

**Sunday, October 21, 2012
21th Sunday after Pentecost**



Sun. 21 October, 21th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Gary & Janice Aranas & Family
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Tom Rance

4:00 pm Installation of Fr. McNeely as Pastor
Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 22 October, Feria, IV Class

7:00 am Diana Angosto
12:15 pm The Pineda Family

Tues. 23 October, St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop & Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Msgr. Schons
6:30 pm Barbara Risse

Wed. 24 October, St. Raphael the Archangel, III Class

7:00 am Loretta Cantoni
12:15 pm Judy Boyd

Thurs. 25 October, St. Isidore the Farmer, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Fr. Daniel Johnson
6:30 pm Art & Renee Burns & Family

Fri. 26 October, St. Evaristus, Pope & Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am Fr. John Lyons
12:15 pm Leanne Tanner
6:30 pm Linda Zeitz

Sat. 27 October, Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class

7:00 am Anna Khattar
9:00 am Flores Family

Sun. 28 October, Feast of Christ the King, I Class

8:30 am Eloisa Zapata
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Fr. Peter Carota

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; †George Phillips

Important Upcoming Dates

Oct. 21—Rosa Mystica Girls Society Bake Sale
Oct. 23—“Year of Faith” Class
Oct. 27—Confirmation Class
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
Dec. 1—Divine Mercy Talk/Devotion
Dec. 6—St. Nicholas (High Mass)
Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception (High Mass)
Dec 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe (High Mass)
Dec. 15—Rorate Mass
April 14—Confirmation

Forgiveness

“The Kingdom of heaven is likened to a king who would take an account of his servants.” Today’s Gospel refers to the account which all men will one day be called upon to give. It is a serious thought, which makes us reflect, as we did last Sunday on the state of our conscience. Yet, as we continue the reading of this parable, our hearts are comforted. God, represented by the king, manifests such kindness, mercy, and compassion to the poor servant who cannot pay his debt; He forgives him everything and sets him free.

The debt of that servant was not a trifling one: ten thousand talents; our debts to God are much greater and cannot be computed in talents, nor in silver and gold; they must be reckoned according to the price of our redemption, the most precious Blood of Jesus. Our debts are our sins which needed to be washed away in the Blood of a divine Victim. In spite of our good will, we increase these debts each day, to a greater or lesser extent, if only by faults of frailty and weakness. Is there one who can say at the day’s end that he has not contracted new debts with God? If, at the end of life, God should place before us an exact account of our *deficit*, we should find ourselves in a much more embarrassing position than that of the servant in the parable. But God, being infinite goodness, knows and has pity on our misery; each time we place ourselves before Him and humbly acknowledge our faults with sincere repentance, He immediately pardons us and cancels all our debts. God is magnificent when He pardons: He does not reproach us for the faults over which we have already wept, nor does He keep any account of them; His pardon is so generous, so great and complete, that it not only annuls our debts, but destroys even the memory of them, as if they had never existed. It is enough for Him to see us repentant; then every wound, even the most grievous and repugnant, is completely healed by the precious Blood of Jesus. Christ’s Blood is like an immense sea which has the power to cleanse and destroy the sins of all mankind, provided they are sincerely repented of. Every minute of every day we can take the burden, heavy or light as it may be, of our sins and infidelities and make it disappear in this ocean of grace and love, certain that not one trace of it will remain.

The second part of the parable speaks of our forgiveness of others. Returning home, the fortunate servant whose debts had all been cancelled, met one of his fellow servants, who owed him a hundred pence, a very small sum compared with the ten thousand talents which had been cancelled for him. Yet he who had been treated with so much mercy, showed none to his fellow servant; he would neither listen to his pleadings, nor heed his tears, but “went and cast him into prison, till he paid the debt.”

The parable describes the punishment inflicted on the cruel servant by his master: “And his lord being angry, delivered him to the torturers until he paid all the debt;” and the conclusion follows: “So also shall My heavenly Father do to you, if you forgive not your brothers from your hearts.” If we wish God to be generous in pardoning us, we must be generous in forgiving others; we shall be forgiven according to the measure in which we forgive, which means that we ourselves give to God the exact measure of the mercy He is to show to us.

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

**Installation of Fr. Matthew McNeely, FSSP
as pastor of St. Stephen, the First Martyr Parish
by Bishop Jamie Soto today at 4:00 pm
Followed by Vespers & Benediction
All are invited and encouraged to attend.**

All Saints Eve at St. Stephens

Many great booths are being planned along with the parade of Saints, pumpkin carving contest, campfire stories, and lots of yummy things to eat.

Candy and Donations are Needed!

Please drop these off at the parish office or bookstore.

If you have been wanting to participate in something at St. Stephens—here’s your fun-filled opportunity! We need your help!

Don’t forget to sign-up for the “Parade of Saints” and the “Pumpkin Carving Contest.”

Instruction on the Virtue of Patience

Since God has such patience with us, ought not this to move us to have patience likewise with the faults and weaknesses of our fellow-men, and to resign ourselves patiently in all the sufferings and tribulations sent us from God! What will your impatience avail you?

Will you thereby change or ease your sufferings? Do you thereby correct the faults of your neighbor? No; on the contrary, it makes suffering more oppressive, misfortune greater, and the erring neighbor more obstinate, so that he will ultimately refuse even mild and patient corrections. Besides impatience leads to many sins, to cursing, raillery, quarreling, contentions, and murder. The pious Job gives us a good example of true patience and resignation to the will of God. He was a wealthy, respected, God-fearing man in the land of Hus, the father of seven sons and three daughters, and lived peacefully and happy. God wished to try him and permitted the devil to vent his entire rage upon him. Job was deprived of his children and all his property, and, finally, he was himself afflicted with the most painful disease of leprosy. But in the midst of all these dreadful misfortunes he remained calm. Naked, covered only with a few patches, he sits on a dunghill, a picture of misery, and yet no sound of murmuring comes from his lips, he does not curse, does not blaspheme God, but says resignedly: “The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: as it hath pleased the Lord, so is it done: blessed be the name of the Lord.” To all this misery was added the baseness of his own wife, who came and mocked him, and of three intimate friends, who instead of consoling him, judged him falsely and said, that his misery was a just punishment from heaven. Still Job did not murmur against God’s wise dispensations; with unshaken patience he faithfully confided in God, and he was not forsaken. God rewarded him well for his fidelity and patience; for He restored him to health, and gave him greater wealth than he had previously. See what patience can do, what reward is in store for it! And thou a Christian, a follower of Christ, the patient, crucified Lamb, art immediately irritated, become angry and morose at every little cross which you meet! Be ashamed of your weakness, and learn from the pious Job, to practice the virtue of patience, for patience proves hope, and hope permits us not to be put to shame. Patience always gains the victory, and will be rewarded in heaven. If you find yourself inclined to impatience, make every morning a firm resolution to battle bravely against this vice and often ask God for the virtue of patience in the following prayer:

O God who by the patience of Thy only-begotten Son hast humbled the pride of the old enemy, vouchsafe that devoutly considering what He has suffered for us we may cheerfully bear our adversities, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
(“*The Church’s Year*” by Fr. Leonard Goffine)

**Rosa Mystica Girls Society Annual Fall Bake Sale
TODAY!!!**

In the gym after all the Masses
Homemade goodies, deli sandwiches, drinks, chips, and more!

Pardon & Peace

By Alfred Wilson, C.P.

“*Bestselling laymen’s guide to getting the full spiritual and mental benefits from Confession*”

Fr. Alfred Wilson, C.P., a pastor of souls and popular spiritual writer, wrote that the psychological benefits of Confession are of a piece with its moral benefits—and can only be *fully* enjoyed when the penitent approaches the sacrament in the proper spirit. In “Pardon and Peace, originally published back in the late 1940s, Fr. Wilson captivated audiences with insights like these...

- ◆ Find yourself confessing the same sins over and over? Here’s the reason—and helpful advice.
- ◆ Types of inaccurate confession
- ◆ If your examination of conscience tends to be a lengthy, nerve-wracking ordeal—then here’s what you’re probably doing wrong.
- ◆ Two chief considerations for weighing the gravity of a sin.
- ◆ Three conditions that must be present for a sin to be mortal.
- ◆ Four guidelines for confessing venial sins.
- ◆ Common excuses for avoiding Confession.
- ◆ How to confess a sin of impurity
- ◆ “Nothing to tell?” You might not be searching properly.

(Available at St. Stephen’s Book & Gift Store)

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 the 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*

9th Annual Walk for Life

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

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, Michael Gould; Sister Marie Jeanne, Elizabeth Pierini; Charles Cantoni, Hayden Garcia, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes; Lori Bates; Fred & Terry Bose; Ed Wedinsky,