they love Thee and can do all things in Thee who strengthens them. Sanctify them in Truth. Pour into them, we beseech Thee, the Spirit whom Thou didst give to Thy apostles, who would make them, in all things, like unto Thee. Receive the homage of love which they offer up to Thee, who hast graciously received the threefold confession of Peter. And so that a pure oblation may everywhere be offered without ceasing unto the Most Holy Trinity, graciously enrich their number and keep them in Thy love, who art one with the Father and the Holy Ghost, to whom be glory and honor forever. Amen.

A quote from a homily by Saint Bede the Venerable, A Doctor of the Church about St. Matthew:

"And he rose and followed him." There is no reason for surprise that the tax collector abandoned earthly wealth as soon as the Lord commanded him. Nor should one be amazed that neglecting his wealth, he joined a band of men whose leader had, on Matthew’s assessment, no riches at all. Our Lord summoned Matthew by speaking to him in words. By an invisible, interior impulse flooding his mind with the light of grace, he instructed him to walk in his footsteps. In this way Matthew could understand that Christ, who was summoning him away from earthly possessions, had incorruptible treasures of heaven in his gift."

Sunday Vespers/Benediction

Sunday Vespers takes place every Sunday at 3:00pm followed by Benediction. Pamphlets are available in church entrance. “*All should come to our Churches and there sing the praises of God, and be enriched with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*” - Pope Pius XII, Mediator Dei

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.

The Five Wounds of Saint Francis

By Solanus Benfatti, CFR

Many saints have borne “stigmata,” wounds resembling Christ’s crucifixion wounds. Some of them have written about the experience. Theologians have certainly pondered the meaning of the phenomenon. Yet, the first of all saints to brandish this extraordinary sign was Francis of Assisi, and very little has been said about his thoughts on the matter. This is no surprise, of course, since for him it was a carefully guarded secret, and never did he write even a word in its regard. But because of the uniqueness of Francis’s position in history, it is imperative to at least attempt to find our what, if anything, can be responsibly surmised about his own personal experience. In order to do so, it is necessary to enter into conversation with the scholars who meticulously analyze the historical value of the early documents by and about Francis. For it has come into vogue to doubt that Francis even had those wounds at all. In the present book, the author makes a sober analysis of the pertinent medieval literature and the recent studies of the same, establishes the historicity of the event, and draws some surprising and indeed, inspiring conclusions about the Assisian’s experience of God.

(available at St. Stephen’s Bookstore)

Help is needed cleaning the bathrooms during the week. If you can spare an hour or two each week to help this would be much appreciated.

We are also in need of help with the yard work, etc. Please let us know if you might be able to give a little time to keep our parish neat and clean.

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

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.

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.

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, ;
Charles Cantoni, Hayden Garcia, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes;
Lori Bates; Fred & Terry Bose; Ed Wedinsky;
Transitional Deacons soon to be ordained for the Diocese:
Antonio Racela III, Ronald Torres, Colin Christopher Wen, Carlo Paul
Gacutan Tejano.