

Sunday, November 25, 2012
24th & Last Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 25 November 24th and Last Sunday after Pentecost
II Class

8:30 am Trever Sneeringer
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Lila Rose

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 26 November, St. Sylvester, Abbot, III Class

7:00 am Adrian Lopez
 12:15 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Tues. 27 November, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal,
IV Class

7:00 am Andren Grony Family
 6:30 pm †Jonan Sneeringer

Wed. 28 November, Feria, IV Class

7:00 am †Jane Holt Davis
 12:15 pm Brian Nino Family

Thurs. 29 November, St. Saturninus, Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am Fr. Novokowsky
 6:30 pm Rev. Mr. Nestor Fernandez

Fri. 30 November, St. Andrew, Apostle, II Class

6:30 am †Jonan Sneeringer
 12:15 pm †Eleanor Curry
 6:30 pm Fr. Stinson

Sat. 1 December, Saturday of Our Lady, III Class

7:00 am †Robert Cogan
 9:00 am †Marie & †Frank Cammarota

Sun. 2 December, 1st Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Private Intention
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Michael Solton

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; †Harriet Morton; †Nick Franusich

Important Upcoming Dates

Dec. 1—Divine Mercy Conference/Devotion
 Dec. 2—Advent Begins
 Dec. 6—St. Nicholas (High Mass)
 Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception (High Mass)
 Dec. 11—”Year of Faith” Class
 Dec 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe (High Mass)
 Dec. 15—Rorate Mass
 Dec. 18—Chesterton Meeting
 Dec. 25—Christmas
 Dec. 26—St. Stephen Day—High Mass—Guild Award Ceremony
 April 14—Confirmation
 May 11—First Holy Communion
 June 16—22—Camp Sacred Heart

Divine Intimacy

A soul enters upon the way of divine intimacy the moment that it resolutely determines to go forth from itself and from all created things, in order to set out with fervor in quest of God, living and present within it. The road between this first step and profound intimacy, which will bind to God the soul that has reached complete union, is long and difficult. Progressively, the soul begins to walk toward that “sweet and delectable union” in the measure that, sustained by grace, it becomes detached from itself and creatures, delivered from its imperfections, despoiled of its own will so as to be clothed with the divine will alone, and permits the fire of love to be enkindled within it. Intimacy with God becomes more intense and loving, until, attaining the heights of transforming love, it becomes continual and perfect, a divine embrace which binds the creature to the Creator. Then the great promise of Jesus: “If anyone love Me... My Father will love him: and We will come to him and will make Our abode with him,” is realized as perfectly as is possible here below. St. John of the Cross affirms: “It must not be held incredible that in a faithful soul which has already been tried and proved and purged in the fire of tribulations and trials, and found faithful in love, there should be fulfilled that which was promised by the Son of God: namely, that, if any man love Him, the Blessed Trinity would come to dwell within him and would abide in him. And this comes to pass when the understanding is divinely illumined in the Wisdom of the Son, and the will is made glad in the Holy Spirit, and the Father, with His power and strength, absorbs the soul in the embrace and abyss of His sweetness.” In the most sublime moments of transforming union, the soul is rendered conscious of God living, present, and working in it; it is conscious of His sweet paternal embrace which sustains it, of the splendor of His Wisdom which enlightens it, of the divine enkindling of His Love which penetrates it through and through. Even when the realization of the divine presence and action is less strong, and does not make the soul so blissful, it is still conscious of being profoundly united to God, of being moved and governed by Him. St. Therese of the Child Jesus attests: “I know that Jesus is within me, always guiding and inspiring me.” The humble saint, although not having experienced the extraordinary mystical graces, attained no less than her glorious Mother, St. Teresa of Jesus, to the profound intimacy with God which the soul enjoys in the state of perfect union.

Divine intimacy, especially in its highest degrees, is in itself a very joyous and blessed state; yet the enamored soul does not desire this intimacy in order to enjoy it, but to love God more, to be totally united to Him, entirely possessed, moved, and governed by Him, that it may serve Him better and give Him glory in all its actions. St. Teresa of Avila says expressly that the end for which Our Lord communicates Himself to souls and gives them so many graces—even the highest mystical favors—is not merely to “give them pleasure,” or to console them, but “to strengthen their weakness that they may be able to imitate Him in His great sufferings,” and she adds, with her usual enthusiasm: “This is the aim of prayer, this is the purpose of the spiritual marriage, to give birth to good works and good works alone.”

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

Divine Mercy Parish Conference

St. Stephen the First Martyr Parish
Saturday—December 1, 2012

- ◆ 9:00 am : Holy Mass
- ◆ 10:30 am—12:00 Noon : Conference
- ◆ 12:30 pm— Chaplet & Benediction

Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to learn about God’s great gift of Mercy! In 1931 our Lord Jesus revealed to Saint Faustina Kowalska the stupendous message of His Mercy for our times.

Apparition of the Miraculous Medal

....Suddenly, Catherine’s heart leaped. She had heard it—that rustling, that faint swish of silk she could never forget, the sound of Our Lady’s gown as she walked! There it was again—and there was the Queen of Heaven, there in the sanctuary, standing upon a globe. She shone as the morning rising, a radiant vision, “in all her perfect beauty,” as Catherine said later.

Catherine’s eyes widened with bliss at the sight. Yet they were not so dazzled but that, womanlike, they took note of every detail of the Virgin’s dress: that her robe was of silk, “of the whiteness of the dawn,” that the neck of it was cut high and the sleeves plain, that she wore a white veil which fell to her feet, and beneath the veil a lace fillet binding her hair.

The Virgin held in her hands a golden ball which she seemed to offer to God, for her eyes were raised heavenward. Suddenly, her hands were resplendent with rings set with precious stones that glittered and flashed in a brilliant cascade of light. So bright was the flood of glory cast upon the globe below that Catherine could no longer see Our Lady’s feet.

Mary lowered her eyes and looked full at Sister Laboure. Her lips did not move, but Catherine heard a voice.

“The ball which you see represents the whole world, especially France, and each person in particular.”

These words stirred the heart of the Sister with fresh transports of joy, and the dazzling rays seemed to her to increase to blinding brilliance.

“These rays symbolize the graces I shed upon those who ask for them. The gems from which rays do not fall are the graces for which souls forget to ask.”

At this moment, Catherine was so lost in delight that she scarcely knew where she was, whether she lived or died. The golden ball vanished from Mary’s hands; her arms swept wide in a gesture of motherly compassion, while from her jeweled fingers the rays of light streamed upon the white globe at her feet. An oval frame formed around the Blessed Virgin, and written within it in letters of gold Catherine read the words:

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

The voice spoke again:

“Have a Medal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces; they should wear it around the neck. Graces will abound for persons who wear it with confidence.”

The tableau revolved, and Catherine beheld the reverse of the Medal she was to have made. It contained a large M surmounted by a bar and a cross. Beneath the M were the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the one crowned with thorns, the other pierced with a sword. Twelve stars encircled the whole.

(read more about St. Catherine Laboure and Mary’s Miraculous Medal in this book, “St. Catherine Laboure of the Miraculous Medal” by Joseph Dirvin, C.M.)

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



St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer

To be said 15 times a day for 25 days beginning on the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov 30th) until the Eve of Christmas (Dec 24th). It is piously believed that whoever recites this novena prayer 15 times a day for 25 days will obtain what is asked. The novena is not addressed to Saint Andrew but to God Himself, asking Him to grant our request in honor of the birth of His Son at Christmas. It is also known as the **Christmas Anticipation Novena**.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayers and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Imprimatur – Michael Augustine, Archbishop of New York – Feb 6, 1897.

Mission Appeal

On the weekend of **November 25th**, 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.

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 note: No playing allowed on the stage. NO RUNNING IN GYM DURING COFFEE TIME OR MEALS! Thank you for your cooperation.

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