

**Sunday, March 17, 2013
Passion Sunday**



Sun. 17 March, Passion Sunday, I Class

8:30 am Mike McGrath, Jr.
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Fr. Novokowsky

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 18 March, St. Patrick, (transferred), Bishop & Confessor, I Class

7:00 am Elijah Blake
12:15 pm Remedies Mortensen

Tues. 19 March, St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I Class

7:00 am Lucina Mascarinas
7:00 pm Teresa Munsill

Wed. 20 March, Wednesday of Passion Week, III Class

7:00 am Rose Nino
12:15 pm Laurel Muff

Thurs. 21 March, Thursday of Passion Week, III Class

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

Fri. 22 March, Friday of Passion Week, III Class

7:00 am Dolores Jasper
12:15 pm Celestin Family
6:30 pm Estelita Reguerra

Stations of the Cross after 12:15 & 6:30 pm Masses

Sat. 23 March, Saturday of Passion Week, III Class

7:00 am John Burns
9:00 am Tom & Katie Scarry

Sun. 24 March, Palm Sunday, I Class

8:30 am Regina White
10:00 am Pro Populo **NOTE: Time change today only**
1:00 pm Andrew & Jacqueline Grant

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

Important Upcoming Dates

March 18—Transferred Feast of St. Patrick
March 19—Feast of St. Joseph
March 24—Palm Sunday **Time change today only : 10:00**
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

Jesus Persecuted

Today Passiontide begins, a time especially consecrated to the remembrance and loving contemplation of the sorrows of Jesus. The veiled crucifix and statues, the absence of the *Gloria* in the Mass and the *Gloria Patri* in the responsories of the Divine office, - are all signs of mourning by which the Church commemorates Our Lord's Passion. Pope St. Leo exhorts us to participate "in the Cross of Christ, in order that we also may do something which will unite us to what He has done for us, for as the Apostle says, 'if we suffer with Him, we shall be glorified with Him.'" Therefore, we must not only meditate on Jesus' sufferings, but also take part in them; only by bearing His Passion in our heart and in our body shall we be able to share in its fruits. So it is that in the liturgy of this season the Church repeats more insistently than ever: "If you hear the voice of the Lord, harden not your hearts." The voice of the Lord makes itself heard these days, not by words, but by the eloquent testimony of deeds, by the great events of the Passion—a mystery which gives us the most convincing proof of His infinite love for us. Let us, therefore, open our heart to the sublime lessons of the Passion: let us see how much Jesus has loved us and how much we ought to love Him in return; let us learn that, if we wish to follow Him, we too, must suffer and bear the Cross with Him and after Him. At the same time, let us open our heart to a lively hope; for our salvation is in the Passion of Jesus. In today's Epistle St. Paul presents to us the majestic figure of Christ, the Eternal High Priest, who "by His Blood, entered once into the holies, (that is, heaven) having obtained eternal redemption." The Passion of Jesus has redeemed us; it has opened once again our Father's house to us; it is then the motive for our hope.

The Gospel narrates an instance of the pressing hostility of the Jews, an evident prelude to the Passion of Jesus. In their hardened hearts they had absolutely refused to acknowledge the mission of the Savior; as a result, they schemed in a thousand ways to oppose His teachings and to belittle Him before the people by declaring Him a liar and one possessed by the devil. Their animosity had increased to the point where they decided to stone Him: "They took up stones therefore to cast at Him." Jesus' death was already decreed by the Jews, but the hour fixed by His Father had not yet come, so "Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the Temple."

This passage in the gospel allows us to consider the conduct of Jesus in the presence of His persecutors; we see zeal of their souls, meekness, personal disinterestedness, and total abandonment to God. St. Gregory the Great wrote: "Consider, beloved brethren, the meekness of the Lord. He, who had come to remit sins, said, 'Which of you will convince Me of sin?' He, who by virtue of His divinity, could justify sinners, does not disdain to prove by reasoning that He is not a sinner,"

He did not cease to instruct and to enlighten minds, attempting to draw them away from error. Always forgetful of Himself, He thought only of the good of souls. It was precisely in these painful circumstances that Jesus gave us precious instruction: "He that is of God, heareth the words of God. . . . If any man keep My word, he shall not see death forever." Let us gather these lessons from the lips of our persecuted Master, and keep them in our heart with a jealous care. In our day, too, the world is filled with His enemies, those who oppose His doctrine and despise His Passion. Let us, at least, believe in Him and be His faithful friends.

(*"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 31th

8:30 am Low Mass
10:30 am High Mass
1:00 pm Low Mass
(No Vespers)

Unearthing Your Ten Talents

By Kevin Vost, PSY.D.

Beginning with the Gospel parable of the talents—buried in the ground by some, and multiplied by others—Kevin Vost here unearths a spiritual treasure for all who are struggling to live a life of Christian virtue: the ten particular talents that God has given you as your own. . . . To bury. . . or to multiply for your own good and the good of the Kingdom.

Guided especially by St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the Church's greatest teachers, as well as by Fathers of the Church and the example of many saints, Vost here shows you have to discover each of your own ten talents, and then to understand and perfect them.

With the help of these wise pages, you'll quickly develop your noble ability to reason, strengthen your other faculties of mind, perfect your physical capacities for beauty of form and grace, nurture your ability to act angelically, and prepare yourself to live that life which is proper to a being made in the image of God.

Do you know what your ten talents are? Do you know what God wants you to do with your life? As he gave ten talents to each of the souls in the parable, so he has given ten particular talents to you.

Don't ignore them any longer, or leave them buried. Let Kevin Vost help you unearth them, and show you how to multiply them a hundredfold.

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.

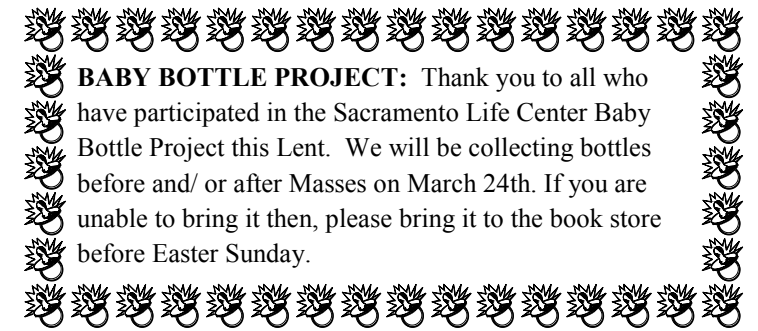
Sponsors needed for Camp

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!

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.

Jesus of Nazareth

By Joseph Ratzinger—Pope Benedict XVI

What happened in the final week of Jesus of Nazareth's earthly life? In *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week—From the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, Pope Benedict takes up that and other crucial questions. How did the man whom many hailed as the Messiah come to be rejected by the leaders of His own people? Was He a political revolutionary? Who was responsible for His death, the Romans or the Jewish authorities, or both? How did Jesus view His suffering and death? How should we? Did He establish a Church to carry on His work? What did He teach about the End of the World? And most importantly, did Jesus really rise from the dead?

This is a book for Christians—Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, as well as other believers and nonbelievers, Benedict brings to his study the vast learning of a brilliant scholar, the passionate searching of a great mind, and the deep compassion of a pastor's heart. In the end, he dares readers to grapple with the meaning of Jesus' life, teaching, death, and resurrection.

"Only in this second volume do we encounter the decisive sayings and events of Jesus' life. . . . I. . . . Hope that I have been granted an insight into the figure of our Lord that can be helpful to all readers who seek to encounter Jesus and to believe in Him."
~ Benedict XVI

(Available at St. Stephen's Bookstore)

**"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