Sunday, December 2, 2012
1st Sunday of Advent

Sun. 2 December 1st Sunday of Advent, *I Class*
8:30 am Private Intention
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Michael Solton

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 3 December, St. Francis Xavier, *Confessor, III Class*
7:00 am †Marie & †Frank Cammarota
12:15 pm FSSP

Tues. 4 December, St. Peter Chrysologus, *Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class*
7:00 am Fr. John Lyons, OMV
6:30 pm Erick & Vischa Yo

Wed. 5 December, Feria of Advent, *III Class*
7:00 am Sarah Vierra
12:15 pm Archbishop José Gomez

Thurs. 6 December, St. Nicholas, *Bishop & Confessor, III Class*
7:00 am Patricia Patch
7:00 pm St. Monica Sodality

Fri. 7 December, St. Ambrose, *Bishop, Confessor, Doctor, III Class*
7 am Teresita Harbaugh
12:15 pm †Felice Johnson
6:30 pm Louis A. Solton

Sat. 8 December, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *I Class*
7:00 am George Harbaugh
9:00 am †Pauline Harbaugh
10:30 am Pro Populo (High Mass)

Sun. 9 December, 2nd Sunday of Advent, *I Class*
8:30 am Erick & Vischa Yo
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Roundtree Family

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. 2—Advent Begins
Dec. 7—First Friday
Dec. 6—St. Nicholas (High Mass)
Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)
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
Jan. 27—St. Maximilian Kolbe—Saint of Auschwitz
April 14—Confirmation
May 11—First Holy Communion
June 16—22—Camp Sacred Heart

Invitation to Divine Intimacy

"If any one loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him." This is the great mystery of the divine indwelling, which assures us, in Jesus' own words that the one, triune God is not far away from a soul who loves Him, but rather lives in it and makes His abode in it.

Catholic doctrine teaches that God necessarily exists in all His creatures. In fact, in order to exist, they need not only to be created by Him, but also to be kept in existence by Him. God conserves them by operating in them, that is, by continually communicating existence to them. Since He operates by His substance, He is present wherever He operates, and therefore, in all His creatures. Thus God is everywhere, even in the souls of unbelievers and sinners.

However, in the case of a soul filled with sanctifying grace and charity, there is a special presence of God, which was promised by Jesus, and which is called *indwelling*. "The divine Persons are said to be indwelling inasmuch as They are present to intellectual creatures in a way that lies beyond human comprehension., and are known and loved by Them in a purely supernatural manner alone, within the deepest sanctuary of the soul." In other words, the three divine Persons are present in the soul that is in the state of grace, so that it may know Them by faith, and love Them by charity, and that They may even make Themselves known to the soul by the intimate illumination of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The three Persons of the Blessed Trinity are present in a soul in the state of grace to invite it to live in Their society, in intimate friendship with Them. Jesus states this clearly and authoritatively: "Abide in me and I in you, I in you and the Father in me, that you may be perfect in one;" "as Thou, Father, in Me, and I in Thee; that they also may be one in Us." But wherever the Father and the Son are, the Holy Spirit is there also, and Jesus has expressly said: "The Spirit of Truth...shall abide with you, and shall be in you."

To every soul in the state of grace may be repeated in all truth the words which made such an impression on Sr. Elizabeth of the Trinity, "the Father is in you, the Son is in you, the Holy Spirit is in you."

God is within you as your Father and as the sweet Guest of your soul, to invite you to live, not only *by* Him, but *with* Him and *in* Him. He is within you to manifest Himself to your soul, just as a friend manifests himself to his friend, according to the word of Jesus, "He that loveth Me...I will love him and will manifest Myself to him. I will not now call you servants...but I have called you friends." God Himself—God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit—offers you the invitation to live with Him, He offers you His friendship.

What a tremendous gift! "If thou didst know the gift of God..."

[Let us pray with St. Catherine of Siena] "O Deity eternal, O high, eternal Deity, O sovereign, eternal Father, O ever-burning fire!... What do Your bounty and grandeur show? The gift You have given to man. And what gift have You given? Your whole self, O eternal Trinity. And where did you give yourself? In the stable of our humanity which had become a shelter for animals, that is, mortal sin."

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

Save the Date!
Live Performance

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Saint of Auschwitz
Performed by Leonardo Defilippis
St. Stephen, the First Martyr
January 27, 2013—4:30 pm
Free—Will Offering appreciated to defray expenses

The Mysteries of Mary
Growing in Faith, Hope and Love with the Mother of God

By Fr. Marie-Dominique Philippe, O.P.

The life of the Blessed Virgin Mary is perfectly and intimately identified with that of her Son. The events of her life are therefore truly mysteries—signs that point us to the saving grace of Jesus.

In *The Mysteries of Mary,* Father Marie-Dominique Philippe shines a light on those events, constructing a rich theological meditation on how Mary's life is a model of faith and hope, and most importantly, of the growth in charity to which all Christians are called.

The early mysteries of Mary's life show us the preparation for charity and its budding, as Mary's soul and flesh are prepared to receive Jesus, culminating in the climactic mystery of joy: the Nativity of the Lord. Through trial, charity begins to be rooted in Mary's heart, until finally that heart is pierced in the mysteries of sorrow. At last, the charity of the resurrected Lord blossoms in glory: having endured with her Son the agonies of Calvary, Mary most immediately and fully experiences His return to life—indeed, "from the first beat of His glorious heart."

The Mysteries of Mary is at once an episodic reflection on the profoundest moments in Mary's earthly life, from the Immaculate Conception to Cana to Pentecost, and a systematic approach to the doctrine of Mary's spiritual maternity. What does it mean for Mary to be the mother of all the faithful? It means that she "educates us as a mother, showing us through her example, her life, how we must live the mysteries of faith, hope, and the growth of charity."

What Does It Profit

They stood about Him, the Twelve, eager, attentive. His theme was a serious one—the meaning of life, the value of the immortal soul. He knew well the strong appeal of riches and honors and pleasures to their still earthly hearts. He looked on them pityingly; His gaze reached out to embrace the whole world. Then He spoke: "What shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his soul?"

The whole world for my soul! That gives tremendous meaning to the worth of my soul, does it not? The whole world with all its unmeasured treasures, its honors, its pleasures, all of them heaped together and given to me to have and to hold as my very own—yet worthy only of utter contempt if the exchange demanded is my soul! Yes, for earth's riches and honors and pleasures will all soon fade and cease to be, but my soul shall go on eternally for weal or for woe.

The whole world for my soul! Ah! yes, that would be a foolhardy exchange indeed. But I am not offered the whole world for my soul. No, just the vilest pittance the tempter offers when he comes to bargain with me.

A bit of gross pleasure that befouls whatever it touches, a mere handful of tinsel treasures, an hour of meaningless honor—just that and no more the tempter offers in exchange for my soul.

Can I allow myself to be lured into such a foolhardy bargain? I must pause and reflect and resolve.

Dear Jesus, Divine Friend, have mercy on us.
(taken from "Minute Meditations by M. E. Moffatt, S. J.)

Saint Andrew Christmas Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.
(Novena begins on the Feast of St. Andrew, November 30)

Registration for 1st Communion Class

Registration is now open for 1st Communion classes which will begin January 12, 2013. Forms are available in the parish office or bookstore. Please sign up as soon as possible. The usual age for 1st Communion is 7 years old.

G.K. Chesterton Meeting
December 18th—7:30 pm

We will be discussing these essays: *The Dickensian, In Topsy-Turvy Land* and *What I Found in My Pocket.* Also, the next Fr. Brown Mystery: *The Invincible Man.*

All are welcome to join us in one of the classrooms after the evening Mass.

"***O God who, through the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin, didst prepare a worthy habitation for Thy Son: grant us, we pray, as by the foreseen death of Thy Son Thou didst preserve her from all stain of sin, so we may be cleansed by her intercession and may come to Thee."***

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*

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 Vandenburgh, John Reyes; Lori Bates; Fred & Terry Bose; Ed Wedinsky; Ken Taylor, Carmen Brown, Peter Van Steyn, Elizabeth Van Steyn