

**Sunday, January 27, 2013**  
**Septuagesima Sunday**



**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

**Mon. 28 January, St. Peter Nolasco, Confessor, III Class**

7:00 am Alvaro Zapata  
 12:15 pm Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Tues. 29 January, St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class**

7:00 am Teresa Francine Rose McGrath  
 6:30 pm † Andrew De La Cruz

**Wed. 30 January, St. Martina, Virgin & Martyr, III Class**

7:00 am Special Intention  
 12:15 pm † Joseph Sobrau

**Thurs. 31 January, St. John Bosco, Confessor, III Class**

7:00 am † Edith & Orville Gilbert, Sr.  
 6:30 pm Holy Souls in Purgatory

**Fri. 1 February, St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr, III Class**

7:00 am Matthews Family  
 12:15 pm Very Rev. Fr. Berg  
 6:30 pm Carol A. Christ

**Sat. 2 February, Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class**

7:00 am Mary Ann & Andrew Hartzell  
 9:00 am † Clarence Roundtree

**Sun. 3 February, Sexagesima Sunday, II Class**

8:30 am † Betty McCarthy Ahaesy  
 10:30 am Pro Populo  
 1:00 pm † Alfred Scott

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  
 †All those in our Memorial Book

**Important Upcoming Dates**

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

**Voluntary Attachments**

“To be perfectly united to God by love and will, the soul must first be cleansed of all appetites of the will, even the smallest, [says St. John of the Cross]... God wishes us to love ourselves, as well as all created things, in the measure assigned by Him, with a view to His pleasure and not to our own selfish satisfaction. The will of the soul which freely assents to these, slight though they may be, is stained by this opposition to the will of God; for this reason a perfect union cannot exist between its will and God’s. Moreover, if these imperfections become habitual and the soul does not try to correct them, they form a great obstacle to divine union; and according to St. John of the Cross, “they prevent not only divine union but also advancement in perfection.” He gives a few examples of these unmortified “habitual imperfections” : the habit of talking too much, unrestrained curiosity, attachment to little things—whether persons or objects—such as food and so forth, which the soul refuses to give up. There is also the attachment to one’s comfort, to certain sensible satisfactions, little vanities, foolish self-complacency, attachment to one’s own opinion or reputation. There is a real mushroom-bed of “appetites” and disordered inclinations from which the soul will not free itself, precisely because it is attached to the meager selfish satisfaction which it finds in these wretched things. It is “attached” to them; that is why it cannot make the decision to give them up completely. These are precisely the “habitual voluntary appetites” of which St. John of the Cross says , “One single unmortified appetite is sufficient to fetter the soul.”

On the other hand, when it is a question of imperfect inclinations arising solely from human weakness, of those which do not get beyond the stage of “first movements” in which the will has no part, “either before or after,” but rather tries to repress as soon as it notices them, “these do not prevent one from attaining divine union.” It is the will that counts and it must be completely free from the slightest attachment.

“The least of these imperfections to which the soul is attached or accustomed is more of a barrier to increasing and advancing in virtue than if one fell every day into several imperfections and isolated venial sins not the result of bad habits.” It is not so much these “isolated falls,” due to inadvertence or weakness, which hinder the soul’s advancement, as it is the little venial faults and simple imperfections caused by habitual voluntary attachments which the soul does not take the trouble to uproot. Even though they are slight, they nevertheless constitute bonds which attach it to earth.

... If this demand seems unreasonable, let us remember that it is pure evangelical doctrine, that it asks nothing more than what Jesus proposes to us when He says, “Renounce thyself” and “For he that will save his life shall lose it, and he that shall lose His life for My sake shall find it. If thy hand or thy foot scandalize thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee.” Jesus teaches us in these words that, for the salvation and sanctification of our soul, we must give up everything that might become a stumbling block to us. It is precisely in this thorough renunciation, in this “losing” of self in everything—even in what is dearest to us and if it were necessary, even to the extent of sacrificing our life—that we find the road to salvation and sanctity.

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

**TODAY—FOLLOWING VESPERS**

**Live Performance**

**St. Maximilian Kolbe, Saint of Auschwitz**  
**Performed by Leonardo Defilippis**

**St. Stephen, the First Martyr**  
**January 27, 2013—4:30 pm**  
*(1st seating to those signed up. Limited space)*  
**Free—Will Offering appreciated to defer expenses**

**The Catholic Controversy**

*By St. Francis de Sales*

One of the most remarkable and well documented events in Catholic history began when a young priest, Francis de Sales, volunteered to re-evangelize the Calvinists of the Chablais.

Finding his preaching forcefully rejected, Francis de Sales shrewdly switched tactics and began a written apologetics campaign, posting pamphlets on walls and slipping them beneath doors under the cover of night.

His defense of the Faith was so clear and thorough that at the end of four years nearly the entire population of 72,000 had returned to the Catholic Faith!

These powerful little tracts are as relevant today as they were in the late 1500s. De Sales draws support from Scripture, the Fathers and Doctors of the Church to address questions still frequently posed by modern Protestants. Revered as some of the most cogent arguments against Protestantism ever penned; they present a defense of the Catholic Faith that has never been equaled.

*(available at St. Stephen’s Bookstore)*

*“Keep this maxim well in mind: God is our Father, because if He were not, Jesus would not have commanded us to say, Our Father...”What have you to fear if you are children of such a Father without whose Providence not even one hair of our head would fall? Is it not extraordinary that, being children of such a Father, we have or could have any other preoccupation than that of loving Him and serving Him?”*

*~ St. Francis de Sales*

**Ice Skating Night**

Date: Feb. 2, Sat. Time: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00p.m.  
 Fee: under 13 years old \$10.50, 13 and over \$11.00.  
 Place: Skate town at Roseville If you have any question, please contact Mr. Brendan McDonough at (530)258-9414.

**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.

**2013 Annual Retreat—July 8—12**

Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP will be preaching our retreat this year. More details will be available soon. If you would like to hold a space call the parish office or stop in the bookstore. Space is limited.

**The Horned Cat**

Two or three nights ago I had a dream. Would you like to hear it? You are very dear to me, and so you are always in my dreams. I seemed to be in the playground with you swarming around me. Each one held a rose, a lily, a violet, or both a rose and a lily, or some other flower. Suddenly, a huge, ugly cat, black as coal, appeared. It had horns, eyes as red as live coals, long sharp claws and a disgustingly swollen belly. This ugly beast edged stealthily close to you and swiftly clawed your flowers to the ground. When I first spotted this hideous creature, I was terrified, but to my astonishment you seemed totally unconcerned. Seeing it creep towards me to knock my flowers down, I immediately turned to dash off, but someone stopped me. “Don’t run away,” he said. “Hasten to tell your boys to raise their arms up high beyond the beast’s reach.”

I did as he told me. The monster tried hard to jump up, but its weight made it fall back clumsily to the ground.

The lily, my dear sons, symbolizes the beautiful virtue of purity, against which the devil wages endless war. Woe to those who keep their flower low! The devil will snatch it from them. Such are those who pamper their flesh by overeating or eating between meals, who shirk work and idle away their time, who are fond of certain conversations or books and who shun self-denial. . . For goodness’ sake, my children, fight this enemy or it will enslave you.

These victories are hard to win. But Holy scripture tells us the means to use: “This kind (of devil) can be cast out only by prayer and fasting.” Raise your arm, and your flower shall be safe. Purity is a heavenly virtue. Whoever wishes to safeguard it must raise himself heavenward. Prayer is your salvation. By prayer I mean your morning and night prayers devoutly said, meditation and Holy Mass, frequent Confession and Communion, sermons and exhortations, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary and your school duties. By prayer you will rise heavenward. Thus you will safeguard the most beautiful of virtues. Try as much as he wants, the devil will not be able to snatch it from you.

*(“Forty Dreams of St. John Bosco”)*

**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](http://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