

Sunday, April 21, 2013
3rd Sunday after Easter



Sun. 21 April, 3rd Sunday after Easter, II Class

8:30 am †Calixta Paranaque
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Bernard Beronio

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 22 April, SS. Soter & Caius, Popes & Martyrs, III Class

7:00 am †Fernando Costales
 12:15 pm †Sister of Jose Juan Garcia

Tues. 23 April, St. George, Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am †Richard Alfred Becker
 6:30 pm Alias Sandoval

Wed. 24 April, St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Martyr, III Class

7:00 am †Ruben Padilla
 12:15 pm Joseph Doan

Thurs. 25 April, St. Mark, II Class

7:00 am †Nick Franusich
 6:30 pm Rich & Carol Cummings

Fri. 26 April, SS. Cletus & Marcellinus, Popes & Martyrs, III Class

7:00 am Watts Family
 12:15 pm Laura Cummings & Family
 6:30 pm Theresa, Angel, & Mary Zeezer

Sat. 27 April, St. Peter Canisius, Confessor & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am †Fr. Miguel Alcantara
 9:00 am †Martha Pentland

Sun. 28 April, 4th Sunday after Easter, II Class

8:30 am †Eloise Cervetti
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Phancisco Savie Nguyen

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, †Bernard Beronio, †Georgia Munsill

Important Upcoming Dates

May 4—May Procession
 May 7—Rogation Mass & Blessing of the Fields
 May 9—Ascension of Our Lord
 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 Spirit of Faith

There are two chief obstacles which hinder us from keeping in contact with God while we are at our daily tasks. First, there is the almost entirely worldly, material point of view with which we frequently consider persons and events; second, there is the opacity of creatures, and the painful, disconcerting, and sometimes evil aspect of many occurrences. As long as we are at Our Lord's feet in prayer, it is easy for us to believe that we can see Him in every creature, in every situation; but when we are face to face with certain persons, or difficulties, this idea vanishes and we founder in human reasonings which make us lose sight of God and His activities in the world. The remedy for this is to cultivate a deep spirit of faith.

Faith is not limited to knowing God in Himself as the Trinity; it makes us see Him also in all creatures, in all circumstances of our life, since He is always present everywhere by His providential action. God knows creatures as they exist in relation to Himself; and faith, showing creatures to us as dependent upon God, makes us, in this way, see and judge them somewhat as God Himself sees and judges them. Faith teaches us that nothing, absolutely nothing, happens in the world which is not subject to divine control. It is true that God cannot will evil; and therefore He does not will sin or its consequences, such as injustice, litigation, war; but He does permit them, simply to safeguard the liberty of His creatures. However, He sometimes intervenes in situations, even in those caused by sin, so as to make everything enter into His divine plan, which is ordained for His own glory and for the salvation and sanctification of souls. My spirit of faith must be so real that it will convince me that no circumstance, either in my private life or in my relations with others, escapes God's jurisdiction, which is so wise that it can draw good even out of evil. Consequently, I can see nothing apart from God; I can find Him in any person, in any situation.

A soul of faith meets God not only in prayer, but seeing Him in all things, in all things it finds Him; thus, it can keep itself in contact with Him, even in the midst of occupations. The spirit of faith makes it penetrate the opaqueness of creatures and occurrences so that it always finds God. Secondary causes become transparent to it, enabling it to discover at once the First Cause, God, who is present and operating everywhere. To be able to recognize and meet God in every creature, even in the ones that hurt us, offend us, or make us suffer, and in every happening, even the most disagreeable, painful, and disturbing ones—this is a great secret of the interior life. Then the world becomes an open book, on every page of which is written in large letters the one word: *God*. Before God, His will, His permission, His plans, everything else becomes secondary; we see how stupid it is to fix our gaze on creatures, which are, as it were, only a veil which hides the Creator. However, we need assiduous practice before we can reach such deep faith.

In my contacts with my neighbor—and how many people I do meet in the course of a day! - I can form the habit of greeting Our Lord, present in every creature. In the duties of my state in life and in the orders of my superiors, I can see the expression of God's will in all circumstances—great, small, or even minute—which cause me boredom, uneasiness, suffering, increase of labor, or change of plans. I must learn to see them as the many means which God is using to make me practice virtue—patience, generosity, charity. My hours of prayer must serve to show me all the details of my life in this supernatural light, so that I may always be able to find Our Lord in them.

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

How to Assist at Mass



"The best way of assisting at Mass is for the Faithful who are present to join with the priest in offering the Divine Victim to God, calling to mind the Sacrifice of the Cross and uniting themselves to Jesus Christ by Sacramental or at least Spiritual Communion."

While it is recommended to use a Missal at Mass and to join with the priest in the actual words he is saying, it should always be remembered that this is a means to an end, and not an end in itself. There are good souls who can derive more fruit from following the Mass without a Missal.

At all events, let us remember that the Mass is the greatest action we have on this earth. It is not only a prayer, but an action, and the self-same action as that performed by Christ on Calvary, reenacted by Him once more, each time Mass is offered. By His loving omnipotence God has made it possible for us to stand beneath His Son's Cross with Mary, St. John and St. Mary Magdalene on the first Good Friday. Every Mass lost is a Calvary lost, and the loss of one Calvary is an infinite, irreparable loss. May God give us faith to understand and realize this sublime truth.

(*"This is the Faith"* by Canon Francis Ripley)

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

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

Retreat is well over half full—sign-up today!

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."

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.

Man & Woman
A Divine Invention
 By Alice von Hildebrand

Pascal wrote that "man is the most amazing object in nature." Indeed, we are such complex beings that not only do we have great difficulties understanding others, but worse, we have great difficulties understanding ourselves.

For reasons that we need not investigate, the Creator chose to create beings that are doubly complex; for not only did He make man to be comprised of soul and body—a spiritual reality and a material one—but moreover, to crown this complexity, "male and female he created them." Clearly, the fullness of human nature is to be found in the perfect union between man and woman, who have both a body and a soul.

This is indeed "a divine invention" that would never have entered man's head. It is so simple to be "just a chimpanzee," or "just an angel," but to be essentially make up of two very different realities—both of which are meant to be related to another person—sheds light on our difficulty to understand other's and to understand ourselves.

In Eden, God had created perfect harmony between the body and the soul, and between Adam and Eve. In God's plans, the body benefited the soul, and the soul benefited the body; the body is not a person. But through its union with an immortal soul, man's body was personified; that is, it was "knighted." Physical organs are given both dignity and symbolic meaning. For instance, we can think of the heart in the spiritual life, and the dignity of the female womb, which is the tabernacle of new life.

But through original sin—a metaphysical revolt against God—this harmony was badly disrupted. From that moment on, man has been born on a battlefield. He must fight on two fronts: First, with God's help, he is called upon to reharmonize his body and his soul, for the former—imitating man's revolt against God—no longer obeys the directives given by the soul; it claims its own independence. Second, man is called upon to span the chasm that has disrupted the union of Adam and Eve.

The union between body and soul is so close that, until the two harmonize according to the guidance of the Divine Conductor, it is sheer illusion to assume that the communion with the other sex—also disrupted by sin—can be accomplished. The more our bodies and our souls sing the same song, whose notes were written by the Creator, the better the chance that the two complementary sexes will create beautiful music. That this is possible is the theme of this book.

(Available at St. Stephen's Bookstore)

~ Summer Dress Code ~

Please recall that everyone is expected to dress with modesty and in a way befitting the house of God. Our choice of clothing is an expression of our worship; it may also affect the ability of others to worship. Dress should conceal rather than reveal. There is a sign in the vestibule that gives more details regarding proper dress. It is further expected that modesty in dress be maintained on the church grounds at all times.

We do request that the correction of strangers in this matter be left to the priests or their delegates.

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