

**Sunday, March 24, 2013
Palm Sunday**



Sun. 24 March, Palm Sunday, I Class
8:30 am Regina White
10:00 am Pro Populo **Time change today only**
1:00 pm Andrew & Jacqueline Grant

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 25 March, Monday of Holy Week, I Class
7:00 am †Alonso Chavamia
12:15 pm Fr. McNeely

Tues. 26 March, Tuesday of Holy Week, I Class
7:00 am †Glenna Burns
7:00 pm Fr. Novokowsky

Wed. 27 March, Wednesday of Holy Week, I Class
7:00 am Florencia Mascarinas
12:15 pm Brian Nino

Thurs. 28 March, Holy Thursday, I Class
7:00 pm Priests & Seminarians of the FSSP

Fri. 29 March, Good Friday, I Class
See Holy Week Schedule page 2

Sat. 30 March, Holy Saturday, I Class
8:30 pm Special Intention

Sun. 31 March, Easter Sunday, I Class
8:30 am Fr. McNeely
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Joe & Angela Patch

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

LET US MAKE A BEAUTIFUL ALTAR FOR OUR LORD!

All families are asked to bring flowers for the Altar of Repose. You can drop them off in the gym on Wednesday or Thursday anytime before Mass. They can be purchased flowers or from your back yard. Potted flowers are great too!

~FLOWERS FOR ALTAR OF REPOSE~

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, †Elin Frances Terra, †Martha Robison,
†Gabriel Vargas, †Olympia Gonzales, †Forrest Long,
†Jenna Telles

Important Upcoming Dates

March 24—Palm Sunday **Time change today only : 10:00**
March 29—Good Friday
March 31—Easter Sunday
April 7—Low Sunday “Divine Mercy 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

The Gift of Love

“Having loved His own . . . He loved them unto the end,” and in those last intimate hours spent in their midst, He wished to give them the greatest proof of His love. Those were hours of sweet intimacy, but also of most painful anguish. Judas had already set the price of the infamous sale; Peter was about to deny his Master; all of them within a short time would abandon Him. The institution of the Eucharist appeared then as the answer of Jesus to the treachery of men, as the greatest gift of His infinite love in return for the blackest ingratitude. The merciful God would pursue His rebellious creatures, not with threats, but with the most delicate devices of His immense charity. Jesus had already done and suffered so much for sinful man, but now, at the moment when human malice is about to sound the lowest depths of the abyss, He exhausts the resources of His love, and offers Himself to man, not only as the Redeemer, who will die for him on the Cross, but also as the food which will nourish him. He will feed man with His own Flesh and Blood; moreover, death might claim Him in a few hours, but the Eucharist will perpetuate His real, living presence until the end of time. “O You who are mad about Your creature!” exclaimed St. Catherine of Siena, “true God and true Man, You have left Yourself wholly to us, as food, so that we will not fall through weariness during our pilgrimage in this life, but will be fortified by You, celestial Nourishment!”

Today’s Mass is, in a very special way, the commemoration and the renewal of the Last Supper, in which we are all invited to participate. Let us enter the Church and gather close around the altar as if going into the Cenacle to gather around Jesus. Here we find, as did the Apostles at Jerusalem, the Master living in our midst, and He Himself, through the person of His minister, will renew once again the great miracle which changes bread and wine into His Body and Blood; He will say to us, “Take and eat. . . Take and drink.”

It was Jesus Himself who made the arrangements for the Last Supper, choosing “a large room,” and bidding the Apostles to prepare it suitably. Our hearts, dilated and made spacious by love, must also be a “large” cenacle, where Jesus may come and worthily celebrate His Pasch.

During the Last Supper and coincident with his gift of the Sacrament of love, Jesus also left us His testament of love—the living, concrete testament of His admirable example of humility and charity in the washing of the Apostles’ feet, and His oral testament in the proclamation of His “new commandment.” The Gospel of Holy Thursday shows us Jesus, as the Master, washing the Apostles’ feet; it ends with His words: “I have given you an example, that as I have done, you also may do.” It is an urgent invitation to that fraternal charity which should be the fruit of our Eucharistic Communion. He mentioned it in precise words at the Last Supper: “A new commandment I give unto you: ‘that you love one another’ as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

If we cannot imitate the love of Jesus by giving our body as food to our brethren, we can imitate Him at least by giving them loving assistance, not only in agreeable circumstances, but also in difficult and disagreeable ones.

Jesus revealed to us the perfection of fraternal charity on the same evening that He instituted the Eucharist and our response to this great gift.

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday – March 28th
Tenebrae – 9:00 am
Confessions – 5:45 pm – 6:45 pm
Solemn High Mass of the Lord’s Supper – 7:00 pm
(Adoration, in the gym, after the Mass, until midnight)
Good Friday – March 29th
Tenebrae – 8:00 am
Stations of the Cross, 12:00 Noon
Confessions – 12:00 Noon – 12:45 pm
Solemn Liturgy – 1:00 pm
Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil – March 30th
Tenebrae – 9:00 am
Confessions – 7:30 pm – 8:15 pm
Easter Vigil – 8:30 pm
Easter Sunday – March 31st
8:30 am Low Mass
10:30 am High Mass
1:00 pm Low Mass
(No Vespers)

His Sacred Passion

Although our feeble, human words could never do justice in describing the sufferings of Jesus in His silent, immolating prayer on the Cross, nevertheless, it is imperative that we consider more thoroughly His Hour, in which He suffered many atrocities and was put to a shameful death. His physical suffering, without any doubt, was all bitterness, torment, and pain. There was not any dullness in His Body since His human nature was not tarnished by sin: “Which of you shall convinced Me of sin?” In other words, His Sacred Humanity was perfectly sensitive, without disorder; and nothing could be more inimical to immaculate flesh than suffering.

Moreover, what shall we say about His mental anguish which, as we have noted, was constant throughout His earthly life? As we meditate on His bodily sufferings, note well that these are but an exterior witness to the unfathomable anguish He felt in His mind and heart. The misery of a faithful mother towards a wayward son is enormous; yet, the heart wrenching misery of the God-Man for souls was incomparably more—beyond which cannot even be imagined.

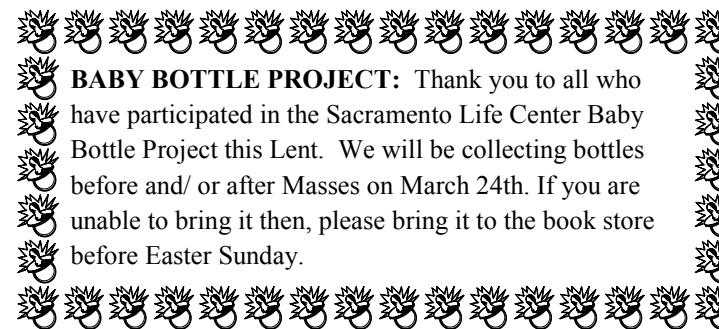
At one point the Pharisees approached Him, and Jesus exclaimed, “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou who killest the prophets, and stonest those who are sent to thee! How often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but thou wouldst not!” If these words are not enough to convince us of His interior sorrow, then certainly the episode of His triumphal entry into the Holy City is: “And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it, saying, ‘If thou hadst known, in this thy day, even thou, the things that are for thy peace! . . . Thou hast not known the time of thy visitation.’” What lamentation! What anguish of mind and heart! The very people He had chosen long ago and prepared through the ages for His coming knew not the time of their visitation. The Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, had come; and they missed His coming; they neglected to know their peace and divine visitation.

O suffering beyond belief! Would that His Passion were preached, then there would be no loss of the sense of sin in the world.
(taken from “In Pursuit of Immortal Souls” by Friar M.M. De Cruce, FI)

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.



BABY BOTTLE PROJECT: Thank you to all who have participated in the Sacramento Life Center Baby Bottle Project this Lent. We will be collecting bottles before and/ or after Masses on March 24th. If you are unable to bring it then, please bring it to the book store before Easter Sunday.

A Practical Rule of Christian Life for Daily Observance

On awaking in the morning, let your first thoughts be devoted to this great truth: *God is here present*: and make an act of lively faith in His Divine Presence. Let your first action be the Sign of the Cross, according to the custom of the early Christians; your first words the holy Names of Jesus and Mary; and the first impulse of your heart an offering of yourself to God, by saying with the deepest feelings of respect: *I adore Thee, O my God; I love Thee with my whole heart; I thank Thee for all the blessings Thou hast bestowed upon me, and especially for dying for me on the Cross, shedding all Thy blood for the salvation of my soul, and preserving me in life up to the present moment; to Thee I consecrate my heart and my whole self.*
(taken from “The School of Jesus Crucified” The Lessons of Calvary in Daily Catholic Life)

Camp Sacred Heart 2013

Camp Sacred Heart will be held June 16—22 this year. Registration is open to boys age 9—18, boys unknown to the chaplain must get a letter of recommendation from a priest.

For more information call the parish office or 916-223-3112. Forms may be obtained by e-mail @stephenproto@yahoo.com You may also stop by the parish office or bookstore.

Sponsors needed for Camp

If you are able to help sponsor a boy for camp, there is a great need, especially for large families. Your help is very much appreciated!

**“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.”

**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. 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; Ken Taylor, Peter Van Steyn, Elizabeth Van Steyn, Dr. Gerald Foy, Patricia Greco