

Sunday, December 9, 2012
2nd Sunday of Advent



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

Mon. 10 December, Feria of Advent, II Class

7:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
 12:15 pm FSSP

Tues. 11 December, St. Damasus I, Pope & Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Louis G. Solton
 6:30 pm †Marie & †Frank Cammarota

Wed. 12 December, Our Lady of Guadalupe, I Class

7:00 am Fr. John Lyons, OMV
 12:15 pm †Jonan Sneeringer
 7:00 pm Special Intention (High Mass)

Thurs. 13 December, St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Chester Patch III
 6:30 pm Archbishop Jose Gomez

Fri. 14 December, Feria of Advent, III Class

7 am FSSP
 12:15 pm Patricia Patch
 6:30 pm Dorothy Bertucci

Sat. 15 December, Feria of Advent, III Class

5:30 am †Richard Stanford (Rorate Mass [High])
 7:00 am Viviana Stanford
 9:00 am Fernando Gonzalez

Sun. 16 December, 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

8:30 am †Norma Lucio
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm David 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. 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. 1—Octave Day of Christmas (Sunday schedule)
 Jan. 27—St. Maximilian Kolbe—Saint of Auschwitz
 April 14—Confirmation
 May 11—First Holy Communion
 June 16—22—Camp Sacred Heart

Seeking God in Our Daily Duties

“Whatever you do in word or in work, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.” We must seek God, not only during the hours prescribed for prayer, but in all the acts and occupations of life. Jesus said in this regard, “We ought always to pray.” There are employments and contacts with creatures required by the duties of our state in life; these are expressions of God’s will, and we should not think that we must avoid them in order to seek Him. If they are regulated exactly according to God’s will, these contacts with others can never, of themselves, be obstacles to the union of our soul with God. However, we must always keep ourselves within the limits of God’s will. In other words, in our contacts with creatures and in our various activities, we must have but one end in view, the fulfillment of our duties. When, on the contrary, the “affection” of our will fixes itself upon such things, seeking in them a little personal satisfaction, gratifying our curiosity or our natural desire for affection, trying to gain recognition for our self or looking for esteem from others, then our will strays away from the path of God’s will; our heart becomes attached to creatures, and thus meets a real obstacle—the greatest—to its continual seeking for God. St. John of the Cross expressly requires that we “go forth from all things according to the affection and will.” He demands not only the detachment that is material withdrawal from the world, but much more, the detachment of the heart.

“Whether you eat or drink or speak or converse with persons in the world, or whatever else you do, be ever desiring God and having your heart affectioned to Him, for this is a thing most necessary for interior solitude, which demands that the soul have no thought that is not directed toward God.” In order to be able to seek God and live in close union with Him, even in the midst of our occupation and contacts with the world, we must have interior solitude; that is “the inner cell” of which St. Catherine of Siena speaks. If this foundation is lacking, solitude itself, just like the material cell, would be useless. This “inner solitude” is detachment. A heart which is not completely detached will always and everywhere find something to distract it from seeking God, to enslave it and make it more or less a prisoner of creatures, and to fill it with worldly affections and desires. But once the soul becomes detached, it acquires the great, supreme liberty of being able to seek God and to tend only toward Him through all things, having become capable of desiring God and having its heart affectioned to Him in all its occupations and activities.

Here on earth our search for God and our union with Him are accomplished by means of the will, rather than by the intellect. Even when duty—study, work, teaching, the apostolate—requires intense application of the mind and dedication to the work, the soul can still remain oriented to God by the affection of the heart, that is, with the “desire of charity,” which unceasingly urges it to seek God, His will and His glory. If the charity of Christ urges us, nothing will be able to separate us from Him.

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

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.

Christmas Mass Schedule

11:15 P.M. Hymns and Carols
 12:00 Midnight Solemn Mass
 8:30 A.M. Low Mass
 10:30 A.M. Solemn Mass
 1:00 P.M. Low Mass with organ

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The miraculous image of the Blessed Mother on a piece of 450 year-old fabric constantly intrigues its viewers, puzzles artists and baffles scientists. Its history began on Sept. 9, 1531, when the Mother of God appeared to a 55 year-old Indian named Juan Diego. While hurrying on Tepeyac Hill to attend Mass at a Franciscan mission, Juan Diego heard a woman’s voice calling him, not by his name, but by the affectionate diminutive, “Juanito, Juan Dieguito.” After a tender dialogue she requested that he visit the bishop, tell his excellency about the apparition and ask that a shrine be built in her honor.

The visions occurred five times, four to Juan Diego and once to his ailing uncle when the Lady effected his cure. The last apparition to Juan Diego occurred on Tuesday, Dec. 12. To provide the bishop with the sign he requested that would identify the apparition and confirm the supernatural aspect of what Juan had alleged, the Lady asked Juan to walk higher up the hill and to collect the roses found there—this in spite of the rocky nature of the place and its unsuitability for the growth of any type of vegetation. Nevertheless, Juan picked the roses that he found there. The Lady arranged the flowers inside the scoop of the tilma, a cloak worn by the Indians, and cautioned him against disturbing or reveling his burden except in the presence of the bishop.

When Juan opened his cloak for the prelate, he found not the rejection and skepticism he had received before, but the bishop kneeling among the flowers, looking in reverential awe at a picture miraculously applied to the cloak—an exact likeness that Juan Diego identified as the Lady he had seen four times on Tepeyac Hill.

News of the miracle spread rapidly. Crowds continually gathered at the bishop’s house, forcing the ecclesiastic, who had kept the tilma in his private chapel, to move the tilma to the cathedral of the city. There it was placed above the altar for all to see.

Juan Diego, the visionary of Guadalupe, lived 17 years following the apparition. During this time, he was appointed as the official custodian of the tilma and was ever ready to relate the apparitions and to answer all questions concerning the image. He lived in a small room attached to the church and died at the age of 74, in the year 1548.

The tilma itself is cactus cloth made from the maguey plant. It is a fabric similar to sacking that usually disintegrates within 20 years. Artists confirm that it is a fabric wholly unsuited to the application of paint. The garment is made of three strips, each one measuring 21 inches in width by 78 inches in length, with the image imprinted on two of the strips. In its golden frame the third panel, which hung on Juan’s back, is folded behind the two front panels. Another source states that the tilma was made of only two straight pieces sewn together. Regardless, it is certain that two pieces are seen, and these measure 78 inches in length by 42 inches in width. They are joined with the original loose stitching that can be seen running the length of the panel along the left ear of the figure, down the left wrist to the knee and passing to the side of the Angel’s head. The figure of Our Lady measures four feet eight inches in height.

(Finish reading about Our Lady of Guadalupe and other amazing stories in “Miraculous Images of Our Lady” by Joan Carroll Cruz)



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 and is to be said 15 times each day.)

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

Prayer to Saint Lucy of Syracuse

Saint Lucy, your beautiful name signifies light. By the light of faith which God bestowed upon you, increase and preserve this light in my soul so that I may avoid evil, be zealous in the performance of good works, and abhor nothing so much as the blindness and the darkness of evil and of sin. By your intercession with God, obtain for me perfect vision for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them for God’s greater honor and glory and the salvation of all men.

Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. Amen.

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.

Saint Francis Xavier Mission Trip 2013

After the great success of last summer’s trip to the Dominican Republic, we would like to announce our trip to Piura, Peru August 2-14, 2013. The trip is under the direction of seminarians from Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary and the chaplaincy of Fr. Rhone Lillard, F.S.S.P. Young men and women ages 16-21 can apply by visiting www.sfxmission.com. The registration deadline is January 21st. Space on the trip is limited and will be granted on a first come first serve basis. Please also visit the website to learn more about the project and find out how you can become an auxiliary member of our trip through your donations. Contact: SFXMission@gmail.com or (402) 882-0029.

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, Carmen Brown, Peter Van Steyn, Elizabeth Van Steyn