

Sunday, July 21, 2013
9th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 21 July, 9th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Christina Nicolini
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Sarah Solari & Family

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 22 July, St. Mary Magdalene, Penitent, III Class

7:00 am †Sherry Arne
 12:15 pm Vernon Brave & Family

Tues. 23 July, St. Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Souls in Purgatory
 6:30 pm Heather Mansergh

Wed. 24 July, St. Christina, Virgin & Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am Confraternity of St. Peter
 12:15 pm Return of lapsed Catholics

Thurs. 25 July, St. James the Greater, Apostle, II Class

7:00 am Brian & Carrie Nino
 6:30 am Ivana Plocicova

Fri. 26 July, St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class

7:00 am Nicole Solari & Family
 12:15 pm Robert de la Croix
 6:30 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Sat. 27 July, Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class

7:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel McAuliff
 9:00 am St. Monica Sodality

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

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 of Obligation)
 Oct. 18—25th Anniversary of the Fraternity of St. Peter
 Oct. 31—All Saints Eve Party

The Motive for Fraternal Charity

There are not two virtues of charity, one the love of God and the other love of the neighbor is one and the same. We love God because He is infinitely loveable, and we love the neighbor because faith teaches us to recognize in him a reflection of the loveliness of God. The motive for fraternal charity is the same as the motive for loving God, as we must always love God either directly in Himself or indirectly in the neighbor. Because fraternal charity has God for its ultimate object and last end, it is identical with the theological virtue by which we love God. Certainly God holds the first place! To Him, the infinite Good, we owe absolute preference above all other loves. The love of God, however, includes love of the neighbor, so that we love him in and for God, that is, because of his relation to God, and because he belongs to God. “God is the motive for loving the neighbor,” says St. Thomas, “which proves that the act by which we love God is the same as that by which we love the neighbor. Hence the virtue of charity does not stop at the love of God, but it also includes love of neighbor.” When one truly loves God, the neighbor is also loved, just as he is, in spite of his faults and the annoyance and trouble which he may sometimes cause; for instead of regarding these things, one looks much further and tries to see God in the brethren. With one’s glance fixed on Him, and because of Him, all are loved without distinction or restriction.

Such a soul readily understands the profound logic of the Apostle’s words: “If any man say, I love God, and hatreth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother whom he seeth, how can he love God whom he seeth not? And this commandment we have from God, that he who loveth God, love also his brother.”

If I love my neighbor because he is congenial, renders me service or sympathizes with, or because I enjoy his friendship, if I love him because of his fine qualities and pleasing manners, my love is merely human, and is not the love of charity. If I am good to my neighbor and help him because I am sorry for him or feel bound to him by human ties, my love may be called sympathy or philanthropy, but it cannot yet be called charity, because the characteristic of charity is to love one’s neighbor “*proper Deum*,” for God. My love becomes the virtue of charity only to the degree in which the love of God enters into it, only insofar as this love for my brethren is inspired by my love for God. The more my love is based on human motives alone—like congeniality, natural gifts, ties of blood—the more it is simply human love which has nothing of the merit and value of charity. “Love of neighbor is not meritorious if the neighbor is not loved because of God.” This is what St. Paul meant when he said: “if I should distribute all my goods to feed the poor...and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”

It is easy to deceive ourselves, thinking we have great charity because we love those who love us, because we are very thoughtful and full of attentions toward those who think as we do, or who are close to us, while, in reality, God hardly enters. “If you love [only] them that love you,” Jesus said, “what reward shall you have?... Do not also the heathens this?”. If I want my love for my neighbor to be charity, I must transcend the natural and contemplate my neighbor in God, loving him in relation to God and because of God. Only in this way will my love for my neighbor be an act of the theological virtue of charity, the same act with which I love God; only thus shall I fulfill the precept of fraternal charity.

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

Prayer For God’s Blessing on the Married

I bless Thee, most gracious Lord Jesus Christ, for having ordained that Thy holy Mother, the Virgin Mary, of whom Thou , O Redeemer of all men, didst will to assume flesh, should proceed from the chaste union of Joachim and Anne. By Thy goodness I beseech Thee, through the merits of the holy parents Joachim and Anne, have mercy on (me and on) all who, in their memory, sanctify their life in the state of Matrimony. Give them rest and peace, health of body and soul; make them fruitful in good children, and after this exile, grant them eternal glory to Thy praise and honor, O sweetest and most gracious Savior. Amen.

Prayer for a Wayward Child

O Holy Mother, St. Anne, so rich in graces! Thou wilt never leave unheard the pleadings and tears of a mother who invokes thee for a wayward child. Thou knowest my grief and the anguish of my heart. Look down with thy maternal eyes upon this poor erring child, and bring him (her) back upon the way of salvation, that he (she) may again serve God faithfully and thus obtain eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hail Mary . . . (three times)

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

Searching for and Maintaining Peace

A Small Treatise on Peace of Heart

By Father Jacques Philippe

We live in a day and age characterized by an extraordinary amount of agitation and lack of peace. This tendency manifests itself in our spiritual as well as our secular life. In our search for God and holiness, in our service to our neighbor, a kind of restlessness and anxiety take the place of the confidence and peace which ought to be ours. What must we do to overcome the moments of fear and distress which assail us all too often in our lives? How can we learn to place all our confidence in God and abandon ourselves into His loving care? This is what is taught in this simple, yet profound little treatise on peace of heart. Taking concrete examples from our everyday life, the author invites us to respond in a Gospel fashion to the upsetting situations we must all confront. Since peace of heart is a pure gift of God, it is something we should seek, pursue and ask Him for without cease. This book is here to help us in that pursuit.

(available at St. Stephen’s Bookstore)

Feast of St. Anne Mother of the Blessed Virgin

July 26

According to old traditions, the saintly mother of the Blessed Virgin, whose name Anne, signifies grace, was descended on her father’s side from the tribe of Levi, and on her mother’s from the tribe of Juda. She was born in Bethlehem and was married, while still a pure and pious virgin, to Joachim, a man of position, with whom she lived, occupied in pious works, and patiently conforming to the will of God in all things. When this pious couple had reached a very advanced age, in which they could scarcely expect to have children, an angel announced to them that they were to be blessed with a daughter whom they were to name Mary. And it occurred as foretold. In the summer following the announcement was born the holiest of God’s creatures, the Queen of angels and of men, the chosen Mother of the Son of God, not so much the fruit of the body as she was the fruit of grace. Joachim and Anne brought this child Mary, at a very tender age, to Jerusalem, presenting her to the high priest as an offering to God, to be brought up in the service of the temple. How long Anne lived after this sacrifice is not known, but she is now enthroned among the elect in heaven with her beloved child in glory.

(taken from “*The Church’s Year*” by 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