

Sunday, November 4, 2012
23rd Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 4 November, 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am All Souls Novena
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Holy Souls in Purgatory

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 5 November, Daily Mass for the Dead, III Class

7:00 am Requiem for FSSP & CSP
12:15 pm Requiem for FSSP & CSP

Tues. 6 November, Feria, IV Class

7:00 am All Souls Novena
6:30 pm Robert Pearson

Wed. 7 November, Feria, IV Class

7:00 am All Souls Novena
12:15 pm †Rev. Msgr. Francis Pellegrino

Thurs. 8 November, Feria, IV Class

7:00 am †Manuel Medina
6:30 pm All Souls Novena

Fri. 9 November, Dedication of the Archbasilica of Our Holy Savior, II Class

6:30 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
12:15 pm All Souls Novena
6:30 pm †Felice Johnson

Sat. 10 November, St. Andrew Avellino, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
9:00 am All Souls Novena

Sun. 11 November, 5th Resumed Sunday after Epiphany, II Class

8:30 am Mark & Ellie Powers Family intentions
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm †Jonan Sneeringer

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

Nov. 10—Confirmation Class
Nov. 13—"Year of Faith" Class
Nov. 15—CSP Evening of Recollection
Nov. 20—Chesterton Meeting
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
May 11—First Holy Communion

Confidence and Abandonment

There are many who desire to make progress in the spiritual way and constantly entreat God to draw them and let them advance to this state of perfection, but when it pleases God to begin to bring them through the first trials and mortifications, as is necessary, they are unwilling to pass through them, and flee away, to escape from the narrow road of life and to seek the broad road of consolation. This is the reason why many souls do not reach union with God; they are not willing to tread the way of the Cross, the only way which leads to it.

You also desire to arrive at divine union, but perhaps you, too, think to reach it by a broad, sunny, pleasant way, by the way of success, where one goes from victory to victory, where one enjoys abundant spiritual consolations, where one finds the applause, support, and esteem of creatures. But by now you must certainly have understood that it is necessary to take quite another way: the narrow and obscure way where the soul discovers all its misery, experiences all its powerlessness, where consolation from God and men is wanting. You know, too, that you must accept having to walk on the road for as long as it will please God. How many months or years will suffice? Only God knows. He often keeps souls a long time in the dark night of the spirit, and it might even be said that, in general, even after the principal states have been passed, there is always a little of the night as long as one lives upon earth. The wisest course to take is to surrender yourself completely to the divine will of God, without setting limits either to the duration or the nature of your trials. God knows what is best for you; He, who knows so well the weaknesses and necessities of your soul, will know how to prescribe exactly the treatment to cure your evils. Do not be hasty, but, on the contrary, have much patience, and you will not expose yourself to deception. Let your patience be long-suffering and trustful because, although you truly suffer, these sufferings do not come to you from an enemy but from your greatest Friend, from God, who loves you much more than you could love yourself, who wills your good, your happiness, your sanctification much more than you could ever desire them. Hope in Him blindly and you will have nothing to fear.

The most suitable moments to prove to God that you trust Him blindly, that you wish to abandon yourself to Him without reserve, are undoubtedly those of the dark night of the spirit. Even if it seems to you that all gives way under your feet, even if the tempest engulfs you to the point of making you feel tempted against faith and hope, you have nothing to fear, because in this night you are, in a very special way, under the action of the Holy Spirit. It is He who, by the living flame of His Love, lays waste your soul to purify it, but at the same time He Himself covers it with His shadow, secretly pouring into it the strength to resist, and measuring the suffering in such a way as not to exceed your capacity. Do not be afraid; you are in good hands: you are protected by the shadow of the Almighty, and no evil can befall you, provided you adhere voluntarily and with docility to His purifying action. Accept, and continually repeat your "fiat;" this is what Our Lord wants of you in this state, and this you can and should do, even in the midst of the most violent tempests. This pure, simple adhesion of you will to God, will unite you to Him and anchor you in Him, keeping you from shipwreck.

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

The Soul Sanctified

Selected and arranged from the works of saints

Based on famous considerations from the writings of the Saints, *The Soul Sanctified* consists of over 90 short meditational chapters—of 2 to 5 pages each—on the eternal truths of the Faith we all should keep before our minds during our pilgrimage through life. Written purposely to be picked up at any time and to be read at any place that interests the reader, the book is unique in its character of being an ever-ready source of instruction, inspiration, encouragement, motivation and hope. Uncompromising in its Catholic stance, it is at once easy to understand yet profound in its message, being filled with supporting quotes from Sacred Scripture. It is therefore a book ideally suited to everyone and one that you will want to pick up again and again, both to read and to re-read. It is a book to help you sanctify your soul a little each day along the way of salvation. The chapter headings just invite you to read them; e.g., The Certainty of Death, The Thought of Eternity. The Mercy of God, Gratitude to Jesus, The Death of the Wicked, The Death of the Just, Trust in Christ, The Joys of Heaven, The Service of God, The Love of Our Neighbor, The Excellence of Prayer, The Presence of God, Christian Peace, Confidence in God, The Shortness of Life, Sins of Habit, Doing Our Ordinary Actions Well, Encouragement under Trials, Distrust of Ourselves, Purity of Intention, etc., etc. In short, *The Soul Sanctified* is a book to help you stay focused on the abiding religious truths you should live by in order to help you save your soul, to live with confidence in the love of God and to grow in sanctity each day. (*available in St. Stephen's bookstore*)

Instruction Concerning Ridicule and Derision

When Jesus told the minstrels and the crowd that the girl was not dead, but sleeping, they laughed at Him, because they understood not the meaning of His words. Sensual-minded men generally act in the same manner towards the priests and ministers of God, who by their word and example admonish them to despise honors, riches and pleasures, and to embrace the love of poverty, humility and mortification. This is an unintelligible and hateful language to them which they ridicule and mock, just as they do when they hear that death is a sleep, from which we shall one day awake and be obliged to appear before they judgment-seat of God. Woe to such scoffers by whose ridicule so many souls are led from the path of virtue! What the devil formerly accomplished by tyrants in estranging men from God and a lively faith in Him and His Church, he seems to wish to accomplish in our days by the mockery, scoffs, and blasphemies of wicked men; for at no period have piety and virtue, holy simplicity and childlike faith, adherence to the holy Roman Church and her laws, reverence for her head, her ministers and priests, been more mocked, derided and blasphemed. Unhappily many permit themselves to be induced by mockery to abandon piety, to omit the public practice of the faith, to conceal their Catholic conviction, and to lead a lukewarm, careless, indeed, sinful life. Woe to the scoffers! They are an abomination to the Lord who will one day require from their hands all the souls perverted by them. Do not permit yourself to be led astray by those who ridicule your faith and zeal for virtue; remember the words of Jesus: He that shall deny me before men, I will also deny him before my Father who is in heaven. Let Jesus be your consolation, He was scoffed and blasphemed for your sake.....

Priest From St. Michael's Abbey

Fr. Victor Szczurek, a priest of the Norbertines of St. Michael's Abbey and Headmaster of St. Michael's Preparatory School, will be here the weekend of November 16, 17, 18. He will be speaking to the altar boys on Saturday, November 17 about the school, an all-boys boarding high school in Orange County; he will also be available after every Mass that weekend.

Blessed Marie Celine of the Presentation

This is the story of a 19 year old girl whose virtuous youth in very difficult circumstances was crowned by a brief but beautiful religious life as a Colettine Poor Clare.

Little Germaine Castang, as she was known in the French countryside where she grew up, suffered much from desperate poverty and hunger, a mysterious illness and a leg wound that would not heal, family sorrows, time spent in an orphanage and rejection when seeking her vocation. Yet her heart remained always faithful to Jesus and her hands remained busy serving others. Finally accepted by the Poor Clares, then allowed to make her religious profession on her deathbed, Blessed Marie Celine is now a spouse of Christ forever.

Every Saint and Blessed gives new and different insights into our holy Catholic Religion. Blessed Marie Celine teaches a magnificent steadfast love in dreary and "hopeless situations".

The Poor Clares rejoice in their Sister Marie Celine's beatification. They hope that her inspiring example will now reach many more souls worldwide.

(*Available at St. Stephen's Bookstore.*)

Mission Appeal

On the weekend of **November 17/18**, a missionary priest from the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) will give a mission appeal at our parish. In 14 countries including the United States, SOLT Missionaries bring hope and the love of Jesus and Mary to people living in impoverished conditions. They serve migrant farm workers, refugees, Native Americans, orphans, the elderly, families and those undergoing drug rehabilitation.

SOLT missionaries serve in parishes and schools giving the sacraments and teaching catechism in remote areas. They also care for the needs of the poor through community and family development projects such as clean water, food and medical care. Your generosity makes it possible for these missionaries to bring Christ to the poor.

Sunday Vespers/Benediction

Sunday Vespers takes place **every Sunday at 3:00pm** followed by Benediction. Booklets to help follow along 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; Ken Taylor