


<div>Sunday, February 9, 2014</div> <div>5th Sunday after Epiphany</div> <div></div>	
Sun. 9 Feb.	5th Sunday after Epiphany, II Class
8:30 am	Andy & Nancy Burns
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	†Doug McNeely
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 10 Feb.	St. Scholastica, Virgin, III Class
7:00 am	Sr. Ave Maria, O.P.
12:15 pm	†Noble Leu Morton, Jr.
Tues. 11 Feb.	Our Lady of Lourdes, III Class
7:00 am	Fr. Ace Racella
6:30 pm	†Christine Allen
Wed. 12 Feb.	Seven Holy Servit Founders, Confessors, III Class
7:00 am	Fr. Peter Carota
12:15 pm	Aranas Family
Thurs. 13 Feb.	Feria, IV Class
7:00 am	Priests of St. Stephen
6:30 pm	Jacob Kasak
Fri. 14 Feb.	St. Valentine, Priest & Martyr, IV Class
7:00 am	Fr. John Lyons
12:15 pm	Thomas, Gloia, Lydia & Bruce
6:30 pm	†Darise Madden
Sat. 15 Feb.	Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class
7:00 am	Matthew & Jennifer Gallagher
9:00 am	Tom Rance
Sun. 16 Feb.	Septuagesima Sunday, II Class
8:30 am	Bishop Jamie Soto
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Katheryn White
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.

Blessing of Religious Objects

On Sundays, in order to avoid overcrowding in the sacristy and the necessity of repeating various blessings several times, religious objects will be blessed at 10 a.m., and again at 12:30 p.m. Please leave them on the table that will be set up for this purpose outside of the sacristy.

- Important Upcoming Dates
- 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
 - May 31—Ordinations in Nebraska
 - June 21-28—Camp Sacred Heart
 - July 13—17—Silent Retreat

Confirmation

Baptism is the Sacrament of Christian initiation. It introduces us into the Church, God’s great family, and infuses into our souls the new life of sanctifying grace by which we become children of the Most High and brothers of Jesus Christ. Confirmation *confirms* and strengthens this supernatural life which Baptism has engendered in us. Baptism is our Christian birth; *Confirmation* brings us to Christian maturity. “Confirmation,” according to the catechism, “is the Sacrament through which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to enable us to profess our faith as strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ.”

At Baptism we become temples of the Holy Spirit; in Confirmation, this divine Spirit comes to us in greater plenitude and sets us apart as knights of Christ, capable of fighting to defend our faith and the Church. We have very great need of this Sacrament, especially today when God’s enemies and the snares and enticements of evil are increasing to such an extent that it often requires great courage, and sometimes even heroism, to stand firm in our Catholic faith and morality. Confirmation imprints an indelible mark on our soul, the glorious character of a “soldier” of Jesus Christ. It endows us with the corresponding strength and confer on us the right to receive, at the opportune moment, the actual graces necessary to remain faithful to God, in spite of the difficulties and obstacles we may encounter. This is the “sacramental grace” of Confirmation.

Therefore we may say that, at least virtually, Confirmation is the Sacrament that consecrates the heroes and the martyrs of duty, for it gives man the strength to live in open profession of his faith, even at the cost of great sacrifices, not excluding the sacrifice of his life, if this were necessary.

When cowardice or human respect tempts us to waver, we should repeat St. Francis of Assisi’s daring words: “Knight of Christ, are you afraid?” And recalling the happy day of our Confirmation when we were solemnly consecrated a soldier of Christ, we shall find the strength to continue the battle and to win.

Writing about her confirmation, St. Therese of the Child Jesus said, “It was with the greatest care that I made ready for the coming of the Holy Ghost, and I could not understand how anyone could do otherwise before receiving this Sacrament of Love... . Like the Apostles, I looked with joy for the promised Comforter, gladdened by the thought that I should soon be a perfect Christian”. Unfortunately, there are very few who, like this young saint, can say that they prepared themselves for the reception of Confirmation with a true comprehension of it. Very few give any thought to the Holy Spirit, the great uncreated Gift, who gives Himself to the soul as its Paraclete, that is, as its strength, support, and guide; very few think of Him or if they do, it is in passing, and superficially, so that there is little possibility of their coming to a deep understanding of this ineffable mystery.

Let us implore this divine Spirit to pardon our negligence and to help us henceforth to make up for our past deficiencies. “*Divine Intimacy*” by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, (OCD)

...In Memoriam

†Charles Cantoni, †Manuel Nino , †Margaret Correa

The Lord Did Wonders for Us

A little town crowded around its church and its castle, Lourdes emerged from the shadows in the year 1858 to become the place of reference for a great many Christians.

Lourdes is the story of a very young girl, the poorest of the poor, illiterate, and in delicate health, who became the object of a favor from heaven; it is a child’s personal history disrupting human history; it is the path proposed to a young girl who, by setting off upon it, would remind the world of the only path that leads to the source of all grace.

Bernadette offered herself to the gratuitousness of the gift of God, who reached out to her for her own sake, to be sure, but above all for the sake of the world. God always acts in the same way: The election of a single individual opens the torrents of his generosity toward all. Those who have heard God’s call and answered, “Here I am, send me,” have allowed God’s plan to come to pass.

God chose Bernadette, and Mary came to indicate her specific mission to her—to be a witness to the call of the Gospel. When Mary says, “Come drink from the fountain and wash in it,” she is saying nothing more than what Jesus has said. To do penance and to purify one’s heart is the attitude that corresponds to the call to convert and believe in the Good News proclaimed by Christ.

In Lourdes, Bernadette turned completely to God. She passed the message of grace along and then buried herself in the silence of an ordinary religious life. She let Lourdes and the whole world turn, at the Church’s own invitation, to Mary, whose words calling for penance keep bringing to Christ those who would draw near to the running water by making the step of a pilgrimage.

Bernadette grew in holiness by taking the Gospel seriously. In her own words, “Lourdes is not heaven.” Lourdes is the place of discovery, the place of reminder, the place of deepening the truth of the Gospel. Heaven is what we await in faith, whose advent we hasten through charity; it is why, when the Church gives us the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, she squarely places us before the demand of the Gospel.

In Lourdes, the Eucharist is at the center of all pilgrimage-related activities. It alone gives meaning to the charity that is exercised in a special way toward the sick. The Eucharist sets Mary’s visit to Lourdes in its proper place—the place indicated by the feast’s Gospel reading on the wedding at Cana. Mary attentively is at her Son’s side when she says, “They have no wine,” the wine that gives a taste for life; she is thus at the side of all persons in distress. “Do whatever he tells you,” she says, and you will taste abundantly of the wine of the joy of salvation.

Lourdes bears the particular mark of God’s love, of which the Virgin Mary’s luminous face is a sign, yet whose power manifests itself in the charity and the joy implemented and shared by the immense crowd of pilgrims from all nations pressing together in this blessed place. The wonderful news of Lourdes doesn’t end at Mary’s visit to this earth; it draws the pilgrims to rediscover the message that is more extraordinary yet and always new—namely, the Gospel of Christ.

The Wonders of Lourdes, Pierre-Marie Dumont, Publisher

Reminder— Chesterton Society meeting:

Feb. 18th at 7:30pm

We will be reading :

Orthodoxy - The Paradoxes of Christianity & Fr. Brown - The Purple Wig

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.

Contemplatives in the World

Mother Teresa exhorted her Missionaries of Charity that their vocation, to be beautiful, must be full of thought for others. It must also be full of joy. She wanted them to live in union with God and with one another. Silence was at the root of that union, for God was the “friend of silence”:

We need silence to be alone with God, to speak to Him, to listen to Him, to ponder His words deep in our hearts. We need to be alone with God in silence to be renewed and transformed. Silence gives us a new outlook on life. In it we are filled with the energy of God Himself that makes us do all things with joy.

Of necessity, theirs must often be an interior silence, surrounded as they were for much of the time by noise and restlessness. To make possible true interior silence she told her Sisters they would practice:

Silence of the eyes, by seeking always the beauty and goodness of God everywhere and closing them to the faults of others and to all that is sinful and disturbing to the soul.

Silence of the ears, by listening always to the voice of God and the cry of the poor and the needy, and closing them to all the other voices that come from the evil one or from fallen human nature, e.g. gossip, tale-bearing, uncharitable words.

Silence of the tongue, by praising God and speaking the life-giving word of God that is Truth that enlightens and inspires, brings peace, hope and joy, and refraining from self-defense in every word that causes darkness, turmoil, pain and death.

Silence of the mind, by opening it to the Truth and knowledge of God in prayer and contemplation, like Mary who pondered the marvels of the Lord in her heart, closing it to all untruths, distractions, destructive thoughts like rash judgment, false suspicion of others, revengeful thoughts and desires.

Silence of the heart, by loving God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength and one another as God loves, desiring God alone and avoiding all selfishness, hatred, envy, jealousy and greed.

Mother Teresa An Authorized Biography, by Kathryn Spink

Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament—Altar Society

Are you interested in ironing, making or mending sacred linens for use at the altar? Would you enjoy arranging flowers for our altar? We need you! There are many other opportunities as well to serve the church by being a part of our altar society. Stop by the parish office or bookstore or call and leave your name. No previous experience is necessary—we will teach you!

Wedding Banns

Please pray for the following couples who are preparing for the sacrament of Holy Matrimony:

Ernesto Fernandez & Grace Olsen (1)
Thomas O’Brien & Taylor Parikh (1)

Wedding banns are published to provide notification of a couple’s intent to marry. Any person who may know of an impediment or other reason why a particular couple should not be married has an opportunity to inform the Pastor.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne, Mitzi Vandenburg,John Reyes, Dr. Gerald Foy, Cindy Yumoto, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Ceasar Morales, Mark Garcia Family, Richard Corbin, Philip Rutschow, Robert Nunez, Renee Burns, Fr. Vladimir Kozina