

Sunday, February 17, 2013
1st Sunday of Lent



Sun. 17 February, 1st Sunday in Lent, I Class

8:30 am Caroline Syversen
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Andres Dominquez

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 18 February, Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Dr. McArthur
 12:15 pm †Robert Yabsley

Tues. 19 February, Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am Christopher Bardet
 6:30 pm †James McQuillan

Wed. 20 February, Ember Wednesday, II Class

7:00 am Sharif Jacob
 12:15 pm Jim McGrath

Thurs. 21 February, Feria of Lent, III Class

7:00 am †Richard Becker
 6:30 pm FSSP

Fri. 22 February, Chair of St. Peter, I Class (FSSP)

7:00 am Cathy McGrath
 12:15 pm Carol A Christ
 7:00 pm †Dominic Tango

Stations of the Cross after 12:15

Sat. 23 February, Ember Saturday, II Class

7:00 am †Augustinus Quay
 9:00 am Aranas Family

Sun. 24 February, 2nd Sunday of Lent, I Class

8:30 am Irene Brennan
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Mary Steil

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.

Chesterton Society

The Chesterton Society will meet February 19, after the 6:30 pm Mass, in one of the classrooms. Essays we will discuss are: "How I Met the President", "The Giant" and "A Great Man" from *Tremendous Trifles*. Next Fr. Brown story: "The Wrong Shape." All are invited to attend.

...In Memoriam

†Ray Keller
 †All those in our Memorial Book

Important Upcoming Dates

Feb. 19—Chesterton Meeting
 Feb. 22—Chair of St. Peter—5th Anniversary of the CSP
 March 8 & 9—Lenten Recollection (Preached by Fr. Harkins)
 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
 July 8—12 Annual Parish Retreat (Preached by Fr. Goodwin)
 Aug. 4—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance

Venial Sin

Venial sin, like mortal sin, goes counter to God's will, although with less serious deviation. While it does not destroy charity, it is opposed to it and therefore diminishes its fervor and vigor, hindering its development. This is the disastrous effect of deliberate venial sin committed with the realization that it is displeasing to God.

Once venial sins of this kind become habitual, they decrease the soul's tendency toward God, and increase, on the other hand, its leaning toward self-satisfaction and creatures. Thus, little by little the soul loses its fervor, its sense of sin, and falls into tepidity, which is characterized by a certain indifference to venial sin. This puts it in danger of offending God in serious matters also. In this sense, venial sin may be compared to a disease of insidious languor, a kind of spiritual tuberculosis, which undermines the organism slowly but fatally. It is not unusual to meet souls who having at first surrendered themselves to God with sincere fervor, afterwards let themselves fall into continual carelessness, indifference, voluntary omissions, and laziness, because they have given in to selfishness and sought their own comfort. They become incapable of making the generous efforts required to advance on the way they have started. Their spiritual life is reduced to a kind of lethargy which is not yet death, but which has none of the freshness and vigor of a strong, healthy life. It lacks the fervor of charity, for this is continually being lessened by deliberate concessions to venial sin.

To put us on our guard against such a state, St. Teresa of Jesus declares, "Always be fearful if you do not feel sorry for the faults you commit, for even venial sin ought to fill you with sorrow to the very depths of your soul... For the love of God, take care not to commit any deliberate venial sin, even the smallest... And can anything be small if it offends God?"

Quite different are the venial sins which we commit through frailty or inadvertence. Very often the soul is determined not to give in at any price; due to its weakness, however; it falls when temptation comes, especially if the attack is unexpected. Nevertheless, once aware of it, the soul feels sincere sorrow, repents at once, asks God's pardon, rises, and sets out again. Such sins cause no great harm to the soul; they are signs of its frailty and show that it has not yet reached spiritual maturity. Moreover, if the soul sincerely humbles itself after these falls, it will draw profit from them and a more profound knowledge of its own misery, which will make it mistrust its own strength entirely and place all its confidence in God alone. It will experience in a practical way the profound truth of the words of Jesus, "Without Me you can do nothing." It is not unusual for God to permit these falls, and He does so precisely to give the soul this practical knowledge of its nothingness and to anchor it firmly in humility, the foundation of all our spiritual life.

If because of our weakness it is impossible for us to avoid these little daily venial faults of inadvertence or frailty, it is important to know how to detest them and to make generous reparation. As to deliberate venial sins, we should be firmly resolved not to commit them for anything in world.

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

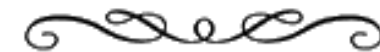
Lenten Mission
March 8th & 9th

Fr. Simon Harkins will come to St. Stephens to preach our Lenten Mission. The mission will begin with Holy Mass at 6:30 pm on Friday, March 8th. The second day begins with Holy Mass at 9:00 am on March 9th. Both days will include a conference, rosary, opportunity for Confession and Benediction.

Fr. Harkins will also offer the High Mass on Sunday, March 10th and preach at that Mass.

This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare for Easter, please take advantage of it.

Invite your relatives and friends, perhaps those who have not been practicing their faith or even those who have never been to Mass before.



"Holy Mass - Gate to Heaven"
2013 Annual Retreat—July 8—12

Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP will be preaching our retreat this year. It will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center. This is a silent retreat, each retreatant will have a private room/bath. If you would like to hold a space call the parish office or stop in the bookstore. Space is limited. For more information call 916-455-5114.

"In the fever and agitation of modern life, the need of meditation and spiritual repose impresses itself on Christian souls who desire to reflect on their eternal destiny, and direct their life in this world towards God."

The Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ

By Alban Goodier

Archbishop Alban Goodier, S.J. fills in the many blanks in the historical narratives about the Passion of Jesus Christ with a riveting account based on history, culture and his own deep spiritual insights. He brings to life and unifies the many observations, emotions and subtle and not-so-subtle actions that revolve around the person of God the Son as he faces his most tragic and triumphant moment.

The author's unique approach intersperses Scripture accounts with the commentary of an incisive narrator who sifts and judges from the span of hundreds of years. He draws from the obvious as well as the obscure, and finds supernatural meaning in the most mundane actions that surround the suffering Christ. In the hands of this writer, the Lord's few words, accompanied by the author's commentary, challenge contemporary believers as much as they did those who first followed in the footsteps of Christ and his apostles.

(available at St. Stephen's Bookstore along with many other wonderful books for Lenten reading. Stop by and see what's available)

Mama Capals Cooking Again at St Stephen's

We're taking pre-orders of TAMALES now for pick up on **February 24th.** Leave your name and number of TAMALES with Tish at St. Stephens Bookstore. Additional Traditional Mexican Food will be served after Masses on the 24th. Please come with your appetites! It will be delicious!

Peace on Earth

Peace in heaven. But let's take a look at the earth. Why is there no peace in the world? That's right, there is no peace, only a certain appearance of peace—a balance created by fear and precarious compromises. There is no peace even in the Church. It is rent by tensions which tear the white robe of the Spouse of Christ. And there is no peace in many hearts which vainly strive to make up for their intransigence of soul by continuous activity, by seeking a thin satisfaction in things which do not fill them but only leave a bitter aftertaste of sorrow.

"The palm leaves," writes St. Augustine, "symbolize homage, for they stand for victory. Our Lord is on the point of conquering by dying on the cross. Under the sign of the cross, He is about to triumph over the devil, the prince of death." Christ is our peace because he is the victor. He has won the victory because He has fought, in a hard struggle, against the accumulated evil of human hearts.

Christ, who is our peace, is also the way. If we seek peace we have to follow His footsteps. Peace is a consequence of war, of struggle, of the intimate ascetical struggle which each Christian must keep up against everything in his life which does not belong to God. He is called to overcome pride, sensuality, selfishness, superficiality, and meanness of heart. It is useless to call for exterior calm if there is no calm in men's consciences, in the center of their souls, for "from the heart come evil intentions: murder, adultery, fornication, theft, perjury, slander."

(*"Christ is Passing By"* by Josemaria Escriva)

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.

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

Calling All Cooks

Soup is needed for Fridays during Lent. Please sign up for one or more weeks. Soup and bread will be available for all after the 6:30 pm Masses on Fridays. Questions? Stop by the Parish Office or Bookstore.

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

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