

Sunday, July 28, 2013
10th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 28 July, 10th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Michaela Marie Grant
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Ivana Plocicova

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 29 July, St. Martha, Virgin, III Class

7:00 am Nancy O'Neill
 12:15 pm †David Alejandro

Tues. 30 July, SS. Abodon & Sennen, Martyrs, IV Class

7:00 am †Enrique Mendoza
 6:30 pm †Carmen Mendoza

Wed. 31 July, St. Ignatius Loyala, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Holy Souls
 12:15 pm Ivana Plocicova

Thurs. 1 Aug, Holy Maccabees, Martyrs, IV Class

7:00 am Dr. Josepha Adubofore
 6:30 am St. Monica Sodality

Fri. 2 Aug, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am Matthew & Jennifer Gallagher
 12:15 pm Fr. Jeff Wilson
 6:30 pm Matt & Barb Dana

Sat. 3 Aug, Finding of the Body of St. Stephen, Protomartyr, IV Class

7:00 am Matthews Family
 9:00 am Fr. Peter Carota

Sun. 4 Aug, 11th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Fr. Ramon Bejorano
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Rob & Terri Bartoli

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
 †Patricia Greco, †Draga Kozina, †Doug McNeely, †Louis Solton

Important Upcoming Dates

Aug. 4—Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen—Pig Roast & Square Dance
 Aug. 13—Fatima Procession
 Aug. 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary—**Holy Day**
 Aug. 20—Chesterton Society Meeting (7:00 pm)
 Oct. 18—25th Anniversary of the Fraternity of St. Peter
 Oct. 31—All Saints Eve Party

Judge Not

“Judge not, that you may not be judged”. Charity to our neighbor begins with our thoughts, as many of our failings in charity are basically caused by our judgments. We do not think highly enough of others, we do not sufficiently consider their manifest good qualities, we are not benevolent in interpreting their way of acting. Why? Because in judging others, we almost always base our opinion on their faults, especially on those which wound our feelings or which conflict with our own way of thinking and acting, while we give little or no consideration to their good points.

It is a serious mistake to judge persons or things from a negative point of view and it is not even reasonable, because the existence of a negative side proves the presence of a positive quality, of something good, just as a tear in a garment has no existence apart from the garment. When we stop to criticize the negative aspect of a person or of a group, we are doing destructive work in regard to our own personal virtue and the good of our neighbor. To be constructive, we must overlook the faults and recognize the value of the good qualities that are never wanting in anyone.

Moreover, do we not also have many faults, perhaps more serious ones than those of our neighbor? “And why seest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, and seest not the beam that is in thy own eye”? Let us seriously study these words of Jesus, for very often, in spite of our desire to become saints, some remnant of that detestable spirit of criticism remains hidden in our heart. In considering our faults and those of others, we still retain something of this twofold measure which makes us judge the faults of others differently from the way in which we judge our own. What great progress we should make in fraternal charity, in attaining our own perfection, if instead of criticizing the faults seen in others, we would examine ourselves to see if there is not something similar—or perhaps worse—in us, and would apply ourselves to our own amendment! St. Teresa of Jesus said to her nuns, “Often commend to God any sister who is at fault and strive for your own part to practice the virtue which is the opposite of her fault with great perfection”. This is one of the best ways of helping others to correct themselves.

Judgment belongs to God; it is reserved to Him alone, for He alone can see into our hearts, can know what motives and intentions make us act as we do. “Man sees the face, but God sees the heart”. Therefore, anyone who judges another—unless he is obliged to do so by his office, as superiors are—usurps, in a sense, God’s rights and puts himself in the place of God. To presume to judge one’s brethren always implies a proud attitude toward God and toward the neighbor. Besides, one who is quick to judge he does not know the intentions of others and has not the sufficient prerequisites for formulating a correct judgment.

In the face of an act which is blameworthy in itself, we are evidently not obliged to consider it good; nevertheless, we must excuse the intention of the one who committed it and not simply attribute it to a perverse will. “if our neighbor’s acts had one hundred facets, we should see only the best one; and then, if the act is blameworthy, we should at least excuse the intention”

Every day I too commit many faults; I too fall into many defects, but this does not signify that all these stem through frailty; and because I detest these failings of mine, the Lord continues to love me and wants me to retain complete confidence in His love. He regards others the same as He does me; therefore, I have no right to doubt my neighbor’s good will simply because I see him commit some faults, nor have I the right to diminish, for this reason, my love and esteem for him. Perhaps that person who seems so reprehensible has already abhorred his faults and wept over them interiorly far more than I have over mine; God has already forgiven him and continues to love him. Should I be more severe than God? On this point it will be well to remember that God will treat me with the same severity that I show to others, for Jesus has said, “For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged, and with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again”. (“Divine Intimacy” by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Nice Raffle Prizes Needed!

Please help us out with some nice raffle prizes! Do you have a time share, mountain or beach cabin; would you be willing to offer child care for a weekend or evenings; special gifts that have been stored in a closet for years?

Help make our raffle successful by donating something special. Let us know as soon as possible. Drop by the office during the week or the bookstore on the weekend or call 916-455-5114.

Dear Newlyweds

In his time, the world knew Pope Pius XII for his sanctity, his solicitude for humanity, his unflinching efforts for genuine world peace, his remarkable gifts of Catholic diplomacy, language and letters.

But there was another and strongly different side to this holy Pope who found time to address in audience scores of young newlyweds who came to seek his papal benediction on their marriages. This is the Pius XII who is revealed in these pages.

This is a book which should be placed in the hands of every newly-married couple. It is a book to read and ponder over; cherish and be guided by, all through married life. Newlyweds will be inspired and uplifted by the beauty of the Holy Father’s explanation of the Sacrament; older couples will be touched and amazed at his insight into the practical problems of everyday marriage.

(Available at St. Stephen’s Bookstore)

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary & Rosa Mystica

Registration is still open for Rosa Mystica (ages 9-14). Forms are available at the Parish Office, bookstore, or by e-mail. **The deadline for registration is July 31st and space is limited.**

Registration forms are also available for the Sodality of Our Lady, (ages 14 & up)

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

~ 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.

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.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne, Charles Cantoni, Hayden Garcia, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes, Dr. Gerald Foy, Cindy Yumoto

Calling all Mothers and Grandmothers & all Ladies of the Parish!

Do you have skills you would like to share with the young ladies of the parish? Homemaking skills of any kind; sewing, knitting, embroidery, crochet, proper table setting, being a good hostess, flower arranging, etc. We need you!

The Rosa Mystica Girls Society meets the 1st Saturday of the month during the school year and is looking for women who would enjoy sharing their time and talent with our young ladies.

For more information please call Jean Gomez 530- 672-2076

On Pride and Vain Glory

We should learn from this gospel that God looks upon the humble and exalts them, but is far from the proud. The Pharisee went to the temple entirely wrapped up in himself, and the good works which he thought he had performed, but returned empty and hated by God; the Publican, on the contrary, appearing before God as a public but penitent sinner, returned justified. Truly, a humble sinner is better in the sight of God than a proud just man!

He who glories in his own good works, or performs them to please men, or to win their praise, loses his merit in the eyes of the most High, for Christ says: Take heed that you do not your justice before men, to be seen by them: otherwise you shall not have a reward of your Father who is in heaven.

In order that we may learn to despise vain glory, these doctrines should be well borne in mind. We should consider that it will happen to those who seek after vain glory, as to the man who made many toilsome journeys on land and sea in order to accumulate wealth, and had no sooner acquired it than he was shipwrecked, and lost all. Thus the ambitious man avariciously seeking glory and honor will find, when dying, that the merit which he might have had for his good works, is now lost to him, because he did not labor for the honor of God. To prevent such an evil, strive at the commencement of every good work which you undertake, to turn your heart to God by a good intention.

But that you may plainly recognize this vice, which generally keeps itself concealed, and that you may avoid it, know that pride is an inordinate love of ostentation, and an immoderate desire to surpass others in honor and praise. The proud man goes beyond himself, so to speak, makes far more of himself than he really is, and, like the Pharisee, despises others; the humble man, on the contrary, has a low estimate of himself, looks upon himself as nothing and, like the Publican, despises no one but himself, and thus is pleasing in the sight of God.

Aspiration. O God, who hearest the prayers of the humble, but dost resist the proud, I earnestly beseech Thee to give me a humble heart, that I may imitate the humility of Thy only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and thereby merit to be exalted with Him in heaven.

(taken from “The Church’s Year” by Rev. Fr. Leonard Goffine)

Start Saving!!

Start saving white elephant prizes gently used or new for the *Fatima’s Bazaar Booth* at the Pig Roast.

Help will be needed as well. For more information call Fatima 916-451-9752. Prizes may be left at the parish office.

25th Anniversary Mass to be offered by Fr. John Berg in Rome!

We are nearly full—If interested, contact us soon!

Travel to Rome, Italy see the most important religious sites of the Eternal City and then travel south to visit the shrines of Pompei, Nettuno, Materdomini, Naples & Amalfi. For more information call 916-223-3112 or visit the website @ www.syversentouring.com/confraternity