

Sunday, January 20, 2013
2nd Sunday after Epiphany



Sun. 20 January, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, II Class

8:30 am Personal Intention
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Anthony Patch

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 21 January, St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Fr. Garrick Huang, FSSP
12:15 pm FSSP

Tues. 22 January, Sts. Vincent & Anastasius, Martyrs, III Class

7:00 am Raymond Alatorre, Jr.
6:30 am Elizabeth Zuiker

Wed. 23 January, St. Raymond Peñafort, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am † Donald Schmidt
12:15 pm Nicholas Abdallah

Thurs. 24 January, St. Timothy, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am FSSP
6:30 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Fri. 25 January, Conversion of St. Paul, III Class

7:00 am Colleen Redmond
12:15 pm Ed Wydinski
6:30 pm † Mary & Joseph Regan

Sat. 26 January, St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
9:00 am † Edna & Leo Donohue

Sun. 27 January, Septuagesima Sunday, II Class

8:30 am † Orville H. Gilbert
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Emmanuel Py

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
†Ray Keller

Important Upcoming Dates

Jan. 26—Walk for Life
Jan. 27—St. Maximilian Kolbe—Saint of Auschwitz
Feb. 2—Feast of the Purification
Feb. 2—Skating Party
Feb. 13—Ash Wednesday
Feb. 22—Chair of St. Peter—5th Anniversary of the CSP
March 29—Good Friday
March 31—Easter Sunday
April 14—Confirmation
May 4—May Procession
May 11—First Holy Communion
June 1—Ordinations in Nebraska
June 16—22—Camp Sacred Heart

Jesus, the Teacher of Sanctity

The knowledge of God in which eternal life consists, as Jesus has said, is not the kind of knowledge which stops at the enlightenment of our intellects, but knowledge which stirs up our wills to love the God whom we know, and which regulates our whole life so that it will be pleasing to Him. Consequently, when Jesus has brought us to the knowledge of the Father, He then teaches us what we must do to please Him: "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." In this brief formula, the divine Teacher reveals two great truths: God is the model of sanctity, because He alone is fullness of perfection, free from every shadow of fault or failing; secondly, God's will in our regard is that we also be perfect, which we shall be according to the degree in which we try to imitate God's perfection.

Yet how can a mere creature imitate divine perfection? Jesus, our Life and our Teacher, makes it possible for us. The grace which Jesus merited for us and which He is continually giving us, together with the infused virtues and gifts of the Holy Spirit, raises us from the human level to the supernatural, divine level; we are made sharers in the divine nature, the divine life. Faith also makes us sharers of God's truth and in the knowledge which He has of Himself and all things. Charity gives us a participation in the infinite love with which God loves Himself and His creatures.

However, we cannot see God's perfection and holiness, because He "inhabitheth light inaccessible, whom no man hath seen, nor can see." But Jesus reveals God to us: He manifests Him to us in Himself, His works, and His words.

Hence, Jesus is the perfect Teacher of holiness. He teaches us that God wants us to be holy, shows us God as the supreme, infinite ideal of holiness, and enables us to start out toward this sublime ideal.

When Jesus says to us: "Be you perfect, as also your heavenly Father is perfect," He gives us a model of perfection that we can never exhaust. The perfection of the very greatest saints when compared with God's perfection is nothing. Jesus teaches us, then, not to rest complacent in the degree of perfection we have attained, nor to be satisfied with our progress or even our efforts. Compared with the lofty ideal He sets before us, we are nothing. This is why He never tells us to stop, never to say, "This is enough." No matter how much progress we make, we never advance far enough. Who, indeed, can become as just, as merciful as God?...

Among the perfections of God which Jesus has revealed, charity has first place... His first requirement is an intense practice of charity toward God and our neighbor. The precept of charity, like that of striving for perfection, has no limits: however much we love God we shall never succeed in loving Him as much as He is capable of being loved, that is, as much as He deserves; and however much we love our neighbor we shall never love him as God loves Him.

...Although we always do little, a mere nothing compared with so lofty an ideal, Our Lord is satisfied with this little, provided we put all our good will into it.
("Divine Intimacy" by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

PLEASE SIGN ROSTER IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND
(for seating purposes—seating capacity w/set is about 285)
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 defer expenses

Mary of Nazareth

By Fr. Federico Suarez

The Virgin Mary is the most perfect creature who ever came from the hands of God. She is so good, so simple, so delicate, so extraordinarily humble and pure that one cannot help loving her.

Her stay in the world was hardly noticed by her contemporaries. It is the same with our own lives; there is nothing extraordinary, nothing that attracts attention. But in the eyes of God, the Virgin Mary was unique, and her part in creation was indispensable. The Father gave her to us, she gave us the Son, and she gave herself to the Holy Spirit. She gladdens the hearts of her children because she is so loving and has such a maternal heart.

Like the Virgin, however, we also mean something to God, and we have our little part to play in the universe, and each of us in a certain sense is indispensable; each of us is unique.

And perhaps the thought of our Mother in heaven and her life on earth may help us to emulate her and try to be what she was, the most cooperative of God's creatures that has ever existed. We must always keep in mind the fact that our life, if it has any purpose at all, derives this purpose from God and from the small part we have to play in Creation, the purpose for which we have been created and appropriately gifted.

We know little, it is true, about the life of our Lady, but really it is not necessary to know much more. Full of grace from the first instant of her conception, the life of the Virgin Mary is both unique and exemplary. It is true that there is no other model than Jesus Christ, but it is also true that there has never been any other creature who imitated him so faithfully and who so exactly reproduced the image of her Son. And if God did not want to give us the Word directly, but by means of the Virgin, surely the best way to imitate Christ is to imitate our Lady.

The Mother of Jesus Christ, Mary of Nazareth, can appear to be so perfect that she is beyond imitation. In this long-published work, Fr. Suarez sheds light on the hidden life of God's most perfect creature as someone both possible to understand as well as to imitate. Her vocation was unique but the way that she responded to it becomes a model for our own response to God's call.

(available at St. Stephen's Bookstore)

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.

You Must Form Your Conscience

Catholics, just because of all their efforts to secure Catholic education and a Catholic atmosphere for their children, must admit that conscience can be changed, trained, and developed. We protest that it is possible for the consciences of children brought up under non-Catholic principles and with non-Catholic ways of regarding life and its obligations to become distorted and even destroyed. All the promptings that are right and normal and that should be almost instinctive may become hopelessly obscured, and their fine delicacy so blunted as no longer to produce that feeling of shame and moral reprehension that should at least follow an evil deed.

No doubt there are certain principles that are so fundamental and elementary that it is very difficult to imagine them wholly inoperative.

Such, for example, is the rudimentary idea that a man should do to others only what he would wish them to do to him. In varying forms, this idea seems to be of universal acceptance; but other subsidiary notions can certainly become obliterated by custom or ignorance.

St. Paul uses a most expressive word to describe the effect made by sin upon the conscience, for he speaks of sinners as having their consciences "seared"; that is, the delicacy and responsiveness to evil suggestion have been lost through a hardening of the soul's perceptive faculty, comparable to the loss of all feeling produced by a burn, which hardens the skin and deadens its perceptive power. Thus, by everything that we proclaim, we show that we Catholics regard the conscience as something not definite or stationary, but easily affected and capable of education and refinement.

Now, to train my conscience, I have need of some definite principles by means of which I can be certain that I am on the right path. What are these? There are three such sources: the principles of the natural law, such as justice, truthfulness, and so forth dictate; the principles of the supernatural law, laid down in faith and morals by the Church as representing the teaching power that Christ left to continue His work; and the actual life of our Lord, which takes in concrete form the abstract principles that the others profess. In the first two, we see simply how life should be lived; in the last, we can see it actually lived.

(excerpts taken from "Classic Catholic Meditations" by Fr. Bede Jarrett, O.P.)

Confraternity of St. Peter FSSP Anniversary Pilgrimage
25 Years

Travel to Rome, Italy to attend a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at the Fraternity of St. Peter's Rome Parish on the 25th anniversary of the order's founding. See the most important religious sites of the Eternal City and then travel south to visit the shrines of Pompei, Nettuno, Materdomini, Naples & Amalfi.

Highlights: General Audience w/Pope Benedict XVI, Four Major Churches of Rome, Catacombs, Holy Staircase (Scalla Santa), Shrines of St. Gerard Majella, St. Maria Goretti & St. Philomena.; Rosary Basilica of Pompei (tomb of Bl. Bartolo Longo); Home of St. Guiseppe Moscati; tomb of St. Andrew the Apostle.
For more information call 916-223-3112 or visit the website @ www.syversentouring.com/confraternity

Annual Catholic Appeal

The Annual Catholic Appeal collection will take place Sunday, February 10th. This is the most important diocesan collection of the year. 25% comes back to our parish. Please be generous

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, Peter Van Steyn, Elizabeth Van Steyn, Dr. Gerald Foy; Martha Robison