

Sunday, August 25, 2013
14th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 25 Aug, 14th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am †James R. Sheldon
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Nicolini Family

Mon. 26 Aug, St. Zephyrinus, Pope & Martyr, IV Class

7:00 am Stanford Family
 12:15 pm Suffering Sols in Purgatory

Tues. 27 Aug, St. Joseph Calasance, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Teresa McGrath & Elizah Blake
 6:30 pm Laura McGrath & Andrew Grimes

Wed. 28 Aug, St. Augustine, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am †Peter Laubacher
 12:15 pm Confraternity of St. Peter

Thurs. 29 Aug, Beheading of St. John Baptist, III Class

7:00 am Dr. Josepha Adubofore
 6:30 pm Fr. Jeff Wilson

Fri. 30 Aug, St. Rose of Lima, Virgin, III Class

7:00 am Fr. Mark Wagner
 12:15 pm †Martin Hewell
 6:30 pm †Martha Robison

Sat. 31 Aug, St. Raymond Nonnatus, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †John Blwett
 9:00 am †Charlie Burns

Sun. 1 Sept, 15th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Aranas Family
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Benedict Burns & Family

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.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

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

...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

Sept. 6—Sodality, Rosa Mystica, & Little Flowers
 Sept. 13—Fatima Procession
 Sept. 19—CSP Evening of Recollection
 Sept. 21—Altar Guild & Ladies Altar Society
 Oct. 18—25th Anniversary of the Fraternity of St. Peter
 Oct. 31—All Saints Eve Party

Generosity

Generosity is very similar to magnanimity but has a wider scope, including not only great things, but anything which concerns the service of God. It urges the soul to do all with the greatest devotion. Generosity is the virtue which teaches us to spend ourselves, without counting the cost, without ever saying, "It is enough"; it teaches us to give ourselves completely, and to work with the maximum of love, not only in great things but also in little ones, even the least. Only when we are not hampered by the bonds of selfishness can we be really generous, that is, capable of giving ourself wholly to the service of our ideal, to the accomplishment of our mission, without thinking of self, without letting ourself be detained by personal preoccupations. If we really understood that our vocation comes from God, and that He has prepared for us all the graces we need to correspond with it most perfectly, we should not allow ourselves to be disheartened by the sacrifices it requires. Selfishness, preoccupation with self, and discouragement are all enemies of generosity; they are "earth and lead" which weigh down our spiritual life, making it more fatiguing and keeping us from soaring to the heights. Why should we reduce ourselves to walking at "a hen's pace" when God has made us capable of flying like the eagle? St. Teresa laughs somewhat mischievously at those who are afraid of doing too much for God, and under pretext of prudence, measure their acts of virtues with a yardstick: "You need never fear that they will kill themselves; they are eminently reasonable folk! Their love is not yet ardent enough to overwhelm their reason. How I wish ours would make us dissatisfied with this habit of always serving God at a snail's pace! As long as we do that we shall never get to the end of the road. Do you think that if we could get from one country to another in a week, it would be advisable to take a year over it?" The quickest way to reach our goal is generosity, which is the fruit of love and at the same time the generator of love.

To become generous, we must first learn to forget ourselves, our own interests, our convenience, our own rights, making no account of weariness or pain. We must have but one thought: to give ourselves entirely to God and to souls. "God's good pleasure, the welfare of others not my own; for me the most unpleasant things, in order to please God". Such is the program of the generous soul. It desires nothing but to spend life, strength, and talents in serving God, knowing that it is in the total gift of self that the greatest love consists. "To love is to give all and to give oneself".

To become generous, we must learn to do with our whole heart, not only what is a duty, but also what, though not obligatory, will give more glory to God. St. Teresa gives us a golden rule for this: the "first stone" of our spiritual edifice must be the decision to "strive after the greatest possible perfection". The proposal may seem too arduous, but the Saint is not talking at random. Even if at first the soul does not succeed in discerning or in doing always what is most perfect, yet this resolution, if it is sincere and accompanied by humility and trust in the help of grace, will be a great stimulus to desire always to do better, always to do a little more; it will prevent us from settling down in a tranquil mediocrity. It is very important for those who would be intimate with God to cultivate these dispositions; in this way, little by little, we will be able to make the complete gift of ourself, the gift God awaits before giving Himself completely. "God does not give Himself wholly until He sees that we are giving ourselves wholly to Him". God wants to give Himself to us in this life, but He proportions His gift to ours; it will depend upon our generosity in giving ourselves to Him.

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

Confirmation 2014

Registration is now open for Confirmation classes.

Please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate to the parish office or bookstore and fill out the registration forms as soon as possible—all paperwork must be in before the first class.

Classes will begin the **second Saturday of September** starting with Holy Mass at 9:00 am.



St. Rose of Lima
Patroness of the Americas

St. Rose of Lima (1586—1617), Patroness of the Americas, is the first canonized saint of the New World. She was the tenth of thirteen children, and her mother experienced no pain at her birth. Though exquisitely beautiful (hence her nickname, Rose), she refused to

marry, and while helping support her family by needlework and growing flowers, she practiced heroic charity and lived as a Dominican Tertiary in her parents' home. Rose tenderly cared for the sick, even those with repulsive wounds, and she often obtained miraculous cures for people from the Child Jesus.

On other occasions, she worked miracles in order to feed the members of her family, and became known as "Mother of the Poor." Rose continually prayed and offered her sufferings for the conversion of the idolatrous Incas.

In the year 1615, through her prayers, the Blessed Sacrament and the people of Lima were spared attack by savage pirates. St. Rose was a friend and confidant of St. Martin de Porres, who lived in the same city. Her mystical experiences caused an ecclesiastical inquiry. Though dead at only 31, St. Rose's love of God was so intense that she was recognized as a saint in her own time and was canonized by the Church just 54 years later, in 1671. St. Rose of Lima has captured the imagination of the world and stands as one of the most popular saints in the history of the Church.

Confraternity Prayer for Priests

V. Remember, O Lord, Thy congregation.
 R. Which Thou hast possessed from the beginning.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, born to give testimony to the Truth, Thou who lovest unto the end those whom Thou has chosen, kindly hear our prayers for our pastors. Thou who knowest all things, knowest that they love Thee and can do all things in Thee who strengthens them. Sanctify them in Truth. Pour into them, we beseech Thee, the Spirit whom Thou didst give to Thy apostles, who would make them, in all things, like unto Thee. Receive the homage of love which they offer up to Thee, who hast graciously received the threefold confession of Peter. And so that a pure oblation may everywhere be offered without ceasing unto the Most Holy Trinity, graciously enrich their number and keep them in Thy love, who art one with the Father and the Holy Ghost, to whom be glory and honor forever. Amen.

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.

Sewing Machines Needed & Buttons & Ribbon

If you have a sewing machine you no longer use, the Rosa Mystica Girls Society would love to take it off your hands! Because of the many girls we have this year, we are in need of 3 more sewing machines. We could also use buttons & ribbon for a project we have planned.

If you have something to donate, you may bring it to the parish office or bookstore—or call us @ 916-455-5114.

The Time of Sickness

When sick, offer all your sorrows, your languors, and your pains to the Lord, and beg of Him to unite them with the torments which He endured for you. Obey the doctor; take medicine, food, and other remedies, for the love of God, remembering the gall which He took for the love of you; desire to be cured in order to serve Him; do not refuse to languish in order to obey Him; and dispose yourself to die, if He wishes it to be so, in order to praise and enjoy Him. Remember that bees, during the time in which they make honey, live on a very bitter kind of nourishment, and that in like manner we can never more properly elicit the great acts of meekness and patience, or better compose the honey of excellent virtues, than when we eat the bitter bread of tribulation and live in the midst of anguish. And as that honey which is made from the flowers of thyme, a small but bitter herb is the best of all, so that virtue which is formed in the bitterness of pain and humiliation is the most excellent of all. Tribulation and sickness are well calculated to advance us in virtue, on account of the many resignations which they oblige us to make into the hands of Our Lord.

Your body is weak; but charity, which is the nuptial robe, covers it. A weak person excites all those who know him to a holy support, and gives them even a particular tenderness for him, provided he shows that he carries his cross lovingly and devoutly. ("Consoling Thoughts on Sickness and Death" by St. Francis de Sales)

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

The Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home 7th Annual Fundraiser

Dinner celebrating 21 years of ministry to women in need will be held on Sunday, September 15, at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., in Sacramento. Bob Dunning will MC an exciting evening and mega-affle with Social Hour at 5 p.m. and Dinner at 6 p.m. Choice of Prime Rib, Chicken with Gorgonzola Cream Sauce, or Vegetarian Ravioli with wine included. Still only \$65 and tables of 10 may be reserved. Mail reservations and dinner choice to BGMH Dinner, P.O. Box 1596, Folsom, CA 95763 or call Kathy Baxter at 916.337.6824.

~ 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.