

Sunday, September 30, 2012
18th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 30 September, 18th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am †Terio Costales
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Angela Patch

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 1 October, St. Remigius, Bishop & Confessor, IV Class

7:00 am †Joaquin Dugyon, Sr.
 12:15 pm Sean Pope

Tues. 2 October, Holy Guardian Angels, III Class

7:00 am Jessie Pope
 6:30 pm The Elues Family

Wed. 3 October, St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, Virgin, III Class

7:00 am Francis McDonough
 12:15 pm Richard Szabo

Thurs. 4 October, St. Francis of Assisi, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Rick McAllistar
 6:30 pm St. Monica Sodality

Fri. 5 October, St. Placid & Companions, Martyrs, IV Class

7:00 am Maria Chanel Truong
 12:15 pm †Felice Johnson
 6:30 pm Jordon Pope

Sat. 6 October, St. Bruno, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Matthew & Jonathan Truong
 9:00 am Pregnancy Counseling Center

Sun. 7 October, 19th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Charles L. Cantoni
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Monica McDonough

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

Important Upcoming Dates

Oct. 13—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
 Nov. 22—Thanksgiving Day

The Power and Love of Jesus

A poor paralytic is presented to Our Lord; he probably had himself brought there to ask for bodily health, but in the presence of the purity and holiness which emanates from the Person of Jesus, he realizes that he is a sinner and remains confused and humiliated before Our Lord. Jesus has already read his heart, and seeing his faith and humility, He does not even wait for him to speak, but suddenly says to him with infinite kindness: “Be of good heart, son, thy sins are forgiven thee.” The first and the greatest miracle has taken place: the man is no longer a slave of Satan; he is a child of God. Jesus, who came to save souls, rightfully healed the soul before the body.

This miracle, however, does not please the scribes who, not believing in the divinity of Jesus, begin immediately in the secret of their hearts to accuse Him of blasphemy. But the Master, who had read the soul of the paralytic, also reads theirs. “Why do you think evil in your hearts?” If Jesus had seen there even a little humility and faith, He would have been as ready to heal them as He was to heal the heart of the paralytic; but unfortunately, He found nothing but pride and obstinacy. However, He wishes to use every means to soften them, so He gives them the strongest proof of His divinity. “But that you may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins—then He said to the man sick of the palsy—Arise, take up thy bed, and o into thy house. And he arose and went into his house.” The miracle was striking and instantaneous. The word of Jesus effected immediately what it expressed. The words of God alone could have such power. But the scribes will not admit that they are defeated: when the heart is proud and obstinate, not even factual evidence is capable of moving it.

Let us never say our faith is weak because we do not see or touch with our hand the truth which is proposed for our belief; let us rather admit that it is weak because our heart is not sufficiently docile to grace, nor entirely free from pride. If we want to have strong faith, let us be as humble and simple as children; if we wish to share in the grace of sanctification which was given to the paralytic, let us offer ourselves to Our Lord with contrite, humble hearts, thoroughly convinced that we need His help and forgiveness.

The Gospel presents Jesus to us in all the splendor of His divine personality, possessing all the powers proper to God. The Epistle shows Him in the act of putting His divinity at our service, as it were, to sanctify us and make us divine. Jesus continues to do for our souls what He did for the soul of the paralytic, and today’s Epistle is a beautiful synthesis of His action in us, an action far-reaching and complete, embracing our whole being. Contemplating this action, St. Paul bursts forth in a hymn of gratitude: “I give thanks to my God always for you, for the grace of God that is given you in Christ Jesus, that in all things you are made rich in Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge...so that nothing is wanting to you in any grace.” Yes, every grace, every gift comes to us from Jesus, and through them our person and our life are sanctified. By means of sanctifying grace, He sanctifies our soul; through the infused virtues, He sanctifies our faculties; and by actual grace, He sanctifies our activity, enabling us to act supernaturally. Yet even this does not satisfy His liberality: He is not content with setting us on the road to God, supernaturalized by grace and the virtues, but He wishes to substitute His divine way of acting for our human way; therefore, He enriches us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which make us capable of being moved by God Himself.

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

St. Placidus

October 5

St. Placidus was born about the year 515. Tertullus, his father, a noble Roman patrician, committed him in 522 to the care of the great St. Benedict, where his son, whilst his heart was yet untainted by the world, might happily escape its contagion. He advanced daily in holy wisdom, and in the exercise of all virtues, so that his life seemed a true copy of that of his master and guide. St. Benedict, who seeing the great progress which divine grace made in his tender heart, always loved him as one of the dearest among his spiritual children. Pope Gregory the Great relates that Placidus once being about to bring water from the lake Sublaco fell into the same. St. Benedict, who was at the monastery, immediately knew of this accident, and sent Maurus to him saying: “Brother, run, make haste; the child has fallen into the water.” Maurus begged his blessing, ran to the lake, and walked upon the water above a bow-shot from the land to the place where Placidus was floating, took him by the hair and came back with the same speed. Having reached the land, and looking behind him, he saw he had walked upon the water, which he had not perceived until then. St. Benedict ascribed this miracle to the ready obedience of Maurus, but St. Maurus attributed it to the command and blessing of St. Benedict. Placidus decided the dispute by saying: “When I was taken out of the water I saw the abbot’s melotes upon my head, and himself helping me out.” In the year 528 St. Benedict took Placidus with him to Monte Cassino. The holy abbot afterwards founded a monastery near Messina in Sicily. Of this new colony St. Placidus was made abbot; he was then about twenty-six years of age. He lived only a few years in Sicily. A horde of pirates came to the shore of the Island, and out of hatred of the Christian mane and religious profession of these servants of god, put Placidus and his fellow monks to death, and burned their monastery about the year 546. (*“The Church’s Year”* by Fr. Leonard Goffine)

9th Annual Walk for Life

Save the Date!

Bus tickets will go on sale after all the Masses in October. See Mike or Kathleen DeSantis for more information.

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.

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.

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

Our Guardian Angels

The great St. Thomas tells us that the moment a child is born God calls one of His glorious Spirits and gives the newborn babe into his special care. It is not when the soul is created and united to our bodies—which takes place before our birth, for then the child is still one with its mother and protected by the mother’s angel—but it is when we are born into the world that our angel begins his care of us, even before Baptism.

Every man, whether pagan, heretic, or Catholic has a Guardian Angel. Though one angel would be powerful enough to take perfect care of a thousand souls, yet God in His infinite goodness has given to each one of us a special angel, an angel who is all our own, whose great duty henceforth will be to watch over us day and night, asleep or awake, alone or in the midst of company, in our homes, in the street, working or resting everywhere, every moment of our lives, in joys and in troubles. He never abandons us for a single instant; he sees our every movement; he is ever at our sides.

It seems at first sight incredible that God gives each of us poor mortals a glorious Prince of Heaven to guide and guard us all the days of our life, who is with us night and day, who devotes all his time, all his care, all his unceasing vigilance to secure our happiness.

But in pure truth, it is only one of the many immense proofs of love which our dear Lord has given us.

What *personal* favors has not God Himself already done us. Did He not create us with His own hands, making us to His own image and likeness? Did He not raise us up to the highest possible destiny that He could give us, namely, to be with Him as His dear children forever in Heaven, seated on thrones in His presence, enjoying infinite joys, the most perfect happiness for all eternity? Is He not our Father?

Did He not suffer and die for each one of us? Does He not come into our souls, uniting Himself to us most intimately, countless times in Holy Communion? Does He not watch over us every moment so that not a single hair falls from our heads without His permission?

True, indeed, it is a wonderful proof of His love to give us a special angel all to ourselves, to be our friend and protector, but it is only in keeping with what He has already done for us and it is to prepare us for what He still wishes to do for us.

But what is really amazing is that we do not appreciate, do not understand as we ought this divine favor; that we do not prize and love and seek to know better this glorious angel who is so good to us. Our neglect of our dear angel is appalling.

(*“All About the Angels”* by Fr. Paul O’Sullivan, O.P.)

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

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, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Patricia Becker, Munsill Family, Benny Stinson, Michael Gould; Sister Marie Jeanne, Elizabeth Pierini; Charles Cantoni, Hayden Garcia, Mitzi Vandenburgh, John Reyes; Lori Bates; Fred & Terry Bose; Ed Wedinsky, George Phillips