

**Sunday, January 19, 2014
2nd Sunday after Epiphany**



Sun. 19 Jan. 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, II Class

8:30 am Kathleen & Mike De Santis
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Fr. Simon Slana

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 20 Jan. SS. Fabian, Pope, & Sebastian, Martyrs, III Class

7:00 am Suffering Souls in Purgatory
12:15 pm †Alice Marie Becker

Tues. 21 Jan. St. Agnes, Virgin & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am Elizabeth McDonough
6:30 pm Leila Fowler

Wed. 22 Jan. SS. Vincent & Anastasius, Martyrs, III Class

7:00 am Rebecca Long
12:15 pm Joan Imowitz

Thurs. 23 Jan. St. Raymond of Penafort, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Robin
6:30 pm FSSP

Fri. 24 Jan. St. Timothy, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am intentions of Michelle Nielson
12:15 pm †Kristine Elizebeth Allen
6:30 pm Suffering Souls in Purgatory

Sat. 25 Jan. Conversion of St. Paul, III Class

7:00 am the Priests of St. Stephens
9:00 am Monica McDonough

Sun. 26 Jan. 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, II Class

8:30 am Tish Gallagher
10:30 am Pro Populo
1:00 pm Christina Nicolini & family

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, and the priest-on-call will be paged immediately.

...In Memoriam
†Charles Cantoni

Important Upcoming Dates

Jan. 21—Chesterton Society meeting 7:30 pm
Jan. 25—**WALK FOR LIFE**, we encourage all who are able to participate.
Feb. 2—Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Feb. 16—Septuagesima begins
Feb. 22—Chair of St. Peter
March 5—Ash Wednesday
March 26—Confirmation
April 13—Palm Sunday
April 18—Good Friday
April 20—Easter Sunday
May 3—May Procession & Solemn Mass at the Cathedral
May 10—First Holy Communion
June—21-28—Camp Sacred Heart

What Jesus' Teaching Exacts

In calling us to imitate the holiness of His heavenly Father, Jesus summons us to an unrelenting war against sin, which is in direct opposition to God's infinite perfection and is the greatest offense against Him. In all His teachings He tries to inculcate in us a deep hatred of sin, especially of pride, hypocrisy, and obstinate willful malice, all of which constitutes a state of complete opposition to God. Jesus, who shows such great mercy toward sinners, has scathing words for the Pharisees: "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites: because you are like to whited sepulchres You serpents, generation of vipers, how will you flee from the judgment of hell?" Again, He describes the ugliness of sin and its disastrous effect on man, lowering him to a state of complete moral degradation, such as that of the prodigal son who, because he had left his father's house, was reduced to "feeding swine."

"Whosoever committeth sin, is the servant of sin;" a slave of sin cannot be a servant of God; hence, the words of the Master: "No man can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one, and love the other: or he will sustain the one, and despise the other."

Jesus, our Savior, came to destroy sin by His death; it is precisely by His death that He shows us most clearly the terrible malice of sin. Sin is such a great enemy of God and has such a destructive power that it brought about the death of the divine Master.

Only mortal sin is completely opposed to God; this opposition is so great that it separates the soul from God. However, every sin, even venial sin, and every fault and imperfection, is in opposition to God's infinite holiness.

Our nature, wounded as a consequence of original sin, bears within itself the seed of sin, in the form of evil tendencies or habits. If we desire to follow Jesus, who offers us the perfection of His heavenly Father as a norm for our life, we must engage in an intense struggle against sin in order to destroy its deepest roots and even its slightest traces in us. This is just what Jesus teaches us with the brief words: "Deny thyself." We must deny "self" with all its imperfect habits and inclinations; and we must do so continually. Such a task is fatiguing and painful, but it is indispensable if we wish to attain sanctity. Jesus says: "How narrow is the gate, and strait is the way that leadeth to life, and few there are that find it!" We approach the infinite perfection of God only in the measure in which we take upon ourselves the work of complete self-denial. Hence, all the masters of the spiritual life insist so strongly on detachment and self-renunciation as the indispensable foundation of the spiritual life. St. John of the Cross offers a soul who is desirous of attaining union with God the harsh way of the "nothing."

But, first and foremost, Jesus, the divine Teacher, has pointed out to us the absolute necessity of passing through this way: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself."
"Divine Intimacy" by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)



True Piety

They found Him in the temple (Lk. 2:46).

Many people deceive themselves in regard to true piety, because their imagination represents it to them according to the effect produced by their passions or disposition of mind. He who fasts often and willingly believes that he is pious, though in his heart he nourishes a secret hatred, and while he fears to wet the tip of his tongue with wine, even with water, lest he should not live temperately enough, finds pleasure in detraction and slander, that unquenchable thirst for the blood of his neighbor. Another, because he is accustomed daily to recite a long string of prayers, esteems himself pious, though he gives vent afterwards to haughty, bitter, offensive language, hurting people at home and abroad. Another keeps his purse open for the poor, but keeps his heart ever closed to the love of his enemy, whom he will not forgive; another forgives his enemy with all his heart, but will not pay his creditors, until forced by law. All these think themselves pious, and are perhaps so regarded by the world, but in truth they are far from being pious.

In what then does true piety consist? In the perfect love of God. This love is called the beautiful love, because it is the ornament of the soul, and attracts to itself with complacency the eyes of the Divine Majesty. When it strengthens us to do good, it is called the strong love; when it causes us to do that good quickly, carefully, and repeatedly, it is called piety. The ostrich has wings, it is true, but never uses them to fly; the chickens fly heavily and not high; but the eagles, the doves, and the swallows, fly high and swiftly, and do not easily tire. The sinners are but earthly people, they creep upon the ground; the just, who are still imperfect, rise, it is true, towards heaven but seldom, and then but slowly and heavily. But there are some, true, pious souls, who like the doves and the eagles soar high on strong, swift wings to God. In a word, piety is nothing else than a certain active, swift energy of the spirit, with which the strong love in us, or we with it, performs, as far as it is possible to us, all good. As the strong love urges us to keep God's commandments, the perfect love, that is, piety, urges us to keep them carefully and with all possible zeal.

No one is just or pious who does not keep all God's commandments without exception; for, to be just we must possess the strong love, and to be pious we must possess besides, a certain eagerness to profit by all the occasions of doing good, that present themselves. Thus St. Francis de Sales writes in his *Philothea*, from which it is seen that true piety consists not in special devotions, or the practice of special good works, but in the zealous, earnest, continuous obedience to the commandments and performance of duty for the love of God.

The Church's Year, by Rev. Fr. Leonard Goffine

January 22: A Day of Prayer and Penance for Life

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. Participation at Mass, fasting, abstinence and alms giving are among the best ways to observe this day of penance.

Your Building Fund Dollars at Work

Over the last couple of months several work projects have been completed. Much of it, however, is not so noticeable. The confessionals have been better soundproofed. The rectory interior has been painted. All broken locks on the campus have been fixed and all the locks rekeyed. Rotted boards along the breezeway in front of the bookstore and office have been replaced, and other roof work done. The damaged siding on the north siding of the church building as well as termite eaten boards have all been replaced, and gutters installed. The front of the church on the 28th Ave. side (the part where the stain glass window is located) was in very poor condition—peeling paint and rotted boards. Mark Gallagher Painting and Home Repairs supplied both the time and materials to repair and paint it free of charge. It looks like new. We're grateful to them. We're in the process of having a new vesting table (where vestments are kept and laid out) built for the sacristy. We also hope to be able to start long awaiting work on the kitchen in the gym soon. All of this has been accomplished thanks to your generosity. We will keep you informed on future projects.

Fr. Lyons, FSSP

**Healing After Abortion Retreat
March 14—16, 2014**

Is someone you know suffering after an abortion, perhaps years after the choice? Please consider the **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat** weekend, March 14—16, in Auburn, sponsored by the Diocese of Sacramento. This unique and effective experience presents the mercy and compassion of God. The retreat is extremely helpful for those who struggle with feelings of : shame, anger, grief, or for those who have not forgiven themselves or others. Open to women, men, couples, and family members touched by abortion. The cost is \$175. per person. Financial assistance is available. For a registration packet or more information, contact Liz at (916)733-0161 or write projectrachel@scd.org. Inquiries and participation are strictly confidential.

**Reminder— Chesterton Society meeting:
Jan. 21th at 7:30pm**

We will be reading :
Orthodoxy - The Flag of the World &
Fr. Brown - The Head of Ceasar
All are welcome!

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.

Save the Date!

Save the date—**Saturday, January 25, 2014**. Tenth Annual Walk for Life. Contact **Mike (916) 335-4553** or **Kathleen (916) 204-9125**—there are 2 tickets for the bus left.

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, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Ceasar Morales, Mark Garcia Family, Richard Corbin, Philip Rutschow, Manuel Nino, Robert Nunez, Renee Burns