

**Sunday, January 13, 2013
Feast of the Holy Family**



Sun. 13 January, Feast of the Holy Family, II Class

8:30 am †Emilie Grosshanten
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Protection of our farms

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 14 January, St. Hilary, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am Beverly Kadama & Family
12:15 pm Dr. McArthur recovery

Tues. 15 January, St. Paul, the First Hermit, III Class

7:00 am Shaina Lyford
6:30 am Werner Family

Wed. 16 January, St. Marcellus I, Pope & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am CJ Patch III
12:15 pm Souls in Purgatory

Thurs. 17 January, St. Anthony, Abbot, III Class

7:00 am Francois & Florence Py
6:30 pm Raymond Zapata

Fri. 18 January, Feria, IV Class

7:00 am Martha Robinson
12:15 pm Matthews Family
6:30 pm Zach Abdalla

Sat. 19 January, Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class

7:00 am Alex Abdallah
9:00 am Fr. Kevin O'Neill

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

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

Please keep all our beloved dead who are listed in our **Memorial Book** in the sanctuary of the church in your prayers.

Chesterton Society

The Chesterton Society meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is January 15th after the 6:30 pm Mass, in one of the classrooms. All are invited to attend.

Important Upcoming Dates

Jan. 15—Chesterton Society Meeting 7:30
Jan. 17—CSP Evening of Recollection
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

Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

On this day for the last time in the cycle of the liturgical year, the Church invites us to contemplate the mystery of Jesus' humble, hidden life. A feeling of close intimacy and tenderness characterizes this Feast and is expressed in the liturgy of the day. It is good for us to recall the little home at Nazareth and the humble life of those who lived there. In it, Jesus learned Joseph's humble trade, and grew in age, and was happy sharing the work of a carpenter: 'Let the sweat,' He seemed to say, 'trickle over My limbs before they are drenched with the torrent of My Blood, and the pain of this labor shall go to atone for the sins of men!' Let us enter the little house; in the presence of such humility, which conceals Jesus' infinite Majesty, let us repeat the words of the sacred text: "Thou art indeed a hidden King, O God the Savior, King of Israel."

Today's liturgy particularly emphasizes one typical aspect of the humble life of this hidden God: obedience. "Although He was the Son of God . . . He learned to obey; He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death." From Bethlehem to Calvary obedience was His companion. The Gospel stresses this obedience of Jesus at Nazareth in words which carry for all time the strength of their first utterance, "He was subject to them." Let us ask ourselves with St. Bernard, "Who obeyed? Whom did He obey?" The saint replies, "God obeyed man! Yes, the God to whom the angels are subject . . . Was subject to Mary, and not only to Mary, but also to Joseph. For God to obey a woman is humility without parallel. . . Learn then, man to obey; learn, O earth, to be submissive. God subjected Himself to men; and do you, desiring to rule others, place yourself above your Creator?"

"Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" Jesus, who was so humble and submissive, did not hesitate to make this reply to Mary when she gently questioned Him about having remained behind in the Temple without her or Joseph's knowledge, while they in anguish had been seeking Him for three days.

These are the first words of Jesus which we find recorded in the Gospel. He spoke them in order to declare His mission and to affirm the primacy of the rights of God. When hardly an adolescent, Jesus taught us that God and the things of God must always come first. He must hold the first place in our lives, and we must obey Him regardless of all other considerations, even if it means sacrificing the rights of nature and of blood. Yielding to relatives and friends is no longer a virtue—and may even be sinful—if it leads us away from the will of God or hinders its fulfillment.

Giving precedence to the rights of God does not imply that we neglect our duties toward our neighbor. Today's Feast calls our attention to these obligations and especially to those concerning our family, natural or religious, inviting us to follow the example of the Holy Family of Nazareth. To this end, the Epistle shows us the virtues we should practice: "Clothe yourself. . . with mercy, benignity, humility, modesty, and patience, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another."

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

PLEASE SIGN ROSTER IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

(for seating purposes)

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

A Mother's Rule of Life

How to Bring Order to Your Home and Peace to Your Soul

On January 1, 2000, Holly Pierlot pounded her fist on the kitchen table and yelled at her husband, "I can't take it anymore!"

Motherhood and homeschooling had overwhelmed her. The house was dirty, the laundry undone. Holly felt frustrated, discouraged, and alone. She couldn't find time to snuggle and have fun with her five children or to go out with her husband. Yes, she loved Philip and she loved God, but she had come to resent Philip's freedom and she almost never found time for prayer.

Today, everything's better. Holly still homeschools, but the house is cleaner, she gets more done, and the kids are happier. There's less stress, less strife, and less housework. Holly's been healed of past wounds that troubled her soul and her marriage. Best of all, she spends at least an hour each day in prayer and time each evening with Philip.

Holly brought about these changes with what she calls her Mother's Rule of Life, a pattern for living that combines the spiritual wisdom of the monastery with the practical wisdom of motherhood.

Holly's Rule is not just another set of schedules; it's a way for Christian mothers to answer God's call to holiness. With the help of your own Rule, you can get control of your own household, grow closer to God, come to love your husband more, and raise up good Christian children. In these wise and practical pages, Holly shows you how.

Do you want to be a better wife and mother? To have more order in your life? To grow in union with God? Are you desperate yet?

With your own Mother's Rule of Life, you'll transform motherhood and its burdens into the joyful vocation it's meant to be. Learn from Holly Pierlot how to craft a Rule that's right for you and your family. Then use that Rule to help God draw you, your husband, and each of your children into Heaven.

(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.

Walk for Life—January 26, 2013

Bus tickets are available. Remember: **A FULL BUS IS A PAID FOR BUS.** Contact Mike—916-335-4553 or Kathleen—916-204-9125.

The Sinner's Return to God

By Father Michael Mueller

The Sinner's Return to God is a soul-stirring book about the importance of the Sacrament of Confession. The devil, forced by a holy theologian to declare what it is that most injures him and his fellows, replied, "There is nothing in the Church which does us so much harm, which so unnerves our power, as frequent Confession." Father Mueller, author of *The Blessed Eucharist*, proceeds to show how the habitual sinner becomes hardened against the grace of God, how easy it is to slip into habits of sin and how hard to break them, how easily habitual sinners can be tempted to despair, and how terrible are the deaths of sinners who die unrepentant. Further, he shows the danger of "bad" books, of drunkenness and impurity, of delaying the time of one's conversion to God and of over-reliance on His mercy. The author shows clearly what is the alternative to salvation—everlasting Hell. He also shows the marvelously purifying effects of perfect contrition, of Confession, the priest's joy in granting absolution, the beautiful, pure soul of the absolved sinner and his heartfelt consolation after Confession. "Bodily medicine," Father Mueller writes, "if very sparingly used, gives relief, it is true; while if frequently applied, it restores or preserves health. Thus too, Confession, if made even but seldom, produces saving effects in the soul; while, if made frequently, it begets in it the fullness of perfection." The author ends by describing the wonderful role played by the Blessed Virgin Mary in helping the sinner return to God's grace. Extremely sobering, yet profoundly consoling, *The Sinner's Return to God* demonstrates fully the dire need we all have of frequenting the Sacrament of Confession. Here is a book that should be read by every Catholic in our age, when the practice of Confession has been all but abandoned.

(This book is available at St. Stephen's Bookstore for a 20% discount this week. Limited to stock on-hand)

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.

Instruction on the Virtue of Obedience

From this all Christians should learn to be obedient to the commandments of God and of the Church. God has united life or death, blessing or malediction with obedience or disobedience to His commandments, and the Bible shows that obedience pleases God more than sacrifices or the fat of rams, and He despises disobedience as He does witchcraft and idolatry. We must be obedient to the Church because Christ Himself with His Holy Spirit lives in her, and governs her, and has said: Who hears not the Church, let him be to thee a heathen and a publican, therefore, shut out from eternal life. We must be obedient to our parents, because they are placed over us by God, and we are indebted to them, under Him, for life and many benefits. Those children who do not assist their parents when they are old, poor, and helpless, or are ashamed of them, have reason to be afraid, since even Christ Jesus, the God-Man, was obedient and subject in all things to His poor mother, and to a humble mechanic who was only His foster-father. Cursed be he that honoreth not his father and mother; how much more cursed those who despise, deride and abandon their parents? Their eyes will one day be picked out by ravens. If God commanded obstinate and disobedient children to be stoned, what do those not deserve who even strike or abuse their parents?

(taken from "The Church's Year" by Father Leonard Goffine)

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